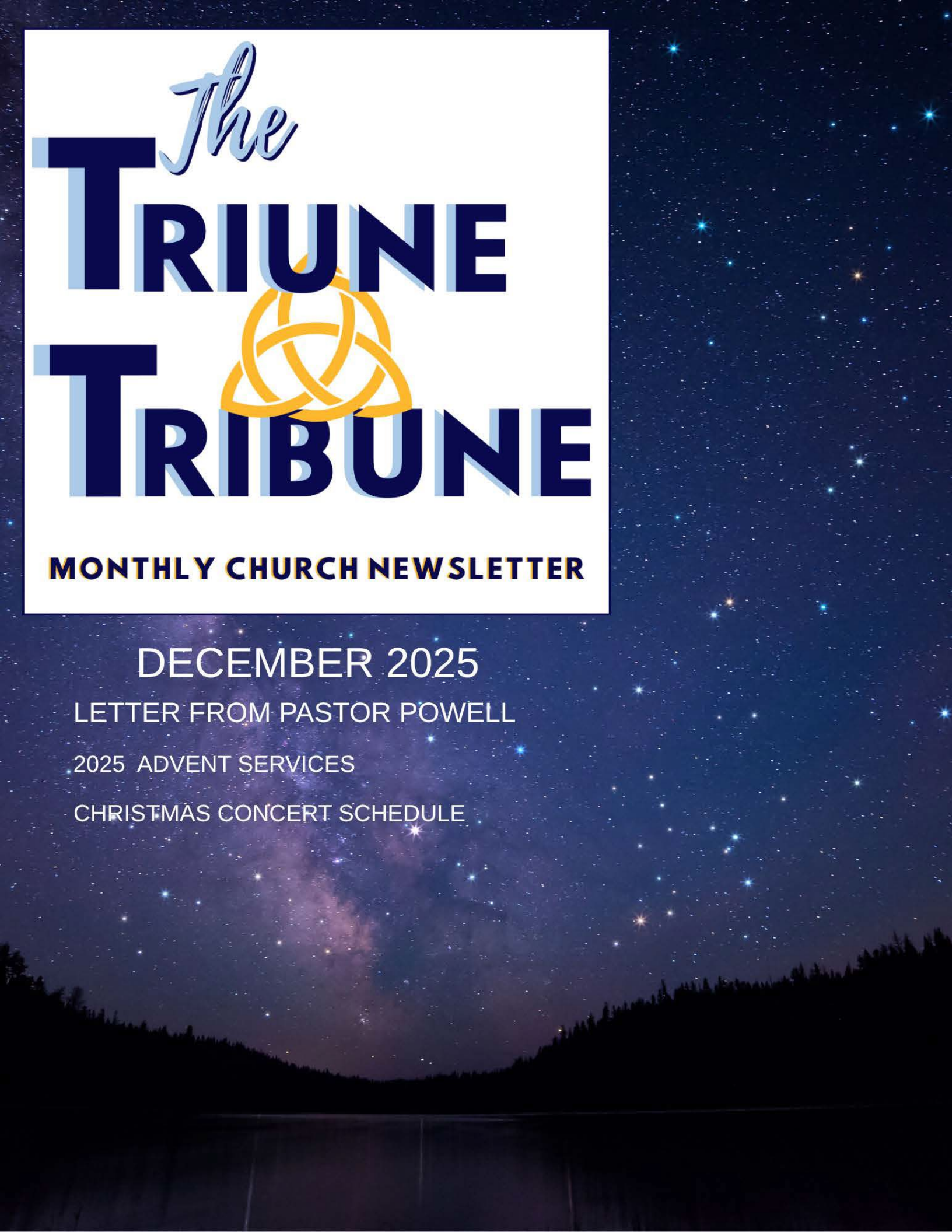




The **TRIUNE** **TRIBUNE**

MONTHLY CHURCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

LETTER FROM PASTOR POWELL

2025 ADVENT SERVICES

CHRISTMAS CONCERT SCHEDULE



Dear Friends in Christ,

In December, the Church year and the commercial shopping year butt heads. This isn't a newsletter article about Christmas shopping or Christmas trees or decorations. This article is about the Church season of Advent. The word "advent" comes from Latin and it means "coming." But what is coming? Who is coming? That's what leads to the question about it being Christmas or the end of the world. The answer is, "Well, both!"

