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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JAN 2026

CONNECTION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MASON CITY, IOWA



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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE | MASON CITY, IA 50401 | TRINITY-MC.ORG



WELCOME!

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

EDITORIAL

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PRINTER

Trinity Lutheran Church
If you'd like to donate to the printing of this newsletter please contact the church office at 641-423-0536.

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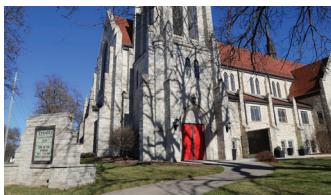
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12 Issues per year (Jan—Dec)
Print or Digital

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



Front Page: Trinity's Red Door symbolizes our T150 loan being paid off

New Year! New Jesus?

"See, I am making all things new." - Revelation 21:5
Happy New Year! If you are like me, you just made peace with the fact it was indeed 2025. I hope I can remember to write 2026 on checks by June. Time marches steadily forward. Now we welcome the beginning of a new year. Where are you seeking newness or renewal? What are you excited to begin?



Daniel Hanson

PASTOR OF
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

As the church, in these early days of January we wrap up celebrating the 12 days of Christmas until Epiphany on January 6. While Christmas often gets the spotlight, Epiphany is an important season. Epiphany is a season of light and revelation. While Christmas announces the birth of Jesus, Epiphany reveals a deeper and fuller picture of Jesus' identity and ministry. Who is Jesus our Christ? The season of Epiphany seeks to show us.

In worship during Epiphany, we will read stories which reveal Jesus' identity at a deeper level. These stories include Jesus' baptism, Jesus calling his disciples, and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. On the one hand, these are the same stories we read three years ago. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. On the other hand, Jesus promises to make all things new. As we encounter Jesus in a new season in our life, we might find new comfort or challenge from Jesus. In all new seasons, we turn to Christ to lead us toward God's reign of grace and serving our neighbor.

Throughout 2026, we will be reading from Matthew's Gospel in worship. I invite the season of Epiphany to be a time for you to spend time in God's Word, to explore more deeply who Jesus is. Matthew's Gospel has 28 chapters. I encourage you to read one chapter a day this month. As you read these sacred stories, what is the Holy Spirit teaching you about Jesus? In what new ways and to what new places is Jesus calling his disciples to serve and share the Good News? Drop your Bible next to your nightstand or coffee pot, wherever you can't miss it. The light of Epiphany shows us Jesus.

Blessed New Year!

Pastor Daniel Hanson



ANNUAL MEETING 2026

Sunday, January 25, 2026

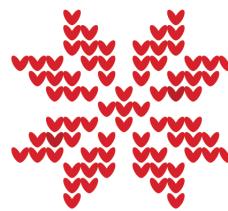
12:00 PM | Trinity Fellowship Hall (In-Person Only)

AGENDA

- Reports from staff and leadership
- Election of 2026 Committees and Council
- Approval of 2026 Mission Plan (Budget)
- Updates on TLC's strategic initiatives, including potential ministry partnerships

2025 Bazaar Donations

Trinity's Scandinavian Bazaar (November 5 & 6) was another great event full of fun, fellowship and fantastic food and crafts! This year's proceeds totaled more than \$25,000! 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.



Beacon Warming Shelter	\$750.00
High School Giving Tree	\$500.00
Community Kitchen	\$2,500.00
Crisis Intervention	\$500.00
Four Oaks	\$500.00
Food Bank (Hawkeye Harvest)	\$2,500.00
Francis Lauer Youth Services	\$500.00
Good Shepherd Phone Reassurance	\$300.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00
KCMR	\$1,000.00
Kitchen Fund	\$2,000.00
Luth. World Relief Project Comfort (Postage)	\$750.00
42 N. Iowa (Vocational & Transition)	\$1,250.00
Northern Lights Homeless Shelter (men & women)	\$1,250.00
Salvation Army	\$1,100.00
Sugar Plum Preschool	\$500.00
Sunday Worship Transportation Ministry	\$1,500.00
Welfare Fund	\$1,500.00
Trinity Youth	\$750.00
WELCA Church Wide	\$600.00
WELCA Synod	\$1,000.00
Women's Ministry Cabinet	\$1,500.00
Lutheran Services of Iowa	\$500.00
World Hunger (ELCA)	\$750.00
Cheer Fund	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$26,000



assigned, and monthly hosts will coordinate the date and time. Sign up by January 18 on the bulletin board next to the church office. Contact the church office at 641-423-0536 with questions.

