

December 2025

Pastor's Page

Trinity Tidings
December 2025

What do you Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent

I wanted to share with you all our upcoming theme for Advent, "What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent." But as I sat down to write, I realized that the original writers of the curriculum we use (Sanctified Art) might say it best. So here is what they shared about the theme:

"Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers, however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

We've crafted an Advent series that takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. This series looks closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invites us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us, and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work? This series gently invites us to identify where fear is present—both in the Advent story and in our lives—while also finding our way toward hope, with the angels' voices in our ears.

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. We hold onto hope because we believe that Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. Our hope is not flimsy or fleeting. It's gritty, resilient, and can endure—no matter what we fear or face. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear."



Advent and Christmas worship schedule

- Sunday, November 30** 8:00 & 10:00 *First Sunday of Advent worship*
- Sunday, December 7** 8:00 & 10:00 *Second Sunday of Advent worship*
- Sunday, December 14** 10:00 *Sunday School Christmas program/worship*
Cookie party to follow in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, December 21** 8:00 & 10:00 *Fourth Sunday of Advent worship*
- Wednesday, December 24th/Christmas Eve**
2:00, 4:00, 7:00 p.m. *Candlelight worship with Holy Communion*
(Livestreamed and available to view online later.)
- Thursday, December 25 *Merry Christmas!***
- Sunday, December 28 *One worship service at 9:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols***

TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church



Children & Youth Ministry News

Family Sunday School/Children's Ministry

We are so excited to celebrate the birth of our Savior that brings good news of great joy for all people at our Christmas program on Sunday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. We invite you to come watch the program and stay after for a cookie party in the Fellowship Hall. The children have been preparing for this special day and we know it will be a joyful delight this season. Special thank you to Courtney Fairbanks for directing, Joe Lewis for audio/visual, and Melissa Westmore for piano accompaniment along with all of our amazing Sunday School helpers and volunteers. Our Sunday School students also helped pack welcome poppers and made decorations for Trinity hosting the PATH program this month. Merry Christmas Blessings to our Trinity Families!



December 7 – Program Rehearsal/Family Sunday School 9:00-9:45 a.m.

December 14 - Program Rehearsal at 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m., Christmas Program at 10:00 a.m. service, Cookie Party to follow in the Fellowship Hall

December 21 and 28 – NO Sunday School - Merry Christmas!

January 4 – Family Sunday School Resumes 9:00-9:45 a.m.

Faith Friends - January 14

Faith Friends will resume in the New Year on Wednesday, January 14, from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Join us in the Sunday School rooms for our seasonal Bible verse, craft, and activities. All families are invited to join for TLC Pizza Night from 6:00-6:30 p.m. TLC Pizza Night serves Domino's Pizza, salad, lemonade, and water.

Confirmation 6th, 7th and 8th grades, meets Wednesday evenings

December 3– Confirmation 6:30-7:30 pm

December 10– Christmas Party offsite 6:00-9:15* note time change



EDGE High School Youth Ministry

EDGE participated in our Christmas outreach shopping trip to Target to help support the giving tree tags for children in foster care this Christmas. In December, EDGE will focus on Advent and have our annual Christmas Party. After Christmas break, we'll be back in the New Year with a number of service projects, including packing Viking Vittles, Poverty Simulation, and playing games at Ecumen. We'll also have our lock in, Breakfast Club, and much more! We wish everyone a joyous and blessed Christmas season!

December 3: NB Breakfast Club, 7:00-7:30 a.m.

December 3: EDGE 6:30-7:30 p.m.

December 7: EDGE Serves Coffee Hour

December 10: - EDGE Christmas Party: offsite 6:00-9:15 p.m.

December 14: EDGE Helps with Cookie Party 9:30-11:30 a.m.

December 17, 24, 31- NO EDGE: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



NB Breakfast Club Our next NB Breakfast Club is on Wednesday, December 3, from 7:00-7:30 a.m. before school in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. Breakfast Club is for all 9-12 grade high school students. Join us for a full breakfast, friends, fun, and an encouraging Word before school! To donate towards these meals please note "Breakfast Club" on your donation. Thank you!



Music in memory of Vonnie Johnson from Darlene Nelson

Senior Socials in memory of Janet Johnson from Darlene Nelson

Viking Vittles in memory of David & Martha Arnold

Undesignated in honor of Merrill & Helen Grams 76th Anniversary from Scott Grams



Holy Hotdish Bible Study - "Ruth: Fields of Grace" Holy Hotdish will take a break in December. We encourage you to attend Trinity's annual Advent Tea on December 1. Holy Hotdish will return on Sunday, January 4, 2026, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. This is a Bible study for women of all ages and is for beginners and experienced Bible readers alike. We begin with Hot dish supper, refreshments, and fellowship, followed by Bible study on the book of Ruth, discussion, and prayer.

