



First Trinity Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2024

First Trinity Lutheran
Church
Lutheran Church– Missouri
Synod
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***Please check out the FTLC
Facebook page for service
times and event updates!***

Paul reminds us in 2 Timothy 1:7, "God didn't give us a spirit of fear but of faith, love, power and a sound mind." It is with this faith, love, power and sound mind that First Trinity enters into 2024 as we work through the process of calling a Pastor. During this upcoming year we will experience many worries and uncertainties and as a congregation need to remember to take these worries and uncertainties to Him in prayer.

- † Pray for Pastor Bobby as he continues the work of the Lord; and for him and his family as they transition into new roles, a new community and navigate through many changes as well.
- † Pray for our congregation; that we positively support one another through these times; that we reflect positively on our congregation and maintain patience as we wait on the Lord's timing. Prayerfully consider how we can each assist the church in this process.
- † Remember in your prayers the committee members actively searching for a new pastor. That they may go into the process with godly wisdom and receive patience and the understanding of our congregation.
- † Pray also for our new pastor and his family; that the process and call may be done in a timely manner and that he have faith in his calling to ease leaving his current ministry and community. Pray that he, along with his family, will be welcomed into our church family and community seamlessly.
- † Pray also for Rev. Norlyn Bartens, Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Neligh, who has graciously agreed to serve as interim Pastor here at First Trinity.

With that there are some important changes that our congregation will have to undergo as we begin the call process.

- † Service Times will change to 5:00pm on Sunday evenings starting January 21st
- † Sunday School & Youth Discipleship will take place on Sunday's at 4:00pm
- † Updates, announcements and changes will be communicated through FTLC Facebook page and the weekly church bulletin
- † The quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held January 21st at 6:00pm; please join us for election of 2024 officers and discussion on church happenings

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS...

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

- † Shiree Whipple, Vince Vanness, Janice Jeannoutot, Susan Craft, Dana Bruegman, JoAnn Jensen, Vonnie Beckmann, Julie Lush Watson, Shirley LaBelle, Kim Miller, Vicki Ketelsen, Dawn Hefner, Jerry Butler, Wayne Brewster, Don Kaiser, Cory Langner, Deb Sonnichsen, Kay Reppenning, & Brian Brewster.
- † Our men and women who serve our country. (Levi Kisker, Matthew Bobby Jr., Terron McLean and Jackson Reeves.)
- † Missionaries: Pastor Samuel Bobby and his family, Pastor Andrew Fedder and family, & John Wolf and family.
- † Families of Mike Houska and Lula Friedrichsen.



Merry Christmas and Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ,

Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him (Luke 2.40)

I don't want to grow up! We've probably all heard these words before, maybe even said or thought these words before. Growing up is difficult. Budgets, bills, work, the life of an adult human being carries with it a bunch of responsibilities previously unknown to us as children. How much easier it was when we were kids and the cares of the world were hidden from us?

However, as much as we would like to return to those simpler times, growing up is inevitable. Even for our Lord, Jesus Christ, growing up was part of life. The baby, born in the manger in Bethlehem, over time became the young boy and eventually the young man that would begin in ministry in Galilee. The baby would become a man who would one day be handed over to the authorities to be mocked, beaten, and crucified. Jesus' adult life came with a cross to bear. And he bore it. He took on his responsibility like a man and did his work, suffered his cross, and the favor of God, which was on him even as a baby, was revealed in him when God raised him from the dead.

Spiritually speaking we as Christians are in similar position. As Christians we begin as children of our Heavenly Father, consecrated and called by God through his word in the waters of Holy Baptism. However, as Christians growing up is a part of our spiritual life as well. We are called to take up new responsibilities as Christians that come as we grow in our knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ and our calling as his people. We are called to bear our crosses as men and women of faith so that we might serve God and serve one another and thus give witness to the faith in Jesus Christ that lives inside of each one of us.

So, ask yourself this question: where can I grow up as a Christian? What areas of my spiritual walk need to make the transition into adulthood? Am I ready to take my Christian education beyond the level of the Small Catechism? Am I ready to take my giving to the church to a level of greater Christian maturity? Am I ready to let my faith guide me to new places and to meet new people who have yet to hear of the good news of Jesus Christ? Am I ready to be more intentional and organized about how I give of myself to the work that the Church has been called to in this world?