Dinner for 6 -- Sign Up Now!

Looking for a meaningful way to connect with others in our church? Join our *Dinner for 6* program, running February–April. Individuals and couples will join a group of six that gathers once a month for a shared meal. Participants may host in their home or organize a restaurant meal where everyone pays their own way. Groups will be



WELCA Bible Study

Thurs., January 8, 2026

9:30 AM | Trinity Room 208

The WELCA Study, led by the Rev. Dr. Norma Cook Everist, will meet Thursday, Jan 8 from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in Room 208. Using Luther's Large Catechism, we shall take a deeper look at The Lord's Prayer. January's session will be "To Pray is to Act," the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Petitions. Women, bring your friends for engaging conversation.



North Iowa Bulls Game - Faith Night for All Mason City

Thurs., February 5, 2026

7:00 PM | Mason City Arena

ALL Trinity members are invited to gather at the North Iowa Bulls Faith Night on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Tickets will cost only \$5 for each member or friend who signs up before Sunday, February 1. Please sign up by clicking on this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054DACA-E22A6F94-61295330-north>

Or call the church office at

641-423-0536. Thank you!

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

**Keep
THE FAITH**

'TIS the SEASON



 CHRISTMAS TEA
Thursday, December 4, 2025



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Sunday, December 14





FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

Tuesday, December 16, 2025



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

Wednesday Evenings
during Advent



REJOICING SPIRITS

Wednesday, December 17



TO be JOLLY



Snow Tubing for all 5th-12th Grade Students

Mt. Kato in Mankato, MN
 Sunday, January 11, 2026
 Students are to submit the form by the office, the Liability Waiver, and \$30 payment by Wednesday, January 7 to Carol Dettmer or to the Trinity office. Checks should be made out to Trinity Lutheran with middle school tubing and the student's name in the memo. Venmo is also an option this year for payment (@trinity-lutheranmc), with Mt. Kato and the child's name, in the comments. Full or partial scholarships are available upon request.

Students should arrive at the church at noon. The bus will leave promptly at 12:15 PM. Students should eat lunch before they come, or they can bring a sack lunch for the bus. We will drive to Mankato, snow tube, and then stop at McDonald's to eat before driving back home. Students will need money to pay for McDonald's. Trinity will provide snacks and water bottles on the bus. We hope to be back to the Trinity parking lot around 8:00 PM.

Students may bring along non-Trinity members as their friends. All of the above information applies for the friends. Any questions, please email Carol Dettmer at carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org.

Riverside 2026 Events

You can now register for any of Riverside's 2026 events, including retreats, ranch events and summer camp! Simply visit their website to register, or call the Riverside office. Office Phone: 515-733-5271 / Email: rlbc@riversidelbc.org
 A bit of information...

- 1) To secure your summer camp spot, a \$135 deposit is due at the time of registration to Riverside.
- 2) Take advantage of early bird summer camp pricing through February 15, 2026.
- 3) Trinity is a Riverside Member Church so you will receive a \$15 discount on one week of summer camp. You will request discount when you move to the Payment portion of registration and it will be cross-referenced with the church you identify in the Camper Profile form.
- 4) Trinity provides camp scholarships. For Alpha (first Timers 3-day) Camp, Trinity pays \$60/child and for Full Week Camp, Trinity pays \$300/child.

NOTE: Trinity provides this subsidy for a Trinity member AND a friend, so bring a friend to camp. Friend must attend WITH the Trinity youth.

