



# TLC Grapevine

December 2024

[www.trinitybemidji.org](http://www.trinitybemidji.org)

A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota (218) 444-4441

### Worship Services

9:00 am, Sunday

There are no Wednesday Services during vacancy

Sunday School (Sept - May)

10:30 am - 11:30 am



[trinity3@paulbunyan.net](mailto:trinity3@paulbunyan.net)

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### International Church Relations Conference:

#### Planting a flower in the gate of hell

November 1, 2024 / Reporter / By Roy S. Askins

Ninety-seven representatives from 46 countries and 41 LCMS sister church bodies, along with six other church bodies with whom The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is working toward fellowship, gathered Oct. 21–25 in Wittenberg, Germany, for the International Church Relations Conference 2024 (ICRC24) to study God’s Word, encourage and support one another, and promote global confessional Lutheranism.

The church bodies in attendance represented 95% of the LCMS’ global sister church bodies. Sister church bodies are those churches with whom the LCMS shares altar and pulpit fellowship — that is, they agree in the doctrine of the Gospel in all its articles; in the right use of the Holy Sacraments; and confess the inspired, inerrant Holy Scriptures as the only rule and norm of faith and practice and the *Book of Concord* as a faithful exposition of the Word of God (*quia* subscription).

The group met under the theme “Christ the Lord of History, Yesterday, Today and Forever,” based on Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” The Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw, director of LCMS Church Relations, explained: “This theme was selected because it shows the power and the victory of Jesus Christ from the very beginning, even from before time.”

The conference revolved around the study of God’s Word and discussion of that Word in relation to caring for Lutheran congregations around the globe. The Rev. Dr. Janis Vanags, archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (LELB), preached on the importance of meditating on God’s Word: “Luther said that we need to rub God’s Word in our fingers like aromatic herbs and inhale its fragrance. We need to ruminate on it like a cow, not [letting it pass in] through one ear in and through one ear out.”

The nine conference presenters helped the attendees ruminate on God’s Word by breaking the theme into three temporal perspectives: yesterday, today and forever. Yesterday addressed matters related to creation, Old Testament narrative and re-ordering the image of God. The middle section, “Christ the Lord of History *Today*,” addressed a threefold emphasis of witness, mercy and church planting. Finally, the last section looked to the future and end times by discussing the church’s worship, the church’s confession standing before the throne of God, and Christ’s gracious promise and presence in sacramental remembrance.

Attendees gathered daily for Matins and Vespers, with Divine Service celebrated on Wednesday, Oct. 23. The service demonstrated the diversity of the attendees. The opening versicles were sung in Swahili, the Responsory in German and the Kyrie in Spanish. “These different languages help us all, in a concrete way, honor where God has called us and who we are in that context,” Shaw said, emphasizing that though the language of worship might be diverse, the churches gathered for the conference are united in their singular confession. Most services were held in St. Mary’s, the parish church in Wittenberg, where Martin Luther preached.



Continued on Next Page ➡

## **That they may be one**

The Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, explained the importance of this gathering: “One of the duties of the Synod ... is to find those throughout the world with whom you do share a confession. Why? Because the Lord Jesus prays, *ut unum sint*, ‘that they may be one.’ This [conference] is one way of expressing that unity we have through faith in Christ and our Baptism around the shared Means of Grace.”

This includes supporting and encouraging one another. The Rev. Helmut Paul, bishop of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA), said: “The great opportunity here is the brotherly support. We see that, as we serve in various countries, there’s a lot of overlap in terms of the challenges and problems.”

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison pointed to both political and religious issues facing global Lutheranism. He noted that churches in Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, South Sudan, South America and many other places face political conflict. In India, the difficulty is increasing: “The Hindu government is increasingly making life difficult for our partner church in India ... impinging on the rights of minorities.”

But that’s not all: “The Europeans face gross secularism. ... Recent polls showing virtually all of Germany [is unchurched]. About 10% of the population are Christians or claim to be Christians,” Harrison said.

On Sept. 30, 2025, Vanags will complete his term as archbishop and retire from service to the LELB. In his sermon — his last to the ICRC in his role as archbishop — he expressed the sentiment of the gathering: “The 21st century reminds me of a scene from that movie, ‘Gladiator.’ Maximus stands in the middle of the arena for the battle and says to his comrades, ‘Whatever comes out of these gates, we have a better chance of survival if we work together.’ Dear sisters and brothers, that is ... why we are here. However, to work together, we need someone to lead and hold us together. It can only be Christ, the resurrected and living One.”

Harrison praised Vanags’ service during the collapse of communism and his unwavering commitment to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions: “It was our great privilege to partner with him and the Latvian church in numerous ways.” Turning to Vanags, he said, “The whole catholic and apostolic church thanks you for your wonderful confession.”

## **Planting a flower**

In the face of these difficulties, it might be tempting to give up and turn inward, hoping to preserve what little it appears the church has. However, church leaders at the ICRC24 conference remained hopeful. The Rev. Juan Pablo Lanterna, president of the Confessional Lutheran Church of Chile, encouraged attendees to “plant a flower in the gate of hell.”

When asked what this meant, Lanterna explained: “The Gospel [seems] very small sometimes, but God has promised to the church that [He] will save the people. ... So, we believe the Word of God; and we have to preach, preach, preach; and this flower will grow.”

The ICRC conferences are one such planting of a flower in the gate of hell. The effect on global Lutheranism often takes years to manifest itself as relationships grow and blossom. Churches and church leaders gather, share concerns, learn from one another and encourage each other to remain dedicated to God’s Word and the Lutheran Confessions.

Over time, the effects of these relationships compound. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, noted how the LCMS seminaries have broadly influenced global Lutheranism: “While I was down in [Brazil], many people and leaders in the church were thanking me profusely for the generations of impact that our seminary has had on their church. ... That story can be multiplied many times around the world for both seminaries.”

“The LCMS is the strongest force for confessional Lutheranism in the world today,” Harrison said. “We bring a theology that holds the Scriptures as God’s own inerrant Word. And we bring a theology of the *Book of Concord*. Full stop. And because it agrees with the Word of God, and we care for and love people, we plant churches, we bear witness to Christ, and that is exactly what we should all be about.”

*Reporter Online is the Web version of Reporter, the official newspaper of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Content is prepared by LCMS Communications.*

## Jesus Rest is Best!



Are you tired? My guess is you are. Tired of work, the news, conflict, struggles, and paying bills, maybe it's your age or life's little mundane chores!

Life can be a chore with no end in store. It doesn't take much to wear us down. Wouldn't it be nice to lie down in green pastures for a while? Wouldn't it be nice to lie down and get up feeling refreshed?

Sometimes we feel rested at other times not. That's the way life goes. But what if there was a place to find permanent rest? Would you go there?

I bet you would, and in all honesty there's such a place! It's not far, but near. In fact, you've been invited there! So where is it? Jesus tells us, "Come to Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (Matt. 11:28 – 30 KJV) Sounds good to me! Jesus gives us rest!

Does He mean, however, no more work, bills or chores? Sorry, that's not it. He is saying though that we don't have to work hard to go to heaven. You know, thinking we have to do something good to get there. So be honest, you've thought, even been taught that God will take you to heaven because you are such a good person. You've tried to be good, tried to love too, but honestly that hasn't always worked out, right.

None of us is perfect, and Red Bull won't give us the right wings to get to heaven nor will any of those super spiritual drinks offered by those false preachers that say that heaven is just a few more good deeds away. Nor can we argue Jesus expects us to work for our salvation because He says, "Take my yoke upon you."

So, what's He referencing, in days past animals were yoked together, a young inexperienced one to an older experienced one who would show the younger the ropes which was how to make work easier which in one respect means Jesus is there to pull along with us as we strive towards our goal of heaven. He's yoked to us you see to teach us that we do not have to work hard for our salvation. Being yoked to Him, therefore, means learning about what He did for us on His cross where He shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. That's why He said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me." The point being, Jesus wants us to learn about His free gift of grace, and how He paid the price for our sins and how He doesn't expect us to work to earn a place in heaven.

We can "rest" therefore from thinking we have to work to earn our salvation. And that yoke is easy since Jesus bore all our sins upon His cross as He says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Far too many though think that to be a Christian means giving up their life to become a monk or something, but that's not true, although Jesus wants us to follow His commands. We cannot for instance just go about sinning with abandon denying what He says about living a Christian life. So, He says this about His yoke, "For I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Jesus was humble and obedient to His heavenly Father and from Him we learn what obedience to our heavenly Father means. And obedience for us means resting peacefully in His work of salvation. It's a rest that comes from trusting in Jesus and what He has done to make us right before God through His sacrifice on the Cross. No one can give you His rest, you cannot choose it either. The rest that comes through faith is a gift that comes by hearing Jesus Word and in receiving His Sacraments of baptism and His Supper that impart to us what He did for us on His cross where we find the much-needed rest we are all looking for, the rest that says, because He worked the work of God to die for our sins, we don't have to work to earn our salvation!

So, like I said, Jesus isn't far, His rest is near, so hear His invitation to receive the rest He offers you.

In Christ, Pastor Uhrinak

## MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS

### ❖ Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid & Evening Guild will have their joint Christmas party on December 5th at 6:00 pm.

### ❖ Trinity Afternoon Guild

Ladies Aid & Evening Guild will have their joint Christmas party on December 5th at 6:00 pm.

### ❖ Men of Trinity

Will meet on Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Church.

### ❖ Active Christian Fellowship

The Active Christian Fellowship will gather at a time to be determined to make Popcorn Balls for the Sunday School Christmas Program. Watch the bulletin for dates & times.

### ❖ Hannah Circle

Will meet on Thursday, December 12th at 1:00 pm at Bar 209 for their Christmas Lunch.

### ❖ Altar Circle

Will gather at Trinity for their Christmas Party on Monday, December 16th at 1:00 pm.

### ❖ Eunice Circle

Will meet on December 10th at 11:30 at the Green Mill for their Christmas luncheon. The group decided that their usual Christmas monetary gift would go to the Food Shelf this year. All members are encouraged to attend.

### ❖ Christian Singles

The Christian Singles will meet for lunch on Sunday, December 8th.

### ❖ Happy Quilters

The "Happy Quilters" meet on the 3rd & 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00am at the church.



## CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Randy Yarbrough - 218-766-0695

Council Secretary: Paul Borslien - 218-289-2866

Financial Secretary - Becky Theis - 218-368-6916

Treasurer: Scott Kurtzweg - 218-556-2892

## ELDERS

If your last name begins with:

A - C

D - H

I - M

N - R

S

T - Z

Then you Elder is:

Steve Krueger - 218-751-3794

Scott Wilson - 701-238-7557

Ben Lang - 218-444-7689

Ron Oelrich - 218-766-4656

Eric Lee - 218-966-1023

Paul Borslien - 218-289-2866

## CHURCH BOARDS

### TRUSTEES

Dave Krueger - 218-766-5053

Carlos Moreno - 218-444-2888

Mark Tisler - 701-640-3447

### BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Lenay Tieman - 218-444-1412

David/Susan Krueger - 218-444-9583

Bonnie Wentzel - 218-751-6119

### BOARD OF MISSIONS

Steve Krueger - 218-751-3794

Mary Krueger - 218-751-3794

Wayne Tieman - 218-760-1099

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Sheridan Ellis - 218-368-8317

Vacancy

Vacancy

### YOUTH BOARD

Allison Chandler - 218-766-4830

Susan Krueger - 218-444-9583

Dede Kubitz - 218-280-8526

### SCHOOL BOARD

Allison Chandler - 218-766-4830

Wentdy Potratz - 218-556-8432

Marie Borslien - 218-556-7538

## Sermon by Martin Luther December 25th, 1522



### CHRISTMAS DAY

*And the Word became flesh.*

*(John 1:14)*

Christ has a holy birth, immaculate and pure. Our birth is sinful and accursed, and we can only be helped through the holy birth of Christ. Yet Christ's birth cannot be shared with us, but it is offered spiritually to everyone wherever the Word is preached. Those who firmly believe and receive it will not suffer harm because of their own sinful birth.

It was Christ's will and pleasure to be born as a man so that in him we might be born again. "In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures" (James 1:18). In this way Christ takes our birth away from us and immerses it in his own birth, giving us his birth, that we may be made new and clean, as if it were our own birth. Therefore shall every Christian rejoice in this birth of Christ, and glory in it, as if they too were born of Mary. The one who does not believe that, or doubts it, is no Christian.

This is the great joy of which the angel speaks. This is God's comfort and his surpassing goodness, that we (if we believe) may glory in such a treasure, that Mary be our very mother, Christ our brother, and God our father. For all these things have truly happened that we might believe in them.

See, then, that you make this birth your own, exchanging with him, so that you might be rid of your birth, and might take on his, which happens when you believe. Then you surely will rest in the virgin Mary's lap as her darling child. But you must learn to have such faith and to exercise it throughout your earthly life, for it can never be strong enough.

*Sermon for Christmas Day, 1522. WA 10/1:71*



### **MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP Wednesday, Dec. 4th, \*Dec. 11th, \*\*Dec. 18th**

6:30 pm - Advent Midweek Worship Service

*\*The Sunday School Children's Program will be on December 11th at 6:00 pm.*

*\*\* A Special Christmas Concert will be on December 18th at 5:30 pm.*

### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

**Tuesday December 24**

4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

**Wednesday, December 25**

9:00 am - Christmas Day Worship w/Communion

# DISTRICT NEWS

## OFFICIAL NOTICE: THE 25TH CONVENTION of the



**Minnesota North District**  
THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

Dates: February 23-25, 2025  
Location: Timberlake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN  
Theme: "A living hope in Christ" I Peter 1:3-5  
Host Circuit: Iron Range Circuit, Rev. Jim Anthony, Circuit Visitor

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." *1 Peter 1:3-5*



the LCMS has partnered with **MinistrySafe** to provide access to their child protection training and resources.

**LEARN MORE >>** <https://ministrysafes.com/lcms>

*Minnesota*  
**STATE  
BIBLE  
BOWL  
2025**

For more than 30 years MN North has had Bible Bowl competition. The 2025 topic for Bible Bowl will be:

**Life of David**  
**(1 Sam. 16-1 Kings 2);**  
**Saturday, April 5**  
**@ Concordia University.**

Competition is for students in grades 7-12.

**ARK  
ENCOUNTER** | **CREATION  
MUSEUM**



You Are Invited—Bus Tour  
December 28—January 2 | \$900-1100/person  
Hosted by: St. Mark's Benson

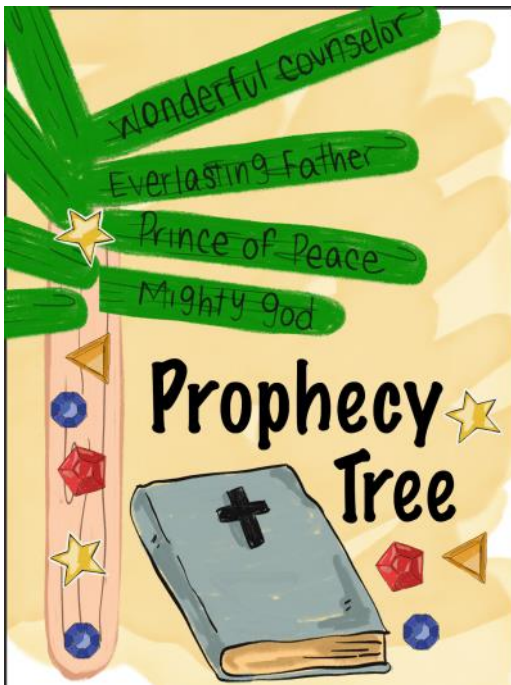
Includes a stop at Mission Central in Iowa. To sign up or get more information please contact Pastor Wolter:  
[jwolter78@hotmail.com](mailto:jwolter78@hotmail.com) or 402-335-7518



**Lent Preparation | January 6-8, 2025**  
**At St. Andrew Lutheran, West Fargo**



# Activity Page



## Prophecy Tree

Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

### What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

### What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.



## CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth. Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	(	)	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, to us a \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 8 9 # 4      2 ^ ( %      ) ^ %

is \_\_\_\_\_, and the government will be on his shoulders.  
 7 9 > 5 %

And he will be called Wonderful \_\_\_\_\_,  
 3 ^ ? % ) 5 # ^ (

\_\_\_\_\_ God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the  
 \$ 9 7 8 - ;

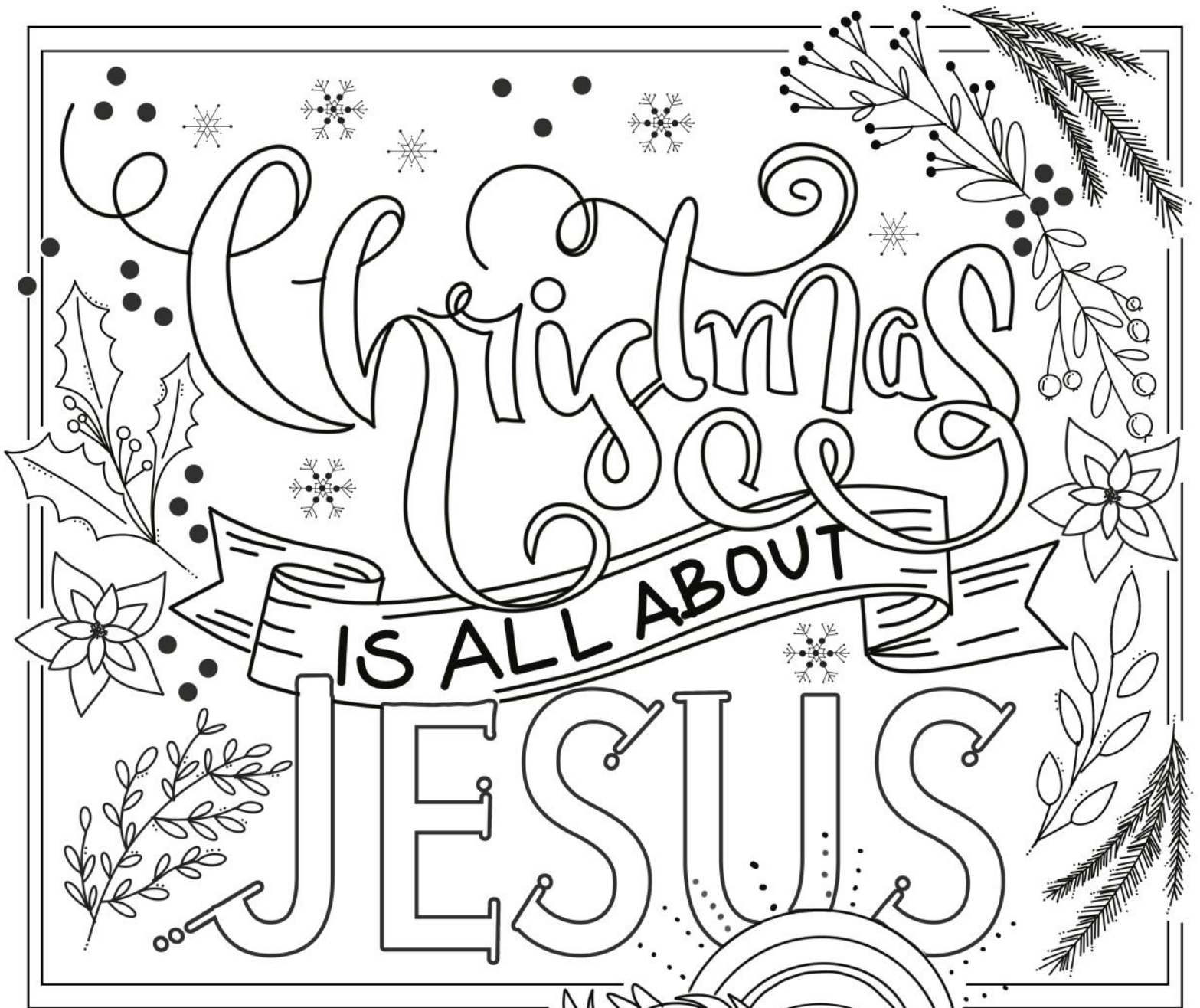
greatness of his government and \_\_\_\_\_ there will be no \_\_\_\_\_.  
 & 5 1 3 5      5 % 4

He will reign on David's \_\_\_\_\_ and over his \_\_\_\_\_,  
 - 8 ( ^ % 5      @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$

establishing and upholding it with \_\_\_\_\_ and righteousness  
 ! ? ) - 9 3 5

from that time on and \_\_\_\_\_ . Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV  
 6 ^ ( 5 > 5 (

Answers: child, born, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever



"She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him  
the name Jesus, because  
he will save his people  
from their sins."  
*Matthew 1:21, NIV*





Growing Tree

DECEMBER 2024

# Childcare and TLC Preschool Newsletter

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

Preschool &  
Learning Center

Christmas Break  
December  
23rd—January  
3rd



Bible Verse of  
the Month:

**Matthew  
1:21**

She will bear a  
son, and you shall  
call his name

Jesus, for he will  
save his people  
from their sins.

## Childcare and Preschool News

It's the final countdown for the Annual Ticket Fundraiser! Tickets are \$10 each with all proceeds going to the preschool. Tickets can be purchased in the preschool office until Thursday, December 5th. The drawing will be held on Friday, December 6th.



*Advent Christmas Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30 pm. This will be for all the children in our program. Please come and watch them sing songs for Jesus.*

*Advent supper served by the preschool staff and school board will follow the program.*

### Tub's of Christmas Love

TLC Preschool and Growing Tree Learning Center will be sponsoring 2 families to receive a "Tub of Love." There is a labeled tote in the fellowship hall with various items listed that the family is in need of. Please prayerfully consider donating to this family.

Please drop the items back off at the church by Friday, December 15th.

The true meaning of Christmas is when Jesus came to this earth to save us all.

Let's work together to help out others this Christmas Season.

### "Northwood's Pregnancy Center Toy Drive"

We are also partnering with The Northwood's Pregnancy Center collecting toys for their Toy Drive. There is a labeled tote in the fellowship hall to place an unwrapped toy for a child age: Birth to 10 years old. Deadline to drop off items is Wednesday, December 18th.



# News & Announcements

**Christmas Music Recital**  
**3rd Wednesday in Advent**  
**December 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

**Prior to the Advent Worship Service**

Please join the Trinity Church musicians for a recital of Advent and Christmas music. A wide variety of Christmas music will be presented.



**The Church Office will be closed on Dec 24th - 26th for Christmas. And Jan. 1st -2nd for New Years!**



## Advent & Christmas Schedule



- DECEMBER 1** Decorating the Church for Christmas
- DECEMBER 4** TLC Preschool/Childcare Program & Advent Meal at 5:30 PM
- DECEMBER 5** Ladies Aid & Afternoon Guild Christmas Party at 6:00 pm
- DECEMBER 11** 5:00 PM Advent Meal  
6:00 PM Sunday School Program  
6:30 PM Advent Worship
- DECEMBER 18** 5:30 PM Trinity Christmas Concert  
6:30 PM Advent Worship
- DECEMBER 24** 4:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service
- DECEMBER 25** 9:00 AM Worship with Communion

The Happy Quilters will be selling the two Christmas Quilts that are hanging in the Fellowship Hall. The cost for the quilts is \$75.00 each. If you are interested, you can contact any of the Happy Quilters for a sale. *Thank you.*



In January 2025 the Ladies Aid will join with Afternoon Guild to form one group. The new group will serve coffee on the 4th Sunday of each month. Therefore, there is a need for another group to pick up the 1st Sunday of each month to serve coffee after the Worship Service. If you can help, please contact the church office. *Thank you.*



## Lutheran Island Camp UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 8th**

### Christmas Hymn Sing - FREE

Join us this December for our annual Christmas Hymn Sing! Bring your family, friends, and your favorite hymn. As always, our singing time will be followed by Christmas cookies and warm drinks. This is a fun and festive way to start the beautiful Christmas season and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

We ask that you let us know you're coming so that we have enough cookies! Click the button below to contact the office.

The exact timeframe is TBD and will be announced in the weeks to come.

**Jan 17-18, Feb 7-8, Mar 14-15**

### Confirmation Weekends

Confirmation Weekends are led by Program Director Olivia, with the exception of the Confirmation Instruction time. To register your group, contact Diane at [licbusiness@islandcamp.org](mailto:licbusiness@islandcamp.org).

**Jan 22-26, April 2-6**

### Quilt & Craft Retreats

- \$160/2 nights
- \$200/3 nights
- \$240/4 nights
- \$280/5 nights

Join us on the Island for a relaxing retreat full of quilting and crafts! Food and lodging is provided. Please bring your own bedding and toiletries. This year, due to the ERC renovations, the Quilt & Craft Retreat will look a little different. Please **CLICK HERE** for a letter from Program Director Olivia outlining these changes.

For any questions, please contact Olivia at [licprogram@islandcamp.org](mailto:licprogram@islandcamp.org).

# DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP

## *Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”*

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

*Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,  
that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

*That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”  
assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

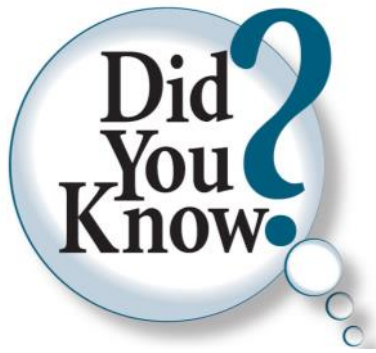
Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.



# Stewardship Report

<u>Monthly Receipts/Expenses</u>	<u>October 2024</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$22,899.24
PS/CC Receipts	\$16,592.50
Interest Receipts	\$45.03
(Transfer to Money Market) Adjustments	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$39,536.77</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$42,354.77</b>
<b>OVERAGE/SHORTAGE</b>	<b>Monthly +/- (-\$2,818.00)</b>



# YOU CAN NOW GIVE YOUR TITHE OR OFFERING ONLINE?!

It's Easy, just follow these steps...

1. Visit Trinity's Website at [www.trinitybemidji.org](http://www.trinitybemidji.org).
2. Click on "Donate" at the top right of the Home Page.
3. On the next page, Click the Donate button and you will be directed to our PayPal page.
4. From here, you can either donate with your existing PayPal account OR if you don't have an account you can donate with your Credit Card.
5. Then just complete using your information and submit.

If you have any questions about the process, please call the church office.

## The Benefits Of Online Giving

### STEWARDSHIP

You have the option of giving a one time gift, or having your tithe post monthly.

### CONVENIENT

You can continue to support Trinity even if you are away on vacation or gone for the winter.

### FLEXIBILITY

You can give to the General Fund or choose to give to a specific Ministry of the church.

If you would like help in learning how make your donation or tithe to Trinity online, just stop in to the office, we are happy to help.



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1 Steve Krueger

3 Mark Shaw

4 Stephanie Coyle, Vernon Lee

7 John Egeland,  
Marie Porter

8 Hank Dufault

9 Scott & Genise Schuette (18)

12 Bruce Nordick

14 Victor Wolbeck

15 Gregory & Kathleen Malbraaten (12)

16 Rene Vorderbruggen

18 Jonathon Molitor  
Victor & Barbara Wolbeck (59)

19 Isaac Lahn

20 Scott Schuette

23 Hope Puro,  
Bob Woodke

25 Jesus

28 Jay Porter, Rodney Olson  
Wayne & Sandy Thorson (61)

29 Jon Chandler

31 Andrea Freye, Elise Nash  
Rod Wentzel



**A DOSE of HUMOR** CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"I knew someday I'd be a star!"

**ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

Please sign up to sponsor the Altar Flowers for 2025!

**ADDRESS/PHONE**

If your address and/or phone number changes, please let the church office know, so your information will be correct in the church database. Thank you!



**\*extra\*extra\***  
**LARGE PRINT EDITION AVAILABLE**

LARGE PRINT bulletins are available for those that have difficulty with the regular bulletin. If you would benefit from having one of these bulletins, please ask an usher for a copy.

If you are interested in being a Greeter or an Usher, please speak with one of the Elders.



**WHEN YOU LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE**, please turn out ALL the lights (except in the office hallway) and please check that ALL the entrance doors are LOCKED, even if you didn't unlock them.

### Greeting Cards Available!



Individual Cards are \$1.00 each. Boxed cards are priced on bottom. Checks are preferred. Please make your checks out to Trinity Ladies Aid and put your payment in the container provided. Thank you.

Check out the "RESOURCE TABLE" in the Fellowship Hall for FREE Books, Periodicals, Devotionals, and More.



Portals of Prayer are in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.



