

JANUARY 2025

TRINITY CONNECTION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MASON CITY, IOWA



Tradition is strong at Trinity Lutheran Church. The 2024 Santa Lucia girls sing for the congregation in this beautiful celebration during the Sunday School Christmas program.

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TRINITY FINANCIALS

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE | MASON CITY, IA 50401



WELCOME!

We are a servant church in the ❤️ of Mason City, Iowa.





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Printer Trinity Lutheran Church

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12 Issues per year (Jan—Dec)
Print or Digital

The Trinity Connection informs the members of Trinity Lutheran Church about the church's mission and people, helping them to grow in faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.



FRONT PAGE: The 2024 Santa Lucia girls sing for the congregation.

Camping ministry and Bible camps have been around a long, long time.

As a kid, I attended Bible camp. My parents had been camp counselors and actually met and got engaged while on staff. My grandmother first went to camp as a small child, riding along with her mother who cooked for the first church retreats held on West Lake Okoboji in the 1920s.

My call to be a pastor came while I was a counselor in the same place, some 70 years later. Some of you have similar stories. God has been working in special ways through camps for a very long time.

The Bible is full of such stories. Jesus goes up the mountain to pray. God speaks to Moses through a burning bush. The wilderness is often a place of searching and spiritual growth. Sacred ground – across the generations.

At Trinity, we encourage our youth and families to attend camp so that they, too, can experience God in new and powerful ways. Last year about 40 Trinity youth and friends went to summer Bible camp with some returning for fall weekend retreats called Recharges.

The stories I hear from parents are proof that God still uses camping ministry to change lives:

"On the ride home from camp my daughter talked non-stop for two hours!"

"My son has been reading his Bible every day since he went to camp."

"My kid came home changed...he's kinder, more respectful and more interested in God and faith."

Trinity's camp scholarship program has been instrumental in creating such experiences. A week at Riverside Bible Camp is \$535/youth. For years, we have offset this cost by up to \$300/youth, enabling far more kids to attend than would otherwise go.

To ensure this can continue, we are launching a special drive to raise \$15,000 for camp scholarships by Easter Sunday 2025. Added to current funds, this should provide enough to cover the next three years of scholarships.

Thanks to a generous lead donor, we have already raised over \$7K toward the \$15K goal! To make a gift, simply write "Camp Scholarships" on your check or envelope. Thanks for helping camps continue to be sacred spaces for God's holy work!

Pastor Dan Gerrietts



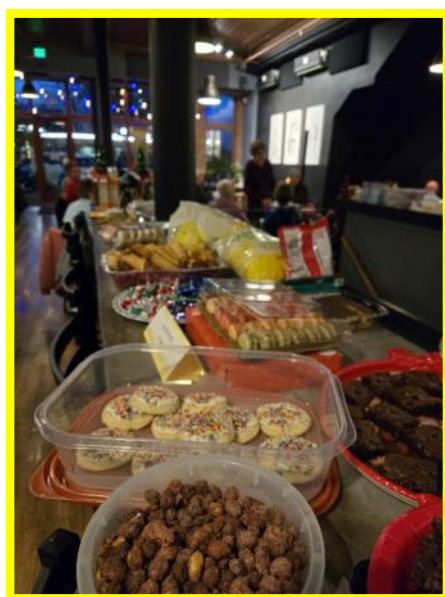
Start the
year off right.

Attend Epiphany
services at Trinity
Lutheran Church.



EPIPHANY
January 4-5
THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT
Matthew 2:1-12







2024 Bazaar Donations

Trinity's Scandinavian Bazaar (Nov. 6-7) was another great event full of fun, fellowship and fantastic food and crafts! This year's proceeds totaled more than \$23,000. Thank you to the 150+ volunteers who volunteered, baked, crafted and donated items - and to all who came and enjoyed. As tradition, most of the proceeds from the Bazaar will be donated to partner ministries.

