



MISSION IMPACTS

Operation Christmas Child

The Mission team wishes to extend our gratitude and thanks to all of the volunteers for Operation Christmas Child this year! This includes all who made or donated items such as crocheted items, hygiene kits, fishing kits, school supply kits, dresses, and tic-tac-toe games. Also, for all the those that helped fold boxes, set up and tear down the display, and transporting boxes to the drop off location. We also wish to thank you, the congregation for generously packing boxes with so much love! The total boxes packed from Trinity this year is **152 boxes**. What blessing to send this many boxes and God’s word to these children! Thank you!



Submitted by Sarah Garcia

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM...

Do you contribute to Trinity through a **Qualified Retirement Fund** or are you planning to do so?

We are so grateful to each of you for remembering Trinity in your financial planning. To help us make sure your dollars are linked to your name, especially if you are an annual or semi annual giver, please notify the church office at the time the Qualified Charitable Contribution is processed by your institution. Also, please let us know how you want the funds to be distributed. Do not hesitate to contact the finance office by email (finassist@trinityalive.org) or phone (402-564-8547) with any questions.



- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024
must be received no later than December 31, 2024.
- Place contributions in offering plates on any weekend in December.
 - Mail and have them postmarked by 12/31/24.
 - Post to website at www.trinityalive.org/give by 12/31/24 with a settle date by 12/31/24.
 - Drop off in the Church Office by Noon on Dec. 31. *The Church Office closes at Noon on Dec. 31 and is closed Jan. 1.*

- Deductible in 2024:**
- Checks written and deposited in church offering in December 2024.
 - Checks written in December 2024 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2024, but not received by the church until 2025.
- Deductible in 2025:**
- Checks written in 2024 and deposited in the church offering in January 2025.
 - Checks written and deposited in the church offering in January 2025 but “back dated” to December 2024.
 - Checks written in December 2024 and deposited in the mail in December 2024, but not postmarked until January 2025 and not received by the church until January 2025.

CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS

SCAN HERE

CHRISTMAS

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALLURE HEALTH & MED SPA

HILARY MUHLE, NP

HORMONE REPLACEMENT

BOTOX

FILLERS

SCULPTRA

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A Season to Share, A Season to Serve

Have you noticed how people light up about the things they’re most involved in? Just ask a football dad, a volleyball mom, or your foodie friend who just discovered the perfect recipe. Their excitement spills over, leading them to invite others into what they love.

I’ve heard it said that “Engagement fuels involvement. *Involvement fuels passion. Passion fuels invitation.*” That’s why your friend wants you to try that recipe, watch the game with them, or give a 5k a shot. Their passion is contagious. The same is true in our faith, but it can be hard to know what to invite those we know and love into. The truth is, when we are engaged in the mission of Jesus, no matter how big or small, it naturally leads to an invitation for others to experience Him. Why? Because we are reflecting the heart of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45).

This Christmas season, we have the perfect opportunity to live this out. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we can reflect His love by being involved: worshiping at one of our four Christmas Eve services and choosing to be engaged by serving at another. Serving not only deepens our connection to Jesus but also creates opportunities for others to experience His transformative love. It’s one way we live out our mission: “Loving God, Loving People, and Growing Followers of Jesus.”

Now I know for some of you overachievers out there, it may seem possible to serve and worship at the same service, but I encourage you to consider worshiping at one service and serving at another, especially during the earlier services. I’ve learned that when we try to combine the two, we often end up serving only ourselves and miss the heart of why we chose to serve in the first place. The pull of our families, the pressure to secure "our" seats, and the distraction of serving while trying to focus on worship can leave us feeling stretched and less present but it also can work against us the opposite way, as our serving can distract our time to really worship our newborn King. At Trinity, we want you to receive the gift of both this season because we want it to be about the transformative love of Jesus. By intentionally choosing to serve during this special time, we demonstrate the heart of the gospel, a Savior who came not to be served, but to serve. And when we serve, we become part of the story, extending an invitation that might just be the beginning of someone’s life being changed by Jesus.

Think about the small acts of kindness that have encouraged you here at Trinity? A warm smile, a kind word in the halls, or a nursery volunteer easing your mind. These simple gestures can make all the difference. This Christmas, you can be the one offering them. That’s the kind of church we want to be at Trinity: a church that shares Jesus with passion, hospitality, and a servant’s heart. This Christmas let’s be engaged with our family, friends, and guests in worship “and” in serving. Let’s invite others into the joy and hope that comes from knowing Jesus. Together, we can create an environment that truly changes everything, not just for us, but for those God is drawing near.

Ready to Join our Christmas Eve Team?