The season after Pentecost begins with Holy Trinity Sunday and continues through the last Sunday of the church year in ALTAR CIRCLE November. The paraments are green, the color of life, refreshment and regeneration. Throughout this season, the focus is on the Lord's teaching and how it is applied in the life of the Church.



A "Gluten Free" option is available for communion. If you would like to take advantage of this option, please speak with Pastor or Elders.

### BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF

Trinity, along with United Methodist Church volunteer the 3rd Monday of each month at the Food Shelf. The first shift is from 9am-12pm and the second shift is from 12-3:30pm. Both shifts need 6-7 volunteers.



The Food Shelf would not function without all the volunteers who give of their time. Thank you for all you do to help the Food Shelf run smoothly. ~June Roxstrom

Check out our website.  
[www.trinitybemidji.org](http://www.trinitybemidji.org)



Please check the covered bulletin boards in the Church Entrance Hall for posted Letters, Community Events, Concerts, Meals, Fundraisers, local activities and news.

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - DECEMBER

- |                  |              |              |                 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 Luke 1:46-55   | 9 Psalm 8    | 17 Psalm 16  | 25 Psalm 24     |
| Revelation 1-2   | Isaiah 1-3   | Isaiah 25-27 | Isaiah 49-51    |
| 2 Psalm 1        | 10 Psalm 9   | 18 Psalm 17  | 26 Psalm 25     |
| Revelation 3-5   | Isaiah 4-6   | Isaiah 28-30 | Isaiah 52-54    |
| 3 Psalm 2        | 11 Psalm 10  | 19 Psalm 18  | 27 Psalm 26     |
| Revelation 6-8   | Isaiah 7-9   | Isaiah 31-33 | Isaiah 55-57    |
| 4 Psalm 3        | 12 Psalm 11  | 20 Psalm 19  | 28 Psalm 27     |
| Revelation 9-11  | Isaiah 10-12 | Isaiah 34-36 | Isaiah 58-60    |
| 5 Psalm 4        | 13 Psalm 12  | 21 Psalm 20  | 29 Psalm 28     |
| Revelation 12-14 | Isaiah 13-15 | Isaiah 37-39 | Isaiah 61-63    |
| 6 Psalm 5        | 14 Psalm 13  | 22 Psalm 21  | 30 Psalm 29     |
| Revelation 15-17 | Isaiah 16-18 | Isaiah 40-42 | Isaiah 64-66    |
| 7 Psalm 6        | 15 Psalm 14  | 23 Psalm 22  | 31 Luke 1:46-55 |
| Revelation 18-20 | Isaiah 19-21 | Isaiah 43-45 | Mark 1          |
| 8 Psalm 7        | 16 Psalm 15  | 24 Psalm 23  |                 |
| Revelation 21-22 | Isaiah 22-24 | Isaiah 46-48 |                 |

# December 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church - 444-4441

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School  <i>Ladies Aid Serves</i>	<b>2</b> 6:30 PM Men of Trinity	<b>3</b> 6:00 PM Bells	<b>4</b> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation 4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 5:30 PM Preschool Concert & Advent Meal 6:30 PM Midweek Advent Worship w/Communion	<b>5</b> 5:30 PM Board of Elders  <b>Ladies Aid &amp; Afternoon Guild Christmas Party 6:00 PM</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Singles  <i>Youth Groups Serve</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM Bells  <b>Eunice Circle will meet at the Green Mill at 11:30 AM</b>	<b>11</b> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation 4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 5:00 PM Advent Supper - Altar Circle 6:00 PM Sunday School Christmas Program 6:30 PM Midweek Advent Worship w/Communion	<b>12</b> <b>Hannah Circle Meets at Bar 209 for Christmas Luncheon at 1:00 PM</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School  <i>Men Serve</i>	<b>16</b> <b>Altar Circle Christmas 1:00 PM</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM Bells	<b>18</b> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM 6th Grade Confirmation 4:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 5:30 PM Trinity Christmas Concert 6:30 PM Midweek Advent Worship w/Communion	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM "Happy Quilters" 6:00 PM Church Boards 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School  <i>Evening Guild Serves</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 4:00 PM</b>   Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Morning Worship with Communion 9:00 AM</b>   Christmas Morning Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School  <i>ACF Serves</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	 <p>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~            Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)</p>			