

Dear Friends in Christ,

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God' (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely



through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

In Christ, Pastor Powell

January Hymn of the Month: I want to Walk As A Child of the Light (LSB 411)

Born in Tennessee in 1934, Kathleen Thomerson composed this hymn in 1966 during a heatwave in St. Louis. She completed the first stanza and tune instead of packing for a flight to Houston. After arriving in Houston (where her mother had air conditioning) she completed the remaining stanzas. The named the tune "Houston." Thomerson, an organist and director of music, originally prepared the piece as a choral anthem. It's first use as a hymn was at the Church of Redeemer in Houston, an Episcopalian congregation. The hymn is printed in hymnals of numerous denominations and has been translated into Welsh, Japanese, Spanish, Dutch, and Hmong.

Lutheran Service Book places this hymnal within the Epiphany section of the hymnal. However, the hymn certainly has a strong Advent focus, especially in its reference to Malachi 4:2 and the rising "sun of righteousness." At the same time, its pervasive contrast between light and darkness aligns it naturally with Epiphany themes and connects it to both Luther's hymn tradition and earlier Greek hymnody that proclaims Christ as light to the Gentiles.

The hymn's central theme—Christ dwelling in the believer's heart—draws on Ephesians 3:17 and is encapsulated in the refrain, "Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus," which also echoes 1 John 1:5. An eschatological note appears in the hymn's allusion to Revelation 21:23. Though often associated with childlike faith, the hymn was written for adults, and its combination of personal devotion and rich biblical imagery accounts for its enduring popularity.

Hymn Text

- I want to walk as a child of the light.
 I want to follow Jesus.
 God set the stars to give light to the world.
 The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain*
- ref In Him there is no darkness at all.

 The night and the day are both alike.

 The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
- I want to see the brightness of God.
 I want to look at Jesus.
 Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
 And show me the way to the Father. Refrain
- I'm looking for the coming of Christ.I want to be with Jesus.When we have run with patience the race,We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

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Summarized from *Lutheran Service Book:* Companion to the Hymns (Concordia Publishing House, 2019).

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The Lutheran Witness keeps you updated with news from the Synod and teaches you how to interpret the world from a Lutheran perspective. A yearly subscription includes 11 issues. Printed, published and distributed by Concordia Publishing House, the publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

If you are interested in subscribing to 2026 Lutheran Witness please contact the Church Office by January 31, 2026. The cost is \$20.65.



Baptisms

Adaline Knierim	11/30/2025
Isaac Seidel	12/14/2025
Amelia Rakow	12/21/2025
Augustus Neighbors	12/21/2025
Adaline Neighbors	12/21/2025

Adult Confirmation

Taylee Buie 12/20/2025 Allen Neighbors 12/21/2025

Transferring into our Congregation

Lexie Neighbors 12/21/2025

WOMEN'S AUXILARY

The Women's Auxiliary will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

HAPPY DRIFTERS

The trip to St. Charles to see The Boar Head Festival was wonderful. If you ever get a chance to see this please take advantage!

We will start off the new year with game day in the fellowship hall. Date will be January 27, 2026 at 1:00. All senior members of our congregation are invited. There are no dues, all are welcome. Each month we plan something special. Learn to know fellow members of our congregation and many outings are educational as well as fun.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Welcome to all women of Trinity. Our next meeting will be January 13, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall Starting at 6pm. We will have a short meeting, collect Mites, and then a Bible study. We will also start planning for our Spring Rally for the Jefferson City Zone being held at Trinity. A District (state of Missouri) convention will be in Cape Girardeau in June 2026 – more information coming soon! Any questions please feel free to contact Danielle Rakow @ 573-230-5654



Building Foundations On The Rock
SRY(0)(U)7777 -Matthew 7:24

TRINITY LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP



I can do all things through him who gives me strength -Animous 4:13

<u>Sr Youth Lock In on January 2nd</u> —What does it mean to serve? During the night we will participate in service projects, have some food, fun and fellowship. The Lock In starts January 2nd at 9pm and ends January 3rd at 7am.

The Christmas Decorating Crew Needs You! Trinity Youth and Families are encouraged to help the congregation take down decorations on Sunday, January 11th after the 10:30 service. Hope to see you all there!

<u>Candy Bar Fundraiser</u> - Sr Youth are selling World Famous Chocolate Bars for \$1.00 each. All proceeds will go toward our Youth Gathering 2028 in San Antonio. Thank you for your continued support of this event!