These are question of transition that all Christians must ask themselves as they grow in spiritual maturity. Even as our Lord grew up in strength and wisdom, we too grow up and seek God's path for us as we serve God and one another in this life. And, like Jesus, we should always remember that the favor of the Lord is upon us. For His sake.

In Christ,

Pastor Bobby

RECENT OFFICAL ACTS AT FTLC:

December 20, 2023: Funeral for Mike Houska (07/28/1950-12/15/2023)

Worship Attendants

Thank you for assisting in Worship. If you are unable to attend on the Sunday you are scheduled please find a replacement for that service.

Elder of the Month: Tom Reicks

Greeters

- 7 Mark & Karen Stelling
- 14 Nick & Beth Stelling
- 21 Steve & Barb True
- 28 Chad & Kris Vanness

Acolytes

- 7 Pierce Jeannoutot & Beatrice Bobby
- 14 Millie Reicks & Charleigh
- 21 Anthony Kauth & Kelly Vanness
- 28 Maliyah Schmeckpeper & Tatum Edholm

Readers

- 7 Gannon & Grier Edholm
- 14 LuAnn Jessen & Sharon Peters
- 21 Katie Reicks & Karen Sonder
- 28 Eric & Danelle Miller

Ushers*

- 7 Youth Ushers (9th-12th grade members)
- 14 Curt & Kay Vanness, Mark & Karen Stelling
- 21 Alan & Karen Sonder, Richard & Kathy Eisenhauer
- 28 Dan Hoppe, Eric & Molly Miller, and John Hoffman*

Video

- 7 Melissa Wagner, Kyle Lamprecht and Ty Freeman
- 14 Tom Reicks, Jill Doerr and Tiernee Freeman
- 21 Steve & Barb True and Avery Bargman
- 28 Richard Eisenhauer and Casey & Brock Jeannoutot

Board of Finance*

- 7 Jim Lovejoy & Shane Greckel
- 14 Nick Stelling & Steve Schulz
- 21 Charles Yeager & Kyle Lamprecht
- 28 Jim Lovejoy & Shane Greckel

Reminder that service time will change to 5:00pm on Sunday evening beginning on January 21, 2024.



THE LUTHERAN HOUR: JANUARY 2024

January 7

"As We Forgive"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

January 14

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

January 21

"TBD"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

January 28

"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola
(Psalm 103:11-12)

Listen to the Lutheran Hour on Sundays: on your computer: lhm.org or on the radio:
KBRX 102.9 FM at 12:30 P.M.
WJAG 780 A.M. at 12:30 P.M.
KTCH 1590 AM at 7:30 A.M.
KTIC 107.9 FM at 11:00 A.M.
KTIC 840 AM at 11:00 A.M.
WNAX 570 AM at 9:30 A.M.

Don't miss out!

In his poem "The Inn That Missed Its Chance," Amos R. Wells writes from the perspective of the "fairly crazed" innkeeper who recalls Bethlehem becoming "a hive at swarming-time." Of the couple who requested shelter on what became Christmas Eve, the proprietor asks, "Could I know that they were so important?"

*There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light
resplendent; but I had no time for stars.
And there were songs of angels in the air
out on the hills; but how was I to hear
amid the thousand clamors of an inn?*

If the innkeeper had only known Jesus' true identity, he says, he would have turned the place upside down, sending other guests out to the stables instead. When Jesus returns — "as he will surely come" — the anonymous innkeeper wants everyone to know: "Tell my Lord that all my inn is his, to make amends."

PRAY MORE
worry less

JANUARY 2024

E-mail: flcrev@gpcom.net
 Secretary: flsecc@gpcom.net
First Trinity Lutheran Church
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 Bloomfield, NE 68718

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30am Men's Bible Study	2	3	4 9:00am Financial Rep.	5	6
7 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Communion Worship 11:00am Fellowship	8 6:30am Men's Bible Study	9	10	11 9:00am Financial Rep.	12	13
14 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	15 6:30am Men's Bible Study	16 2:00pm Ladies Aid Meeting	17	18 9:00am Financial Rep.	19 8:30am Orphan Grain Train	20 12:00pm Mobile Food Bank
21 4:00pm Sunday School/Youth Discipleship (group 1) 5:00pm Communion Worship 6:00pm Voter's Meeting and Pot-luck	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study	23	24	25 9:00am Financial Rep.	26	27
28 4:00pm Sunday School/Youth Discipleship (group 2) 5:00pm Worship Service 6:00pm Taking down the Greens	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study	30	31			

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



We will be working on the FTLC 2024 Yearbook and need everyone’s help to keep records up to date. If you haven’t had a chance to update your address, phone number, email address or cell phone information please do so with the church office via email at ftlsec@gpcom.net or call 402.373.4797.

