

Trinity Tidings

A monthly newsletter for family and friends of historic Trinity Lutheran Church-Prairie, Illinois

Volume 373, Issue 459

December 2025

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Trinity Lutheran Church
10235 S. Prairie Road
Red Bud, IL 62278

Trinity Lutheran School
10247 S. Prairie Road
Red Bud, IL 62278

Pastor's Message:

"Prepare the Way of the Lord."

First spoken by the prophet Isaiah, later repeated by the John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord" summarizes the important work of all the prophets, preparing the people for the coming of Christ. It is also a good description of the season of Advent in the Church, as we prepare for the annual celebration of the incarnation and birth of Christ at Christmas.

The middle Sundays in Advent focus on the John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, who prepares the people for Christ's ministry by proclaiming repentance. The season of Advent, historically, is a penitential season in the Church, similar to Lent, in which we fast and pray in sorrow for our sins. In so doing, we rejoice all the more at Christmas and partake of the feast of Christ's birth receiving the forgiveness and salvation that He comes to bring.

Continue on page 12/Message

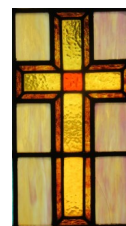
Official Acts

Baptisms: Waylon James Schoenbeck on November 2

Eleanor Zipfel on November 15

Funerals: Darlene Pour on November 3

Roland Dannenberg on November 23



Trinity Workers

Pastor: Rev. Scott Hojnacki
Phone: 282-2882
E-Mail: trinitypastor@htc.net

Principal/Teacher: Dr. Robin Booth
School Phone: 282-2881
E-Mail: office@trinityredbud.com

Church Music Director: Sarah Koester

Teachers: Cassie O'Hara, Andrea Sattler,
Alyssa Wetzels, Angie Trask,
Andrew Wiggernhorn

Church Secretary:
E-Mail: church@trinityredbud.com
Office Phone: 282-2882
FAX: 282-4045

School Choir Director: Andrew Wiggernhorn

Youth Leader: Lisa Luebkekmann

School Secretary: Joyce Stehl
School Phone: 282-2881
E-Mail: jstehl@trinityredbud.com

Trinity Tidings Editor: Maureen Liefer

Visit Trinity Lutheran Church & School on the Web <http://www.trinityredbud.com>

**Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting
November 4, 2025**

Present: Pastor Hojnacki, Ken Fehr, Mark Liefer, Kathy Nagel, Dean Schoenbeck, Brenda Brewer, Darrell Salger, Cliff Harms, Michael Koester, Danny Salger, Lori Woods and Robin Booth.

Opening: Chairman Ken Fehr called the meeting to order. Pastor led us in prayer.

Principal's Report: Robin presented a check for \$1,510.00 to the church as a percentage of the proceeds from the pork sausage dinner and the rummage sale. Fall Fest will be held this Friday. The Young Christians on Missions held a food drive and collected canned goods to be donated to local food pantries.

Secretary's Report: With no changes or corrections, a motion was made, seconded and moved to accept the secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: Dean reported that he had to borrow another \$10,000 from Mark & Maureen to pay expenses. So now our loan balance is \$49,115.63 to Dieterick Bank and \$15,024.25 to Liefer's for a total debt of \$64,139.88. According to IEPA & IDPH we are required to do monthly water samples at school. The cost for this is over \$4,000 a year. This seems like an extreme cost when everything has come back fine. Ken will follow up with Eric on this to try to get more information on why we need this done. Warnecke has been paid in full, \$79,587 for the church brick tuck pointing, cleaning, and sealing the brick, chimney repair, and replacing the louvers on the steeple. Mark & Maureen have paid for the steeple louver portion which was \$29,225. CD's earmarked for the church remodel will be used to pay Warnecke. There is currently \$252,310 in church remodel CD's but \$9,011 of this will be used when one of the CD's mature to cover money borrowed to pay the above Warnecke invoice. We have made our mission commitment for the year. A motion was made, seconded and moved to accept the treasurer's report. Dean worked on the salary budget which is to be presented at the annual meeting. After discussion and explanation, a motion was made, seconded and moved to approve the salary ballot to be presented at the annual meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported we had good attendance, about 175 for both reformation weekend and All Saints Day. In official acts, there were three baptisms, Logan and Miles Murphy and Waylon Schoenbeck. Two funerals, Eunice Miller on Oct. 14 and Darlene Pour on Nov. 3. Adult instruction classes have begun. There will possibly be another class in the spring. Pastor noted that he feels our school has been an outreach which is bringing new families to our school and then the families are interested in joining our church. Pastor attended the Christ Our Savior Board meeting to get an update. The school has not sold yet, a realtor agent has been hired. After the first of the year, we will discontinue paying our monthly mission commitment to COSLHS. There is some cash to be used for monthly expenses that hopefully will last until they are able to sell the property. Pastor has talked to and has received a letter from our new District President, Rev. Heath Curtis. He wants to change things, he is not sending out the normal annual letter asking for our commitment for the Mission Budget. He is asking for our continued support for long time mission projects, but also wants to dedicate funds for local outreach programs within our own congregations, to grow our churches within the district. He has implemented *Come Home for Christmas*, - ads to promote our congregations, *Partners and Practice in the Gospel*, -to bring Ambassadors for Christ team to SID, and *Outreach Mission*

