



# TRINITY'S LINK

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## Mountain-Top Moments

In Matthew 17, we read a remarkable story about Jesus taking Peter, James and John up a high mountain. What seemed like an ordinary hike turned into a moment that changed their understanding of who Jesus really is. Matthew writes, "And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light" (Matthew 17:2, NASB). The disciples saw Jesus in a brilliant, heavenly glory — a glimpse of his true identity as the Son of God.

But that wasn't all. A voice from the cloud declared, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!" (Matthew 17:5, NASB). Imagine the awe and holy fear those disciples felt. Just like many of us would, they fell to the ground, overwhelmed by God's presence. Yet Jesus didn't leave them trembling. He came close, touched them and said those comforting words we all long to hear: "Do not be afraid."

After the moment passed, Jesus led them back down the mountain and into everyday life again. This powerful encounter reminds us that Jesus is truly the Son of God — radiant, holy and worthy of our worship. But it also shows us his heart: gentle, reassuring and near to us when we are afraid.

We may not stand on that mountain, but we can still experience our own "mountain-top moments" — times in worship, prayer or Scripture when we glimpse God's glory in a fresh way. And just like the disciples, we are invited to rise up, follow Jesus and listen to him every step of the journey.

# Council Meeting Minutes—January 13, 2026

Members present: Larry Bishop, Becky Verslues, Sheila Thomas, Becky Hayden, Roger Jungmeyer, and Jerome Rockelman. The meeting began at 6:43 pm.

The meeting began with a prayer.

The Council reviewed the December meeting minutes.

A motion was made to approve the December minutes by Sheila; second by Jerome; motion carried.

The Council reviewed the December financial reports. Roger made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented; second by Becky Verslues; motion carried.

Budget and Finance- Jennifer Dampf

- The church accounts have been reviewed, balanced and all bills are paid to date.

Parish Education Committee- Jennifer Dampf

- The Youth will host a "Play and Laugh Game Night" on Friday, January 30th at 6:00 pm. Congregation and friends are invited.

Evangelism- Becky Verslues

- The committee worked to set up and clean up for Pastor Ed's celebration meal on Jan. 4, 2026

Music and Worship- Becky Hayden

- The committee met to discuss February services and select music for each service.
- The committee wants to make sure they are selecting songs that the congregation likes to sing and the correct amount of verses.

Property- Jerome Rockelman

- Removed leaves from church and hall AC units.
- Jerome, Jeff Gordon and Becky Hayden worked on the hall kitchen.
- Leslie Hayden, Becky Hayden, Mary Gordon, and Lee Penberthy cleaned on the garage and the garage entry room.

Vitality Team- Roger Jungmeyer

- No meeting

A motion was made by Becky Hayden to approve Pastor's mileage expense of \$527.80 (754 miles @ 70 cents per mile) for December; second by Sheila Thomas, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Reviewed the budget for 2026
- A Motion was made by Sheila Thomas to approve the proposed 2026 Budget and second by Jerome Rockelman. Motion carried.
- Discussed Annual meeting that will be held on Feb. 8, 2026. Annual reports will be handed out to congregation Jan. 25.

New Business:

- Discussed Lenten Offering. We will come back in February to make the final decision.
- Will plan a date in February for the installation of the new members of church council.
- Trinity will begin the paperwork for calling a new pastor and a call committee will be organized.
- Councilperson job duties for each Sunday have been updated to include ensuring the Sacristy door is locked.
- Bottled water will be added to the small refrigerator in the Sacristy for our supply pastors or anyone who needs water.
- A motion was made by Sheila Thomas, second by Becky Verslues to pay Jack Hayden for his work and time on creating the Church Directory.

The next Council Meeting will be February 10, 2026. A motion was made by Jerome to adjourn the meeting; second by Roger; motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:47 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted:

Becky Hayden

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_

## Food Bank

The food bank for Central and Northeast Missouri was at Trinity's parking lot on Tuesday, January 13, for its monthly visit. There were nineteen volunteers present with seven representing Trinity. There were 119 families served totaling 318 people. The