Visit trinityalive.org, scan the code on page 6, or stop by the serving table this weekend to explore how you can make a difference this Christmas Eve. Whether it’s greeting guests, helping in the nursery, or giving a family a helping hand, your service matters and could be the difference for someone to meet Jesus for the first time.

December 2024

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OUR MISSION:
Loving God, Loving People, & Growing Followers of Jesus

2200 25th Street
Columbus, NE 68601
402.564.8547
trinityoffice@trinityalive.org
www.trinityalive.org

Worship Schedule
5:30 p.m. Saturday
10:00 a.m. Sunday

Pastor
Billy Czapla

Pastor
Ollie Fullmer

Minister of Worship & Creative Arts
Manuel Tabora

Youth Ministry Intern
Landon Sliva

Director of Children’s Ministry
Glenda Lundstrom

TRINITY'S YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL UPDATE	
2024 INCOME & EXPENSE THROUGH October 31, 2024	
YTD Income	\$ 711,843
YTD Expenses	\$ 682,956
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$28,887

Annual Projected BUDGET
Income \$809,716 // Expense \$809,716
84% of year elapsed
88% of budgeted annual income received
85% of budgeted annual expenses incurred



Church Office Holiday Hours

December 24	Closed at Noon
December 25	Closed
December 26	Closed
December 31	Closed at Noon
January 1	Closed



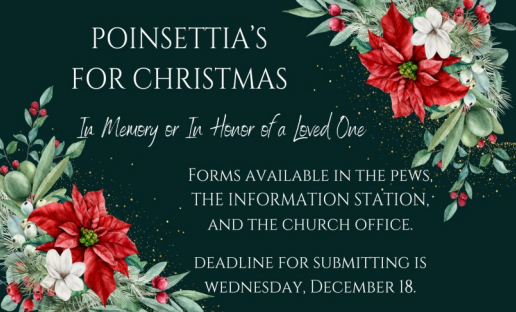
GOD'S CREATION CALENDARS



\$15

While Supplies last!

All money raised will support High School Missions.
Thank you for your support!



POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS

In Memory or In Honor of a Loved One

FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE PEWS,
THE INFORMATION STATION,
AND THE CHURCH OFFICE.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING IS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18.

Trinity Council Members

Kris Gernstein, *President*

Ken Andreasen, *Vice President*

Kay Johnson, *Secretary*

Greg Eickmeier, *Treasurer*

Cheryl Brewer, *Recording Secretary*

Trina Jeffries

Amanda Jensen

Mike Kruse

Dan Mickey

Hillary Rasmussen

October 2024 Council Notes

Submitted by Kay Johnson, Council Secretary

The October 15, 2024, Council meeting was called to order by President Kris Gernstein.

Pastor Billy led a devotional based on John 15:1-8.

Thank you cards from Sheepgate Women’s Center and Platte Valley Literacy Association were received as well as an acknowledgement to Pastor Billy for his participation at the Right to Life Prayer Service.

The minutes from Sept. 17, 2024, and financial reports from Sept. 30 were approved. Membership adjustments were also approved.

- Pastoral reports:
- Staff attended the LCMC Conference in Iowa Sept. 29 - Oct. 2.
 - Staff participated in a strength coaching program.
 - A Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at 5:30pm on Wed., Nov. 27, followed by a meal .
 - Reformation and All Saints Sunday service are being planned.
 - The November issue of Tidings will center around thankfulness and generosity. Financial commitment cards for members will be mailed with opportunities to return at two services.
 - Endowment has presented \$70,000 for special projects such as tech equipment upgrades, internal signage, and payment for an architect/ engineering team that will evaluate the functionality of Trinity.

- Business Administrator Report:
- Software transfer to Realm is schedule for Nov. 4.
 - The Wedding Handbook is being revised and updated.
 - Office volunteers have been covering the reception desk.
 - Our website continues to be revised.
 - The part-time Communication Coordinator position has been filled by the hiring of Denise Czapla.

- Old Business:
- Love Signs is providing new designs and pricing for a possible new sign for Trinity.
 - A future staff position of a Youth & Family Pastor was addressed. A job opening is to be posted. Salary to be included in the 2025 budget. Call Committee to be formed.
 - A Volunteer Coordinator position is being designed and developed.
 - Creston Lutheran Church (LCMC) partnership with Trinity remains in discussion for viability.
 - Pastor and Staff Appreciation was acknowledged by Council.
 - Future building renovation quotes are being received that will evaluate Trinity’s church space.