Continue on page 12/Council

A CALL FOR CAROLERS

Christmas Caroling Party for All

Thrivent is sponsoring an afternoon of caroling Sunday,
December 14, beginning at 12:45 p.m.

We will be meeting at the school for Christmas caroling to the nursing home, assisted living facilities in Red Bud, Ruma, and Waterloo. We'll also stop by at the homes of Trinity members who are not able to leave their residence.

Come and enjoy the fellowship and bring Christmas joy to those who look forward to the yearly Christmas caroling.



Please bring canned goods to donate to the
Baldwin Food Bank.

Everyone of all ages (members and non-members too) is welcome!

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you.

Karen Liefer (618-791-4175) and Rosalyn Thies



Anna (Widows') Group

We travelled to Eckert's Cider Shed in Belleville for our November gathering. After navigating the confusion of ordering and paying for their meals by downloading the QR code instead of using a real menu, the ladies spent time in devotion and enjoyed discussion on sitting in the pews as a widow. We then walked next door to the store to do some shopping.



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 18. We will have fried chicken and potluck as well as continue with our devotions and fellowship. We will also take a collection to assist students at both Trinity and St. John's. All widows are welcome to attend.

Please contact Janice Cowell or Cheryl Sauerhage for any questions.

December Birthdays***December 1**

Amy Hesch

December 2

Marilyn Langrehr

December 4

Kelsey Jeffers

December 5

Anna Lucht

Kaitlan Schoenbeck

December 6

Karl Langrehr

Dale Piel

December 7

Aurelia Buch

Joseph Fehr

December 8

Rebecca Kohne

Rachel Stellhorn

December 9

Bryan Heck

December 10

Cody Frederick

December 11

Lynette Elceser

Guy Nagel

December 13

Kelly Brosch

Josie Hahn

Zoe Leedle

December 14

Dorthy Burmester

Kade Schnepel

December 15

Jaxtyn Kadlec

December 17

Dana Hahn

Carol Siegfried

December 18

Nolan Vaughn

December 19

Brent Piel

Dillon Salger

December 20

Morgan Hesch

Henry Stamm

December 21

Jenna Andrews

Robert Nagel

Christine Pettijohn

Jerry Schoenbeck

December 22

Aaron Frederick

December 26

Bryan Rohlfing

December 28

Denise Schoenbeck

Erin Winka

December 28

Norma Buch

Paige Buch

Rebeka Hern

December 30

Lexi Hubert

Pam Piel

December Anniversaries***December 2**

Darrell & Tammy Salger

December 6

Gary & Charlene Woods

December 11

Brent & Mary Vaughn

December 14

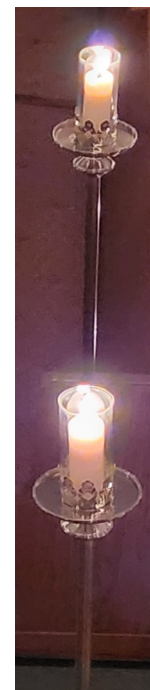
Brian & Nancy Richards

December 18

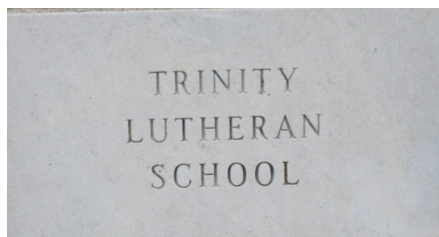
Scott & Rosella Burmester

December 28

Ron & Betty Fehr



**If there are any edits, corrections, deletions, or additions to these lists, please notify Pastor Hojnacki so the church's membership computer program can be updated. Thank you!*



