



# BLESSED ARE THE...

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2026



TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVE, MASON CITY, IA | 641-423-0536 | [TRINITY-MC.ORG](http://TRINITY-MC.ORG)

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

***Pastors***

Dan Gerriets, Beverly Butler

***Preacher***

Pastor Beverly Butler

***Organist***

Mark W. McClellan

***Cantor***

Saturday: Julia Hines      Sunday: Kylie Hansen

***Special Music***

Trinity Choir

Dennis Lee, Director and Camille Lee, Accompanist

***Acolytes***

Lydia Swartwood, Lillian Holmes

***Ushers***

Saturday: Chris Suntken, Jace Suntken

Sunday: Kevin Hendrikson, Phil Lee, Craig Miller, Burton TeKippe

***Scripture Readers***

Saturday: Deb Hunt      Sunday: Gary Wattnem

***Communion Assistants***

Saturday: Sam and Deb Hunt      Sunday: \_\_\_\_\_

***Technical Support***

Brian Bauer, Penny Bennet, Colton Hesley

***Greeters***

Saturday: Dan and Millie Godfrey, Roger Rossum      Sunday: Harlan and Marge Baack

***Coffee Fellowship***

Patty Hestad, Craig Remmen, Kathy Pitcher

***Worship Transportation***

Randy Elsbernd, Alan and Sharon Steckman

***Building Hosts***

Saturday: David Stine      Sunday: Dave Smith

## ***Fourth Sunday after Epiphany***

### *Holy Communion*

Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9 FM

“Epiphany” is the Greek word meaning “to reveal” or “to make manifest.” God’s light and love are made manifest in our world. Our Scriptures today point us to how God’s light and love are revealed in our world through Christ’s power *in us*.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given in honor of

*David and Linda Stine’s Wedding Anniversary*

### **COLOR BULLETINS**

are given by Scot McCluskey in honor of

*Anna McCluskey’s 21st Birthday and Scot’s 65th Birthday*

***Welcome to Trinity- We are glad you are here!***

***If you are new to Trinity*** please complete the Welcome Card located in the pews so we can follow-up with you.

***Large print bulletins and listening devices*** are available from the ushers.

***Seating for People with Limited Mobility*** is reserved throughout the Sanctuary.  
Just look for the blue accessibility signs or ask your Usher.

***We love having small children in worship!***

- 1) ***Activity Bags*** are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.
- 2) Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the ***Child Care Room*** located next to the nursery. Nursery space is available but won’t be staffed. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the education wing and just outside the north sanctuary door. Ushers are available to direct you if needed.

***Our Mission*** *We are called to share God’s healing love through Christ’s forgiveness and our personal servanthood.*



# GATHERING

**Prelude**

**Trumpet Voluntary**

Stephen Best

**Welcome**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God, whose light is revealed in Jesus Christ and whose love shines in the world

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*(pause for reflection)*

P God of light, you make your love known in the world, yet we often hide in shadows.

**C We fail to reflect your mercy and to let your light shine through us.**

P You call us to be bearers of your grace, but we hold back in fear or indifference.

**C Forgive us, renew us, and send us, that your light may be revealed in our lives.**

P Hear the good news: Christ is the light of the world, and in him there is no darkness.

**C In Christ, we are forgiven and made new.**

P Filled with the Holy Spirit, you are sent to shine with God's love for all.

**C Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

***Christ, Be Our Light***

ELW 715

## **\*Greeting**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

P God of radiant light, you reveal your love to the world in Jesus Christ and make your glory known among us. Shine in our hearts and through our lives, that we may reflect your light and bear your love to all whom we meet, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### \*Gospel Acclamation

ELW pg. 142



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Beverly Butler**

**Hymn of the Day**

***Blest Are They***

ELW 728

**Song** (*Sunday*)

***This Little Light of Mine***

*Sunday School, ages 3 to 5*

Accompanist: Aubrey Lingbeek

## **\*Apostles' Creed**

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
    creator of heaven and earth.  
**I** believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
    who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
    born of the virgin Mary,  
    suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
    was crucified, died, and was buried;  
    he descended to the dead.  
    On the third day he rose again;  
    he ascended into heaven,  
    he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
    and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
**I** believe in the Holy Spirit,  
    the holy catholic church,  
    the communion of saints,  
    the forgiveness of sins,  
    the resurrection of the body,  
    and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **\*Prayers of Intercession**

**P** Merciful God,  
**C** Receive our prayer.

## **\*Peace**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** And also with you.

## **Announcements**

# MEAL

## Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!  
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.  
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.  
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



