



# TRINITY'S LINK

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## A New Year In Christ

For Christians the coming of the new year has little significance for faith. It plays no major role in the life of the church. For many churches, it is a dormant time. The flurry of Christmas is over. We've expended our energies in Christmas and family activities, visiting those we've neglected to see and the Christmas program. What we still have is the promise of Christmas with us — and the fulfillment of that promise in the birth which remakes our lives.

Newness comes to us not through turning the page on a calendar, but through our regeneration in Christ. We make resolutions as we open up the first page of the 2026 diary. We may promise ourselves not to fill it with meaningless busyness. We may vow to live more simply, eat more carefully and frugally. We may chuckle, however, even as we make these resolutions, we know that they're made only to be broken.

The new life we find in Christ is not made in this way. There is no one-day-of-the-year about it. If we falter (as we surely will) Christ, still is with us, offering a renewing of newness. Yet we should not shrug off our failure to be faithful with the same easy gesture of regret as we do with our broken new year's promises. To talk of God's repeated promise, to talk of the constant possibility of renewal does not mean that we are not accountable for our failures. It simply means they are not terminal!

The great festivals of the Church's year remind us of the serious hopefulness and the hopeful seriousness of the Christian life in Christ. Advent is a beginning, but so are Easter and Pentecost. Each of these festivals remind of the substance of our faith.

In this new year of 2026, we will make promises to ourselves — and probably break some of them! In this new year of our Lord, 2026, may we keep our faith resolutions as God keeps his.

# Council Meeting Minutes—December 9, 2025

Members present: Larry Bishop, Becky Verslues, Sheila Thomas, Becky Hayden, Roger Jungmeyer, Jerome Rockelman and Pastor Ed. The meeting began at 6:17 pm.

Pastor Ed began with a devotion from 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 and a prayer.

The Council reviewed the November meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the November minutes by Jerome; seconded by Sheila; motion carried.

The Council reviewed the November financial reports. Becky Hayden made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented; second by Jerome Rockelman, motion carried.

Budget and Finance- Larry Bishop presented the report from Jennifer Dampf

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

Parish Education Committee- Report from Jennifer Dampf

- God's Kids rode on a Float for the Lions Club Christmas Parade on Saturday Dec, 6.
- Plans are underway for a Christmas Eve Program.

Evangelism- Becky Verslues

- A thank you was received from the Lake Area Community Orchestra for hosting the orchestra for their summer concert. The Orchestra performed in the Parish Hall on May 27.
- The committee will be working to help plan, 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 January services and select music for each service.
- Cathy Kliethermes joined the Music and Worship Committee to help with the Sunday's and Seasons and planning the services.

Property- Jerome Rockelman

- Jerome, Larry Bishop and Jeff Gordon replaced the pulpit's 75" TV.
- An engraved brick will be picked up and placed in the sidewalk in front of the church for Pastor Ed.
- The metal canopy above the Sacristy door has been installed.

Vitality Team- Roger Jungmeyer

- No meeting

Pastor's Report:

- Conducted 4 of the 5 Sunday Services
- Meetings- Vitality Team, Music and Worship
- Education- The Chosen (2 Sessions)
- Pastoral Activities- Church Council
- Visitations- 1 home communion

A motion was made by Roger to approve Pastor's mileage expense of \$321.30 (459 miles @ 70 cents per mile) for June; second by Sheila Thomas, motion carried.

New Business:

- Christmas Eve offering will be donated to Central Missouri Food Bank.
- Larry has been talking with St. Paul's Church of Lohman. They plan to join us to celebrate Pastor Ed's retirement. They would like to contribute the desserts for the meal. Larry will look into having the meal catered.
- Three members of Church Council have reached their term and will be stepping off of Council. New candidates will be asked to run for office and join.
- Annual Church meeting will be January 25, 2026.
- Jennifer will be asked to pay the Ministerial Alliance Dues and Council will include this in next year's budget.
- Larry will ask Cathy Kliethermes when committee reports need to be submitted for the Annual report.
- The Audit Committee will be Kim Otto, Cory Volkart, and Kent Shikles.
- Reviewed the meeting with Pyrmont and Brauersville churches.