2024 Bazaar Donation List

Beacon Warming Shelter	\$500.00
High School Giving Tree	\$500.00
Community Kitchen	\$2500.00
Crisis Intervention	\$500.00
Four Oaks	\$500.00
Food Bank (Hawkeye harvest)	\$2500.00
Francis Lauer Youth Services	\$500.00
Good Shepherd Phone Reassurance	\$300.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$1000.00
KCMR	\$1000.00
Kitchen Fund	\$2000.00
Luth. World Relief Project Comfort (Postage)	\$750.00
42 N. Iowa (Vocational & Transition)	\$1000.00
Northern Lights Homeless Shelter (men & women)	\$1000.00
Salvation Army (Adult Day Care)	\$500.00
Sugar Plum Preschool	\$500.00
Sunday Van Ministry Transportation	\$1000.00
Welfare Fund	\$1500.00
Trinity Youth	\$750.00
WELCA Church Wide	\$600.00
WELCA Synod	\$1000.00
Women's Ministry Cabinet	\$1000.00
Lutheran Services of Iowa	\$500.00
World Hunger (EOLCA)	\$750.00
Cheer Fund	\$500.00
Total Donations	\$23150.00



Purr-fect Christmas Tea

Speaker Betty Jean Kauffman and her Norwegian Forest Cats (and kittens!) delighted the crowd at the Annual Christmas Tea in early December. A delicious lunch, a time of fellowship and an opportunity to learn about a rare breed of cats was enjoyed by all who attended. Cats were pet; humans were "kissed," and everyone left with a new desire for a Norwegian Forest Cat.



The Cats' Humans (aka the Kauffmans)



There's nothing more affectionate than a Norwegian (even when it's a feline)!



Meet some
Norwegian
Forest Cats (and kittens)!!





Merry "Saxmas" from this fantastic group!



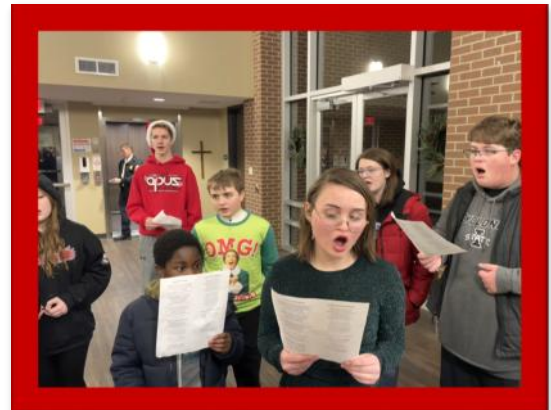
Helping with the youth Advent breakfast!



Watching The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at Cinema West with 25 middle schoolers!



Enjoying the Christmas Tea!



Nordkor caroling for Trinity's office staff!

Christmas Caroling at Good Shepherd!



Some of Trinity's Bell-Ringers (sans bells, but stopping to smile for the camera)!





Wednesday Night Alive

Winter 2025

Winter programming is 8 weeks—January 8-February 26

Meal: Dinner is served from 6-6:30 PM--free-will offering

Weekly Schedule: All groups meet from 6:30-7:30 PM unless otherwise noted

Adults in January

Around the World in Eight Weeks will be held in the Gathering Space. Explore the world through the lens and stories of Trinity members and friends. Each Wednesday world travelers will share their adventures to faraway lands. Photos of their trips will be highlighted in the Rotating Art Gallery.

Jan. 8th- Italy- Deb Nielsen

Jan. 15th- Ecuador & Peru- Tim & Carol Dettmer

Jan. 22nd- Germany- Tom Dettmer

Jan. 29th- Kenya & Tanzania- Nancy Sweetman

Discovering Bonhoeffer will be held on the four Wednesdays in January. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, neo-orthodox theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who was a key founding member of the Confessing Church. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential. Learn more as you study Bonhoeffer with Pastor Dan Gerrietts in January.

Trinity Choir: Trinity's choir is open to all vocalists, high school age & older. Choir practice is held in the Choir Room.

Young People

Nursery is **UNSTAFFED** but open to preschoolers and their parents.

