

The Trumpet

JANUARY 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14th: KICKS Begins

January 18th: Fellowship Meal

January 21st: Family Night

Thank You

With joyful hearts, we offer our deepest thanks to Pastor Jay and Diana for their many years of faithful, loving service to Trinity Lutheran Church. Your leadership, compassion, and dedication have been a true blessing to our congregation and community. As you step into this new season, we pray God's abundant blessings go with you and that you feel the love and gratitude of Trinity surrounding you always.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you."

— Numbers 6:24–26

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Let's kick off 2026 with family fun and a whole lot of BINGO!

Join us on Wednesday, January 21st, in the Fellowship Hall for our final Wednesday Family Night. Bring your lucky charm and your best bingo voice as we enjoy a Family Bingo Night filled with laughter, prizes, and fellowship! All Trinity members of every age are invited. We'll also share a potluck meal, so bring a favorite dish to enjoy together. Come hungry, come ready to play, and come ready for a great evening together!

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. —Isaiah 43:19

In a recent sermon I commented about what a difference a week can make. Well, in this case, it's been two and a half years, but in many ways it seems like only a few weeks; but what a difference it has made.

I have to admit that I just stared at my computer screen for quite a while. I wasn't sure what I was going to write for this last newsletter. I thought about using Ecclesiastes 3:1 as an opening, but we're well aware that things change, and once I thought about that verse, I just couldn't get that song from the '60s out of my head (you know the one I mean; and if you don't, just look up Turn! Turn! Turn, by the Byrds).

Then I thought about when Jesus was preparing to leave his disciples. With everything they had been through, there's no doubt in my mind the thing most on their mind was the idea that, "It's just not going to be the same." I'm sure there were a number of people who were thinking that as it was announced that I would be retiring and Diana and I would be leaving. And while it's true that, it's just not going to be the same for any of us, it also means that we are entering a holy time when you will take on the task of determining where God is calling the people of Trinity Lutheran Church.

If there's anything the past couple of years have taught us, is that you truly are a determined bunch of people who have decided that you're going to keep going even when life throws more than a few challenges at you.

You learned this during the pandemic; you learned this as you debated about leaving the ELCA. And you will learn it again as we go our separate ways—nothing was going to stop you from worshiping. Nothing is going to stop you from ministering to the people of this congregation and your community. And despite the things that you've been through (especially these last few years) the people of this congregation are still going, still thriving, still fulfilling the task that God has given you.

Things aren't going to be the same for any of us; but that means that you've been given an amazing opportunity to explore some new things. And not just as a congregation, but also as individual members of the body of Christ. And as you explore the path that God is calling you to, I want you to think about some questions that I've asked before—Who are you? Who do you serve? Who do you want to serve? How do we make it happen?

Now you may have noticed that these questions start by looking within, and then around us, but the final question is one of action. That's been the nature of the church since the beginning. In so many ways, the questions aren't new, but how we answer them and how we put them into action is the opportunity, even the call, to do something new.

As you follow God's call to a new path, new opportunities, perhaps even new ways of being Trinity Lutheran Church, you go in the full confidence that God walks beside you, encourages you, and even gives you a little nudge when you start going off the path.

But the time has come for our paths to diverge. And as Diana and I move onto this new path that God has called us to, we go with the amazing blessing of having our lives, our hearts, and our very souls, touched by all of you. No, it's not going to be the same; but then, I have to admit that Diana and I aren't the same as when we arrived here. Your love and support, especially in these last few months, have changed us. You have not only helped bring us closer to God, but also closer to each other. And that shows us, that even when change is difficult, we are never alone in facing that change.

As we close out this chapter in our time together, I pray that the next, new chapter you find yourselves in, is filled with even more of the love, laughter, joy, and an overflowing of the Spirit that Diana and I have experienced in our time here.

May God's peace, joy and mercy be with you all!

Pastor Jay Diana

Council Highlights

President – Len Fleske

Vice-President – Jeremy Kennedy

Secretary – Christi Penka

Worship – Krista Smith

Education – Kristy Jerke

Ministry – Ruth Lanterman

Operations – Randy Wetzel

- All paperwork has been sent to Janice Ensle to finalize the sale of their home.

Trumpet Board of Worship- January 2026

A farewell reception was held for Pastor Jay and Diana on Sunday, December 21. There was a very good turnout and so much support and appreciation for his 2 ½ years of service to Trinity. The Board of worship will meet December 28 to set up worship schedule for the coming year. Please be flexible as we work on getting an interim pastor to continue the mission of Trinity.

