



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Sharing the story of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's Love*

We Value ~ Empowerment \* Generosity \* Identity in Jesus \* Relationships \* Worship Experience

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Winter Book Read
- Cross+Generational Advent Festival

### From Pastor Denise

Happy New Year! New church year that is. The new church year, began on November 30 – the First Sunday of Advent. For my article this month I am going to walk us through the church year and its meaning for us as we worship together and journey through Jesus' life over the

course of 12 months.

Right now we are in the opening season of ADVENT. 'Advent' means 'coming.' It's not a word we use very often in daily speech anymore. It is a 4-week season before Christmas when we anticipate and prepare for Jesus' second coming and also remember his birth. During this season we hear the stories from the gospels about John the Baptist's birth and ministry at the Jordan river. We hear about Mary's visitation by the angel and her song of praise. We use the color blue for the paraments (the cloth that adorns the pulpit). Blue is a symbol of hope and anticipation. We light 4 candles representing hope, peace, joy and love.

Advent, of course, moves into the season of CHRISTMAS which is 12 days – the 12 days of Christmas – beginning Christmas Day and going until January 6, which is Epiphany. In the Christmas season we use the color white or gold to symbolize the light of Christ. Historically, white also has symbolized purity, but honestly we need to get away from associating the color white with purity and the racial implications of that connection. Gold might be the better color for all things Jesus. I say 'all things Jesus because any Sunday or season that has to do with Jesus' life is usually white or gold. Another thing that happens on these Jesus Sundays is that the Christ or Paschal candle is lit. That is the large white candle by the pulpit. We also light this candle for baptisms and funerals as we recognize that these are times in our lives where the Holy Trinity is particularly present and active.

The DAY OF EPIPHANY (Jan. 6) and/or Epiphany Sunday is also white or gold. Traditionally this is the day the magi visited Jesus in the house in Bethlehem (see Matthew 2). The word 'epiphany' means to reveal or to realize – "Oh, I had an epiphany." The SEASON OF EPIPHANY goes from Jan. 6 until Ash Wednesday. The color for the season is green – a color for growth and life. During the Epiphany season we hear stories that reveal to us who Jesus is and who we are as his followers. JESUS' BAPTISM falls within this season.

ASH WEDNESDAY is the beginning of the season of LENT. A day when we remember our mortality and enter a time of spiritual renewal and growth. The color for Ash Wednesday and Lent is purple, symbolizing a more somber journey into penitence and prayer as we walk with Jesus to the cross. Purple was also a color for royalty, in Jesus' day, and brings to mind the mocking of the Roman Soldiers as they placed a purple robe on him and called him "The King of the Jews." Lent is 6 weeks and culminates on PALM OR PASSION SUNDAY.

Palm/Passion Sunday begins HOLY WEEK, when we remember the events in the last week of Jesus' life. His entry into Jerusalem, his turning of the tables in the temple, the unnamed woman who anoints his feet, his last Passover supper with his disciples, his agonizing prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest, trial and crucifixion. The colors for this week are purple and black.

Then after THE 3 DAYS (MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY AND HOLY SATURDAY) we enter into the EASTER Season. 50 days during which we rejoice and celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the salvific work God did for us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The color is white or gold and we light the Christ

Candle every Sunday during this season. It is also a traditional time for baptisms as we die and rise with Christ through the waters of baptism.

50 days after the Resurrection of our Lord is the DAY OF PENTECOST. On this day we celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples. A great day to celebrate Affirmation of Baptism or Confirmation because in our baptism the Holy Spirit was poured out upon us. The color is red, symbolizing the flames of fire that descended on the heads of the disciples as they received the Holy Spirit.

The SEASON OF PENTECOST is the longest season of the church year. It is also called Ordinary Time. The color is green – again for growth and life. Within this season we also celebrate REFORMATION SUNDAY, ALL SAINTS SUNDAY and CHRIST THE KING or THE REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY. CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY is the final Sunday of the church year. A day during which we acknowledge Christ's reign in our lives. We often rehear the story of Jesus' crucifixion on this Sunday. This reminds us that we have a king willing to go to the cross for us. Not a king in a castle with a crown seeking power, but a king who died and rose for us.