Trinity Lutheran School

Dr. Robin Booth, Principal

Mission Statement:

To aid parents and the church by providing Christian education to nurture children in mind, body, and spirit.

trinityredbud.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

- ⇒ December 14: Christmas program at 6:00 p.m. *The congregation is invited to attend.*
- ⇒ December 19: Early dismissal at 12:45 p.m.
- ⇒ December 19: End of 2nd quarter
- ⇒ December 22, 2025—January 5, 2026: Christmas break; no school

Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

RUMMAGE SALE THANKS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Fall rummage sale. We especially thank the volunteers who made it happen. The gym was FULL! Nearly \$6,000 was received for the school.

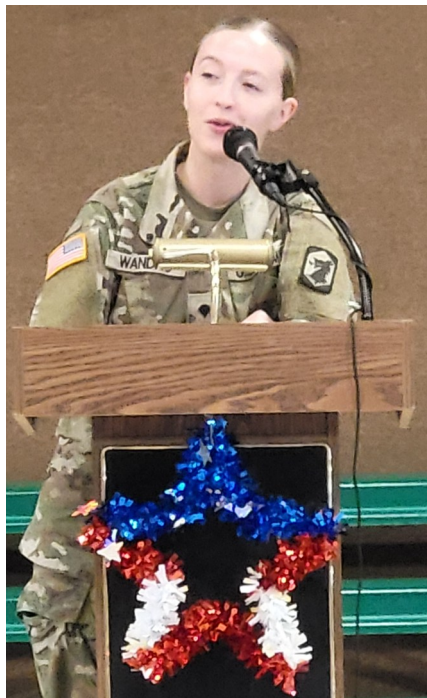


Trinity Quilters

Several students voiced interest in how quilts were put together. Of course, the Trinity Quilters were more than willing to share their knowledge!

These quilts look great!





TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHILDREN THANKED VETERANS on November 10, 2025!

Pastor Hojnacki opened the program with a prayer.

The VFW Auxiliary 6632 posted the colors.

Dr. Booth welcomed all who attended.

The Kindergarten class presented "It's Veterans Day"

1st & 2nd grade presented "God Bless America"

6th, 7th, & 8th grade presented "Battle Hymn of the Republic"

SPC Krista Wandro, IL Army National Guard, engaged the students with a personal speech & gear demonstration (ask Micah Sattler about that)

3rd & 4th grade presented "Say Thank You to a Veteran"

And the program ended with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th grade singing "God Bless the USA"

The students added sign language to a couple of songs—very special!

We veterans also thank TLS for a thoughtful program!



SCRIP CARD FUNDRAISER

Trinity School will be having a gift card fundraiser through RaiseRight gift card fundraising. This fundraiser is easy and convenient. Use the cards for gifts, gas, or even to do you own day to day shopping. You may order online by going to **RaiseRight Fundraising**
<https://www.raiseright.com/>

Step 1: Tap sign up then enter the following code in the "Join an existing program" box. Our enrollment code is **911A86DD12998**.

Step 2: Click the blue box that says "join an existing program" and

Step 3: Begin shopping.

You may link your bank account or a credit card to your account. It is safe!!

If you wish to send a check but order online you may do that as well.

You may also place your order on the order form found in the school office or church addition. Please include payment at the time of your order.

Please turn in your orders or money to the school office or give to Lisa Luebkeermann.

Orders are due December 10.

We also offer IGA cards which need to be purchased through Lisa.

If you have any questions, please call Lisa at 618-713-7125.

Youth Group

Trinity Youth Group will once again deliver Christmas cards to our congregation members.

The boxes for Christmas cards will be in the church addition after Thanksgiving.

The deadline to put cards in the boxes is December 10.

The Youth Group members will deliver the cards on December 14.

Please include the full address and a return address on the envelope.