- New Business:
- The best use of the extra nursery room to include a Mother’s Room was discussed and approved.
 - Tidings revisions/Council notes are as follows: Unapproved minutes will no longer be published in Tidings; only approved minutes will be published. A link will be added to the web site for previously approved minutes.
 - Council openings for 2025 were discussed. Tammy Augustine is to be contacted if a church member is interested in running for Council. There will be six current Council members up for re-election in 2025.
 - Pastor Billy advised that Children’s Messages will be held during special services and when there is no All Stars.

Next regular Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30pm.

Trinity Kids' Ministries

DECEMBER 2024 *By Glenda Lundstrom*

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Wonder from a Manger


Sunday, December 8, 4:30 PM
You Are Invited

Our All Stars kids and preteens, three years through grade 6, have been practicing the skits, readings and music to bring you this playful presentation of Jesus’ birth.


They are excited to have you all experience a look at the manger and beyond through the eyes of the animals and those who came to see the baby Jesus. The intent is to engage children and adults in this true story and worship together as we celebrate God’s greatest gift to us, our savior Jesus.

COME AND SEE!

Everyone is also invited into the Fellowship Hall for homemade cookies and cocoa after the service!



BREAKOUT



Christmas Party, December 11, 6:30-7:30pm

And GIVING Opportunity, benefiting Center For Survivors

BRING: Personal Care Items
Some Suggestions:

Deodorant
Hairbrushes
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Lotion
Shampoo/Conditioner
Facial Tissues
Gift Cards (Walmart, Super Saver, Walgreens, Gas Cards, etc.)

WEAR TO THE PARTY:
Silly Christmas Clothes
(Contest & prizes for the silliest)

Our Agenda:

- Drop off care items in Fellowship Hall
- Complete the reviews in the classroom
- Fellowship Hall Party

*Breakout Christmas Break:
December 18, 25, & January 1*

ALL STARS

Sunday Mornings

9:00 – 9:45 AM Age 3 - Grade 6


Your friends are always welcome!

Our themes of Generosity and Giving Thanks last month brought our kids new insight for the kinds of things we can be thankful for.

The Kids' personal processions were first thoughts of what to be thankful for. However, as they dug into the monthly memory verse, **“Every good and perfect gift is from God”** (*James 1:17a, NIV*), we could see them focusing on physical things like family, clothing and food. They were guided to think about things God has given us that we cannot see. The appreciation of life, and the gifts and talents God has given each one of them were fun to discuss.

The December focus will be the ultimate gift of generosity from God when He sent His greatest gift—JESUS!

December 22 and 29: All Stars Breaks for Christmas.



Our All Stars Classes will choose where they want to send their mission offering.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Aubrey Kallweit Colin Kruse Karissa Sander	8th Donna Belitz Gayle Borchers Larry Derochie Susan Graham Zerek Price Johnny Trejo, Jr. Karma Zysset	12th Vern Fittje Owen Robak	20th David Tabora Nathan Brown	27th Alex Hall Randy Rawhouser Andrea Stuhr Tara Venderpool
3rd Christine Ahlstrom Janice Nelson	9th Beth Drinnin Riley Garrelts Dennis Schaf Brad Stirek	13th Larry Christensen	21st Carson Bell Derek Hueschen Eli Thomson	28th Denise Czapla Jessica Larson
4th William Borer Shirley Reicks Gayla Taylor	10th Jenny French Kathy LeCuyer Mackenzie Motz Abby Pelc Jennifer Price Olivia Remmers Sandra Swanson	14th Noelle Gentile Kris Gernstein Barb Lange Teresa Nore	22nd Pam Eikenhorst Jennifer Klutman Rob Wright	29th Jennifer Eickmeier Sophia Fittje Abby Jensen Michelle Klug Colleen Perry
5th Chad Badstieber Dawn Bowen Aubrey Shelden	11th Brian Klink Mark Mercer Kunsley Stange Amber Van Niekerk Ron Went	15th Ken McMeekin Jason Reinke	23rd Jolene Connelly Paul Rullo Anne Weber Helen Welin	30th Lance Barcel, Sr. Shelby Bright Diane Buhl Scott Messersmith Gay Stover
6th Ron Leimser Leonard Luebker Maggie Niederlofer		16th Kendall Christensen Holly Jareske Jim Swanson	24th Bonnie Evans Robert Mann Cody Parker	31st Marcus Gillespie Nancy Johnson Karis Kersting
7th Sherry Everett Avery McMeekin Tambri Paulson Bob Runquist		17th Stephen Garrelts Dick Woltman	25th Sandra Jochens Diana Lippstreu	
		18th Shanon Fittje Stan Gottschall Malcolm Noonan	26th Sharon Nauenburg Morgan Pelc	
		19th Weston Jeffries Ginny Olson		