Kindergarten through Grade 6 students will come to the 2nd floor and learn new things from talented Trinity adults with a new activity each week.

Confirmation-Grades 7 & 8: Confirmation students will gather 6:30-7:45 PM [in the Fellowship Hall](#) and experience small group and large group learning as they study for their confirmation.

FLAME: Grades 9-12: - High School Youth Group meets 6:30-7:45 PM in the Youth Room.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS:



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications and re-applications for the 2025-2026 school year are available to pick up outside the church office. Forms are available on Trinity's website at trinity-mc.org/scholarships/. Applications must be turned in to the church office by



Snow Tubing for all 5th-8th grade students

Mt. Kato in Mankato, MN

Saturday, January 18, 2025

8:30 AM—4:30 PM

Students should **sign up by January 9**, so we can confirm the charter bus. On January 18, we will gather at Trinity, ride together with snacks and fun, snow tube, eat at McDonald's and return to the Trinity parking lot around 4:30 PM. Friends are always welcome, and must complete the sign up and waiver by the office. Cost is \$30 plus lunch money. Scholarships are available.

Any questions, please email Carol Dettmer at carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org.



Wellness Wednesdays in January

Try the YMCA!

[1840 S Monroe Avenue, Mason City, IA](#)



The new year offers a fresh start to achieve your physical fitness goals.

Explore the YMCA on Wednesdays in January for only \$5! Purchase a card at Trinity Lutheran Church that can be used starting January 8th to enjoy the YMCA any time on Wednesdays on your own or join an available group class such as Tai Chi, aquatic exercise class, lifting class, and many more. Grab a friend or two and make it an outing. This does not apply to people with YMCA memberships. Cards will be available for purchase from the Trinity church office during the week and on weekends in the Gathering Space throughout January.

Did you know that Sugar Plum Preschool located at Trinity Lutheran Church became a collaboration with the Mason City Family YMCA in 2009 and became an official program in the Spring of 2012? Trinity Lutheran Church has been the home to Sugar Plum Preschool since 1967. Another reason to support our local YMCA!

What's Happening in Sunday School?



Sunday School students will start off the new year with Jesus Calming the Storm, as they learn about faith.

Camp Sunday

January 12 is Camp Sunday and representatives from Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp will be here to share their time and talent with young people during the SS hour as well as sharing thoughts with the congregation at morning services.

Camp Registration is OPEN for Summer 2025! The **Earlybird deadline is Feb. 15**, so THINK SUMMER! If you have any questions, contact Marty Greder at 641-423-0536.



BULLS GAME FOR FAMILIES OF 5TH-12TH GRADERS

Saturday, February 8, 2025



All Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers are welcome to attend the North Iowa Bulls game on **Saturday, February 8**. Family members may also attend due to the generous contribution of Dr. Rich and Deidra Rattay. Those interested in tickets, please contact Carol Dettmer at carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org.

Lunch and Learn: Elder Law & Financial Preparedness

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025

Noon- 1:00 PM (Soup and sandwich served for a free-will offering.)

Fellowship Hall

ATTORNEY AND CERTIFIED PUBLIC Accountant David A. Grooters from The Pappajohn Law Firm will be sharing information about preventing financial disaster when facing long-term care. Be knowledgeable and be prepared by coming to the Lunch & Learn at Trinity Lutheran Church on Jan. 23 at noon. A light lunch of soup and sandwich will be provided for a free-will donation. Please call Trinity Church at 641-423-0536 to get a head count for lunch by Tuesday, Jan. 21.



Kitchen Gadgets Galore

Come and learn some creative uses for those kitchen gadgets you received for Christmas or have been taking up space in your cabinet for years. This workshop offers hands-on participation with every step of the process- preparing, and eating. Supply fee is \$5.00. **Space is limited** so sign up by the church office or call 641-423-0536.

Jan. 27 Waffle Iron 1-3 PM

Think beyond waffles when you consider the humble waffle iron. This class will have you be pulling out your waffle iron for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Before you donate your waffle iron to the thrift store come check it out and be amazed!