Advent is about the coming of Jesus. Jesus comes both at Christmas and at the end of the world. Oftentimes, we think about Advent as being "pre-Christmas," similar to the pregame show before the Super Bowl. It's part of the same event, even if it's not technically included in Christmas itself. But the readings from the Bible for the Advent season aren't really about Christmas. Instead, the readings focus on Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem, getting ready for Good Friday. Other Sundays, the readings focus on John the Baptist in his camel skin clothes and with His wild hair, calling people to repentance because Jesus is coming. The final week of Advent centers around Mary and Joseph's preparations for Jesus to be born. During Advent, we don't see the shepherds and the stable and the wise men. Instead, we see Jesus preparing for the cross for the sin that John the Baptist calls us to repent from. During Advent, the Bible readings don't focus on Christmas but on the coming of Jesus.

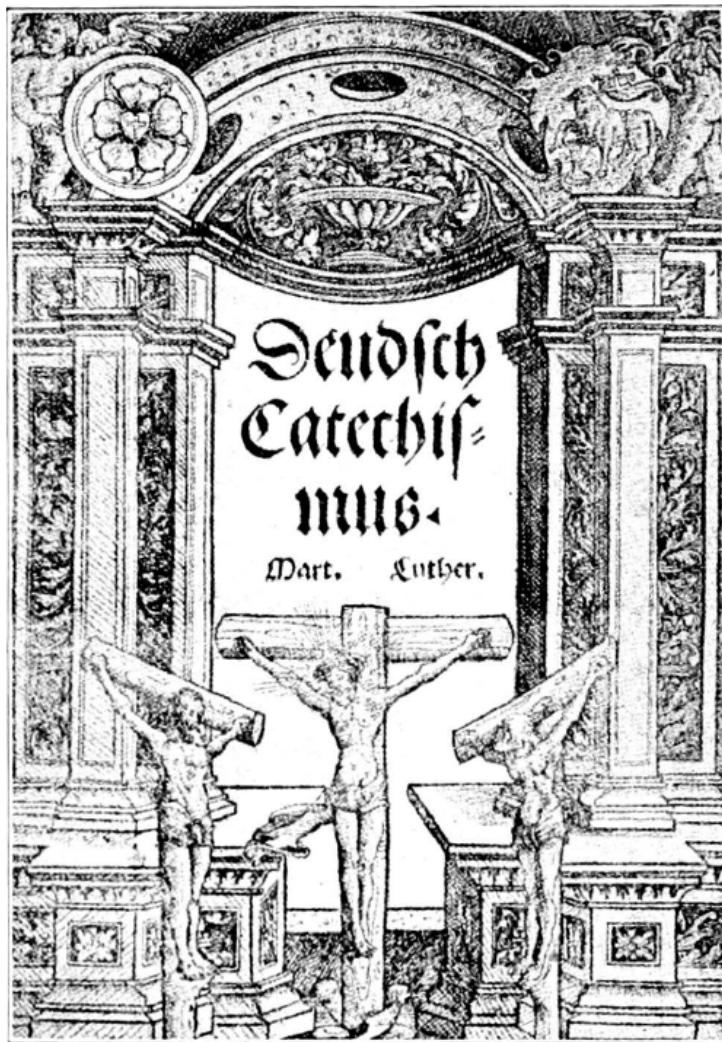
Jesus' coming is, in a certain sense, the end of the world. For your sin, for the effects of your sin like sickness and death, hurt and pain; it is indeed the end of the world. Jesus ends this world of sin with His cross. That process begins

at Christmas, but that process is bigger than just Christmas. Christmas is when we see Jesus bringing the world to an end. He comes in the flesh to teach you about His cross. His cross wins your forgiveness and makes you holy. The reward of Christ's holiness for you is completed when He returns.

