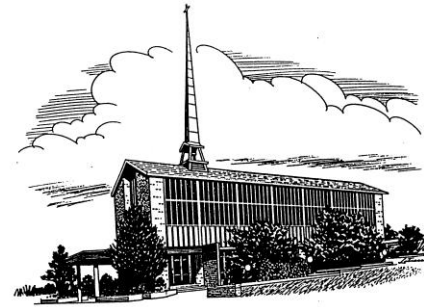


TRINITY LUTHERAN - DARMSTADT



NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026

NO. 12/1

Greetings in the name of Christ! This first newsletter of combining months is going to be a little odd. In this article I need to succinctly talk about the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Those of you who have been in my 19-minute Bible studies know how well I can do this.

This Advent and Christmas we are using a series from 1517 called “Coming Home for Christmas: Advent in Isaiah.” The series focuses on five passages in Isaiah where the promises of God, fulfilled in either Jesus’ arrival or his second coming, proclaim to us that while we long to find peace, belonging, and comfort this time of year, our ultimate Christmas gift is our citizenship in his kingdom. For he is the Home who has come to win us back from exile, keep us safe in his embrace, and promises that we will someday reside with him forever.

Our Advent services will be December 3rd and 10th at 7:00 PM and the 17th at 7:30 PM. Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols will be on the 24th at 7:00 PM with a Christmas Day Divine Service at 9:00 AM.

Coming into the new calendar year and the Epiphany season, we will have our Epiphany celebration on Tuesday, January 6th at 7:00 PM. Along with Epiphany and the coming of the Magi, I will once again be offering the rite of house blessing with a chalking of the door. The Blessing for a Home is a celebration of vocation in the deepest and broadest sense. We bless and thank God for the gift of “clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have” while engaging and honoring the ways people practice their faith in their life at home: chores and hobbies, cooking and eating, ways of relaxing, relationships within the household and beyond it, caring for our bodies, connecting with the creation.

Our homes are also the place where many of us will make the greatest strides in our spiritual growth, through observance of daily prayer, daily spending time in God’s Word, and work offered as an oblation to God.

The chalking of the doors of a home encourages Christians to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. Seeing the symbols over our doors can help to remind us, while passing in and out on our daily routines, that our homes and all those who dwell there belong to Christ. It also serves as a reminder of the welcome that the Magi gave to Jesus. We should strive to be as welcoming to all who come to our homes to visit us!

In these three seasons, Advent’s longing, Christmas’s joy, and Epiphany’s revealing, we are reminded that God continually draws us home. Christ comes to us in the manger, dwells with us in Word and Sacrament, and sanctifies the ordinary spaces where we eat, sleep, labor, and love. As we mark our doors and bless our houses, we remember that our true Home is not finally built by human hands, but given to us in Jesus through our baptism. He gathers us from exile, shelters us in his mercy, and will one day bring us into the everlasting household of his Father. Until that day, our earthly homes become small signs and foretastes of the greater Home he has prepared for us.

PRESCHOOL

Mark your calendars for the Preschool Christmas Program
December 17 @ 6:30 PM.

Ice Cream pick up is Friday December 5.
Thank you to everyone who bought a pint.

We will have our first Open House of the season at the end of January.

Watch for more information about our pizza fundraiser.

God's Blessings,
Breenna Smith, Director
Trinity Lutheran Preschool

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- WILLIAM GANN-97

2- EASTON KECK

3- MICHAEL SULAWSKE

4- CHARLES FELLWOCK-96

7- JESSE RAMSEY

9- RYAN SENSMEIER

16- REBEKAH GLOWINSKI
- 18- JIM KAHRE-91
RONALD STEINKUHL

27- WILMA JEAN MCCOY
LINDA SENSMEIER

28- ANITRA GANN

29- BOB EBERHART

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5- MAXWELL SAMFORD

9- KATHY RAMSEY
JOHN SENSMEIER

11- CONNIE SULAWSKE

12- KEITH MAASBERG

19- ABIGAIL HARTMAN
GARY IVY

20- WAYNE WATHEN - 91
- 22- ALAN REININGA

25- DEAN WATHEN

26- KAREN KAHRE

27- BRYAN MANS

30- DAVID HOFFHERR
LEVI SMITH

31- JOHN TERRY

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!

THANKS to **KANDI JACKSON** for taking care of Operation Christmas Child this year.

THANKS to all who helped or participated in the **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES**.

We give THANKS to the **ANONYMOUS DONOR**, who paid off our LCEF debt.

O SING TO THE LORD

Congratulations to the following people who celebrated their milestone birthday/anniversary in NOVEMBER

ALICE KECK – 92 on November 28

During the month of November, the following people were in the hospital, had surgery, recovering at home or our shut-ins – **REBEKAH GLOWINSKI, JOE OPPEE, ROGER DENNIS, DON & MEVELYN FEAGLEY, TODD KORFF, RICHARD & MARY DENNIS, WAYNE & KARON WATHEN, NEAL WATHEN, AL & GLORIA**(Heritage room 112) **ARENDT, ARLENE HARTMAN**(North River room 209), **MARGE DAVID**(Envive-Good Samaritan), and **ALICE KECK**(Heritage room 145)

<u>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>BIBLE CLASS/SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS</u>	<u>SARAH BIBLE CLASS</u>
Saturday, November 1.....21		10	
Sunday, November 2.....52	28		10
Saturday, November 8.....14		NA	
Sunday, November 9.....58	25		8
Saturday, November 15.....10		NA	
Sunday, November 16.....57	27		10

CHURCH SERVICE LIVE STREAM

We now live stream the Sunday church service on YouTube.
YouTube does not require an account to view.

The YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@TrinityLutheranDarmstadt>

WHAT'S COMING UP

NEW ADDRESSES: If you or someone you know from the church has a new address or phone number, please let the church office know.
Thanks Trisha

CALENDAR IN THE OFFICE: There is a calendar in the office for all the events that are happening at the church this year. If you know when things are happening during the year, they need to be put on that calendar.

FOR SARAH'S AND ALL SARAH-ELIGIBLE LADIES: The Sarah Bible Class meets on Thursdays at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The topic will be Promise and Fulfillment. Fellowship, Coffee and Treats begin at 10:00 AM. All Ladies are invited to attend. Bring a Friend.

LLL CHRISTMAS DINNER: Everyone is welcome to attend the LLL Christmas Dinner at Haub's Steak House in Haubstadt on Monday, December 1, at 5:30 PM. Let **RAY LAUGHBAUM** know if you plan to attend.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025: Now that 2025 is almost over, the Directors of each Board need to submit a report for the Annual Report. Please have them in the office by February 3rd. Thanks, Trisha

CHEER BUCKETS FOR THE SHUT-INS: The Shut-ins genuinely enjoy receiving these buckets. We are not going to be able to put baked goodies in these buckets this year again. If you would like to donate monetarily to these, please give it to Trisha in the office by December 14th. Thank you!

SCRIP CARDS: If you would like to order Scrip Cards for Christmas, please have all orders in by **MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th** to ensure getting cards by Christmas. Thank you!

VISITING THE SHUT-INS: How would you like to visit our fellow members who can't come to church? We would love to have a few dedicated people to visit the shut-ins. If this is something you would like to do, please let us know.

ALL OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS MEETING: The annual All Officers & Board Members meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10th beginning at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend.

LLL MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY: All men of the congregation are invited to join in on the first Saturday of the month beginning in January, at 8:30 AM in the parish hall for breakfast and Bible study. Invite your friends and neighbors.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY 11: The Board of Parish Fellowship will be hosting a luncheon after church on January 11. Watch the bulletins for more details.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY-SOCK TREE

Clean, new socks are one of the most sought-after items in shelters. Homeless shelters go through these very quickly. You can help someone replace an extremely worn pair of socks by donating fresh socks. Our Sock Tree is up and waiting to be decorated. We are asking for donations of new, warm socks for both men and women. Hang your donated socks on the tree. T-Shirts and underwear are also welcomed items. These can be placed under the tree. All donated items will be delivered to The Rescue Mission and the Susan H. Snyder Center after the first of the year.



Can watch on DirectTV Channel 377 Sunday Mornings at 10:30 AM

December 7

Second Sunday in Advent – Stirring Things Up – Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Sermon Text: Matthew 3:3 Readings: Psalm 105:4-8; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Featured Choirs: Zion (Bull Rapids) Lutheran Church Choir, Woodburn, Ind.; Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Antwerp, Ohio; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. Featured Art and Architecture: Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Ind.

December 14

Third Sunday in Advent – Lord, Give Us Patience – Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Sermon Text: Matthew 11:2-10 Readings: Psalm 146:1-10; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-10

Featured Choirs: St. John Adult Choir, Indianapolis, Ind.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

December 21

Christmas Day (observed) – The Word Became Flesh Rev. Shayne Jonker

Sermon Text: John 1:14 Readings: Psalm 2; Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

Featured Choirs: The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, Mich.

December 24

Christmas Can't Be Stolen– Nativity of Our Lord; Christmas Candlelight Rev. Paul Shoemaker

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1-14 Readings: Psalm 96; Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14

Featured Choirs: The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; Holy Cross Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Peter's Junior Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Choristers, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Concordia Choir of Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.; Concordia Lutheran High School A Cappella Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Preble Adult Choir, Decatur, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.

December 28

First Sunday after Christmas – Save the Child! – Rev. William Mueller

Sermon Text: Matthew 2:13-23 Readings: Psalm 111; Isaiah 63:7-14; Matthew 2:13-23

Featured Choirs: The Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill.; Holy Cross Treble Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Lutheran Life Villages (North Anthony), Fort Wayne, Ind.

January 4

Second Sunday after Christmas - Where's Jesus? - Rev. Scott Zeckzer

Sermon Text: Luke 2:46 Readings: Psalm 119:97-104; 1 Kings 3:14-15; Luke 2:40-52

Featured Choirs: St. Paul Lutheran High School Choir, Concordia, Mo.; St. Paul Lutheran School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Lincoln Lutheran High School Choir, Lincoln, Neb. Featured Art and Architecture: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, Ind.

January 11

The Baptism of Jesus - The Baptism of Our Lord - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Sermon Text: Matthew 3:13-17 Readings: Psalm 29:1-4; Isaiah 42:1-4; Matthew 3:13-17

Featured Choir: St. Paul Lutheran School Choir, Munster, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Muncie, Ind.

January 18

Second Sunday after the Epiphany - Who Is "The Real Jesus"? - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

Sermon Text: John 1:29 Readings: Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a

Featured Choirs: Holy Cross Lutheran Men's Chorus, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. Paul Lutheran School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Tipton, Ind.

January 25

Third Sunday after the Epiphany - Fishers of Men - Rev. Shayne Jonker

Sermon Text: Matthew 4:19 Readings: Psalm 27:1-9; Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-25

Featured Choirs: St. Peter's Lutheran School Choir, Fort Wayne, Ind.; St. John Lutheran Church Choir, Indianapolis, Ind. Featured Art and Architecture: Faith Lutheran Church, Roanoke, Ind.