Our Little Free Libraries are in need of books for all ages. Our supply is depleted. Donations can be placed in the bin inside Door 12. Thank you!

Diaper Collection We are collecting disposable diapers and wipes for families in need. If you have a partial package of leftover diapers, or would like to purchase diapers, we will create bundles that could be distributed as needed. Please leave donations in the office. Thank you!

BLESSING BAGS We will be packing our children's Blessing Bags on Wednesday, December 3rd in the Genesis room at 10:00. If you have a tight schedule, no problem! Many hands make light work, and we typically are done in two hours.) Thank you for all your generous donations and your continued support of this ministry!!

Trinity's Outreach Committee wants to remind the congregation that Outreach includes giving to our members, members friends and families. We want to reach those in need right in our church home and will provide confidential gifts to all in need. Please contact Julie or Martha Arnold at office@trinitynorthbranch.org with your requests.



Thank you to Trinity's Men's Group for their work on fall yard clean up for some Trinity members! Their work is greatly appreciated!



New Pathways has a new HOME!

The walls are up, the roof is on and now it's time to furnish and deck the halls!

Join an informational celebration about how you can help:

Wednesday, December 3 3:00-4:00 p.m.
at Pinewood Event Center
33262 Palm St NW, Cambridge, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch is seeking a Part Time Assistant Custodian. This position's primary responsibility is to provide cleaning and minor building maintenance as well as yard work and snow removal. Candidate would need to be available to open and close building on rotating weekends with Lead Custodian and on an as needed basis.

Work schedule is Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 am to 12 pm and a few hours every other weekend.

The full job description can be found at <https://trinitynorthbranch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Assistant-Custodian.pdf> See Sue with questions or to apply.

Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. (ONE service only)
Cookie Party and refreshments to follow

Sunday, December 14, Worship Reminder:

We will have ONE service at 10:00 a.m. No 8:00 a.m. service this day. All are invited to our Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:00 a.m. and cookie party to follow. There is no 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour.

8:45 a.m. Christmas Program Practice
10:00 a.m. Christmas Program and Worship
10:45 a.m. Cookie Party in Fellowship Hall

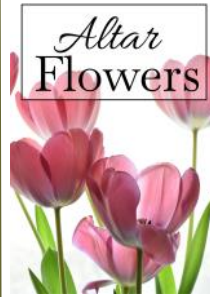
Christmas Eve Worship will be held at 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. All services will have candlelight worship with Holy Communion.

We will have one service of Lessons and Carols at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 28.

Greeting cards are sent periodically to our homebound members. If you are not receiving cards from Trinity and would like to be added to the mailing list, please call the office at 651-674-7047 and we will add you!



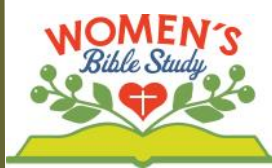
Join us for Coffee Hour and Fellowship time between services each week. It's a great opportunity to meet new friends!



To sponsor altar flowers, please sign up on the calendar near the church office, and bring a plant or an arrangement of fresh flowers prior to 7:45 a.m. that Sunday. See Julie with questions.

The Outreach Committee will be meeting the second Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m. in the Genesis Room. Many exciting projects are being planned for the next few months. Come and join us December 9.

Martha Arnold, Chair person.



Our Women's Bible Study meets at 9 a.m. on Thursday mornings in our Genesis Room. Beginners and experienced Bible readers are encouraged to join at any time!



We are looking for volunteers to help out as ushers, greeters and communion assistants at our worship services. Training is available if desired. If you are interested in helping out in this way please sign up in the narthex, or talk with Julie or Dani. Thank you!



To submit a prayer chain prayer request or to be added to the email recipient list, please call the office or email office@trinitynorthbranch.org

Are you receiving the Tidings by e-mail and by regular mail?

To reduce our expenses and receive only the email version, contact Julie at office@trinitynorthbranch.org

Trinity's grocery shelf has seen continued use. Non-perishable or personal care items, may be placed on the shelf. We have a freezer available as well. We have multiple requests for gas cards. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, note "Grocery Shelf " or "Gas Cards" on your donation and we will do the shopping for you. Thank you for supporting our community in this way!

ALTAR GUILD
Serving for the month
of December

Sue Gustafson & Jane Magnison



Please email articles for the December Trinity Tidings to office@trinitynorthbranch.org by December 15. Thank you!

Fare for All
3:00-5:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 3.
Fare for All is open to everyone! The more who shop the better the buying power of the organization. www.fareforall.org








Our weekly worship will be available each Sunday live at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m. on our YouTube channel, and about 90 minutes later on our facebook page. Links can be found on our website.

Like Trinity Lutheran Church on facebook, and comment on our posts! Worship videos are posted each Sunday!



"Christ in Our Home" daily devotionals for October, November, December are in the Narthex. Large and regular print books are available. If you'd like a copy, email jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org or leave a message for Julie at 651-674-7047 to pickup.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Services are broadcast live on YouTube and an hour after the service on Facebook</p>	<p>1 9:00 am Fellowship meeting 6:00 pm Advent Tea</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7:00 am Breakfast Club 10:00 am Blessing Bag packing 3:00-5:00 pm Fare for All 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm EDGE Youth Ministry</p>	<p>4 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise band 7:00 pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>5 </p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour 9:00 am Sunday School 11:15 am Choir 5:00 pm Holy Hot Dish offsite Path program hosting</p>	<p>8 Path program hosting</p>	<p>9 9:00 am Outreach meeting Path program hosting</p>	<p>10 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:00 pm Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm EDGE Youth Ministry 7:00 pm Bell Choir Path program hosting</p>	<p>11 9:00 am Women's Bible Study Path program hosting</p>	<p>12 Path program hosting</p>	<p>13 Path program hosting</p>
<p>14 Worship Service/ Communion 10:00 am only Christmas program 8:45 am rehearsal 11:00 am Cookie Party Path program hosting</p>	<p>15 Tidings articles due  Path program hosting</p>	<p>16 7:00 pm Church Council Path program hosting</p>	<p>17  Path program hosting</p>	<p>18 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Praise Band 6:30 pm Choir Path program hosting</p>	<p>19 Path program hosting</p>	<p>20 Path program hosting</p>
<p>21 Worship Service/ Communion 8:00 & 10:00 am 9:00 am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 5:00 pm Praise Band 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Bell choir</p>	<p>24 Candlelight worship with Holy Communion 2:00, 4:00, 7:00 pm Church office is closed</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 9:00 am EDGE Alumni/ Young Adult meet up</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Worship Service/ Communion 9:00 am only Lessons & Carols 10:00 am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>29 The building and office are closed this week</p>	<p>30 The building and office are closed this week</p>	<p>31 The building and office are closed this week</p>	<p>1 Happy New Year! The building and office are closed this week</p>		

Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending October 31, 2025
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>Income</u>				
Unified Giving	\$ 31,555	\$ 34,325	\$ 323,837.16	\$ 343,249.20
Loose Offering	\$ 1,161	\$ 667	\$ 8,219.08	\$ 6,666.70
Other Income	\$ 20	\$ 13	\$ 12,312.08	\$ 9,475.00
Phoenix Operating Reimbursement	\$ 3,408	\$ 2,000	\$ 24,139.24	\$ 20,000.00
Special Bequests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Regular Giving	\$ 36,144	\$ 37,004	\$ 368,508	\$ 379,391
	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<u>Expenses</u>				
<u>Mission Support</u>				
Synod Support	\$ 2,429	\$ 2,429	\$ 24,291.66	\$ 24,291.66
Missionaries	\$ 188	\$ 188	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 1,875.00
Iringa Church Tanzania	\$ 92	\$ 92	\$ 916.70	\$ 916.70
Sub-total Mission Expenses	\$ 2,708	\$ 2,708	\$ 27,083.36	\$ 27,083.36
<u>General Expenses</u>				
Ministry Support	\$ 45,461	\$ 49,905	\$ 368,236	\$ 388,736
Church Property	\$ 5,509	\$ 7,117	\$ 76,476	\$ 83,744
Stewardship	\$ 785	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,685	\$ 5,350
Learning & Youth	\$ (248)	\$ 973	\$ 7,944	\$ 15,555
Worship	\$ 632	\$ 917	\$ 4,272	\$ 6,217
Audio Visual	\$ -	\$ 125	\$ 1,438	\$ 1,250
Witness & Service	\$ -	\$ 404	\$ 542	\$ 3,142
Sub-total General Expenses	\$ 52,139	\$ 60,641	\$ 461,593	\$ 503,994
Total Regular Expenses	\$ 54,847	\$ 63,349	\$ 488,677	\$ 531,077
Total Net Income - October 2024	\$ (18,703)	\$ (26,345)	\$ (120,169)	\$ (151,686)
Unified Support - Phoenix	\$ 19,000	\$ 13,479	\$ 120,600	\$ 134,792
Income Less Expense after Phoenix Support	\$ 297	\$ (12,866)		
Total Net Income - Year-To-Date			\$ 431	\$ (16,894)

October Income was \$860 under the October Budget
October Expense was \$8,502 under the October Budget

Net Income is \$297 for October
Net Income is \$431 Year to Date

YTD Phoenix Rent Received \$197,748.87

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd J. Fisk

Treasurer

Contributions reminder: If mailing in your contribution or using online bill pay, please include P.O. Box 447 in the mailing address. Also, please mark your contribution so the monies are directed to the appropriate fund. Thank you!

See our website www.trinitynorthbranch.org to give **electronically** on a one-time or recurring basis. Select the date and frequency (one time, weekly or monthly) and designate the amount and fund (Unified, Building, Viking Vittles, Memorial or Other.) Changes can easily be made at any time. **Offering can also be mailed** to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056.

Christmas Season Poinsettia Garden

If you would like to contribute toward our Christmas season poinsettia garden in memory of or in gratitude for someone or something, please complete this form and return it to the church office. In order to be listed in the Christmas Eve insert, please return no later than Sunday, December 14th.

Forms received after December 14th will not be included in the Christmas Eve insert.

(Please print. Thank-you!)

In memory of _____

In gratitude for: _____

From _____

Mail to Trinity Lutheran Church, Attn: Julie Morgan, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056



Trinity's Giving Tree is up.

Tags will include age, gender, and some gift suggestions.

Do not feel you

need to purchase each item listed. Gifts will be due back to Trinity by Sunday, December 7th, and should be unwrapped. A gift bag works well.

Thank you for your support of this gift ministry!



We welcome new members Richard & Jana Huth, Valerie Millard and David & Jennie Tedrow who joined Trinity on November 16.



AUDIO-VISUAL
---team---

A/V volunteers needed Sunday mornings

We are looking for volunteers to run the worship slides Sunday mornings. If you are interested or have questions, talk to

Joe in the booth or message the office at office@trinitynorthbranch.org. Training is available.

To be included on your 2025 giving statement, all contributions must be received by December 28.



"What do you fear?" Advent booklets are available in the narthex, and as an attachment to the newsletter and weekly emails sent during Advent.

This devotional takes seriously the angels' message "Do not fear," and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people.

Two different daily Advent calendars are included in this newsletter as well.

Attendance & Views			
Date		In person	Online views
10/19	8a	50	119
	10a	82	144
10/26	8a	40	91
	10a	152	114
11/2	8a	84	93
	10a	108	119
11/9	8a	43	125
	10a	71	99

TWIGS Save the date-upcoming events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Synodical Women's Convention
Saturday April 25, 2026
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Circle Pines

KEY NOTE: Marcie R. Rendon, author of "Where They Last Saw Her"

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -SAVE THE DATE

TRIENNIAL GATHERING
(National Women of the ELCA convention)
July 16 - 19 2026 Des Moines, Iowa
Visit welcatg.org for more information
THEME: I AM WORTHY (PSALM 39:14)



TRINITY
Lutheran Church

38460 Lincoln Trail
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North Branch, MN 55056

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Mailing Label

December 2025

Partners in Ministry: The People of Trinity

Church Office: 651-674-7047 Church Fax: 651-674-7048
Church Office Hours: 8:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Thursday
Sunday Worship: 8 am & 10 am (available on YouTube and facebook)
Church email: office@trinitynorthbranch.org
Church website: www.trinitynorthbranch.org

Pastor Paul Cannon ext. 12

Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator ext 37

Marie Ray, Director of Youth & Family Ministries ext. 13

Courtney Fairbanks, Sunday School Coordinator ext. 15

Melissa Westmore, Director of Music ext. 14

Julie Morgan, Church Office Manager ext. 10

Danielle Baumann, Volunteer Coordinator

Christopher Dehen, Financial Recorder

Ron Stuart, Audio Technician rstuart@trinitynorthbranch.org

Joe Lewis, Video Technician jlewis@trinitynorthbranch.org

Roger Anderson & Jeff Hill, Custodians
Open, Cemetery Staff

Outreach Committee:
Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org

Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer

Missionaries: Our Sister Congregation in
Tanzania—Pawaga

Church Council Members:
Jeremy Edson, Council Chair
Tiffany Byrne, Shari Denny, Jeff Johnson,
Rosanne Johnson, Jim Naggatz, Barb Nelson,
Dan Peterson, John Swenson

Christmas Eve

2:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