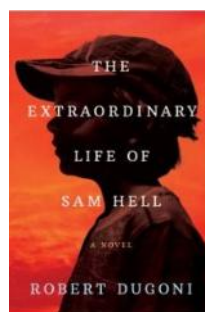
Puzzle Palooza

Jigsaw puzzles are known to enhance brain health, improve problem-solving skills, decrease stress, and improve mood. The Health Cabinet is hosting a **puzzle race and exchange** to give your health a boost! Bring your gently used PUZZLE(S) and go home with "new" one(s) on **Sunday, January 19** at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring 1-Get 1 ~ Bring 2-Get 2 ~ Bring 3-Get 3 and so on. You may drop off your puzzles any time during the week or bring to church that Sunday. The puzzle race will begin at 10:15 AM. **Create a team of 2-6 people and sign up by Sunday, January 12th**. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place teams. If you have questions, contact Becky at becky.elsbermd@trinity-mc.org.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, January 13, 2025
1:00 PM The Gathering Space

Our next book is *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni "*The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* is a heartwarming novel that celebrates overcoming the unfairnesses of life." Multiple copies are available to check out from the Trinity Lutheran Church office.



Soul Spa

Friday, Jan. 24, 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM, Trinity Lutheran Church

Soul Spa invites participants to engage in a variety of spiritual practices to nurture body, mind, and spirit. We will start as a group with a guided

New Year's meditation and then allow you to wander as desired to stations provided-

creative art expression, yoga, Visio Divina, refreshments and seated healing touch sessions. Wear comfortable clothing and come as you are. Register by calling 641-423-0536 or just show up. Start the year off with intentional time to reset and refresh.

REJOICING SPIRITS

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2025

5:00 PM / Fellowship Hall

Rejoicing Spirits is inclusive of all ages and abilities as we connect with God and one another. Join us on Wednesday, January 17 to discuss the parables of Jesus through camp-style music, interactive skit, and prayer. Following the worship service, enjoy pizza and root beer floats for a free-will donation.

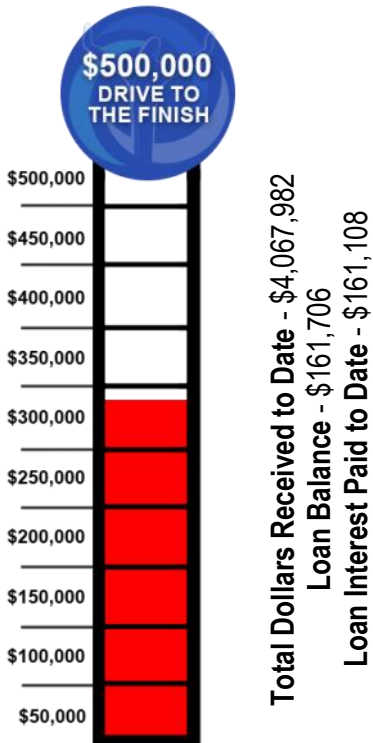




T150

CONSTRUCTION LOAN

Trinity continues to pay on the remaining construction loan for the T150 building renovations, technology upgrades, and our mission project. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of many, we have been able to make loan payments from special gifts alone and not the general budget. Trinity's mission and outreach continue to be blessed by this \$4.5 million project. To make a gift, go to trinity-mc.org/trinity-at-150 or write "T150" on your check or envelope.



Trinity's Staff plays the games and tries out the escape room to get any glitches out. It's all in a day's work...