Trinity Lutheran School Board meeting Oct 27th, 2025

Present: Lori Woods, Robin Booth, Pastor Hojnacki, Cheri Lange, Julie Fehr, Jonathan Mehring, Charlotte Schnepel

Pastor opened with a devotion

Minutes from September were approved

Sunday School report: Will be starting on the Christmas program practice the end of November

Finance report will be presented next month due to computer issues

Administrator Report: The school had an earthquake drill on the 19th. On the 29th the Red Bud police will visit the school and talk to the students about safety and on Nov 18th, they will be back to do a drill with the teachers. A digital and hard copy blueprint of the school is being developed for safety and 911 purposes. Parent Teacher Conferences went well. The Fall classroom parties are this Friday, the 31st. The Rummage sale went well, we raised \$5,900. The Pork Sausage dinner also went well, we grossed \$5000. Due to the majority of the help being church members, 20% is being donated back to the church.

Old Business

The subject of getting a security camera is being tabled for now.

Thank you to the Trustees for installing the new Track & Cross Country Record Board.

The School Christmas program will be Sunday, Dec 14th at 6 pm, the BOCE will provide drinks and each family is asked to bring a snack to share.

The BOCE and faculty fun event will be Friday, Dec 19 at the Pour Winery at 6 pm.

New Business

Principal evaluation will go out this week.

The Christmas Eve Sunday School program and service will be Dec 24th, at 7 pm.

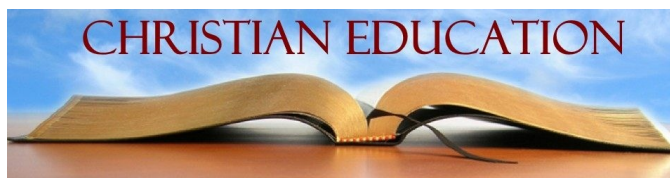
The BOCE is to help with Christmas decorations will be put up in Church on Saturday, Nov 29th at 8 am. They will not be taken down until after Sun Jan 4th.

Regular board meeting was adjourned and the Board went into executive session.

Executive session was adjourned. Pastor closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Board meeting is Tuesday, Nov 25th at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary Julie Fehr.



...praise Him with strings and pipe! Psalm 150:4

Sarah Koester was one of three guest organists who participated in the 40th Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church's Martin Ott organ on November 2, 2025 in Waterloo. Sarah shared her musical talent by playing the following selections:

"When in Our Music/Partita on Engelberg"
 setting John A. Behnke (1953-)
 "Fugue in G Minor" J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
 "Toccata from the 5th Organ Symphony"
 Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Martin Ott, the man who built Immanuel's organ,
 attended the concert!
 Praise God and thank you, Sarah!



Editor's Note:

A symbol quiz: Think about the meaning of these symbols.

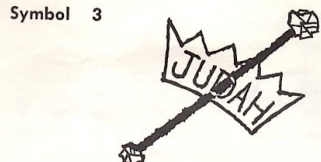
Symbol 1



Symbol 2



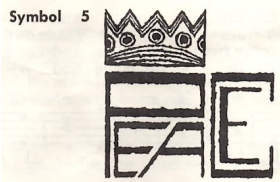
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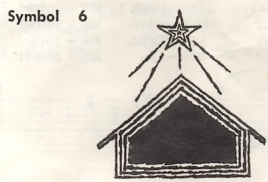
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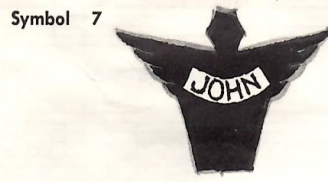
Symbol 5



Symbol 6



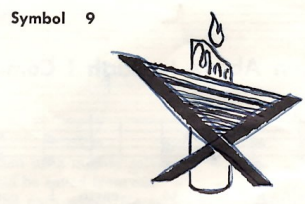
Symbol 7



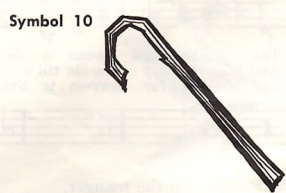
Symbol 8



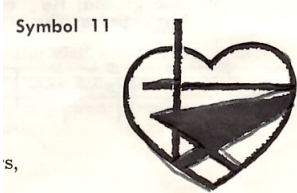
Symbol 9



Symbol 10



Symbol 11



Reference & symbol explanations on page 20

S-U-P-E-R SOUP!
November 15, 2025

From prep to product...
A very successful fundraiser.
Thank you to everybody who
worked, bought soup, and/or helped
in the planning and cleanup.
It was the BEST!