December 2024

Saturday, November 30 NO Worship Service	Tuesday, December 10 5:15 Endowment 5:15 Jubilation Ringers 6:00 Finance	Sunday, December 22 NO Education Hour 10:00 Worship
Sunday, December 1 9:00 Education Hour Faithfully Blended 10:00 Worship Service	Wednesday, December 11 11:30 Women in the Word 6:30 Breakout (Grades 3-6) 6:30 Jr High LIVE! Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8) 7:00 High School Impact (Grades 9-12)	Tuesday, December 24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOS AT NOON Christmas Eve Services Nursery available at the 3:00, 5:00, & 7:00 Services 3:00 Holy Communion 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 Holy Communion 9:00 Holy Communion
Monday, December 2 6:00 Ladies Bible Study	Friday, December 13 6:30 Men's Leader Mtg	
Tuesday, December 3 5:15 Jubilation Ringers	Saturday, December 14 5:30 Holy Communion Worship Service	
Wednesday, December 4 11:30 Women in the Word 6:30 Breakout (Grades 3-6) 6:30 Jr High LIVE! Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8) 7:00 High School Impact (Grades 9-12)	Sunday, December 15 9:00 Education Hour Faithfully Blended 10:00 Holy Communion Worship Service	
Friday, December 6 Red Cross Blood Drive 11-5:00 6:30 Friday Men's Ministry 11:45 NAOMI's at Senior Center	Monday, December 16 6:00 Ladies Bible Study	
Saturday, December 7 9:00 Children's Program Rehearsal for Actors 10:00 Children's Program Rehearsal for ALL 5:30 Worship Service	Tuesday, December 17 5:15 Jubilation Ringers 6:30 Trinity Council	
Sunday, December 8 9:00 Education Hour Faithfully Blended 10:00 Worship Service 2:00 Vertical Voices Concert at CHS 4:30 Children's Program	Wednesday, December 18 Christmas Break for Breakout 6:30 Jr High LIVE! Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8) 7:00 High School Impact (Grades 9-12)	
	Thursday, December 19 9:30 Widow's Group	
	Saturday, December 21 5:30 Worship Service	

SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION HOUR

9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

All Stars
Age 3 - Grade 6
Various Classrooms

Jr & Sr High Youth
Grades 7 - 12
The Outlet & The Well

Fireside Faith
Adult Bible Study
Fireside Room

Faithfully Blended C.O.F.F.E.E.
Coffee & Conversation
Fellowship Hall

Nursery Available
During 10:00 Service

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Breakout
Grades 3 - 6
Various Classrooms
6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Jr High LIVE! / Confirmation
Grades 7 - 8
The Outlet
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

High School IMPACT
Grades 9 - 12
The Well
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Communion

Beginning in January,
we will celebrate Communion
the 1st & 3rd weekend of every
month. ALL are welcome!

Baptism

Baptisms may be scheduled during
either service the 2nd weekend
of the month.



GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something

GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive

Trinity Lutheran Church
Leaders Save Lives

Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 27, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For an appointment, contact Keaton Barnes @ 402-910-7089, Kyle
Jensen @ 402-910-0681 or schedule online at
www.redcrossblood.org enter TrinityColumbus

Bring Donor Card or Photo ID

Note: Eat breakfast/lunch & drink plenty of water prior to donating blood.

Come give Dec. 16 thru Jan. 3 for a NEW long sleeved Red Cross T shirt, ltd. qty. Chill with
us!

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

December 1st | Advent Begins

December 8th | Columbus Area Vertical Voices Concert
2:00pm | Columbus High School

December 8th | All Stars Christmas Program
4:30pm | Cookies & Cocoa to follow

December 24th | Christmas Eve
Church Office Closed at Noon
3:00, 5:00, & 7:00pm | Contemporary & 9:00pm | Traditional
5:00pm Online | Nursery Available at 3:00, 5:00, & 7:00pm

December 25th | Christmas Day
No Services | Enjoy the day with family & friends.

December 26th | Church Offices Closed

December 28th | No Saturday Service

December 29th | 10:00am Worship Service

December 31st | New Years Eve
Church Office Closed at Noon

January 1st | New Years Day
Church Office Closed | Enjoy the day with family & friends.

Children's Ministry Christmas Break begins Dec. 16th
Student Ministry Christmas Break begins Dec. 19th.
All programming resumes January 5th.

Please submit 2025 schedules for committees, Bible studies, rehearsals,
etc. to the Church Office to make sure your space is reserved.

Even if your information hasn't changed,
we want to make sure our information is correct.
Include day, time, frequency, room requested,
contact person & whether or not you want it
listed on the Tidings Calendar.