No code provided. Ignore the request for a code when you Make A Payment. In order to receive the \$300 Trinity subsidy (which will be applied by RLBC,) YOU MUST EMAIL CAROL (carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org) WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Trinity member name attending camp plus mailing address
- If taking a friend, the full name attending camp with Trinity member plus mailing address
- Which week of camp both will be attending

Trinity Lutheran Youth Trip 2026

June 28-July 3, 2026 / (Arriving back in Minneapolis at 6:00 AM on the 3rd.)

WESTERN STATES YOUTH GATHERING

The 2026 Western States Youth Gathering (WSYG) is excited to announce a partnership with the ELCA Youth Gathering and California Lutheran University (CLU). We will be celebrating the strengths of this partnership by coming together June 28th - July 1st, 2026 at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA. Both the WSYG and the Gathering have had a rich history of bringing young people together and the partnership with CLU will only enhance the experience.

We are expecting hundreds of young people and their adult leaders from across the country to attend. As a Gathering Expedition, the event will include various components like the Gathering such as main stage sessions, interactive experiences rooted in faith formation, service, connection, night life and more. Youth graduating 8th grade through those graduating 12th grade, including their adult leaders are encouraged to register. Registration includes all housing, meals and programming. Registration opens on December 15. We hope to see you in California!

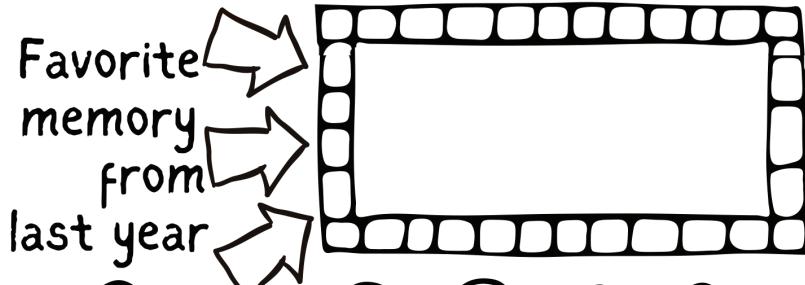
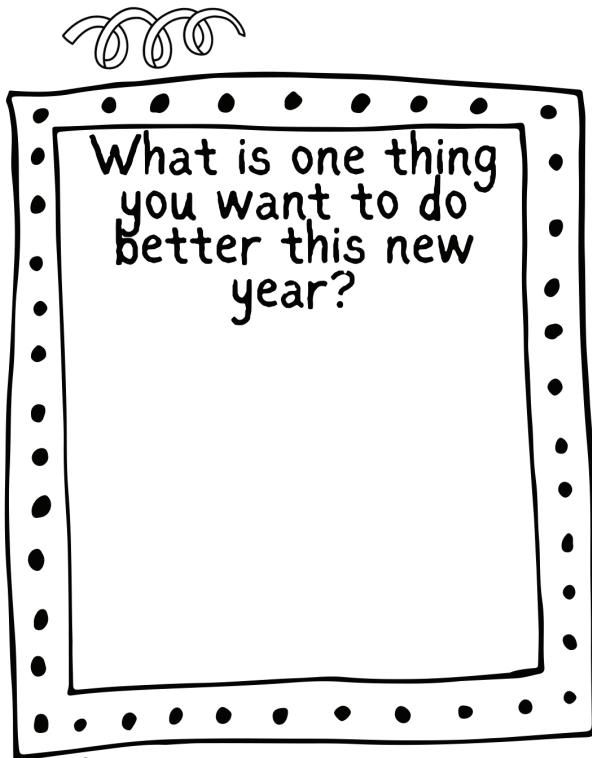
Total Trip cost per person \$1200.00. Please contact Dani Vogel for more information at 641-423-0536. Deposit is \$250.00. Scholarships are available for any and all participants.

Please register with Dani by January 15, 2026.

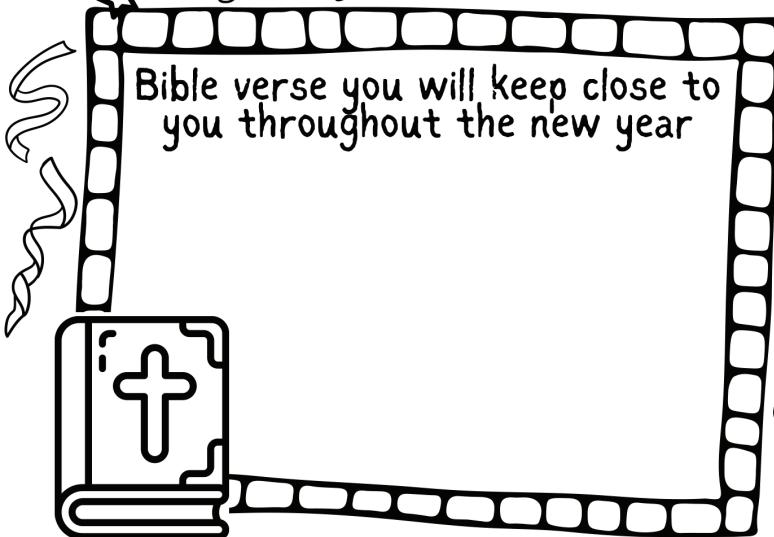
College Scholarships

College scholarship applications and reapplications for the 2026-2027 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 March 1, 2026.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11



Adult Chill and Chat

Parents and Trinity adults are welcome to Chill and Chat during the Sunday School hour in the Trinity Library Lounge. This fellowship time is meant to connect parents, grandparents and caregivers while children programming is happening upstairs. All are welcome. This time will begin on January 11 when Sunday School resumes. Any questions, please ask Carol Dettmer at carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE

6:00 PM *Meal* 6:30 PM *Programs*

WEDNESDAYS STARTING JANUARY 7

Wednesdays | 6:30 PM | Gathering Space

Adults

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.

January 7 — Grace Is Not Fair: God's Yes Comes Before Our Response

January 14 — Simultaneously Broken and Beloved: A Lutheran Way of Talking About Sin

January 21 — A God Who Hides: The Cross as the Key to Reality

January 28 — Sacred Stuff in an Ordinary World: Word and Sacrament as God's Promise

CHOIR

Trinity's Choir will have practices at 6:30 PM in the Choir Room

Kids

CAMPFIRE KIDS

We continue our Wednesday Night Alive programming with Campfire Kids! Our Campfire Kids program is for students in Grades 1-6 on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Education Wing. Join us for energetic and creative explorations of faith. Collect a badge for each adventure. This winter, Nate Ruge will be our fearless guide as we embark into the unknown.

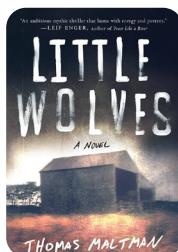
CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will be held in the Fellowship Hall
at 6:30 PM

NURSERY is open but **UNSTAFFED**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry creates tangible reminders of God's presence in the form of prayer shawls and prayer squares that are given to people who are facing health challenges and/or grieving. Prayer shawls are also given to our seniors in high school as they graduate as a blessing on their journey. In 2025, the Prayer Shawl Ministry volunteers crocheted or knitted 88 prayer shawls and 394 prayer squares. If you know of someone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, feel free to take one for them from the display by the Trinity office windows. The group welcomes new members at any time, even those who have never touched a crotchet hook. Come and check it out on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:45 AM in room 307 in the Education Wing.



Book Discussion

Monday, January 12, 2026

1:00 PM | The Gathering Space

Our next book is *Little Wolves* by Thomas Maltman. Set on the Minnesota prairie in the late 1980s during a drought season that's pushing family farms to the brink, *Little Wolves* weaves together elements of folklore and Norse mythology while being driven by a powerful murder mystery. Multiple copies are available to check out from the Trinity Lutheran Church office.

Rejoicing Spirits

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

5:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Rejoicing Spirits is inclusive of all ages and abilities as we connect with God and one another. Join us as we learn about the miracles 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.



years" with grace and ease. Smiling, even if it is fake, is scientifically proven to release mood-boosting hormones while reducing stress hormones which improves mood, lowers blood pressure, and boosts immunity. Connie Bleile, director of assisted living with Good Shepherd Inc., has been blessed to work with resilient individuals who inspire her to share stories, keeping our faith in humanity alive and well. A light lunch of soup and sandwich will be provided for a free-will donation. Please call Trinity Church to get a head count for lunch at 641-423-0536.

Puzzle Palooza

Sunday, January 4, 2026

10:00 AM | Fellowship Hall

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 4 at 10:00 a.m. 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. Interested individuals will be divided into four teams for the puzzle race that begins at 10:00 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to all participants. If you have questions, contact Becky at becky.elsbernd@trinity-mc.org.



Health Fair for Kids

Sunday, February 1, 2026

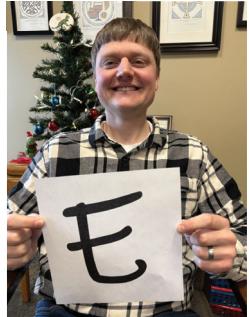
9:15 AM | Education Wing

The Health Cabinet is hosting the annual Health Fair for Kids on Sunday, February 1 at 9:15 AM in the Education Wing. Our theme this year is "Unique Needs Awareness." Students in grades 1-6 will rotate to stations to learn about unique needs that require creativity and adaptation. Our kids ages 3-5 will also explore the theme in a variety of ways.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dan Gerriets
Senior Pastor



Daniel Hanson
Pastor of Spiritual
Growth



Beverly Butler
Pastor of Spiritual
Care



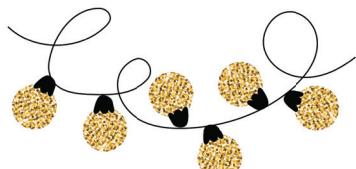
Carol Dettmer
Director of
Middle School
Ministries



Becky Elsbernd
Parish Nurse



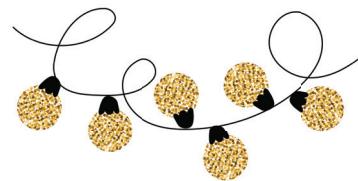
Colby Gochanour
Director of
Music Ministries



Pam Fike
Parish
Administrator



Betsy Kirby
Director of
Contemporary
Worship



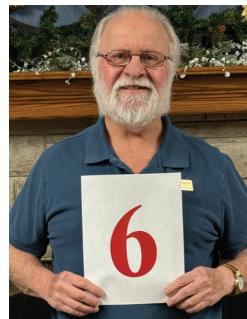
Denise Lind
Administrative
Assistant to
Congregational Life



Ashley Morrison
Administrative
Assistant to
Communications



Michelle Murray
Connection
Editor



Dave Smith
Facilities Team
Member



Dani Vogel
Youth Director

We hope you had a wonderful year.
Here's to a fantastic and faith-filled 2026!