Made about 120 gallons
Collected about \$3,805



CHAIR CARTS AVAILABLE

On October 30, Robert and Diane Schoenbeck and Mark Liefer met at COSLHS and picked up 216 metal folding chairs and 3 racks to hang the chairs on. Robert had to modify the racks as they were too tall to fit through the gym storage room doors. Robert cut and shortened the vertical posts, then welded and painted them. Robert, Diane, and Brian Stellhorn then loaded chairs on the modified carts and moved them into the gym storage room.

The Alfred Stellhorn family purchased 200 chairs, and Robert and Diane purchased 16 chairs and 3 racks for holding the chairs. We are very thankful for these donations and the labor to make this all happen. Trinity's original metal folding chairs from about 1960 were sold at the rummage sale or later and are now all gone. Now that all of the old gym chairs have been sold and we have 3 new carts for holding the replacement chairs, we need to sell 2 carts which were used to hold the old chairs. Two of the original four carts have been sold.

Please contact Mark Liefer by phone or text at 618-967-8773 if you are interested in buying one of the remaining carts. Indeed, the wheels are worth more than the carts, but we ask that you take the cart even if you only want the wheels.

Price is not set. Please discuss a donation with Mark.



Left:
Trinity's old chair carts.
Two carts have been sold
and two carts remain for
sale.

Right:
Trinity's "new" chairs and
racks from COSLHS.



Thank you for your donations:
The Alfred Stellhorn family
Robert & Diane Schoenbeck

Council:

Grants- to inspire creativity in our parish by issuing grants for outreach projects, like the Thrivent Action Teams. He also is committed to visiting every parish and school in the district to see what the needs are. He also wants to promote Administrator training and Colloquy Support. He visited our school a few weeks ago and plans to attend our church in the new year. Upcoming, Thanksgiving service will be Nov 27 at 9:00 am. and the first Sunday in Advent will be Nov. 30. Church decorating will need be done Thanksgiving weekend. The three Advent Wednesday evenings services will begin December 3.

Elder's Report: Nothing to report

Trustee's Report: Nothing to report

Trinity will have a chicken soup carryout fundraiser on November 15.

There was discussion in regards to how we want to proceed with a mission budget for next year. It was felt that our mission is the same as it was at COSLHS. There are unchurched families in our school and this is our mission right here. It was suggested to continue the \$5,000 commitment and use it to pay salaries for teachers at Trinity. A motion was made to recommend to the congregation, at the annual meeting, to continue our Mission budget of \$15,000, with \$10,000 to go to the district, and \$5,000 to go to Trinity Lutheran School designated to pay salaries for our teachers. Motion seconded and carried.

Mark Liefer has suggested and volunteered to send a letter to the COSLHS association members to consider replacing their mission budget commitment to COSLHS with a mission budget support of Trinity Lutheran School. If they are willing to support in any way, the letter will state that the contributions will go towards paying the salaries of the teachers at our school.

The meeting was adjourned. Pastor led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Nagel, Secretary

Message:

The 7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening services this year will focus on "the Way," the significance of that particular phrase in the Holy Scriptures, leading up to Jesus proclamation, "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

**REMINDER:**

**TRINITY'S ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026**



Christmas Angel Tree Project

Contributions can be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one, as a gift of thanksgiving at Christmas or for any other joyous occasion.

Enclose this portion with your money or check in an envelope and place in the collection plate. Make checks payable to Sow & Grow LWML. Deadline to make a contribution is December 25, 2025.

My gift: \$_____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

____General Fund

____Church redecorating

____Other

Church Remodeling

The group will meet on a monthly basis to begin planning for the upcoming church remodeling project which is scheduled to start in the summer of 2026. The goal is to prepare a couple of plans to present to the congregation at our annual church meeting in January.

If you are interested in helping with these plans, please join us on December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Future meetings will follow as needed on the third Thursday of each month.
POC: Tim Luebke

Upcoming Election

Additional candidates
needed for:
Secretary
Elders
Trustees
Board of Finance
Board of Education
Contact Ken Fehr:
314-315-6204

Trinity’s annual voters’ meeting will be
Sunday, January 18, 2026.

Prayerfully consider submitting your name as a candidate
for one of the open positions.
Specifically, Dean Schoenbeck is looking for volunteers to
be added to the Treasurer’s slot on the ballot.
If you have any questions about the Treasurer’s position,
please contact Dean at 618-317-4988.