Thank you to all the volunteers that make worship meaningful, we appreciate all you do!

We are looking for some individuals who would be interested in helping to decorate our church sanctuary seasonally. If you are interested, please contact me!

Krista Smith, Chair

620-786-959



Trinity Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
November 30, 2025

	<u>For the Month</u>	<u>Year-to-date 2025</u>	<u>Year-to-date 2024</u>	
Unified Budget Receipts				
Regular Offerings	28,276.15	264,042.11	267,231.65	
Thrivent Choice Dollars	-	2,226.00	1,848.00	
Other Revenue	104.60	1,872.64	1,826.73	
Total Receipts	<u>28,380.75</u>	<u>268,140.75</u>	<u>270,906.38</u>	
Expenditures through 11/30/2025	<u>19,743.06</u>	<u>291,882.81</u>	<u>277,558.80</u>	
Over (Short) of Actual Expenses	<u>8,637.69</u>	<u>(23,742.06)</u>	<u>(6,652.42)</u>	
		<u>Year-to-date 2025</u>	<u>Year-to-date 2024</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease) from 2024</u>
Budget Receipts:				
Average per Sunday (48 Sundays in 2025) (47 Sundays in 2024)		<u>5,500.88</u>	<u>5,685.78</u>	<u>(184.90)</u>
Total Unified Budget Receipts		264,042.11	267,231.65	<u>(3,189.54)</u>
Budget Requirements		<u>310,937.92</u>	<u>317,162.08</u>	
Over (Short) of Budget Goal		<u>(46,895.81)</u>	<u>(49,930.43)</u>	

Missions



and
**Scan Me to see
more about
missions**

As we begin a new year, we step forward with renewed faith and a shared calling to be a church **sent to serve**. God has placed us exactly where we are for such a time as this, not to remain comfortable, but to carry His love beyond our walls and into the world.

As we move into the year ahead, I ask that we continue striving to be known as a church on mission: serving locally, strengthening partnerships regionally, and supporting Gospel work globally. Whether across the street or across the ocean, the mission remains the same, to reflect Christ through compassion, generosity, and obedience.

Locally, this means becoming the hands and feet of Jesus in our own community, intentionally reaching out and partnering with organizations and people where our service can meet real needs.

Regionally, we can continue helping carry financial burdens, while also making the effort to go and serve alongside our partners through short-term mission trips.

Globally, let us support missionaries and ministries with the resources they need to continue spreading the Gospel to all nations. And would it not be incredible if we once again built toward sending our own members on a global mission trip, as we have in the past?

God has called us for a time like this. As we navigate what is new at Trinity, let's make this the year we pour into missions more than ever before.

Mission work begins with a willing heart. It is found in everyday acts of kindness, in bold steps of faith, and in prayers whispered and spoken aloud. As we listen for God's leading, we trust that He will open doors for us to serve, give, and go in ways that transform lives, including our own. To hear God's voice, we must first be willing to listen and respond in obedience.

So I invite you to open your hearts and truly consider what it means to be mission-minded and **sent to serve**, here at Trinity

Scripture reminds us of our purpose:

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” John 20:21

May this new year be marked by courage, unity, and a deep reliance on God as we live out our calling together. Let us move forward as a church sent to serve, trusting that God will use our faithfulness to make an eternal impact—near, far, and everywhere in between. I ask that you continue to pray faithfully for the mission partners we currently serve alongside, and that God would open our eyes and hearts to the partners He is preparing for us to work with in the future.

Our children enjoyed a joyful Christmas party on December 10th, filled with a movie, sweet treats, and plenty of crafting fun. It was a wonderful time of fellowship as the children celebrated the season together, creating memories while being reminded of the joy and love found in Christ.

We are also excited to share that our Confirmation students have successfully completed the Alpha Teen program. This milestone marks an important step in their faith journey, and we are proud of the growth they have shown through thoughtful questions, discussion, and commitment. As they move into the second semester, these students will transition into Bible study, where they will continue to deepen their understanding of God's Word and how it applies to their daily lives.

As we enter a new year, we are reminded of the calling placed on the church to faithfully shepherd the children and youth of this generation. In a world filled with many voices and distractions, it is more important than ever that we, as leaders, invest intentionally in guiding young hearts toward truth, hope, and a lasting relationship with Christ. This work is not only about teaching lessons, but about modeling faith, offering encouragement, and creating safe spaces where questions are welcomed and spiritual growth is nurtured.