And so this is our Church Year. We journey with Jesus from his birth, through his life and ministry, to his arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection, culminating in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all those who claim Jesus as Lord of their life.

The Church Year is a journey that I have cherished over the course of my life and ministry. It is a cycle that reminds me of who I am as a Child of God and of who we are as the Body of Christ. We take this journey together as we lift one another up in faith. And the cycle never gets old because as we journey through life we always hear the stories of scripture in new ways and in new circumstances. Thank you for taking this journey with me and for the privilege of walking with you as we journey together.

God's peace be with you all,

Pastor Denise



## **From Our President**

Hello Trinity!

As the Advent and Christmas seasons approach, we are reminded of the profound love and hope that the birth of Jesus brings into our lives. It is a season of waiting, anticipation, and joyous celebration — a time to reflect on the blessings we've received and the light we are called to share with the world. I'd like to especially emphasize the season of waiting and anticipation – as the song goes “the waiting is the hardest part”, but the reward far exceeds the wait!

As always, I also want to extend my deepest thanks to every member of our congregation for your support and contributions to our faith community. Your dedication and generosity have been the cornerstone of our shared mission to bring the love of Christ to those around us. Whether through your participation in worship, volunteering, or offering your talents, you help make Trinity a welcoming and vibrant place for all.

In the spirit of nurturing our community, the Church Council has been exploring exciting new ways to engage with our youngest members. We have been discussing the possibility of creating a "pray ground" in our church — a special area designed for the littles in our congregation. Our goal is to make them feel welcome and included in our worship services, providing a space where they can experience God's love in ways that are comfortable and inviting.

The idea of a pray ground is an opportunity to embrace the energy and curiosity of our children, and to show them that they are valued members of our community. We look forward to sharing more details in the coming weeks (including renderings of what this could look like) and are eager to gather additional feedback and ideas on how this initiative can best serve our church family.

As we journey through Advent and approach the celebration of Christmas, may you find peace, joy, and love in your hearts and homes. Let us embrace the hope and promise that this season brings, and continue to support one another in faith and fellowship.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas season.

Peace,

Tammy

## **In Our Thoughts and Prayers and Recently Hospitalized**

Kathryn Swanson, Paul Sevald, Greg Buck, Russell Bruneau, Bill House, Josh Hiatt, Bruce Peacock, Cindy Felicki, Sandy House, and Kerry Kirchoff

## **Altar Flowers for December**

December 7	**, **
December 14	Mark & Karen Sostraich; **
December 21	Nancy Barbian; **
December 28	Sue Zylka; **

The bouquets are \$20 each. Please sign up on Signup Genius [tinyurl.com/TrinityFlowers](https://tinyurl.com/TrinityFlowers) or contact the church office. You can also sign up on the board outside the church office. (\*\*) means nobody has signed up. You may pick up your flowers or call to arrange delivery.

## December 2025 Readings

### December 6/7, 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent: The Will to Dream: John, Prophetic Peace – Family First Worship – Advent Festival

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-6a; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matthew 3:1-12

### December 13/14, 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent: The Will to Dream: Elizabeth, Unexpected Joy – Christmas Program on Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 146:5-10, 18-19; Luke 1:39-56

### December 20/21, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Will to Dream: Zechariah, Merciful Love –

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 1:57-80

### December 24, 2025 – 3pm and 5pm – The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve - The Will to Dream: Mary, Embodied Promise

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Luke 2:1-20

### December 25, 2025 – The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day – The Will to Dream: Mary, Embodied Promise

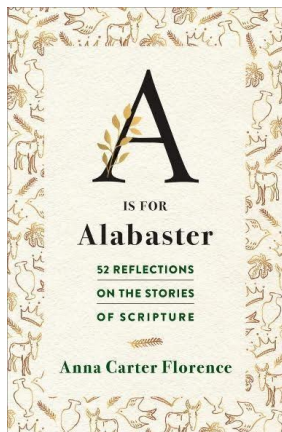
Scripture: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

### December 28, 2025 (No Saturday service this week) – First Sunday after Christmas – The Will to Dream: Anna, Generational Praise