The next Council Meeting will be January 13, 2026. A motion was made by Roger to adjourn the meeting; second by Jerome; motion carried.

The meeting ended at 7:15 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted:

Becky Hayden

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

## Food Bank

The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri was at Trinity's parking lot on Tuesday, December 9, for its monthly visit. Weather conditions were excellent for December. Eighteen volunteers worked during the distribution with six representing Trinity. One hundred eighteen families were served totaling three hundred eleven persons. Items distributed: miscellaneous drinks, milk, potatoes, onions, hamburger, hot dogs, water melon, apples and assorted breads. In addition, the Russellville United Methodist Church contributed complete meal kits and the Stringtown Lutheran Church donated an assortment of groceries for the distribution. The January Food Bank visit to Trinity will be Tuesday, January 13, 1:00—3:00 pm. Volunteers, you are appreciated!

Light of the world, shine in our hearts today. As the Magi once followed your star, lead us closer to you and guide our steps in the year ahead.

# Thank You!

The family of Virginia Westergaard would like to thank you all for your kind words and prayers during Mom's illness and passing. The cards, gifts of food, phone calls, and hugs

were very much appreciated.

To our Trinity church family-

Our family is deeply grateful to our church family for the love, prayers, and support shown during this time as we remember Tom. Your kindness and care has brought us great comfort. You helped make this time of grieving a little more bearable with help in many forms through meals, helping hands, and prayers. ....Bert Koestner and family

Thank you to Jack Hayden for all the time and effort that you spent compiling Trinity's pictorial directory. It is beautiful, neat, and your photography skills are excellent. We also thank your mom Becky, and your dad, Clay , for their assistance. Thanks to all of you!

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the directors of our recent Christmas Eve program, as well as the participants, parents, video assistants, accompanist, attendees, and to those assisting during the production. The evening was filled with energy and excitement as we celebrated Jesus' birth. A job well done!

## Worship Servers

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
<b>Council Member</b>	Larry Bishop	Roger Jungmeyer	Jerome Rockelman	Becky Hayden Clay Hayden
<b>Greeters</b>	Ryan and Kim Otto Family	Michael & Jessica Keeran Family	Clayton & Elizabeth Miles Family	Kent and Cheyenne Shikles Family
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Kathy Koestner	Ken Bishop	Anna Wise	Lee Henry Penberthy
<b>Acolyte</b>	Adalyn Wood	Jocie Mertens	Brooklyn Wood	Acolyte Volunteer
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	Becky Hayden	Tami Kirchner	Connie Harrison	Jennifer Dampf
<b>Offering Assistants</b>	Ryan and Kim Otto Family	Michael & Jessica Keeran Family	Clayton & Elizabeth Miles Family	Kent and Cheyenne Shikles Family
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Christian Wood	Jennifer Dampf	Connie Harrison	Kathi Bishop
<b>Video</b>	Jack and Becky Hayden	Dana Frisby Denise Ortals	Lyle and Dana Jobe	Jack Hayden
<b>Piano</b>	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Judy Crocker	Becky Hayden

# January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>C=Church, P/H=Parish Hall, P=Pavilion, P/O=Parsonage Office, P/L=Parking Lot</b>				<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>C-9 AM-Worship</b> Pastor Merckel's Retirement Dinner	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Epiphany</b>  <b>P/H-5 PM-Yoga</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8 P/H-5:45 PM-</b> Young Women's Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>C-9 AM-Worship</b> <b>Baptism of the</b> <b>Lord</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 P/L-1-3 PM-</b> Food Bank <b>P/H-5 PM-Yoga</b> <b>P/O-5:30 PM-</b> Music & Worship <b>P/H-6:00 PM-</b> Church Council	<b>14</b>	<b>15 P/H- 6 PM-</b> Men's Bible Study	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>C-9 AM-Worship</b>	<b>19 Martin</b> <b>Luther King</b> <b>Jr. Day</b>	<b>20</b> <b>P/H-5 PM-Yoga</b>  <b>News Letter</b> <b>Article Deadline</b>	<b>21</b> <b>P/H-11:30 AM-</b> Retreads	<b>22P/H-5:45 PM-</b> Young Women's Bible Study Children's Church	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>C-9 AM-Worship</b> Annual Meetings after Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>P/H-5 PM-Yoga</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