This Advent, prepare both for Christmas and the end of the world. Jesus calls you to repentance and faith to celebrate Christmas and His return. That sounds simple. On the other hand, we live in a world that loves Christmas and doesn't talk about Advent. In the mall and on the radio, you hear Christmas carols. In Church, we are singing Advent hymns, talking about Jesus coming with His grace at the end of the world. These two different themes don't always work well together. Enjoy the carols and songs of Christmas – they celebrate Christ the Lord! But also celebrate the hymns of Advent that point to Christ, the coming King!

We also have the opportunity to use the Advent wreath in church this year. This wreath visually shows the weeks leading up to Christmas. Jesus, as He comes, breaks into this sin-darkened world. The closer we get to Christmas, the more we see the light of the world. Celebrate Jesus' light for you as we approach Christmas! Enjoy this time of preparation, and know that being prepared for the coming of the King at Christmas and at the end of the world is part of God's grace and mercy for you!

In Christ,
Pastor Powell



Title page of Luther's Large Catechism from 1529

The Book of Concord: What is it? Part 8 The Luther's Large Catechism

Many Lutherans have come to believe that Luther's Large Catechism was written for pastors; but this is not at all true. Luther begins his short preface to the Large Catechism by saying, "This sermon is designed and undertaken to be an instruction for children and the simple folk." As mentioned briefly in last month's article (on The Small Catechism) the Large Catechism is a result of Luther condensing the sermons (on the Ten Commandments, Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and The Sacraments) that he had delivered over the course of a few years and collecting them together into one concise work. His goal in the catechisms was the same as his goal with those sermons: to instruct and encourage clergy and laity, and young and old, alike in the basics of the Christian faith. But the printing and distribution of both catechisms allowed these important teachings to spread to a far wider audience.

Luther wrote neither the Small nor the Large Catechism with the assumption that they would be "church books." He intended for both to be "house books" and used regularly in the household for the benefit of all in their

growth and knowledge of the fundamental teachings of Scripture. While the Evangelical Lutheran Church (meaning those churches whose confession of faith is The Book of Concord, which can include the LCMS and other Lutheran denominations) has never required (and should never require) a grasp of the Large Catechism for admission to communicant membership (but only the much easier to learn and memorize Small Catechism as Luther himself advises), the Large Catechism is still an important resource which every Christian would do well to study and take to heart. It covers the very same aspects of the Christian faith as The Small Catechism, but it does so in far greater depth. While households can successfully memorize the Small Catechism (which is, by the way, only the first 44 pages of the book called "Luther's Small Catechism" that most of us own; the remaining pages being an explanation, much of which is drawn from the Large Catechism), they can also make use of The Large Catechism for more in depth teaching as they grow together in the faith.

As mentioned in the previous article, both catechisms were written by Luther in reaction to the dreadful state of Biblical knowledge in which he and other reformers found the people of God in Germany; both clergy and laity. To appreciate the gravity of the situation:

- Imagine if your pastor couldn't even recite the Ten Commandments!
- Imagine if your church service did not include any sermon, except perhaps on special occasions!
- Imagine if, even when a sermon was to be given, your pastor did not know or understand how or what to preach!
- Imagine the truths of Scripture being taught neither in the Church, nor at home (since even fathers and mothers were not instructed in the faith)!

This was the state of things in the 1520's in Germany. With the dawn of the Reformation and the churches in Saxony and other German nations turning evangelical (back to the Gospel), one would have expected an immediate surge in growth in the knowledge of Scripture, but the problem was twofold. One problem was that Bibles printed in the local language were still not widely distributed; but another, more vexing problem, was that clergy and laity alike were failing to see the study of the teachings of Scripture, and the reception of Christ's mercy in the liturgy and sacraments, as important and beneficial gifts of God.