You are invited:
HOMETOWN CHURCHES
CELEBRATING CHRIST'S BIRTH
CHRISTMAS TOUR

This is a tour of churches in Randolph county. Currently there are 26 churches on the tour. Maps will be available at all the churches.

*Go to
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581739768595>
 for more information.*

*Sow n Grow will provide light snacks and water bottles.
 If you are interested in being a host at Trinity Church, please call Sandra Ruhmann in the evening 618-304-9011. Each shift will be two hours long (2 pm—4 pm, 4 pm—6 pm, and 6 pm—8 pm on both days.
 This is a free event.*

PARTICIPANTS

Chester:

*First Christian Church
 Chester First Baptist Church
 First United Methodist Church
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 Peace Lutheran Ev. Church
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 Grace Church Ministries*

Rockwood:

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church

Wine Hill:

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Percy:

Wesley United Methodist Church

Steeleville:

*Peace Lutheran Church
 Steeleville United Methodist Church
 St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church*

Bremen:

St.. John's Lutheran Church

Walsh:

*Zion Lutheran Church
 New Palestine United Methodist Church*

Sparta:

*Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Breath of Hope Assembly of God
 Trinity Presbyterian Church
 St. John's Lutheran Church
 First United Methodist Church
 Loyalty Missionary Baptist Church*

Red Bud:

*St. Peter United Church of Christ
Trinity Lutheran Church—Prairie*

Prairie du Rocher:

*PDR Community Library
 First Baptist Church
 Fort De Chartres Chapel*

Evansville:

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Modoc:

St. Leo's Church

Ellis Grove:

First Baptist Church



CALLING ALL STUDENTS

If you are in grades 5—12 and are interested in being an acolyte, please let Lisa Luebkekmann know by December 14.
This is a great way for our youth to get involved in the church and serve the Lord.

Trinity received a donation in memory of Rob Ratz.
We are grateful.



Newsletter Deadline:

Please submit items for the **January 2026** issue of Trinity Tidings **by December 22**...articles, information, recognitions, pictures, etc.
I try to reply to all messages, voicemails, and texts to confirm receipt.
If you do not receive a reply from me within a day or two, please contact me again.

Note: Items submitted after the deadline date may not be included in the issue.

Thank you!

Maureen Liefer

mmliefer@htc.net

618-615-3091 (cell/text), 282-2072 (home)

Hard copies accepted.

Altar Guild Schedule

December 7: Amy & Nicole
December 13: Sheryl & Faye
December 14: Rosalyn & Sharon
December 25: Jane & Margaret
December 31: Lexi, Brie, & Emily

Acolyte Schedule

December 7: Carter Lange
December 14: Harrison Rohlfing
December 21: Kelton Schnepel
December 25: Micah Sattler
December 28: Chelsea Salger

Usher Schedule (for the week of...)

December 7: Tim Luebkekmann
December 14: Youth Group
December 21: Jeff Mehring
December 28: Matt Piel

January 4: Michael Koester
January 11: Daryl Whelan
January 18: Dean Schoenbeck
January 25: Roger Liefer

2025 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Flower Committee would like to encourage anyone interested to bring live or silk poinsettias to adorn the church this Christmas season.

SILK arrangements may be brought to the new addition between Dec 1 and DEC. 8th due to church tour. Be sure to attach an address label or note to the pot or flower for easy owner identification and please fill out the form below for recognition.

LIVE poinsettias may be brought to the new addition from Dec. 13 through Dec 15th. Be sure to attach an address label or note to the pot or flower for easy owner identification and please fill out the form below for recognition. **Please pick up your live poinsettias after the December 25th church service.**

If you would like to make a donation in memory/honor of someone, in lieu of flowers, please fill out the form below. Donations made by **December 17** will be included on the list of donations in the Christmas and New Year bulletins and January newsletter..

1. PLACE in the Poinsettia Box located in the new addition table (envelopes provided) **OR ...**

2. GIVE to: Catherine Burmester, Janice Cowell, Lois Eckert, Sue Guebert, or Beverly Erdmann. **OR...**

3. MAIL form & payment to:

Trinity Flower Comm., % Janice Cowell, 5305 Richfield Rd., Red Bud, IL

By No

Trinity has always been blessed for the giving spirit of the parishioners. *Thank you for your support.*

Trinity Flower Committee: Catherine, 618-334-0150 ~ Janice 618-340-1394 ~ Lois 282-8241 ~ Sue 618-977-3142 ~ Beverly Erdmann

Please watch for the list of donations in the Christmas and New Year bulletins & January newsletter.

JOY to the world, the LORD has come!

RECEIPT: I donated \$_____ to Trinity Flower Fund on _____(date) __Cash or Ck # _____

Please detach lower portion and give to committee member. Extra order forms are in the Church Addition.

I am bringing _____ Live _____ Silk Poinsettias to church for Christmas.(please write in how many)

I would like to make a donation to Trinity Flower Fund.

Enclosed is \$_____ // Cash // Check # _____ (payable to Trinity Flower Fund.)

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
October 2025

GENERAL FUND

Balance October 1 **12,303.73**

INCOME:

General Fund Envelopes	20,236.18	
General Fund Plate Offering	1,048.00	
Mission Envelopes	50.00	
Missions - Plate	349.00	
Memorials	1,125.00	
Fidelity, Pershing, Ed Jones, Schwab	4,515.68	
Tuition	4,087.00	
Thrivent	5,149.00	
Mark & Maureen steeple repair donation	29,225.00	
Liefer LOC	10,000.00	
Total Income		75,784.86

EXPENSES:

Assessment-COSLHS	416.66	
Federal Withholding & SS	6,128.36	
IL Dept of Revenue	1,537.72	
Insurance Deductibles	192.00	
Monthly benefits/life,disab/retire	8,609.21	
Illinois Secure Choice	172.96	
Health Equity fee	13.20	
Brotherhood Mutual (church and school insurance monthly premium)	1,433.59	
Brotherhood Mutual (workman comp excess premium)	406.06	
Employee self retirement savings	254.30	
Salaries	26,596.83	
Concordia Publishing House (LW, church envelopes)	575.45	
Supplies	241.12	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Church	413.87	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - Parsonage	303.21	
Utilities - phone, electric, gas - School	1,328.06	
Prime Cutting LLC (grass mowing)	560.00	
Osborne Office Equipment (copier lease)	88.20	
Dieterich Bank LOC payment	300.00	
So IL Radio -WHCO	120.00	
Culligan (water treatment)	81.50	
Transfer Mark & Maureen steeple repair donation to church remodel	29,225.00	
AW SVCS (water testing service)	100.00	
Carroll Pest Solutions	180.00	
Teklab Inc (water testing)	325.00	
Returned check	240.00	
<i>Returned check fee (Dieterich)</i>	15.00	
Dieterich Ach Fee (payroll)	9.90	
Total Expenses		79,867.20

Balance October 31 **8,221.39**

Dieterich Line of Credit Balance	49,115.63
Liefer Line of Credit Balance	15,024.25
Total Loans	64,139.88

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
October 2025

BUILDING FUND

Balance October 1 **8,659.10**

INCOME:

Church Remodel CD#2 cash out	22,148.79
Church Remodel CD#1 cash out	14,147.41
Mark & Maureen steeple repair donation xfer from General Fund	29,225.00
Borrow from LCEF Organ Fund	9,011.00
Building Fund	150.00
Church Remodel	150.00
Interest	1.10

Total Income **74,833.30**

EXPENSES:

Tuition transfer to General Fund	400.00
Warnecke (Church brick and steeple repair)	79,587.00

Total Expenses **79,987.00**

Balance October 31 **3,505.40**

Allocated Funds:

School Memorials	914.86
Cemetery Fund	983.95
Church Remodel	150.97
CD#3=14112.86 CD#4=217296.94 CD#5=15000.00 CD#6=5900.00	