Roller Skating Outing - Dig out your glow in the dark, skate pom poms, and lace up your skates! We're heading to the Sk8 Zone on Sunday, January 18th. We will have snacks and drinks for our group. Please bring \$5 to go toward the cost of admission, skate rental and snacks. Please let Angie know if you and your family plan to go.

Youth District Retreat — The Missouri District Lutheran High retreat returns on April 17th — 19th at Cross Pointe Retreat Center — Lake Ozark! The featured presenter is AJ Vega and the Featured Guest is Remedy Drive. If your youth is interested in going, please look in the Band App for your registration form and turn in by January 12th.

Puzzle FUNdraiser Competition – The Senior youth are hosting a fun afternoon of friendly Puzzle Competition on Sunday, January 11, 2026. The cost is \$50 Per team of 4. Light lunch is served at 12:00 and Puzzle competition begins at 12:45. There will be prizes for first to complete 4 corners, edges, entire puzzle, and other great things throughout the afternoon. Sr Youth can sign up for your work spot at: Puzzle Work Schedule.

Word for Today

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'." — Matthew 3:17

Scripture Snacks

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of a father's only son, full of arace and truth. — John 1:14

May grace and peace be yours through God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ" -1 Corinthians 1:3

"May the light of Christ shine on you and be your strength and salvation. - Psalm 27:1

January Calendar

- 2 | Sr Youth Lock In(9:00 pm)
- 4 | Jr Youth (6:30pm)
- 11 | Puzzle Competition (12:00 pm)
- 18 Sk8 Zone (2 4pm)
- 25 Jr Youth (6:30 pm) Sr Youth (7:15 pm)

Meal Train Link

www.mealtrain.com/trains/711nwm

Contact for More Information

Angie Brenner

Director of Christian Education abrenner@trinityjc.org



This is still published weekly with all the information you need for events, time, and places. Pick this up in addition to the weekly bulletin at the entrance of the sanctuary.

Volunteers Needed:

Due to our store's growth, Calvary's Gift is seeking volunteer support from Monday through Saturday. We have various volunteer opportunities available, including cashier, bagger, and backroom positions in linen (two to three), home decor, Christmas, Man's Land, children's and women's clothing, and toys. Our flexible volunteer hours allow you to contribute two to four hours or a full day, as desired. Please prayerfully consider volunteering with us. As we are an all-volunteer organization, all proceeds go to Calvary Lutheran High School to support students with tuition assistance.

Please text 573-338-2442 to schedule an interview appointment.



Prizes

\$50/team registration fee

Teams of up to 4 people Kid teams welcome!

Pasta lunch served at 12:00 Puzzle competition begins at 12:45

Puzzle exchange (optional)

Register at

<u>trinityjc.breezechms.com/form/Puzzle2026</u> or email <u>lbrunner@trinityjc.org</u>

Trinity Lutheran Church "The Tenth Day of Christmas" Antique Reed Organ Concert

FEATURING A VARIETY OF ANTIQUE REED ORGANS IN VARIOUS STYLES



In gratitude to God for His blessings upon our congregation, and in reflection of our 100th Anniversary, we are pleased to present this special concert. It is our hope that through the music presented on these beautiful instruments that our hearts will be stirred in praise and thanksgiving for the many blessings that are ours in Christ.

JANUARY 4, 2026 3 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2201 W. Rollins Street
Columbia





January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		_		1 NEW YEARS DAY	2	3
4 8:00a/10:30a DIVINE Service 9:30a-Sunday School	5 8a Quilters 6:30p Evening Guild L	Epiphany Service 6:30pm	7 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30P-HANDBELLS	8 7:00p - CHOIR	9 11A – LIBRARY WORK	10 6p DIVINE SERVICE 7pm – Game Night
8:00a/10:30a DIVINE Service 9:30a Sunday School 12:00PuzzleFundraise	12 8a Quilters	1:30p Women's Aux 6p Missionary Society 6p Men's Club L	14 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30p- Handbells	15 7:00p - Choir	11a – Library Work 7p – Game Night	17 6p DIVINE SERVICE
18 8:00a/10:30a Divine Service 9:30a Sunday School	19 8a Quilters	20 Board Meetings 6:30PM	21 8:15a CHAPEL 9:30a Lectionary L 5:30 Handbells	22 7:00pm - Choir	Newsletter Deadline	24 6p DIVINE SERVICE
8:00a/10:30a Divine Service 9:30a Sunday School	26 8a Quilters	27 Church council 630pm	28	29	30 11A – Library Work	31 6p – DIVINE SERVICE

8:00A/10:30A DIVINE SERVICE 9:30A -Sunday School