ROTATING ART GALLERY AROUND THE WORLD

IN EIGHT WEEKS
January - February 2025

Explore the world through the lens and stories of Trinity members and friends. Each Wednesday, January 8 to February 26th, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, world travelers will share their adventures to faraway lands. Photos of their trips will be highlighted during the series in the Rotating Art Gallery.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Office is Closed

Thursday, January 2, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

Saturday, January 4, 2025

5:00 PM Worship Service TS

Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:00 AM Worship Service** TS

9:15 AM Sunday School TEW

10:30 AM Worship Service** TS

Monday, January 6, 2025

9:00 AM Centering Prayer TR322/Zoom

9:00 AM Trinity at Community Kitchen CK

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study TFH

8:30 AM Women's Bible Study TL

9:30 AM Lydia Bible Study TR208

6:00 PM WNA Meal TFH

6:30 PM WNA Programming

Thursday, January 9, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

9:30 AM WELCA Bible Study TR208

Saturday, January 11, 2025

5:00 PM Worship Service TS

Sunday, January 12, 2025

9:00 AM Worship Service TS

9:15 AM Sunday School—Camp Sunday TEW

10:30 AM Worship Service

Monday, January 13, 2025

9:00 AM Lectio Divina TR322/Zoom

9:00 AM Rolling Bandages TFH

9:30 AM Altar Guild TR300

1:00 PM Book Discussion TGS

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study TFH

8:30 AM Women's Bible Study TL

2:00 PM Cancer Support Group TR300

5:00 PM Rejoicing Spirits TFH

6:00 PM WNA Meal TFH

6:30 PM WNA Programming

Thursday, January 16, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

Saturday, January 18, 2025

8:30 AM Middle Schoolers Snow Tubing at Mt. Kato

5:00 PM Worship** TS

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:00 AM Worship Service** TS

9:15 AM Sunday School TEW

10:00 AM Puzzle Palooza TFH

Blood Pressure Checks TGS

10:30 AM Worship Service** TS

Monday, January 20, 2025

9:00 AM Centering Prayer TR322/Zoom

9:00 AM Quilt Workshop TFH

10:00 AM Healing Touch Exchange TR321

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

10:45 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry TR307

6:30 PM Council Mtg. TR300

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study TFH

8:30 AM Women's Bible Study TL

4:00 PM Trinity Serving at Community Kitchen

6:00 PM WNA Meal TFH

6:30 PM WNA Programming

Thursday, January 23, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

12:00 PM Lunch and Learn TFH

Friday, January 24, 2025

9:00 AM Soul Spa

Saturday, January 25, 2025

5:00 PM Worship TS

Sunday, January 26, 2025

9:00 AM Worship Service TS

9:15 AM Sunday School—Health Fair TEW

10:30 AM Worship Service TS

12:00 PM Annual Meeting TFH

Monday, January 27, 2025

9:00 AM Lectio Divina TR322/Zoom

9:00 AM Quilt Workshop TFH

1:00 PM Kitchen Gadgets Galore TK

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

9:30 AM Caregivers Support Group TR300

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study TFH

8:30 AM Women's Bible Study TL

6:00 PM WNA Meal TFH

6:30 PM WNA Programming

Thursday, January 30, 2025

8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class TGS

CALENDAR KEY**TLC** - Trinity Lutheran Church (Various locations in the building) / **TFH** - Trinity Fellowship Hall / **TK** - Trinity Kitchen**TR** - Trinity Room (Number) / **TGS** - Trinity Gathering Space / **TS** - Trinity Sanctuary / **TPL** - Trinity Parking Lot**TYR** - Trinity Youth Room / **CK** - Community Kitchen / **YTFB** - YouTube & Facebook / **TC** - Trinity Courtyard**TCR** - Trinity Choir Room / **RBC** - Riverside Bible Camp / **TH** - Trailhead******Holy Communion Served **++**Rite of Healing



DECEMBER 2024

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Trinity Lutheran Church

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

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Permit No. 148



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SIGN UP - ENEWS

trinity-mc.org/newsletters

- eNews
- Weekend Worship
- Faith & Wellness Outreach
- Trinity Connection
- Youth News

OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM to 5:00 PM M-Th

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM F

WORSHIP

SANCTUARY

- **Saturdays 5:00 PM** | Sanctuary
Traditional Service
- **Sundays 9:00 AM** | Sanctuary
& Online - Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube,
or listen live on KCMR 97.9 FM
or kcmrfm.com
Traditional Service
- **Sundays 10:30 AM** | Sanctuary
Contemporary Service

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We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood.