

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church and School

3000 35th Avenue

Greeley, Colorado 80634

DECEMBER 2023



Light for our Darkness

Presented by Trinity Lutheran School children



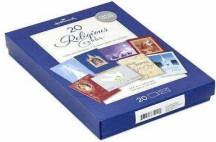
Sunday, December 17th

10:30 am Service

LWML Sunday is December 3rd



MITE SUNDAY - December 3rd: The first Sunday of each month the Mite box will be available for you to bring your Mites. (A suggestion would be to put your coins in a zip lock bag and keep your mite box).



Christmas Cards on Sale In the Church Narthex

Be sure to checkout the selection of Christmas cards that LWML will be offering for sale this season. Monies help fund LWML projects at Trinity.

A BIG thank you for the very successful Ladies Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 2nd. With more than seventy attendees, the women of Trinity gathered in faith in the Church Fellowship Hall for good food, fellowship, and a program about LWML, also known as the Ladies Guild. Historically, this group has been active here at Trinity since 1924 when the charter members desired to combine their individual efforts to be of greater service to the congregation. They collect mites to support the LWML's multi-million dollar grants around the world. They use Easter Love monies each year to fund needed improvements for our own house of worship here at Trinity. They open their arms to any and all ladies at Trinity to join them at their monthly meetings the first Thursday of the month, and be a part of this time honored group of faithful women.



Advent Services

**Midweek Advent Services begin
Wednesday, December 6th
with**

**10 am Morning Service
5 pm Meal in the Church Fellowship Hall
6 pm Service in the Sanctuary**

**Christmas Eve Services will be at 9 am in the morning,
no Sunday School or Bible Study,
and an Evening Candlelight Service at 6 pm.**

Christmas Day Service 9 am.



From the Pastor's Desk

Happy December! We've given thanks and gobbled our gobblers; now come the Christmas trees, movies, and cookies. Stores have "holiday music" on repeat, and neighbors have replaced the Grim Reaper with Santa Claus. As Christians, we can enjoy the

festivities and appreciate the emphasis on family, but we don't want the nostalgia and merrymaking to distract from Christ, our King, who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. There, in a feed trough, lies our Savior. There, among the animals, lies the Creator of all.

To fix our hearts on Christ we recall the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary and the announcement of the angel to the shepherds; we sing of Christ in the manger—no crib for a bed—in that little town of Bethlehem; we reproduce the stories in visual form with creches at home and at church; and, of course, we watch Charlie Brown rediscover the true meaning of Christmas as Linus reads from Luke 2. Even as we immerse ourselves in the Christian elements of our Christmas traditions, we run the risk of resting our attention in these things rather than what they point to. The carols and candles and lights and stories point beyond themselves; they don't want the attention: "Don't pay attention to us," they say. "We're pointing to Christ!"

In a sermon on Christmas Day, Martin Luther called his hearers to imitate the shepherds. Having heard the angelic message proclaimed in heavenly song, they gladly receive God's Word and seem to forget all about the angels who delivered the message. In Luther's words, "These shepherds possessed such faith; for they agree with and cleave to the Word so fully that they forget the angels who declared it to them. They do not say, Let us go and see the word that the angels made known to us, but the word that the Lord has made known to us." He extends this reasoning to the pastor as messenger: "The true difference between godly faith and human faith consists in this, that human faith cleaves to the person of the preacher, believes, trusts, and honors the Word for the sake of him who spoke it. But Godly faith, on the other hand, cleaves to the Word, which is God himself." May God graciously strengthen our faith in Him through the means He graciously provides as we consider the humble arrival of our Lord and King.

First, however, we have the season of Advent (Latin for "coming"), a time to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Christ, our King. We will gather for special services each Wednesday in Advent at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. (with dinner at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall). We gather together to hear the Word of God, sing it together through the liturgy, and speak it to one another in fellowship. "Cast out our sin and enter in," (O Little Town) we pray, "let loving hearts enthrone him" (What Child is This).

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Joshua Vanderhyde



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Trinity Lutheran Church and School
Greeley, Colorado

DATE: 11/11/2023
Location: Narthex Lounge
Facilitator: Bob Thorgesen, Vice Chairperson

Present: Bob Thorgesen, Brenda Schmidt, Debbie Thuener, Jason Reiter, Ken Clavir, Pam Clavir, Linda Klipp, Cheri Carsten, Renee Ortado, Pastor Vanderhyde. A quorum was established. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the council. Meeting opened at 8:30 am with prayer by Pastor and devotion by Bob Thorgesen.

Minutes: October minutes were approved via email by the Council members prior to this meeting.

Board of Elders: Ken Clavir

- Confirmed worship schedule for Christmas and New Years. Sunday December 24: 9:00 am and 6:00 pm (candlelight); Monday December 25: 9:00 am; Sunday December 31: 9:00 am.
- Established how feedback will be given to personnel under Elders responsibility.
- Working with Pastor to reintroduce readers during worship.

School Board: Pam Clavir

- Report sent via email to council members prior to this meeting. Discussion.
- The fall festival had an attendance of nearly 400. Looking at more outreach activities.
- Preschool program going through review by Colorado Shines – the statewide preschool review board.
- School Christmas Program December 17 at 10:30 am service.
- Reviewing Signage of school for community.
- Scholarship Campaign continues through November.

Treasurer: Cheri Carsten

- Monthly financial report emailed prior to meeting for review. Motion by Pam Clavir, seconded by Bob Thorgesen, to approve report as presented. Discussion followed. Motion passed by voice vote.
- Will implement the payroll service "Paycor" in January 2024.
- Will present a project list and offering and attendance analysis reports at the December congregational assembly meeting.

Old Business:

- Constitution and Bylaws: Church council met via zoom on October 26 to review policies and in person with Pastor Vanderhyde on November 2, 2023, to review our new constitution and bylaws.
- The Congregational Assembly meeting will be held Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 11:45 am. Agenda: Board reports and elections for vice chairperson, treasurer, and three at large council members.

New Business:

Approved a request by Barb Perusek to use her families memorial funds to refresh the narthex lounge area and repurpose the trustee office into a prayer room.

There being no further business to bring before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am. Pastor closed with prayer. Next Council meeting December 9, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Brenda D Schmidt / Congregational Secretary

Approved with spelling correction. BDS



Make December a Holiday to remember at Weld Food Bank!

We are also looking to collect shelf-stable food items. Along with some holiday staples, we are in need of some of the most requested items:

- Stuffing
- Canned Green Beans
- Canned Corn
- Soup
- Rice/Pasta
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Tuna/Canned Meat

Help Reach Our Goal

849#

of 1000#

Only 151 pounds to reach our goal of 1000 pounds!
You can do it Trinity, think canned foods.

Drop off your donations at the school M-F 8 am –4 pm or at the Church on Sunday mornings.

*If you would prefer to give money (cash or gift cards) give that to Barb Perusek
or go to: weldfoodbank.org/donate. \$1 will feed 4 people and \$25 will feed 100
people.*

Prayerfully consider giving. Thank you, Trinity.



Weld Food Bank

VOTER'S MEETING

Sunday, December 10th

11:45 a.m.

(Immediately following 2nd Service in Sanctuary)

Agenda: Board reports & Election of Officers

Nominees for open positions:

Vice Chairperson –Renee Ortado

Treasurer—Londa Polzin

"At Large" Council Members: Matthew Foster, Randy Brech,
Scott Chartier

School Happenings

Preschool & K-8

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

As the year winds down and we approach the joyous season of Christmas, we want to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support and dedication to our Christian school. Your presence at our Thanksgiving pie and cookie social was truly heartwarming, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to gather and celebrate together as a community. The students were thrilled that their families—both home and church came to join them and see their performances.

In preparation for our upcoming Christmas service, we began practice before Thanksgiving break. We encourage you all to consider attending this special event, which is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and share the message of love, peace, and forgiveness with our community. Our service is titled, Light for Our Darkness which will highlight both our need for Jesus and the light he brought into the world that brought our salvation.

Our first graders are doing a community service project with Life Stories, a community group that helps children who have experienced serious challenges early on in life. They are collecting pajamas sizes 2T-adult XL that will be distributed with a book to children in Weld County who are experiencing home and family challenges. If you would like to help the first graders support children in need, please drop off a pair of new pajamas at the school office by Friday, December 15.

If you know of any teachers who may be looking for an opportunity to teach in the Lutheran school setting, please have them reach out to Debi in the school office, or to Alysa at abalfour@tlgreeley.com. This position would be 10-20 hours a week, and would primarily be involved in the middle school setting as a release teacher.

We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please look for information in January's newsletter about Lutheran Schools' Week and what we will be doing as a school to celebrate the gift of a Lutheran school. Students will be singing in church on Sunday, January 25, as well as having some fun events that even the congregation can be part of.

Sincerely,

Alysa Balfour, K-8 Administrator

Gwen Marshall, Preschool Director



Remembering Our Homebound Members

The following members of our church are currently either living at home or in a care facility and have limited capability of joining their church family at worship.

*Lois Bliss –Centennial Healthcare
*Ellen Colegrove –Grace Point
*Melanie Davis - Home
*Rachel Einspahr – Home
*Richard Ewald –Monument, CO
*Caryle Kassahn –Home

*Wilbert Lutz –Home
*Fran Martin –Home
*Ruth McGhghy - Life Care
*Dave Schonek –Home
*Earl Weiss –Grace Point

Please keep them in your prayers and consider calling or sending cards or letters to let them know you are thinking of them. If you need an address or phone number, call the church office or pick up a directory at the church.

December's Cook's Night Out



Grab some food and help support Trinity Lutheran Church and School at the same time! Our December Cooks Night Out Fundraiser will be on Tuesday, December 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Panda Express located at 4542 Centerplace Drive in Greeley! Pick up a flyer to use in the store or use the code **362513** at PandaExpress.com or on the App. Enter the code in the Coupon Code box during online checkout or via the Panda Express app! Thank you for your support!



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TRINITY STAFF

Christmas is coming! On December 3rd, envelopes will be available for you to give a gift to our dedicated staff. With the Church and School growing, the Elders and BOCE have compiled a list of 22 people they would like to thank for their serving hearts in our mission here at Trinity. Please prayerfully consider a gift to show your appreciation for their tireless work. Envelopes will be available through the end of December.



2 –Donna Hanselmann
4 –Daniel Roohr
5 –Ruth Ann Hesse
5 –Heidi Klepper
7 –William Weber
8 –Nathan McKinney
8 –Candy Reed
9 –Jenna Sackschewsky
12 –Ryleigh Flesner
13 –Marcella DeLange
14 –Scott Butterworth
14 –Joanne Roedel
15 –Connie Mapes
16 –Michaelene Powell
17 –Gretchen Thuener

21-Rider Russel
22 –Doug Reed
23 –Christian Duffield
24 -Kris Bruning
25-Juniper Brown
25 –Bruce Kemp
25—Pat Seegrist
26 –Tricia Wojurfin
27 –Zayden Pittam
27 –Jennefer Tenorio
28– Aaron Riemer
30 –Jeffrey Dietrich
30 –Lillian Leschinsky
31-Natalie Best
31 –Dave Schoneck



Richard & Connie Mapes (37)
Henry & Deborah Thuener II (49)
Monty & Joyce Anderson (51)
Steven & Phyllis Klug (53)
Dennis & Mary Beitz (53)
Paul & Mary Henneck (62)

(If we missed your special day, please let the office know.)

December

ALTAR FLOWER

~Schedule~

Please sign up to bring flowers. The chart is on the wall by door to the old church office or call the church office, 330-2485.

December 3

Poinsettias

December 10

Poinsettias

December 17

Poinsettias

December 24

Poinsettias

December 31

Poinsettias



~ATTENDANCE~

October 8	Early-60	Late-43
October 15	Early-91	Late-51
October 22	Early-128	Late-51
October 29	Early-132	Late-33
November 5	Early-140	Late-47
November 12	Early-119	Late-51
November 19	Early-110	Late-43



Advent and



Christmas Poinsettias

In recent years, poinsettias have filled our sanctuary during this special season of Advent and Christmas.

It is the hope that this tradition can continue in 2023. Your help is needed.

If you have a special celebration for a birthday, anniversary or remembrance, please consider giving money to enable the altar ladies to buy poinsettias on your behalf.

Give those monies to Pam Clavir or Cheri Carsten. They would love to fill the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias again this year.



Sunday Mornings

8:00 am -Worship Service

10:30 am -Worship Service

Holy Communion
2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays

Go to: tmsgreeley.org and Live-stream the 8 am Traditional Service on Sunday mornings.

Ministry Assistants—December Schedule

December 3

Elders – 8:00 am Ken Clavir; 10:30 am Steve Cooper

Ushers –8:00 am Doug Reed; 10:30 am Bret Schmidt

Sound –8:00 am Jeff Junker; 10:30 am Jeff Junker

Video –8:00 am Mary Beitz; 10:30 am Jeff Junker

Organist– Debra Schwartz

Security –8:00 am John Kruger; 10:30 am Bret Schmidt

December 10*

Elders – 8:00 am Larry Whitney; 10:30 am Ken Clavir

Ushers –8:00 am Doug Reed; 10:30 am Bret Schmidt

Sound –8:00 am Aaron Riemer; 10:30 am Aaron Riemer

Video –8:00 am Angela Riemer; 10:30 am Angela Riemer

Organist– Ke Streeb

Security –8:00 am Douglas Sterner; 10:30 am Bret Schmidt

December 17

Elders – 8:00 am Brian Anderson; 10:30 am Steve Cooper

Ushers –8:00 am Cheri Carsten; 10:30 am Ken Einspahr

Sound –8:00 am Jeff Junker; 10:30 am Jeff Junker

Video –8:00 am Josh Anderson; 10:30 am Terri Swanson

Organist– Debra Schwartz

Security –8:00 am James Roohr; 10:30 am Bret Schmidt

December 24*

Elders –9:00 am Gary Klipp

Ushers –9:00 am Doug Reed

Sound –9:00 am Dan Swanson

Video –9:00 am Terri Swanson

Organist– Ken Streeb

Security –9:00 am Lance Polzin

December 31*

Elders –9:00 am Mike Thuener

Ushers –9:00 am Cheri Carsten

Sound –9:00 am Jeff Junker

Video –9:00 am Mary Beitz

Organist– TBD

Security –9:00 am Bria Anderson

***Communion**

*Ministry assistants are always needed in
each of the above areas.*

*If you are interested in serving, please
call the following people.*

Elders - Ken Clavir, 970-352-4608

Ushers - Doug Reed, 970-682-7825 or

douglas.reed30@yahoo.com

Sound/Video - Dan Swanson, 970-351-8815

December 2023

December 2023							January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2
					6:00pm Young Marines	10:00am Ladies Christmas Brunch
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mite Sunday 8:00am & 10:30 am 9:20am SS & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Group	9:00am Quilters Meet 6:00pm BOCE Meeting		9:30am Sewing Group 10:00am & 6pm Advent Svc 5:00pm Advent Meal	6:30am Men's Group 12:00pm O.W.L.S.	6:00pm Young Marines	7:00am ELDERS Meeting 8:00am Finance Board 8:30am Executive 9:00am Church
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00am & 10:30 am Worship 9:20am SS & Bible Study 11:45am Voters Meeting	9:00am Quilters Meet		10:00am & 6pm Advent Svc 5:00pm Advent Meal	6:30am Men's Group 1:00pm FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	3:00pm Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm Young Marines	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00am Traditional Worship 9:20am SS & Bible Study 10:30am TLS Program	9:00am Quilters Meet	10:30am Cooks Night Out 1:30pm Mission Circle	9:30am Sewing Group 10:00am & 6pm Advent Svc 5:00pm Advent Meal	6:30am Men's Group	6:00pm Young Marines	8:00am Property Board Meeting
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00am & 10:30 am Worship 9:20am SS & Bible Study	9:00am Quilters Meet			6:30am Men's Group	6:00pm Young Marines	
31	Jan 1, 24	2	3	4	5	6
8:00am & 10:30 am Worship 9:20am SS & Bible Study						

Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F)
Wise men (I), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (O), Sheep (V), Inn (E)