**Thursday, January 1, 2026****ALL DAY Church Offices Closed****Saturday, January 3, 2026****5:00 PM Worship******Sunday, January 4, 2026****9:00 A & 10:30 A Worship******10:00 AM Puzzle Exchange and Race****Monday, January 5, 2026****9:00 AM Trinity at Community Kitchen****9:00 AM Centering Prayer****5:30 PM Bronze Bell Choir****Tuesday, January 6, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****Wednesday, January 7, 2026****7:00 A & 8:30 A Men's & Women's Bible Studies****6:00 PM Community Meal****6:30 PM Wednesday Night Alive****6:30 PM Campfire Kids / Choir****6:30 PM Confirmation Class****Thursday, January 8, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****9:30 AM WELCA Bible Study****10:30 AM Clappers and Coffee Bell Choir****Saturday, January 10, 2026****5:00 PM Worship****Sunday, January 11, 2026****9:00 A & 10:30 A Worship****9:15 AM Sunday School****12:15 PM Snowtubing at Mount Kato****Monday, January 12, 2026****9:00 AM Lectio Divina****9:00 AM Rolling Bandages for GH****9:30 AM Altar Guild****Tuesday, January 13, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****Wednesday, January 14, 2026****7:00 A & 8:30 A Men's & Women's Bible Studies****9:30 AM Lydia Circle****6:00 PM Community Meal****6:30 PM Wednesday Night Alive****6:30 PM Campfire Kids****6:30 PM Confirmation Class****6:30 PM Choir****Thursday, January 15, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****10:30 AM Clappers & Coffee****Saturday, January 17, 2026****5:00 PM Worship******Sunday, January 18, 2026****9:00 A & 10:30 A Worship******TLC****TS****TFH****CK****TR322/Zoom****TS****TGS****TLC****TFH****TS****TEW****TFH****TS****TFH****TS****TR208****TS****TGS****TS****TR208****MK****TR322/Zoom****TFH****TR300****TGS****TS****TR208****TFH****TS****TEW****TFH****TS****TS****TS****TS****TS****TS****CALENDAR KEY****Sunday, January 18, 2026 cont...****9:15 AM Sunday School****10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks****11:45 AM Youth Group****Monday, January 19, 2026****9:00 AM Centering Prayer****9:00 AM Trinity Quilters****10:00 AM Healing Touch Exchange****5:30 PM Bronze Bell Choir****Tuesday, January 20, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****10:45 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry****Wednesday, January 21, 2026****7:00 A & 8:30 A Men's & Women's Bible Studies****2:00 PM Cancer Support Group****5:00 PM Rejoicing Spirits****6:00 PM Community Meal****6:30 PM Wednesday Night Alive****6:30 PM Campfire Kids****6:30 PM Confirmation Class****6:30 PM Choir****Thursday, January 22, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****10:30 AM Clappers and Coffee Bell Choir****12:00 PM Lunch & Learn****Saturday, January 24, 2026****5:00 PM Worship****Sunday, January 25, 2026****9:00 A & 10:30 A Worship****9:15 AM Sunday School****11:45 AM Youth Group****12:00 PM Annual Meeting****Monday, January 26, 2026****9:00 AM Lectio Divina****9:00 AM Trinity Quilters****5:30 PM Bronze Bell Choir****Tuesday, January 27, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****9:30 AM Caregiver Support Group****TR300/ Zoom****Wednesday, January 28, 2026****7:00 A & 8:30 A Men's & Women's Bible Studies****6:00 PM Community Meal****6:30 PM Wednesday Night Alive****6:30 PM Campfire Kids****6:30 PM Confirmation Class****6:30 PM Choir****Thursday, January 29, 2026****8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class****10:30 AM Clappers and Coffee Bell Choir****Saturday, January 31, 2026****5:00 PM Worship****TS****TLC - Trinity Lutheran Church (Various Locations) / TFH - Trinity Fellowship Hall / TR- Trinity Room (Number)****TGS- Trinity Gathering Space / TS- Trinity Sanctuary / TPL – Trinity Parking Lot / TEW- Trinity Education Wing****CK- Community Kitchen / YTFB- YouTube & Facebook / MK - Mount Kato******Holy Communion Served / ++Rite of Healing**



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

Pastors

SENIOR PASTOR:

Dan Gerriets
dan.gerriets@trinity-mc.org

PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Daniel Hanson
daniel.hanson@trinity-mc.org

PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL CARE:

Beverly Butler
beverly.butler@trinity-mc.org

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Sign up for an email newsletter!

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- eNews
- 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

Saturdays at 5:00 PM
Sanctuary
Traditional Service

Sundays at 9:00 AM
Sanctuary & Online-
Livestreamed on Facebook
and YouTube, or listen live on
KCMR 97.9 FM or kcmrfm.com
Traditional Service

Sundays at 10:30 AM
Sanctuary
Contemporary Service

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