Total Allocated Funds without CD's **2,049.78**

Total Allocated Funds in CD's 4 CD's Church Remodel **252,309.80**

Non Allocated Funds Building Fund general use **1,455.62**

MISSIONS

Mission Commitment **15,000.00**

Envelope Offering	50.00
Plate Collection	349.00
Total Offering	399.00

Excess Funds total from September 1,657.42

Mission Offering short (Oct.=17.66) 17.66

Excess Funds total **1,639.76**

COSLHS Monthly Assessment 416.66 4,166.60

Southern Illinois District 0.00 10,000.00

Excess Funds not allocated 1,639.76

Total Offering to Date 15,806.36

Exceeded Commitment **806.36**

Dean Schoenbeck, Treasurer

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 p.m. Elders 7:30 p.m. Church Council	3 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Advent Service	4 6:00 p.m. Adult Conf. Class	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm. 7:00 p.m. Youth Conf. Class	8	9 7:00 p.m. Sow N Grow	10 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Advent Service	11 2:00—8:00 p.m. Christmas Open House 6:00 p.m. Adult Conf. Class	12 2:00—8:00 p.m. Christmas Open House	13 5:00 p.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.
14 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm. 12:45 p.m. Caroling 6:00 p.m. School Program	15	16	17 7:50 a.m. Chapel 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 12:30 p.m. Quilting 7:00 p.m. Advent Service	18 6:00 p.m. Adult Conf. Class 7:00 p.m. Redecoration Committee	19	20
21 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Adult Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Divine Service	22 <i>No School until Jan. 6</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:00 p.m. Children's Program 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.	26	27 5:00 p.m. Divine Service
28 <i>No SS/BC</i> 10:00 a.m. Divine Service	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> 5:00 p.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.	(1) <i>New Year's Day</i> 9:00 a.m. Divine Service w/ Holy Comm.		

Editor's Note (cont.):**NOTES TO THE LEADER**

You may wish to divide the children into 22 groups, assigning older children to prophecy parts and younger children to fulfillment parts.

It is suggested that you seat the older children (Grades 4–8) in the rear of the auditorium or church, placing odd-numbered groups on the left and even-numbered groups on the right. This will lend itself to an antiphonal rendering of each part. The children need only stand to recite. This eliminates traffic problems and improves the worship setting.

It is further suggested that the younger children (Kindergarten—Grade 3) be seated in the front of the auditorium or church. Why? 1. They will be able to see the symbols and actions. 2. They will be heard better by the congregation. 3. By seating the children in this way the congregation is placed in the middle, giving it a feeling of participation. The children in front may simply stand and face the congregation or proceed to a platform on the side, which ever facilitates hearing them the best.

You will need a manger, one large white candle, six purple candles, and six graduated candle holders for this service. Place a large white candle in the manger and place the manger in center front. Put six candles on either side of the manger in their holders. Two acolytes are needed to light and extinguish candles as indicated.

The symbols may be on large placards or with an overhead projector may be projected on a screen placed above but behind the manger.

It should remain uppermost in each person's mind that this is a worship service. To encourage this attitude, you may want to dim the lights so that the focus is on the candles and the symbols rather than on the children. It will help the congregation participate if sufficient copies of the program are ordered so that each person present may have his own.

Symbols are all around us. Take a look: in church...on your vehicle's dashboard...on road signs...in writing...

editing...abbreviations...computer programming (just to name a few).

They're everywhere!!

"Behold the Light" was A Christmas Service for The Congregation with Its Children (author: Ann L Meyer & printed by Concordia Publishing House, 1968) that St. John's Lutheran School in Chester presented when I was in 8th grade.

The Christmas program was based on symbols. Symbols that are just as significant for us today as they were for me 57 years ago.

Explanations of the "Behold the Light" symbols (found on page 9 in this issue) are below:

SYMBOL EXPLANATIONS

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Symbol 1 | Serpent (devil) would bruise the heel of Christ. |
| Symbol 2 | The earth would be blessed by the cross of Christ. |
| Symbol 3 | Scepter symbolizes that the promised Messiah would be born of Judah. |
| Symbol 4 | God (the triangle) is with us in the Christ (the manger). |
| Symbol 5 | The Messiah is the Prince (crown) of Peace. |
| Symbol 6 | The Bethlehem Star recalls Jesus' birthplace. |
| Symbol 7 | The angel foretold the birth of John. |
| Symbol 8 | Mary knelt as the angel (diamond shape) told her of God's plan. |
| Symbol 9 | The Light (candle) of the world was born in a manger. |
| Symbol 10 | The shepherd's crook recalls the visit of the shepherds. |
| Symbol 11 | Christ (the manger) came to take away our sins by His death. The heart figure reminds us that this Christmastide He wants to dwell in our hearts by faith. |

As was written inside the front cover of this program booklet:
The candle...is symbolic of the Light, Christ Jesus. He enters our hearts as the Way of our salvation. The prophecies were light symbols to the Old Testament Jews. This was their hope. When Christ came,



people had the Light itself and no longer based their hope of promises but on fulfillment...Our hope is that having beheld the Light, we now carry the Light forward so that all [people] may see Jesus Christ as Savior and acknowledge Him as Lord.

**Christmas Blessings to all of you.
Guided by God's light, Maureen**