## Anthem

(Saturday)	Trumpet Voluntary	Stephen Best
(Sunday)	<b><i>Beloved, God's Chosen</i></b> Trinity Choir	Michael Burkhardt

## Offertory

### *Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'ly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## \*Offering Prayer

P God of light, you reveal your love through Christ and through your people.  
Receive these gifts as signs of our lives offered to you, and use them to make your  
light and mercy known in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## \*Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### \*Words of Institution

### \*Lord's Prayer

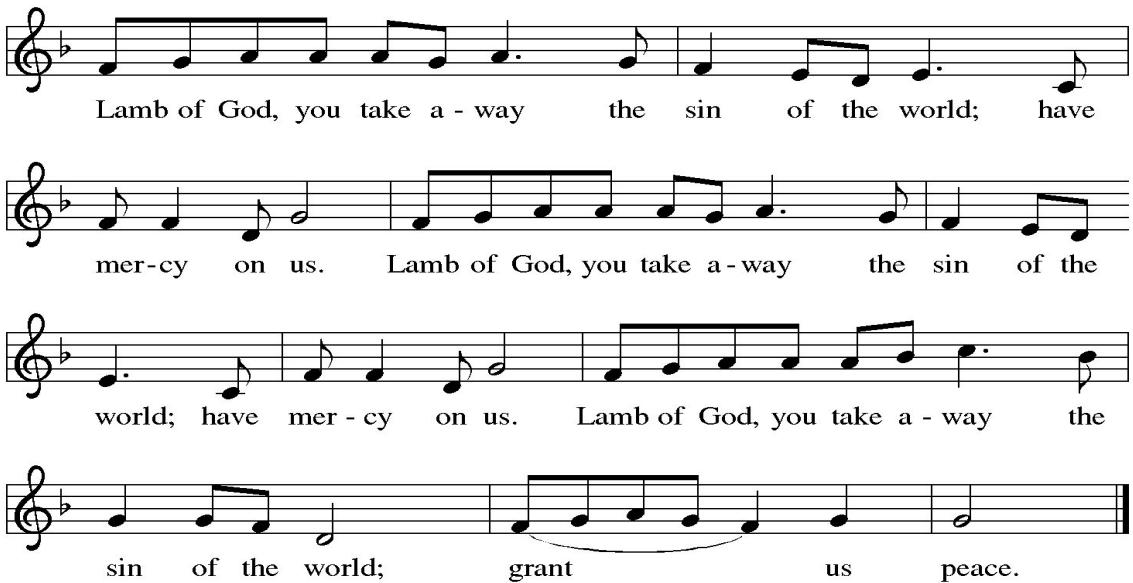
C Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power,  
 and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.

## Communion

*All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that comes in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today. Ushers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary, where you may kneel at the rail. You will return to your seat by the center aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available. If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.*

### Lamb of God

ELW pg. 146



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

*O God of Mercy, God of Light  
The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 714

ELW 551

## \*Prayer after Communion

P God of radiant love, in this meal you have revealed Christ to us and filled us with his light. Send us out to reflect your grace, that your love may be made manifest in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

C Amen.

## SENDING

### \*Blessing

P May the light of Christ, made manifest among us, shine in your hearts and through your lives.  
May you go forth bearing God's love for the world, in the name of the Father, <sup>†</sup> and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Amen.

\*Sending Hymn      *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

ELW 843

### \*Sending

P Go in peace. Share God's Blessing.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

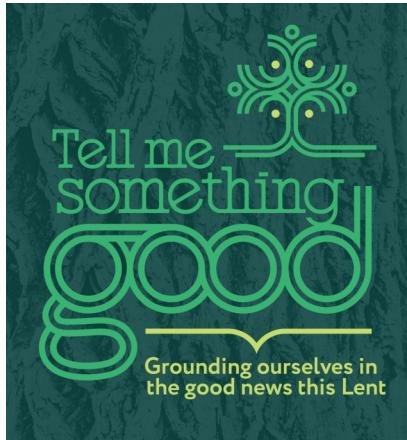
*Recessional Marziale*

Arthur Marchant

### JOURNEY WITH JESUS: Reading John Through Lent

The season of Lent is a great time to commit to spending time with God and tending our spiritual life. This Lenten season, we invite everyone at Trinity to read Scripture together as a spiritual discipline. Using the devotional Journey with Jesus, we will read the Gospel of John together. Journal questions are provided to dig deeper and to reflect on the daily readings. We encourage you to form a group or find a friend and meet weekly (or when you can) during Lent to reflect on the readings and questions. For those interested, there will be a gathering at noon on Mondays during Lent in the Fellowship Hall to discuss and process the Scripture for the past week in community.

People are encouraged to bring a lunch and to stay for whatever time their schedule allows.



Lent was originally a season for new converts to Christianity to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: God's mercy, radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—good news for us and for all people. The good news of Jesus brings us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings grounds us in who God created us to be. But can we be “good news” people in a world so full of bad news?

This Lent at Trinity, we want to remember that the good news really is *good news*. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

**Ash Wednesday | February 18 | 1:00 PM & 6:30 PM | Sanctuary**  
*Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion*

**Lent Wednesdays Worship | February 25—March 25 |**  
1:00 PM (Chapel) & 6:30 PM (Sanctuary)  
*Shorter traditional service with a creative liturgy and message*

**Wednesday Dinners | February 25—March 25 | 6:00 PM– 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall**  
*A delicious community meal served by TLC Youth*

***Tell Me Something Good* series at a glance.....**

- ... ***So Good it Catches us by Surprise*** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent (Feb. 21-22)
- ... ***Great Love for God and Neighbor*** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent (Feb. 28-March 1)
- ... ***Together, the Impossible is Possible*** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent (March 8-9)
- ... ***Protection and Care for the Vulnerable*** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (March 15-16)
- ... ***Rooted in Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness*** – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (March 22-23)
- ... ***Inspiring Us to Act*** – Palm Sunday (March 28-29)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **HEALTH FAIR FOR KIDS *Today, Sunday, February 1 | 9:15 AM | Education Wing***

Our annual Health Fair for Kids is on Sunday, February 1 at 9:15 a.m. in the Education Wing. This year our focus is on Unique Needs Awareness. Students in grades 1-6 will rotate to four stations to learn about the unique needs of us that require creativity and adaptation.

## **COMMUNITY FAITH NIGHT AT NORTH IOWA BULLS *Sign up by February 1st!***

**Thursday, February 5 | 7 PM | Mason City Arena**

Sign up by today, February 1st, to get a \$5 Ticket to the Hockey Game! Let's get a big Trinity section for a fun night out in North Iowa! Call the office or sign up on the clipboard just outside the office. More information on details will be sent out this week.

## **SPORTSBALL SUNDAY *All Services on Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8***

Trinity will celebrate the time-honored tradition of Sportsball Sunday on this weekend.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to wear attire from their favorite sports team. If you don't have a favorite sports team, any attire for "Team Jesus" is great. You'll be invited to place your vote with spare change for predicting who will win the big game on Sunday. Proceeds will benefit our Camp Scholarship Fund. We can't wait to see who you will be cheering on!

## **WELCA (Women of the ELCA) STUDY | Thursday, February 12 | 9:30 AM | Rm 208**

The WELCA Study, led by the Rev. Dr. Norma Cook Everist, will meet Thursday, February 12 from 9:30am to 10:30 in Room 208. Using Scripture and Luther's Large Catechism, we shall take a deeper look at the 4th petition of The Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Women, bring your friends for engaging conversation.

## **SOUL SPA Friday, February 13, | 9:00 AM—11:00 AM | Education Wing, 3rd Floor**

Soul Spa invites participants to engage in a variety of spiritual practices to nurture body, mind, and spirit. We will start and end together with free time in the middle for you to visit as few or as many stations as you desire, Stations offered include gentle yoga, a creative project, Visio Divina, seated healing touch sessions and refreshments. Wear comfortable clothing and come as you are. Register by call the church office at 641-423-0536 or just show up.

## **TRINITY COMMUNITY SNOW BALL | Sunday, February 15 | 5 PM | Gathering Space**

Trinity will host a Dance Party for children ages 1-10 and a parent or adult chaperone. This special Snow Ball evening event will include dancing and a light meal of chicken soup, crackers and cake pops. There is no cost to attend thanks to the generous Thrivent Action Team funds. Any questions can be directed to [carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org](mailto:carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org).

## **LUTHERAN DAY ON THE HILL | Thursday, February 26 | 9 AM - 3 PM | Des Moines**

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa for the annual Lutheran Day on the Hill. This event is open to anyone who wants to advocate and help spread the word about the work that Lutheran Services in Iowa does. Participants will gather downtown at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church to learn about LSI advocacy and critical issues facing Iowa children, adults and families, have lunch and travel to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators. Pastor Daniel is organizing vans to leave from Trinity's parking lot. The cost is \$25 to cover gas/transportation. We will be traveling with members from a number of other nearby ELCA congregations. ***Please sign up on office board by Monday, Feb. 16.***

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

**COMMUNITY MEAL THIS WEEK: 6:00pm: Menu:** Tator-Tot Casserole, Salad, Cookies & Bars

### **ADULT EDUCATION SERIES:**

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM | Gathering Space.

#### ***Seeing the World like Luther: Grace, Freedom, and a God Who Meets Us Where We Are***

A six-week adult education series exploring not just what Lutherans believe, but how we see God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Led by Pastor Dan Gerriets and Josh Guyer.

- **February 4** — *Sacred Stuff in an Ordinary World.*
- **February 11** — *Freed... for What?: Christian Freedom, Love, and Vocation*

All are welcome—whether Lutheran, from another tradition, or simply curious. Come for thoughtful discussion, honest questions, and a fresh way of seeing the world through the lens of grace.

#### **\*Choir Rehearsal** | Choir Room | 6:30pm—7:30pm

Trinity's Choir is open to all vocalists, high school age & older. Please join us!

### **YOUTH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **\*Nursery** | 6:30pm—7:30pm | The Nursery is located on 2nd floor, just outside the Sanctuary.

The Nursery is UNSTAFFED but is available for preschoolers and their parents during this time.

#### **\*Campfire Kids, Grades 1-6** | Rm 208 | 6:30pm—7:30pm

Campfire Kids is our elementary programming here at Trinity on Wednesday nights. Students embark on fun Bible adventures with their leader Nate Ruge, and other wilderness guides, as they experiment with Bible Stories and Faith Traditions. This week we delve into Jesus calling the Disciples

**Note:** *Campfire Kids* is collecting letter writing supplies for an upcoming adventure. If you happen to have extra, just drop them off at the Office.

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### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: *Applications are due on Sunday, March 1st***

College scholarship applications and reapplications for the 2026-2027 school year are available to pick up on the ledge outside the church office. Forms are available on Trinity's website at [trinity-mc.org/scholarships/](http://trinity-mc.org/scholarships/). *Applications must be turned in to the church office by March 1.*

### **TRINITY ART GALLERY; On display from February thru April, 2026 | East Entrance**

Our new exhibit features Mary Ann Marreel, an award winning artist from Osage, Iowa. She recently had an exhibit at the MacNider Art Museum. Her charcoal drawings have won Best in Show at the Iowa State Fair. Stop by and spend some time enjoying the art!

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

**9:00 AM** Centering Prayer (Rm 322 and on Zoom)  
**5:30 PM** Bronze Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

**8:00 AM** BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)  
**12:00 PM** Staff Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

**7:00 AM** Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)  
**8:30 AM** Women's Bible Study (Library)

#### Wednesday Night Alive

**6:00 PM** Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
**6:30 AM** Wednesday Night Alive Program (Gathering Space)  
**6:30 PM** Confirmation (Fellowship Hall)  
**6:30 PM** Campfire Kids (Rm 307)

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

**8:00 AM** BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)  
**10:30 AM** Clappers & Coffee Bell Choir (Rm 307, Sanctuary)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

**5:00 PM** WORSHIP SERVICE

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

**9:00 AM** WORSHIP SERVICE - Livestream, 97.9 FM  
**10:30 AM** WORSHIP SERVICE  
**11:30 AM** Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)

## BOOK DISCUSSION

### Monday, March 9, 2026

1pm | The Gathering Space  
*River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer is a historical novel about Rachel, an enslaved woman in Barbados who escapes after the 1834 Emancipation Act to find her five children sold away in slavery. The book follows her perilous journey across the Caribbean as she searches for her children, exploring themes of motherhood, freedom, and the lasting trauma of being enslaved. Multiple copies of the book are available in the office to check out.

## WALDORF COLLEGE CHOIR AT TRINITY

### Sunday, February 15 |

Sunday Services  
Waldorf University Choir will sing at Trinity on February 15th during the 9:00 and 10:30 am services. A special donation will be collected, with proceeds supporting the Waldorf University Music Department.

## JAMS Backpack Food Drive Sunday, February 1 to Sunday, February 15

### Drop off boxes at both Entrances

The John Adams Middle School (JAMS) Backpack Food Drive will begin February 1 and end on February 15. There will be two drop boxes, one by the office (east entrance) and one by the west entrance. Lists of foods that are needed will be located in the front of the box. If you prefer, you can make out a check, put "JAMS" in the memo line, and drop it off at the office or in the collection plate. Thanks in advance to all who donate to this much-needed, twice-a-year program!