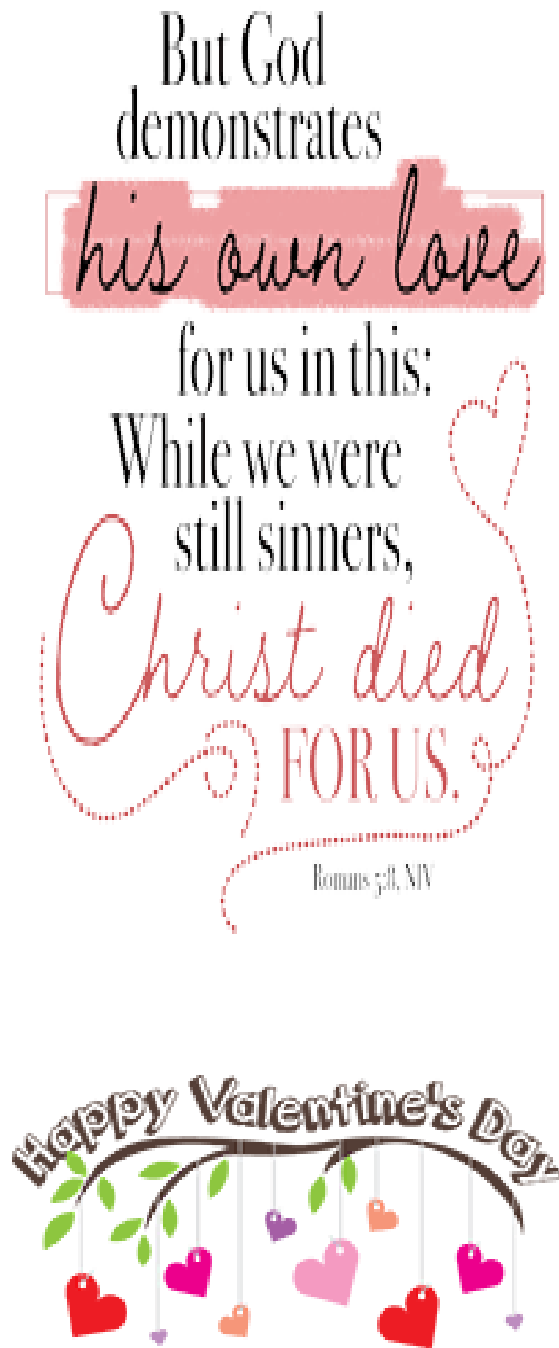
following items were distributed: potatoes, whipping cream, treat sacks, Dill Pickle Corn Puffs, Slim Jims, bread, strawberries, hamburger and miscellaneous food items donated by one of the classes from the Russellville Cole R 1 School. The February food bank visit to Trinity will be on Tuesday, February 10, at 1:00 pm. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers.



Our prayers and sympathy are extended to the Margaret Malzner family and friends. She passed away at the Holts Summit Care facility on January 22, 2026. Margaret was a faithful and dedicated Trinity member until her employment required her having to move to St. Louis. This move did not stop her from living and practicing her Christian faith. While there, she became active in another Lutheran church's faith ministry by teaching Sunday School and even became the church's first woman church council president. Upon her retirement she returned to her home, taking care of her mother, and to Trinity, continuing to actively participate in the church's ministry. The Lord gifted Margaret with a long, well lived earthly life and the legacy that she leaves with all of us. Well done thou good and faithful servant. Rest eternal, grant her, O Lord.

## Birthdays

- 1 Erin Tice
- 1 Clay Hayden
- 4 Briggs Wyatt Geiger
- 5 Salle Eberhart
- 6 Alexandria Metcalf
- 7 Kenneth Bishop
- 10 Mitchell Ott
- 11 Mike Strobel
- 11 Karen Platter
- 13 Karen Dusheke
- 13 Marla Klynott
- 13 Bruce Rosenmiller
- 13 Rosie Strobel
- 14 Amanda Phillips
- 17 Jean Anderson
- 17 Mailee Tambke
- 19 Ashley Shannon
- 20 Lisa Haslag
- 21 Tami Kirchner
- 23 Elizabeth Rockelman
- 23 Joyce Kirchner
- 24 Allen Bock
- 25 James Strauch
- 25 Anna Wise
- 26 Mollie Keck
- 27 Renee Phillips
- 27 Becky Verslues



## Baptismal Birthdays for February

- 2 Layna Korte
- 4 Joyce Linhardt
- 6 Broc Elliott
- 6 Macie Edwards
- 11 Leroy Rockelman
- 14 Sheridan Pinerola
- 14 Emily Goldammer
- 14 Justin Goldammer
- 14 Travis Kempker
- 14 James Strauch
- 14 Tyler Strauch
- 14 Connor Watts
- 19 Rosie Strobel
- 23 Cody Koestner
- 25 Kaytlin Kirchner
- 25 Carol Koestner
- 26 Karen Dusheke
- 26 Courtney Edwards
- 26 Ashley Huff
- 26 Beth Strobel
- 26 Adam Verslues

## A Vision Rooted in Faith and Freedom

Washington's wisdom has been an inspiration for large numbers of our leading men and women in every decade since his time. He had the uncanny foresight of seeking to build a nation upon the bedrock of strong patriotism, unquestioned integrity, opportunities for all, high ideals and love of God.

May our great land, conceived in prayer for peace, bring new concepts of living to all the peoples of the world.

# Margaret Elizabeth "Mick" Malzner

January 27, 1929 ~ January 22, 2026



Margaret Elizabeth "Mick" Malzner, 96, of Russellville, passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Summit Villa Memory Care in Holts Summit, Missouri.

She was born in Moniteau County, Missouri, on January 27, 1929, the daughter of Oscar A. and Elnora B. (Schoch) Malzner.

Her father passed away when she was only twelve, and as the oldest of four children, she learned very early to work hard and take responsibility.

She was a 1947 graduate of Cole R-1 School. Soon after she taught at Pleasant Hill School. She served as teacher for the school's final term when it closed in 1950.