Here is the reason: under papal rule, the rites and ceremonies of the Church slowly lost their significance in the eyes of the people (and even the clergy). This is because the actual meanings undergirding the rites and ceremonies became obscured by a lack of teaching. The emphasis became the performance of the rites instead of the truths of Scripture and Christ which they were meant to teach and/or bestow. Instead of conveying the grace of God in Christ to the people, centuries of “do this” (with no regard for the accompanying teaching) reduced the faith to a formula one would follow in order to get right and stay right with God of their own volition. As if the unbiblical innovations weren’t bad enough (“pray to the saints,” “buy your indulgences,” “do your acts of contrition and satisfaction”), even the things that Christians ought to do according to Scripture (such as attending mass, going to confession, and receiving the sacrament) had been formulized into stuff one did, rather than means through which the works and benefits of Christ were bestowed upon them.

The performance of these rites and ceremonies had become so intertwined with papal authority, that when The Reformation freed the people from the tyranny of Rome, the people thought themselves likewise free from the ceremonies as well. Cut loose from both the papacy and the ceremonies of the Church, there was nothing to anchor them to anything. It was good that they were set adrift from the tyranny of Rome’s false and deadly teachings. But there remained a critical need to be anchored to the true teachings of Christ and His Word.

A series of visitations to parishes all over Germany was the first step in the effort to restore proper Christian teaching, as well as proper Christian rites and ceremonies, which had been either twisted or lost, so that people could both receive and appreciate the gifts of Christ. Not just Luther, but many clergy, princes, city officials, and theologians participated in these visitations as they sought to assess the extent of the theological damage. It was as a direct result of these visits that Luther ultimately wrote the Large (and then the Small) Catechism. As churches were made aware of their spiritual emptiness and the divine nourishment available to them in the Scriptures, and the ceremonies of the Church drawn from them, a great hunger developed among the people. So hungry for these truths were both the clergy and the laity that The Large Catechism went into its third edition less than a year after the first edition was printed and distributed.

Both the Large and Small Catechisms quickly became standards of Lutheran orthodoxy. In the 1530s already, church orders (rules handed down by the local leaders) required that instruction be according to Luther’s

Catechisms. In some parishes it was not unusual for portions of the Large Catechism to be read as the sermon for the day.

Earlier in this series, it was noted that none of the theology of The Reformation was new or innovative, but a restoration of what had come before; what had come from the teachings of Christ and His Apostles and passed down through the early Church Fathers. So also, it is important to note that the concept of a catechism was not born of Luther, nor of the Reformation. It was not at all a new or innovative concept, as catechisms of varying forms had been around for 800 years. But many of the catechisms that preceded Luther’s did not emphasize Law, Gospel, and the gifts of Christ, which were paramount teachings of the Church in its first few hundred years. Even previous catechisms that were truly evangelical and Scriptural in their foundation were not nearly so successful as Luther’s, because they predated the widespread use of the printing press.

While the concept of a catechism wasn’t unique, Luther’s approach to writing his was a pioneering achievement. He arranged the Chief Parts differently than any had done in the past. He began with the Ten Commandments, followed by the Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer, the Sacraments, and Confession. Thus, one can see what God requires (the Commandments) and just how high and out of reach His requirements are. Next, we find how God meets our needs through a meditation upon His Triune nature (the Creed). Then, we learn in the Lord’s Prayer how we can approach God now that He has brought us near to Him. Finally, we learn how God comes to us as we struggle in our saint-sinner lives – the means of grace proclaimed in the Gospel and given in the sacraments.

In both of Luther’s Catechisms we have powerful tools. They were written in war-time (a fight for the Gospel against the legalistic and human-centered tyranny of the papacy). And today we are still at “war,” as we are in the Church Militant (a spiritual fight against the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh). The catechisms arm us for the battle as they give us both the Law and the Gospel, proclaiming Christ’s promises to and for us. Conveying the Word of God as they do, they are relevant to strengthen our faith in weakness as they point us to the mighty work our Savior has done and is doing now through His Holy Spirit, in overcoming all that stands against us. We are at war, but Christ is the one fighting the good fight for us, and already He is victorious. Come soon, Lord Jesus; and deliver us all into the fullness of Your victory! In the meantime, thank God for His teaching and truth which comfort, guide, and strengthen us to endure with certain hope. Amen



MOScholars is a tax credit program that provides scholarships for students attending Missouri LCMS schools. To date, more than \$2.3 million has been awarded by the Missouri District through the program. With no additional cost and minimal effort, being a part of this opportunity is easy.

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It's a win for taxpayers, students, families, and LCMS schools in our state. Thank you for your participation!



Missouri District
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI DISTRICT

Questions? Contact
Director of Mission Advancement Leah Sieveking
leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org • 314-590-6211

SUCCESSFUL COAT DRIVE

A Big Thanks to the Trinity Lutheran Church family for a wonderful response to the Coat Drive! The outpouring of generosity was most humbling and appreciated. A big thanks to Amanda Peters who spearheaded the event and all the workers on handout day!



Christmas Decorating – Trinity Youth and Families are encouraged to help the congregation decorate the Sanctuary on Saturday, November 29th at 9am. This will be our youth event for the weekend. Hope to see you all there!

Youth Group Meal Train provides an atmosphere of family and fellowship with both youth groups at the same time. We request that families take turns and join together in providing meals. We appreciate all the support families provide to our youth!! To sign up for a meal, go to: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/711nwm>

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Women's Auxiliary will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at noon in the Fellowship Hall for their Christmas Luncheon. Members are asked to please bring a covered dish to share. Members are also invited to bring canned goods or other nonperishable items for the Samaritan Center. Mite Box offerings will be collected at the sign-in table. We welcome all women of the congregation to join us in Christian fellowship. For more information, contact Judy Bangert at 573-635-1131.

LADIES EVENING GUILD

The Ladies Evening Guild will hold their next monthly meeting on Monday, December 1, 2025. We will have our Christmas dinner at that time in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in joining us, please call Pam Rustemeyer, 573-338-7337. We will be installing our new officers at that time.

We are adopting 2 families for Christmas. Each member will be donating paper products and non-perishable items for these families. Shopping of clothes, toys, and other items, as requested from the families, will be purchased.

Voters Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 7:00 pm

Agenda for the meeting includes:

- Budget for January-June 2026. **See budget worksheet in boxes outside church office.**
- Tabled Resolution from October to amend the Endowment Bylaws to establish a Disaster Relief Dimension
- Resolution for replacement of the sanctuary roof and the roof of the youth room and three classrooms for insurance purposes
- Endowment Report

Walk to the Nativity

December 13, 2025 Setup your nativity in the Fellowship Hall between 4pm and 6pm.

December 14, 2025 Doors open at 9:30am and close at 6pm



MEN’S CLUB ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER

The Men’s Club of Trinity Church wants to thank all those individuals who helped prepare, barbecue, and sell port steaks and ribs during its 2025 fundraising events. To show our appreciation for all the hard work and time that went into each event, we want to invite you to dinner on Thursday, December 4, at Ria’s Restaurant, 3550 West Edgewood Dr, in Jefferson City. The event starts at 5:30pm with a social gathering. Dinner will be served at 6pm. While there is no formal program, this event will simply give all those in attendance an opportunity to visit and enjoy each other’s company and friendship. If you plan to attend or have any questions, please contact Michael Dogget or Jay Wunderlich.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE MEN’S CLUB

Each year, the Men’s Club of Trinity Church offers three different fundraising opportunities to the members of Trinity Church and the general public to purchase some of its finest-tasting barbequed pork steaks, bratwursts, and ribs.

The monies generated from these different fundraising efforts allow the Men’s Club to turn around and donate these proceeds to Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran School, and Calvary Lutheran High School for specific purposes and needs. In addition, the Men’s Club donates funds to the national Lutheran Laymen’s League and Lutheran Hour Ministries to continue spreading the Word of God through volunteer services and daily devotional programs.

As we end the calendar year, the Men’s Club wants to thank you for your past support and share with you how we divided up the proceeds generated for 2025:

Trinity Lutheran Church	Capital campaign for church pews and roof
Trinity Lutheran School	Textbooks for younger children and microscopes for the older children
Calvary Lutheran High School	Donation towards a new school ice machine.

Day of Grace

Appreciation gift cards for teachers at Trinity School

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Laymen’s League

General operating expenditures for **the Barbecue Pit area**

Your continued support for the Men’s Club’s activities is greatly appreciated. We hope to see you in 2026!!

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIPS MAKE A SIMPLE AND MEANING FULL CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

---As you consider purchasng Christmas gifts this year for your children and loved ones, why not think about a membership to the Trinity Lutheran School Alumni Association. The Alumni Association was created by a handful of faithful church and school members who were committed to ensuring that former classmates and alumni of Trinity Lutheran School – Jefferson City provide an opportunity to assist future parents with children who seek to receive a renowned faith-based parochial education.

Through memberships and financial contributions, the alumni association recognizes each year a former Trinity school teacher, preacher, lay-person, or a business professional for their contribution and positive influence of ensuring a parochial education is provided to those seeking such an education. The association also provides funding directly to Trinity School for needed items such as school desks, computers, whiteboards, and so on.

For more information please go to alumni@trinityjc.org.



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

ATHLETICS NEWS

Congratulations to Trevor Hackmann who qualified to compete in the National Lutheran Cross Country Meet in Mequon, Wisconsin on October 25, 2025. Good Luck Trevor!

Congratulations to our Varsity Volleyball team for being selected to represent TLS at the LSAM Volleyball Tournament on October 31 and November 1.

We invite you to join us for chapel each Wednesday at 8:15. You can also join us online at

<https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchschool1036>.

Our chapel offerings for the 2nd Quarter will be going to support the Lutheran Bible Translators.

Lutheran Bible Translators partners with local leaders to create translation programs for the many communities who do not have access to God's Word in their native language. Your prayers and financial gifts enable us to provide the resources, tools, and the support local leaders need to make the Word of God more accessible than ever.

TLS SCRIP NEWS

The holiday shopping season is upon us! Gift Cards fit everyone on your list. The TLS Scrip Program uses its profits each year to pay for the Accelerated Reader Program for the students. Every gift card listed will be available for immediate pick-up in the school office.

Academy Sports \$25	Kohl's \$25
Amazon \$10, \$25 & \$100	Kwik Kar \$25
Applebee's \$25	Lee's Chicken \$25
Arby's \$10	Little Caesar's Pizza \$20
Arris' Pizza \$25	Lowe's \$25
Auntie Anne's \$25	Maurice's \$20
Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's \$25	McAlister's Deli \$25
Bath & Body Works \$10 & \$25	McDonald's \$10 & \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings \$25	Menards \$25
Burger King \$10	Oscar's \$25
Casey's \$25	Panera Bread \$10
Chili's \$25	Papa John's Pizza \$10
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10 & \$25	Pizza Hut \$10
Claire's \$10	Prison Brews \$20
Cold Stone Creamery \$10	Red Lobster \$25
Colton's \$25	Schulte's Fresh Foods \$25, \$100
Culver's \$10 & \$25	Sonic \$10 & \$25
Dairy Queen \$10 & \$25	Starbucks \$5 & \$10 & \$25
Darden Restaurants \$25	Subway \$10
Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen	Taco Bell \$5, \$10 & \$25
Longhorn Steakhouse	Target \$10, \$25, & \$100
Olive Garden	Texas Roadhouse \$25
Domino's Pizza \$10	TJ Maxx/Home Goods \$25
Dunham's Sporting Goods \$25	Ulta Beauty \$25
Dutch Bros \$10 & \$25	Visa Gift Card \$25
Ecco Lounge \$20	Walmart/Sam's Club \$10, \$25 & \$100
Firehouse Subs \$10	Wendy's \$25
Hy-Vee \$25 & \$100	Yo-Yums \$5

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

TLS 5th - 8th Grade Band Concert
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
6:00 PM

Christ in Royal David's City



2nd-4th Grade Christmas Program
Christ in Royal David's City
Sunday, December 14, 2025
2:00PM