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Luke 2:22-40

### January 3/4, 2026 – Epiphany Sunday – Family First Worship – The Will to Dream: Joseph, Courageous Defiance

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-15



## Winter Book Read

Join us for our winter book read discussion on **Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.** at Castillo's (5656 S Packard Ave #21, Cudahy). Winter is a great time to curl up with a good book and "A is for Alabaster" is definitely a fun and insightful book about 52 Biblical characters we may or may not know. Each reflection is just a few pages and offers fresh perspectives. I'll be curious to discuss your favorite characters and maybe ones you find challenging. I have heard Anna Carter Florence preach a couple times at the Festival of Homiletics and enjoy her insights on the Bible stories. I hope you will too.

Beloved preacher and writer Anna Carter Florence brings winsome insight to an array of characters and stories in the Bible—some celebrated and some overlooked. From courageous Abigail to Zelophehad's daughters, and from an alabaster jar of ointment to Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree, Florence takes readers on an enchanting tour of the Old and New Testaments with reflections that reveal ancient wisdom and spark imagination anew. ([from Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0809084444))





November Painting Fellowship  
& Pie Luck







# Christmas Decorating





## Restaurant Meet Up



Every December, our Restaurant Meet-Up also doubles as a Christmas Party. This year, we will gather on **Saturday, December 27, at 1:00 p.m.** in the back room of Benny's Café (5354 S 27th St, Milwaukee). We will place our orders and hold a gift exchange (participation is optional). Each participant should bring one wrapped gift valued at \$10.00, suitable for either a woman or a man. Please do not put your name on the gifts, as the identity of the gift-giver should remain a secret. If anyone needs a ride contact Cindy F.

## Youth and Family News

*Submitted by Ray Bergwin and Alyssa Olson*

### Hat, Sock, and Mitten Tree

As the days get chillier, we're sharing the warmth in our hearts with our community. **Through the New Year**, we'll be collecting hats, socks, mittens, scarves, and other gifts of winter warmth on the tree in the Narthex. These will be delivered to Human Concerns for distribution to those who need them most. Thank you for your generosity!

### Cross+Generational Advent Festival December 7, 8:45 a.m.

Join us this Advent as we turn to the wisdom of the prophets, lament systems that value power over people, and dream of what could be.

We invite Trinity friends of all ages to the narthex for our annual Cross+Generational Advent Festival. Come engage with the season of Advent in new and exciting ways. Our theme and activities carry over into an interactive Family First worship service with something for everyone.

As we celebrate together with art, story, and song, we'll delve deeper into the great mysteries of the season. This time is for everyone. No matter your age, ability, family or relationship structure, there's something for you to discover this season! Be sure to stay for our extra special Family First Worship at 9:30 a.m. as we enter the Advent season together with hopeful anticipation.

### Christmas Program Worship December 14, 9:30 a.m.

Save the date! Our students are working hard, preparing for our Christmas story worship, including our confirmation students writing the program! Joyful songs of the season will surround you as we send you out from worship to our favorite fundraiser, the GIANT cinnamon roll sale!

## Highlights from the November 2025 Council Meeting

- The council began with Dwelling in the Word for devotions.
- All reports were approved.
- There was discussion around the concern in the Caring Team report about serving the Guest House breakfasts twice a year and the need for a few more volunteers to make that happen. We will ask for those interested in serving future breakfasts to sign up on the yellow sheet in order to get a core list of volunteers and then go from there.
- There was a motion to consolidate 3 of the reserve accounts into other reserve accounts that serve the same purpose. The motion was approved. David will do that consolidation in the books.
- There was continued discussion on beginning the process to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation and how to introduce that to the congregation.
- Plans were made for introducing the Prayer Ground idea to the congregation through Tidings articles, Renderings, Mission Moments, and feedback sessions.
- There was discussion about ways to help more people get involved in using RaiseRight as it has become a good source of income. Tammy and Jason Woodbury will be available to help people get signed up and understand how to use it.
- There was discussion about the need to recruit more Sunday School teachers and helpers now that the pre-school class is growing. We especially need teachers and helpers when one of the teachers is gone. The classes are getting too big to combine. There are also some misconceptions out there that helping with Sunday School requires a lot of prep or training in storytelling. This is not the case. We will talk with Alyssa and look at ways to introduce how Sunday School works to the congregation and invite people to consider helping.