Margaret began working for General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) in Jefferson City, later moving to their St. Louis office. She worked for GMAC for thirty-seven years, retiring in 1994. While she loved living in St. Louis, she always felt home was on the family farm near Russellville, where she returned after retiring and took care of her mother.

Margaret was raised at Trinity Lutheran Church, where she was baptized on February 17, 1929. During her years in St. Louis, Margaret was an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church where she taught Sunday School, was treasurer for many years, and was the first woman to serve as church president.

In retirement, she was very active at Trinity Lutheran Church with the Ladies Auxiliary, including quilt-making and Health and School Kits missions. She also volunteered at Heisinger Bluffs.

She loved to travel, garden, and to spend time with her family, especially during the holidays.

She is survived by ten nieces and nephews, Susan (Roger) Lock, Conyers, Georgia; Philip Jeter, Cape Coral, Florida; Rose Malzner, Jefferson City; Kent (Debbie) Malzner, Russellville; Kerry (Noboru) Yamazaki, Jefferson City; Curt (Danielle) Malzner, Russellville; Phyllis Ellison, St. Louis; Cara Malzner, Jefferson City; Deana (Steve) Ham, Lee's Summit; and Laura Malzner, Jefferson City; and eleven great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Dorothy (Joe) Jeter; two brothers, Walter "Buck" (Helen) Malzner; and Elmer "Emmie" (Marilyn) Malzner; and a nephew, Jeff Jeter.

Visitation was Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Russellville followed by the funeral service with the Pastor David Viles officiating.

Burial was in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

# Worship Servers

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<b>Council Member</b>	Sheila Thomas	Jerome Rockelman	Roger Jungmeyer	Becky Hayden/ Clay Hayden
<b>Greeters</b>	Cory and Beth Volkart Family	Garrett and Mikala Geiger Family	Zach and Lisa Haslag Family	Ryan and Meghan Ortbals Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Kathy Koestner	Cathy Kliethermes	Kim Otto	Lee Henry Penberthy
<b>Acolyte</b>	Adalyn Wood	Jocie Mertens	Acolyte Volunteer	Brooklyn Wood
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Tami Kirchner	Connie Harrison	Jennifer Dampf	Becky Hayden
<b>Offering Assistants</b>	Cory and Beth Volkart Family	Garrett and Mikala Geiger Family	Zach and Lisa Haslag Family	Ryan and Meghan Ortbals Family
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Kathy Koestner	Ken Bishop	Kim Otto	Kathi Bishop
<b>Video</b>	Lyle and Dana Jobe	Jack Hayden	Dana Frisby	Jack Hayden
<b>Piano</b>	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Becky Hayden

## Ash Wednesday Server

February 18	
<b>Council Member</b>	Rober Jungmeyer

## Ash Wednesday prayer

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.



## Prayer Chain Requests

Do you have a spiritual, physical, or mental prayer request? Trinity's Prayer Chain is here to support you. To begin a prayer request or to be added to the prayer chain to receive text messages or phone calls, please contact Kathy Koestner (573-690-0956) or Connie Harrison (573-680-9465). We invite you to stay connected as we support one another through prayer.

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> C-9 AM-Worship	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b> P/H-5 PM-Yoga-	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> P/H-6 PM- Men's Bible Study P/H-5:45 PM- Young Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> C-9 AM-Worship Annual Meetings After Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> P/L-1-3 PM- Food Bank P/H-5 PM-Yoga- P/O-5:30 PM- Music & Worship PH-6 PM- Church Council	<b>11</b> P/H-11:30-AM- Retreads	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day
<b>15</b> C-9 AM-Worship	<b>16</b> Presidents Day	<b>17</b> P/H-5 PM-Yoga-	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday	<b>19</b> P/H-5:45 PM- Young Women's Bible Study  Children's Church	<b>20</b> Newsletter Article Deadline	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> C-9 AM-Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> P/H-5 PM-Yoga-	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>C=Church, P/H=Parish Hall, P=Pavilion, P/O=Parsonage Office, P/L=Parking Lot</b> </div>						

## WELCA Rummage Sale

The Women of the ELCA rummage sale will be March 5 and 6. The committee, and anyone wanting to help, will work to organize the sale

Monday mornings 8:30-noon. Rummage items can be put in the parish hall on or in front of the stage. Any items brought after the cutoff may not be included in the sale. Please bring items that are clean, wearable and workable. If anyone is needing rummage items picked up (regular or large), please let Mary Gordon know by texting or leaving a voice mail (573-220-5277). Dana Frisby is organizing the food and will be asking for donations at a later date. Mark your calendars to help with this annual event.

Sunday January 25, February 1, 15 and 22 – working after church for 45 to an hour hanging up clothes  
By February 4 - Contact Mary Gordon (573-220-5277) by text or voice mail if needing rummage items pickup up (regular or large)

- February 8 – item pickup in the afternoon
- March 1 – Trinity members invited for early sale shopping after church service-noon, last day for sale item drop-off
- March 5 – Rummage sale, 10:00 am -6:30 pm (lunch and dinner, take-outs available)
- March 6 – Rummage sale, 7:00 am – 4:00 pm (breakfast and lunch, take-outs available)