We offer our deepest sympathy to Kaleb and Halie Payne on the passing of their infant twin son, Marcus Daniel Payne, born December 9, 2025 and passing into the everlasting arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on December 16, 2025. His burial was in the Enloe Cemetery. Lord, comfort the Payne families with peace and wrap your loving, comforting, arms around Marcus. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord. Amen

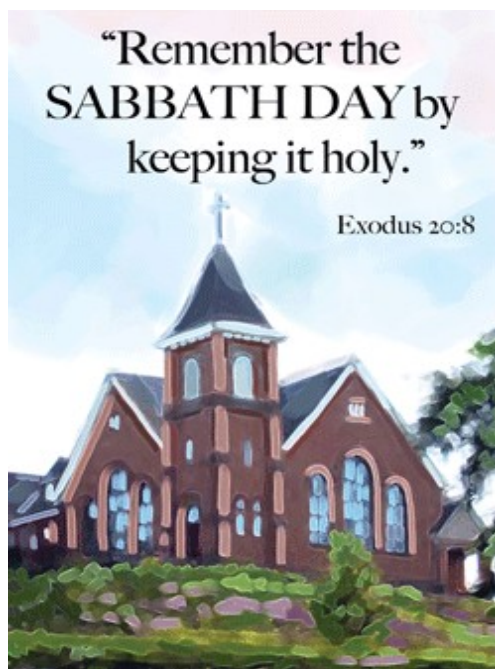


The rock is often used as a symbol of the Lord, our strength and firm foundation. A cross rising from the rock echoes many Bible verses that proclaim Christ as the rock of salvation; for example, "He alone is my rock and my salvation ..." (Psalm 62:2, ESV).

**Cross on the Rock**

## Birthdays for January

- 3 Celia Wolz
- 5 Connor Watts
- 6 Connie Harrison
- 7 Broc Elliott
- 7 Cody Goldammer
- 8 Garrett Geiger
- 8 Laurie Anderson
- 9 Zeke Mertens
- 10 Kevin Bishop
- 13 Christian Devore
- 13 Colton DeVore
- 13 Beverly Meili
- 14 Jill Dehnert
- 17 John Leininger
- 17 Lucille Rosenmiller
- 23 Lyle Jobe
- 24 Courtney Edwards
- 24 Kaytlin Smith
- 25 Adam Verslues
- 27 Margaret Malzner
- 28 Maliek Heywood
- 31 Elizabeth Mehmert
- 31 Hannah Mehmert
- 31 Roby Mehmert
- 31 Keaton Shikles



## Baptismal Birthdays for January

- 2 Kameron Hogue
- 9 Madisen Boyer
- 10 David Marr
- 14 Jill Dehnert
- 17 Erin Tice
- 22 Celia Wolz
- 26 Caroline Koestner
- 27 Lisa Westergaard
- 28 Connie Harrison

### WELCA Spring Rummage Sale

The Women of the ELCA 2026 rummage sale will be March 5 and 6. Rummage items can be put in the Parish hall and placed on the stage any time after January 4 and until March 1. Please bring items that are clean, wearable and workable. Work days will be every Monday, 8:00-11:30 a.m. starting January 19th and some Sundays after church 10:00-11:30 a.m. Please consider helping a couple times to assist the committee with this time-consuming fundraiser. If you have larger items for the sale, please notify Mary Gordon at 573-220-5277 for hauling.

### Annual Meetings

The annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, following the morning worship service to approve the 2026 budget, elect church council members and transact any other business coming before the meeting.

The annual meeting for the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, immediately following the annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church.