We look ahead with prayerful expectation, trusting God to equip us as we lead, teach, and walk alongside our children and youth. May this new year be one of renewed purpose, unity, and dedication as we partner together to raise up the next generation of believers and leaders for His church.

Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it. Proverbs 22.6



Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp
1203 Inwan St.
Milford, IA 51351

Ingham Lake Bible Camp
2258 450th Ave
Wallingford, IA 51365

2026 Dates

4th-6th grade

Trailblazers -June 14-19

Trailblazers -July 5-10

Trailblazers -July 12-17

6-9th grade

Confirmation/Jr High Camp at Okobojo- June 7-12

Confirmation/Jr High Camp at Okobojo -July 5-10

Junior High Camp at Ingham- July 19-24

There has been interest from several children in the congregation about Church Camp, Above are dates that are available for the selected age groups. This is an LCMC sponsored camp and I have personally met some of their staff. I also would go along and be available if a child needs a familiar face. As you see there is one week that both ages could be at camp at the same time, they would just be a separate locations, but would make for easy transport for all to go together. If anyone is interested please contact me asap so we can start planning on dates and numbers going.

Rebecca Circle

The Rebecca Circle ladies gathered on Sunday evening, December 7th at the home of Rick and Tina Hiss. We admired Tina's many Christmas decorations as she shared the story behind how she acquired some of them. We introduced ourselves and shared our plans for Christmas day. Some were having large gatherings, and some were going to have a quiet day. Others were going to celebrate either before or after the 25th. We opened with the reading of scripture and a prayer. Gathering in the dining room we shared an abundance of amazing snack food, spiced cider and coffee, yummy desserts and lots of fun and laughter. We followed that with the making of gifts for 14 of our shut-ins. We wrapped, decorated and signed boxes of tissues and added a Christmas ornament with chocolate. We each took several of the gifts to deliver, along with Christmas blessings, to our homebound. We look forward to a new year of Bible Study, quilting and supporting our missions. We would

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"
Luke 1:45



welcome all our church ladies to join us on the 3rd Monday evening of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor for Bible study, treats and fellowship.

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle met December 17th with ten ladies present. This was our Christmas Party pot-luck. Judi Brack Johnson opened the meeting with a prayer. There a nice array of food ranging from appetizer to dessert. The next meeting will be January 21st. All Trinity ladies and their friends are welcome to attend the Circle meetings which are held in the church library at 9:30 AM on the third Wednesday of the month.

TLF Council Meeting January 13 2:00 p.m.

Rebecca Circle No Meeting in January

Friendship Circle January 21 9:30 a.m.

Quilting Dates:

Tuesday January 13 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday January 27 9:00 a.m.

Thursday January 22 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Page for January 2026

WE PRAY TODAY FOR:

Resident of Azria of GB

Sam Spece

Ted Bird

Resident of Riverbend of GB

Elsena Bender

Mak & Marlene Brack

Resident of Brookdale

Joyce Nagel Jim Juergensen

Resident of Medical Lodges

Ladine Hartman

Residents Out-of-Town:

Marie Schepmann,
Hoisington

Donna Oliver, Wichita

Clara Mae Brown, Larned

August Sandy, Larned

Alene Clarke, Manhattan

Glen Snyder, Larned

Marty Kruckenbug-Meade

MISSION PARTNERS

Barton Co. Association of Churches

Core Community-Journey to Resolve
pOVERty

Oaks Indian Mission, Oaks, OK

Barton Co. Emergency Aid

Awakening Lives to World Missions

Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch

Star of Hope

Live Like Jesus Today

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Leann Wegele, Vicki Boxberger, Sheryl Corn, Carolyn Nelson, Ted Bird

Delores Schneidewind, Dottie Anderson, Robert Rowland, Kasey Kennedy

Marlene & Mak Brack, Patti Klima, Kathy Delimont, Gerald Postlethwaite,

Dottie Anderson, Ruth Steitz, Debbie Marshall, Geneva Steinert, Gary Klima,

Janice Ensle, Eleanora Postlethwaite, Kim Kummer & Pastor Jay

WE PRAY FOR THOSE CURRENTLY IN OUR MILITARY:

Kelly Vogel, Army (grandson of Deloris Schneidewind)

Lane Wilson, Marine (grandson/Judy Messersmith)