# Christmas Poinsettias

**GIVEN FOR THE GLORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH:**

**Kari House, Kathryn Swanson, Marcy Wilhelm**

**GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**Sarah Koers and David by Barbara Kendall.**

**Otto Schraith, Genesa Hzmman, and Janice Biermann by  
Fred & Sharon Schraith.**

**Sarah Koers Brooks by Pharis Brooks.**

**Shorty and Lynn by Sue Zylka.**

**Parents (Dorothy & Henrey Reves) and brother Richard,  
and for the glory of Christ's birth by Shirley Komasa.**

**Husband, Done Felicki, parents (Buck & Darlene Kirchoff),  
and Charlie Zimmerman by Cindy Felicki.**

**Mike Zingsheim by Lori Zingshiem.**

**Barb & Tom Rendflesh by Wendy Rendflesh.**

**Our grandparents, Erik's stepdad (Dave), and sister Sarah  
Koers by the Erik & Sarah Brooks & Family.**

**Grandma Roffers by Scott & Lois Lukas.**

**Edward and Sophia Sostarich by Mark & Karen Sostarich.**

**Our parents, Phil & Mary Lou McDaniel and Clarence &  
Barbara Jo King by Matt & Darcey McDaniel.**

**Husband, Ed by Doris Mueller.**

**Jim Hundt, Sr and in honor of our parents Karen & Robert  
Moczynski and Trish Hundt by Leslie Hundt.**

# **Financial Update for October**

*Submitted by David Hahn*

We took another step back with our monthly net income in October, therefore almost doubling our deficit.

1. Net income was -\$4,097; Year-To-Date net income is now increased to -\$9,267.
2. We did have \$350 given for Utilities, which was our special request last month due to the higher anticipated costs.
3. Compared to last year at this time, we are \$8,000 down in operating income, and up \$5,000 in expenses.

We want to thank Trinity for the financial support you provide to continue our ministries. As a reminder, we have only two more months to try and eliminate our deficit by year end as projected in our budget. We do need your help, and any additional gifting support that you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Project Uplift: Balance of \$24,604; Income of \$277

Impact Report:

## **Endowment Fund Grants**

- \$1,500 for Breaking the Chains
- \$80 for All Peoples food pantry
- \$67 for music ministry
- \$85 for Godly Play

## **Thrivent**

- Action Team Grants: poinsettias for homebound congregants, cereal drive for Human Concerns

**Raise Right:** This year we will be booking \$1,422 in operating income from Raise Right, and this is from half a dozen congregants who are actively using this source of income for Trinity. We would love to have more members utilizing Raise Right especially around this upcoming holiday shopping season. Imagine what additional income we could anticipate if another dozen members signed up for Raise Right, and it's practically FREE.

Here's how it works. Raise Right is a convenient way to earn income for Trinity by simply continuing to shop your everyday favorite brands of food, gas, restaurants, clothes, etc., or even finding new brands. By doing so, you will have a certain percentage of your purchase go directly to Trinity. A win-win situation. You do need to sign up with Raise Right in order to participate.







# December 2025

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Email: office@tlcsm@gmail.com  
Web Site: WWW.TLCSM.ORG

