

# TRINITY LUTHERAN

323 South 4th St. PO Box 239  
Moville, IA 51039  
Phone: (712) 873-3327  
tlchurchmoville@gmail.com



## Hymn of the Month “You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd” ACS #954

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave. You, peacemaker and sword bringer of the way you took and gave. You, the everlasting instant; you whom we both scorn and grave.

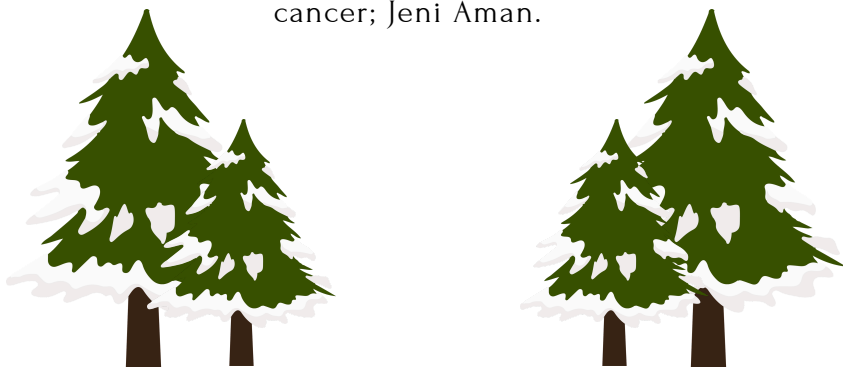
Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross, shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier’s toss, you the everlasting instant; you who are both gift and cost.

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## We Pray For

We pray for Kenny Stroman; Barb Kunkel; Carla Boggs; Barb Allner; Diane Riediger; Bill Nagel; Ed Kunkel; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

For those battling cancer: Jayme Webb –breast cancer; Jeni Aman.



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# From the Pastor

Happy New Year! Last year, I made a resolution. I think in my entire life, it was the first time that I kept with that resolution. I decided that I would spend some time everyday learning Spanish. Amazingly, I have been doing it. Now, am I fluent? By no means. Can I say a few phrases and if someone speaks slowly and clearly in simple sentences can I understand them? Yes.

Learning something new takes time. That is a lesson that I have had to learn. I have this bad habit of believing that if I try something new, I must immediately be brilliant at it. If I am not well, I guess it was never meant to be. The number of hobbies I have started to give up on after a single attempt is incredible. I think that it was Maxwell Gladstone that came up with this idea of 10,000 hours. It takes 10,000 hours of doing a thing before you have mastered it.

Why am I writing about learning new things in this month's newsletter?

To be blunt, the church is in a place where it needs to learn how to do things in a new way. Not just Trinity, but church meaning the church universal. Aside from maybe having screens in sanctuaries, digital newsletters and bulletins, and some new hymnals, church today looks pretty similar to church of 1926. The governance of congregations and how they function hasn't changed much since 1976. We are church for a world and a people who no longer exist.

In the 50's-70's, membership and participation was soaring, exploding even. Congregations started acting like corporations, like big businesses. Committees were formed, members specialized in this that or the other thing. And the pastor was the jack of all trades, a professional paid to do the work of the church, like visiting, bringing communion, preaching, teaching, counseling, etc.

Where we, where the church, finds itself today is different. No longer are there 6-7 (I know what I did there) members of a committee. Some committees are have been completely abandoned, while others have 1 or 2 members trying to do the same work.

We are all the church. We are all Christians. We are called to work together. The members of the committees currently are doing incredible work, but we all should be doing the work of outreach, hospitality, visitation, education, and beyond. We are called to be disciples, sharing in the work that God has given us in this time and place.

Blessings,  
Rev. Ed

## Birthdays

1 - Jayme Webb  
4 - Rachel Black  
    Blake Ronfeldt  
5 - Rick Flaugh  
6 - Bill Balk  
    Barb Kunkel  
    Gracie Nelson  
7 - Eleanor Cross  
    Eric Ploen  
9 - Jennifer Brosamle  
    Steve Steffen  
12 - Diane Drevs  
    William Nagel  
    Madison Ploen  
    Wes Zellmer  
13 - Blake Stratton  
14 - Jacob Ringkob  
    Nyomie Whaley  
15 - Kaleb Dau  
    Tim Green  
16 - Kristina Malm  
    Michael Robley  
19 - Ava Dimmitt  
    Betty Molland  
21 - Jordan Martin  
24 - Pat Thomas  
    Linda Zellmer  
25 - Colin Christiansen  
28 - Scott Malm  
29 - Dawn Bain

## Anniversaries

7 - Alan & Kim Koehler  
24 - Gene Wink & Peggy Hopp  
30 - Jeff & Mishelle Powell

### Thank you!

-December Worship Assistants  
-Ruth Chartier for playing beautiful music for us during worship  
-Everyone who participated in our KidZone Christmas Program  
-All the KidZone Volunteers  
-Pastor Ed for all his hard work during Advent  
-The Men's Group for hosting a delicious pancake breakfast.