The yearbooks are available at the end of January after elections. This book contains the Church Directory, lists of Ladies Aid Group members, Greeter Schedules, Reports from the Church Treasurer as well as a lot of other information.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

With 2023 now behind us, financial statements are being finalized this month (January) and will be available by January 31st for pick up. Please review them and if there are any errors, please let Danelle Miller or Kris Vanness know. We will correct them and run you an updated copy for your records/tax purposes. We apologize in advance if there is incorrect information/totals. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Offering envelopes for 2024 are also available at the church if you have not yet picked yours up please do so. Thank you.



Your Light has come

In the introduction to his book *For All God’s Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, “Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don’t light a candle in a room that’s already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that’s so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn’t a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. “Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today’s world,” he adds. “There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies.”



Mustard Seed Daily Devotions

The Joy of Christmas: It is a New Day

In the Word

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Of the Word

Sometimes we are glad to see days come to a close. They have been hard, boring, or exhausting. We have heard bad news, or we have suffered a heartbreaking event. "Whew!" we sigh, and we look to a new day for better times.

The birth of Jesus brought to the world a brand new day. It was the first day of His life on earth, a life that would bring Him the scorn and mockery of many who heard Him speak the Word of God in truth. It would bring Him betrayal and beating and death on a cross in fulfillment of the plan of God for our salvation. But His death was not His last day on earth! Three days later, Jesus rose, bringing to us victory over guilt and death, over hopelessness and despair.

No matter what the day brings, today is a day to rejoice. Jesus came to bring the gift of His grace and the assurance of life in and with Him. He came so we can put the past behind us and delight in a brand new day.

Walking with my Lord

Lord Jesus, a new day dawned when You came down from heaven to earth, and now I can rejoice in You every day! Amen.

Mustard Seed: The Joy of Christmas. Author: Patricia Mitchell. 3/32 ©2011 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org

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Ladies Aid Minutes:

Ladies Aid meet on Tuesday, December 12, 2023,

The meeting was brought to order by President Lu-Ann Jessen. Secretary, Karen Stelling read the minutes from the November meeting. Minutes were accepted as read. Sharon Peters gave the treasurers report. Report was filed for audit.

Committee reports were as follows:

- † Orphan Grain Train: Four people went in November.
- † Bereavement: Served the funeral of Shirley Koertje.
- † LWML: Karen Peters stated that the report has been filed.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

- † Election of officers. Both Ruth Howder (Vice President) & Karen Stelling (Secretary) agreed to serve in their position for another term. Motion to accept was made by Ruth Howder, seconded by Karen Peters. Motion carried.
- † The Year Book committee is working on the 2024 yearbooks.
- † Karen Stelling made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Karen Peters motion carried.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