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30</b> <b>Start of Advent</b> 8:45 Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Hymn Sing Worship in person and online	<b>December 1</b> 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 6:30 Confirmation	<b>2</b> 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting 10:30 Property Ministry Team Meeting in person 6:30 Caring/Outreach Ministry Team Meeting in person 7:00 Executive Committee Meeting on Zoom	<b>3</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting in person 6:30 Trinity Grief Group Begins	<b>4</b> 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 10:30 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Human Concerns Weekend</b> 10:00–4:00 Facility Rented Out 5:00 Worship in person
<b>7</b> <b>Human Concerns Weekend</b> 8:45 Cross+Generational Advent Festival 9:30 Family First Worship in person and online 10:30 Education & Youth Ministry Team meeting in person 11:00 Renewal Ministry Team Meeting in person	<b>8</b> 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 9:30 Piano Tuning 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Finance Ministry Team Meeting on Zoom	<b>9</b> 7:00 Council Meeting on Zoom	<b>10</b> 6:30 Trinity Grief Group	<b>11</b> 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 10:30 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> <b>Tidings Articles Due</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>13</b> 11:00 Women's Advent Social at All Peoples Church 1:00 Saturday Stitchers 5:00 Worship in person
<b>14</b> 8:45 Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Worship in person and online 10:30 New Member Gathering	<b>15</b> 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 6:30 Confirmation	<b>16</b> 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting	<b>17</b> 9:30-11:30 Pastor Coffee Shop Open Conversations at Hillside 6:30 Trinity Grief Group No Thrivent Member Group Meeting on Zoom	<b>18</b> 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 10:30 Adult Bible Study 5:00 Community Meal at United Church of Christ South Milwaukee 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>20</b> 5:00 Worship in person
<b>21</b> No Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Worship in person and online 10:30 Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting in person	<b>22</b> 8:30– 1:30 Office Open No Confirmation	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 3:00 Christmas Eve Worship in person and online 5:00 Christmas Eve Worship in person and online	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 10:00 Christmas Day Worship No Adult Bible Study No Bell Ensemble Rehearsal No Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>27</b> 1:00 Restaurant Meet Up at Benny's Cafe No Worship in person
<b>28</b> No Sunday School for Elementary 9:30 Worship in person and online	<b>29</b> <b>Office Closed</b> No Confirmation	<b>30</b> 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting	<b>31</b>	<b>January 1</b> <b>New Years Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> No Adult Bible Study No Bell Ensemble Rehearsal No Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 Worship in person

# Earn More With Holiday 2025

## Find Giftspiration with the 2025 Holiday Gift Guide

Find great gifting brands, use the holiday shopping list, and much more.

Get the guide at

[RaiseRight.com/Resources/HolidayGuide](https://RaiseRight.com/Resources/HolidayGuide)



OR SCAN THE CODE

## eGift Cards Make Great Gifts Too

Running out of time or no physical gift card option available? Print an eGift card or send via email with a personalized message for convenient delivery.

## Shop Limited-Time \$5 & \$10 Cards

The perfect small gift or stocking stuffer for that special someone. Shop the \$10 & Under Gift Cards category.

## Get started with a RaiseRight account

Follow the easy steps to get started at [RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning](https://RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning).

Trinity's enrollment code: **C4A45CL729221**

Shop 750+ brands on the RaiseRight mobile app or at [RaiseRight.com](https://RaiseRight.com).