### January Worship Assistants

Organist: Ruth Chartier  
Altar Guild: Dave & Patti Christiansen  
Scripture Reader: Blake Stratton  
Offertory Accountants: Dave & Patti Christiansen  
Tech Assistant: Jill & Casey Stratton

# What's going on at TLC?

## KidZone Christmas Program

Trinity hosted another Intergenerational Worship this past month. It was a great opportunity for the children to watch and take ownership over the worship service. Thanks to all who participated.



## 2025 Annual Meeting

Annual Report Articles should be turned in to the office by January 11.

The annual report discussion will be held after worship on Sunday, January 18.

The 2025 Annual Meeting will be the following Sunday, January 25 at approximately 10:15. If you would like to be apart of either the discussson or the annual meeting, but are unable to make it in person, let the church office know and will we either video call or phone you in.

## Christmas Eve Worship



# TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## November 2025

### Trinity Lutheran Church

Date: Sunday, November 9, 2025

Present: Pastor Ed, Denny Bain, John Ringkob, Lynn Morgan, Cindy Ploen, Gloria Healy, Roger Christiansen, Deb Wilcke, Jill Stratton, Blake Stratton, Corey Steffen, Sonia Locke, Peggy Hopp

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Blake Stratton at 10:15AM.

Opening: Pastor led prayer

Pastor's Report

Announce:

- Synod / ELCA updates
- Additional announcements
- Christmas Program is Dec 14, Men's Group will serve a pancake breakfast following the service
- Giving Tree Changes - Gloria updated; the Community Action Agency will focus on the most needed items and ask for collection from that list. We also have 10 names from LSI and some from Woodbury Central. Due by 12/5.
- Christmas Eve Service - Dec. 24th at 5 PM

Discuss/Follow-Up:

- Church building / Parsonage
  - Parsonage Roof Update- we are on the list.
  - Locks - Replace cylinders in east and west doors = \$167 + 7.25 + tax/ new key; see motion in decide section.
  - Insurance = Electrical inspection completed by Ryan Gilbert. Verification of new roofs will be mailed this week.
- Church Directory Update- Instant Church Directory
- Veterans Plaque Update: If you know anyone who needs added let us know.
- Secretary Position - Job posting will go out today
- Advent Services: 12/3, 12/12, 12/17 - Designate Offerings- see motion in decide section
- Soup and Pie Luncheon - \$760 - see motion in decide section
- Budget Meeting
- Brainstorm for further discussion- Fellowship Committee Revamp
- Brainstorm for further discussion -Reinstate visitation committee

Decide:

- Motion made by John Ringkob, seconded by Cindy Ploen, to move forward replacing the cylinders/locks on the entryway doors and have 12 keys made. The motion passed unanimously.

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- Motion made by Cindy Ploen, seconded by Roger Christiansen, to designate Advent offering to purchase items to donate to the Woodbury Central Care Closet. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Deb Wilcke, seconded by Sonia Locke, to donate money from Soup & Pie Luncheon to the Community Basket, designating it for purchase of food. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Pastor Ed, seconded by Roger Christiansen to approve the October Council Meeting Minutes, motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Roger Christiansen, seconded by Denny Bain, to approve the October Treasurer's report, motion passed unanimously.
- The December Council Meeting is set for December 7 following worship.

In the near future:

- Annual Meeting/Reports
- Souper Bowl of Caring

Adjourn: Motion made by Denny Bain, seconded by John Ringkob, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:24AM.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Stratton, Council Secretary

# JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Council Meeting 10:15 AM	5	6	7 Confirmation Class 7:00 PM	8	9	10
11 Annual Reports Due to the Office	12	13 AA Meeting 7:00 PM	14 Confirmation Class 7:00 PM	15	16	17
18 Annual Report Discussion 10:00 AM	19	20 AA Meeting 7:00 PM	21 Confirmation Class 7:00 PM	22	23	24
25 Annual Meeting 10:15 AM	26	27 AA Meeting 7:00 PM	28 Confirmation Class 7:00 PM	29	30	31