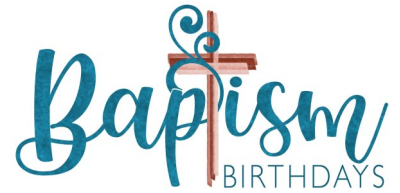
Karen Stelling, Secretary



Hebrews 11:1, KJV

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries



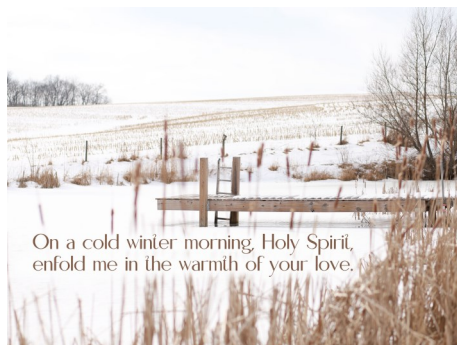
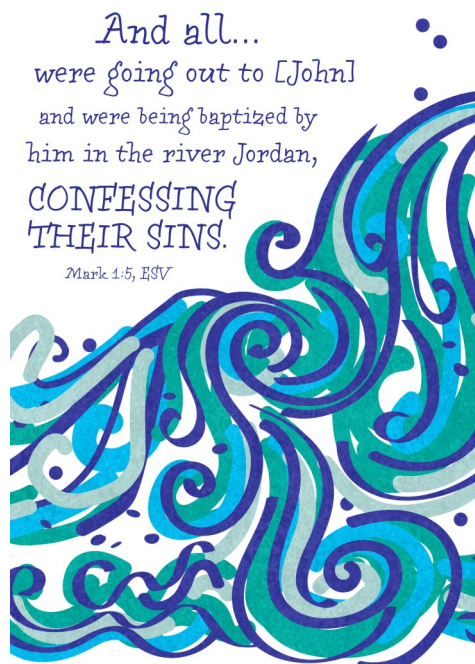
Jaidyn Warrior	01/03
Amelia Gieselman	01/06
Cory Loseke	01/08
Chad Vanness	01/08
Anthony Kauth II	01/12
Perry Broders	01/14
Tuft Jessen	01/17
Shelby Poppe	01/20
Alice Strom	01/21
Suzanne Cunningham	01/22
Emeline Reicks	01/22
Joey Tangeman	01/22
Ian Kuchar	01/23
Leland Freeman	01/26
Ganelle Sund	01/27
Lonnie Greckel	01/29
Hailey Kronberg	01/29
Jason Hefner	01/30
Charleigh Mach	01/30

Birthdays:

Lyndi Wragge	01/03
Doug Bargman	01/05
Jenna Loseke	01/07
Shaunna Cunningham	01/09
Roger Kolessa	01/09
Travis Doerr	01/10
Jackson Eisenhauer	01/11
Renae Kauth	01/11
Taggart Jensen	01/13 9
Jay Jeannoutot	01/14 10
Karen Broders	01/15
Sandy Kaiser	01/15
Cody Smith	01/16 16
Leon Beckmann	01/17
Lainey Ketelsen	01/19 7
Darrell Beckmann	01/20
Richard Eisenhauer	01/20
Rayde Nipp	01/21
Karen Sonder	01/22
Les Holtz	01/24
Tara Beckmann	01/25
Kris Vanness	01/25
David Eisenhauer	01/26
Aubrey Jeannoutot	01/29
Kenna Ketelsen	01/10
Bridget Kuchar	01/31

Anniversaries:

January 2nd:	
Thomas & Vanessa Kolessa	25
January 4th:	
Shane & Kate Greckel	4
January 18th:	
Gary & LuAnn Jessen	49



On a cold winter morning, Holy Spirit, enfold me in the warmth of your love.

THANK YOU...

- † To the individuals and families that help with lawn care, snow removal & flowers.
- † To the elders and families who host fellowship on Sundays!
- † To the worship attendants and the Sunday school teachers and aides.
- † Anyone who would like the opportunity to serve the Lord by volunteering their time can call the church at 373-4797.

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402 EAST MAIN
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BLOOMFIELD, NE 68718

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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BLOOMFIELD, NEBRASKA
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In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world. —LCMS Mission Statement

Ponderings at the end of a day - or year

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: “Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone’s face? Did I say words of healing?” Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: “How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others’ faces? Did I offer words of healing?” Nouwen continued, and we can too: “Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?”

Many of us set New Year’s resolutions for self-improvement, asking, “What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?” But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: “These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come.” His resolution was to share God’s love with others. With God’s help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.

Our God of hope

Near the end of a long bout with cancer, Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson realized that hope for recovery wasn’t credible. The year before he died, he wrote a Christmas message from “the antiseptic wonderland of the holiday hospital ward,” asking, “What sustains hope when there is scant reason for it?”

The answer, Gerson said, is found in our “God of hope,” who became vulnerable, “cloaked in blood and bone and destined for human suffering.” Rather than fulfill our deepest earthly wishes, God offers eternal security: “He promises a transformation of the heart in which we release the burden of our desires, and live in expectation of God’s unfolding purposes, until all his mercies stand revealed.”

That hope-filled message echoes Gerson’s 2012 Christmas column, written in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook shooting. “The point of Christmas is not a sentimental optimism about the human condition or even a teaching about the will of God,” he wrote. “It is an assertion that God came to our rescue, and holds our hand, and becomes, at the worst moments, our brokenhearted brother. It is preposterous, unless it is true. And then it would be everything.”