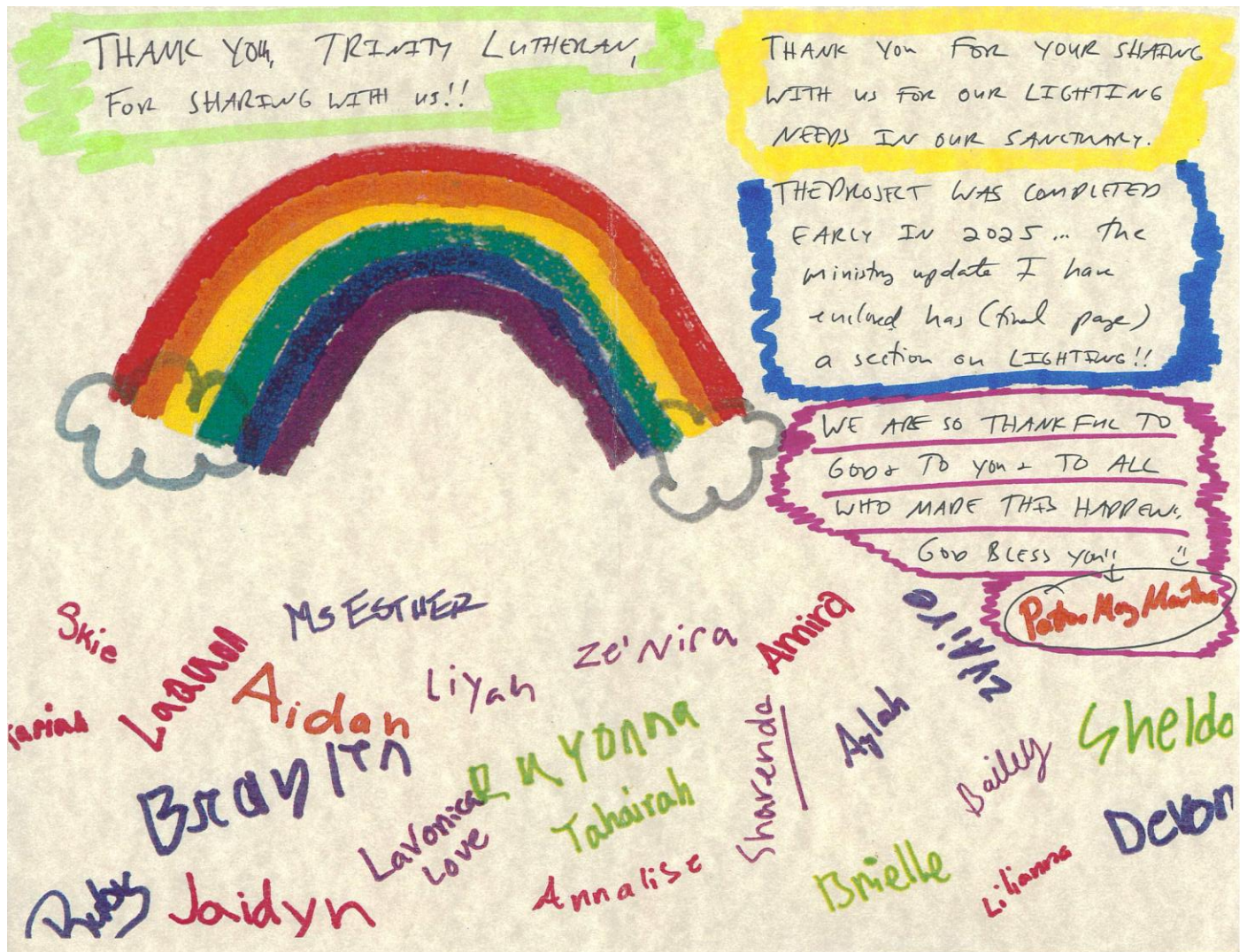
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# Letter of Appreciation

## + CARE FOR THE CHURCH BUILDING +

You might need your sunglasses on this visit to Hephatha 😊! The original sanctuary lights have been replaced....an effort of both Hephatha members and generous donors that truly was a work of love and holy remembrance among us all. The project was \$25,000....considering the old light fixtures lasted 100 years, we feel this is more than a good investment! The generosity we experienced with this sanctuary care was beyond exceptional and we are so grateful. Keep those sunglasses on when you enter fellowship hall and the lower level of the church.



# THANK YOU!

Outreach for Hope would like to express its appreciation to:

*Trinity Lutheran Church (South Milwaukee)*

Thank you for your participation in the 2025 Outreach for Hope Family Ride Run Walk!  
Your support is truly appreciated.

11

Number of registrants

\$1,200.03

Total \$ Raised








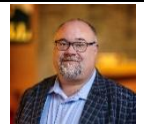




2025 RIDE RUN WALK


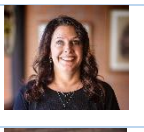

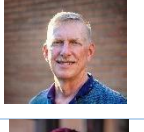


Hope in Motion!



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION STAFF

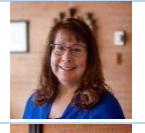
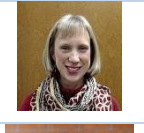


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## MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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\* denotes Council member

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	David Hahn Thrivent Member Group <a href="mailto:djhahn610@gmail.com">djahn610@gmail.com</a>		Aron Miller Endowment Committee <a href="mailto:aronmiller0675@gmail.com">aronmiller0675@gmail.com</a>



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[www.facebook.com/tlcsm](https://www.facebook.com/tlcsm)

## December 2025 TIDINGS

For more information about our congregation, please visit our website at [www.tlcsm.org](http://www.tlcsm.org).



In person worship at 5:00 p.m. Saturday

In person and livestream worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School 3-year-olds – 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 8:45 a.m.

(Labor Day – Memorial Day)

Church office Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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