Austin Anschutz, Army Aviation (grandson/Merle & Liz Klima)

Adam Watkins, Joshua Helm, Army, (grandson/great grandson/Wilma Steadman)

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS NEEDING HEALING:

Danine Smith (*sister/Darla Clarke*)

Vickie Owston (*daughter/Joyce Nagel*)

Nick Okeson (*friend/Anne Linenberger*)

Roberta Holden (*Judy Messersmith*)

Cirus Feil, Ashley Corn, Jessie & Creed

Rodriguez; Rachel Corn & Family (*family/
Steve & Sheryl Corn*)

Janet Meyers, Misty Claussen Train (*friends/
Steve & Sheryl Corn*)

Dennis Peter (*Cousin Sheryl Corn*)

John M. Maneth (*Brother-in-law/Carla
Maneth*)

Howard King (*Brother-in-law/Carla Maneth*)

Rob Smith, Lynn Smith (*BiL/sister/Kathy
Delimont*)

Darwin Folkerts, Donita & Don O'Hearn
(*Deanna Swank*)

Denise Wilson (*Sister, Deanna Swank*)

Erika Kohart (*friend/Vicki Boxberger*)

Mary Ann Leroy (*friend/Vicki Boxberger*)

Pam Merten (*friend/Vicki Boxberger*)

Evette Aguilera (*Friend Ruth Lanterman*)

Daniel Klima & Christine Klima (*Son &
Daughter of Merle & Liz Klima*)

Sandra Geschwenter (*Friend of Christi Penka*)

Kim Feulner (*cousin of Christi Penka*)

Cathy Bell (*Friend of Penkas*)

Linda Cannon (*friend of Penka*)

Donita Keil (*Aunt/Christi Penka*)

Pam (*friend of Penka's*)

Brian Breese, Dianna Allison (*Friend of
Penka's*)

Annabella Davis (*friend/Deloris Schneidewind*)

Laurie White; Rhonda Feldman (*friends Marty
Schloemer*)

Gunner Jackson (*family friend/Kim Kummer*)

Chelsea VanVeleet (*friend of Kim Kummer*)

Tracy Cox (*friend of Kim Kummer*)

Lee Kuhn (*friend of Kim Kummer*)

John Winter (*friend of Kummings*)

Wally Gregg (*friend of Kummer*)

Jorja Campbell (*Niece of Ruth Steitz*)

Jamie Howard (*Niece of Ruth Steitz*)

Roger Suchy (*Brother/Connie Belt*)

LaDesha Clark, Todd Clark, Cody Clark, Janie

Mooneyham (*Family of Tom Kirkhart*)

Jim New (*friend of Hofeling*)

Sharon Campbell (*friend Lorrie Ruble*)

Sandra Bauer (*Lucy Snyder*)

Vera Reed (*friend Judy Dunn*)

Enrique Lira (*Friend of Katy Jerke*)

Vickie Gardner (*Maynard & Shari Miller*)

Kimi Peters (*Maynard & Shari Miller*)

Meri Desmond (*cousin Rachel Kitch*)

January 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2	3
					Office Closed	5:00 p.m. Worship Service
4 9:15 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	5 5:30 TLCD Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Bldg. & Grnds Meeting	6 12:00 p.m. Bible Study	7	8	9	10 5:00 p.m. Worship Service
11 9:15 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 7:00 p.m. Council	12	13 9:00 a.m. Quilting 12:00 p.m. Bible Study 2:00 p.m. TLF Council	14 5:15 p.m. KICKS	15	16	17 5:00 p.m. Worship Service
18 9:15 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Fellowship Meal	19	20 12:00 p.m. Bible Study	21 9:30 a.m. Friendship Circle 5:15 p.m. KICKS 6:00 p.m. Final Wednesday	22 9:00 a.m. Quilting	23	24 5:00 p.m. Worship Service
25 9:15 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	26	27 9:00 a.m. Quilting 12:00 p.m. Bible Study	28 5:15 p.m. KICKS	29	30	31

Trinity Lutheran Church

2701—24th Street
Great Bend, KS 67530-2298

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Phone: (620) 793-7894

TLC Discoveries Phone: (620) 793-8816

Email: trinitychrch@hotmail.com

Facebook at [Trinity Lutheran Church KS](#)

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HAPPY NEW YEAR'S!

**MAY YOUR LIFE BE BLESSED
AS YOU SEE GOD BRING FORTH
NEW THINGS IN THE COMING YEAR.**