Pre-K – 1st Grade Christmas Program
To Us A Child Is Born
Sunday, December 14, 2025
4:00PM



1517

*Coming Home
For Christmas*

ADVENT IN ISAIAH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays in Advent

3:30pm & 6:30pm

December 3, 10, & 17

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24

6:00pm & 11:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25

9:00am

HAPPY DRIFTERS

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving meal and celebration in November. It was interesting hearing Dan and Gerry Delong share their experiences at the Navajo Indian Reservation

December will be a busy month. Anyone wanting to fill Christmas gift bags can come to Carol Beck's house Wednesday, December 3, at 2:00pm. All items have been purchased for the bags. We will then be delivering them to Trinity members in nursing homes and shut-ins. This is such a rewarding project for both people delivering them and our members.

On Saturday, December 13, we will be leaving for St. Charles to attend Boar's Head Festival. We secured a bus from Mid Mo Tours owned by Matthew Brooks for our travel. The bus has been filled and we are looking forward to this adventure. Be at the upper Trinity parking lot at 1:00 for departure.

We are thankful to Thrivent for helping us with the above projects.

TRINITY MUSIC ENSEMBLES

UPCOMING DATES

December 3 @ 6:30pm Handbells

December 14 @ Both Services, Choir and Handbells

December 17 @ 6:30pm, Men's/Women's Choir

December 24 @ 11:00pm, Choir and Handbells

SAMARITAN CENTER FAMILY STARS

Christmas is just around the corner and with so many families struggling the need is great, but so also is the generosity of our congregation members!

The Stars for the Samaritan Center family assistance are now on the tree. To donate, all you need to do is select a star from the tree in the Narthex, write down the star#, the name of the recipient, and your name and phone number. Then shop, wrap, attach the star to the package/packages and bring them to the church office no later than December 2nd. You do not have to buy everything listed on the star, these are only suggestions. Money for the food gift cards should be turned in to the church office; cash or checks made out to Trinity Scrip is acceptable.

If you have any questions, please call Carol Fischer at (573)619-2149. Thank you for your generosity!

December 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

LOCATION ABBREVIATIONS

BR – Board Rm L – Church Library

FH – Fellowship Hall

OS – Off Site YR - Youth Rm

8:15a CHAPEL

9:30a Lectionary L 7:00p - CHOIR

5:30P-HANDBELLS

8:00a/10:30a DIVINE Service 9:30a-Sunday School	1 8a Quilters 6:30p Evening Guild L	2 Circuit Meeting	3 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30P-HANDBELLS ADVENT SERVICES 3:30 & 6:30PM	4 5:30-7:30 Mens Club Christmas Party-Rias 7:00p - CHOIR	5 11A – LIBRARY WORK	6 6p DIVINE SERVICE 7pm – Game Night
7 8:00a/10:30a DIVINE Service 9:30a Sunday School	8 8a Quilters	9 1:30p Women's Aux 6p Missionary Society 6p Men's Club L 5 th -8 th band concert	10 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30p- Handbells ADVENT SERVICES 3:30 & 6:30PM	11 7:00p - Choir	12 11a – Library Work 7p – Game Night	13 6p DIVINE SERVICE
14 8:00a/10:30a Divine Service 9:30a Sunday School Christmas programs 2pm 2-4 th 4pm pk-1st Walk to the Nativity 9:30am-6:00pm (FH)	15 8a Quilters	16 Board Meetings 6:30PM	17 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30 Handbells ADVENT SERVICES 3:30 & 6:30PM	18 7:00pm - Choir	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 6p DIVINE SERVICE
21 8:00a/10:30a Divine Service 9:30a Sunday School	22 8a Quilters	23 Church council 630pm	24 Christmas Eve Services 6:00 pm & 11pm	25 Christmas Day Service 9:00am	26 11A – Library Work	27 6p – DIVINE SERVICE
28 8:00A/10:30A DIVINE SERVICE 9:30A -Sunday School	29	30	31 New Years Eve Worship 6:30pm			

