



JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



701 East Florida Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 61801
trinity-urbana.org
Phone: 217-367-8923
Rev. Joel Cluver, Vacancy Pastor

Liturgical Worship - Saturday - 5:30pm and Sunday - 8:30am Contemporary Worship - Sunday - 10:45am
Join us online - Sunday - 8:30am & 10:45am



Dear Friends in Christ:

2025! What will the New Year bring? Only God knows!

However, may the New Year find us regularly in the Lord's house giving Him praise and hearing His Word - for the strengthening of our faith. May every day find us thanking God for Jesus who died for our sins and rose on the third day.

Psalms 90 verses 1-4, 10, 12, and 17 gives us spiritual food for thought:

O Lord, You are our home through all the ages.
Before the mountains were born
or You gave birth to the earth and the world -
O God, You exist from everlasting to everlasting.
You turn man back to dust,
saying, "Return, children of men."
A thousand years pass in Your sight like yesterday,
like a watch in the night.

We live as long as seventy years,
and if we are strong enough get to be eighty.

Teach us to count our days
that we learn to be wise.

May the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us:
Give us success in what we're doing,
yes, give us success in what we're doing

A very blessed and Happy New Year to you!

Vacancy Pastor Joel Cluver



From the Elders

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Nic Fonner, a church member and latest addition to the Elders of Trinity Lutheran Church. I, together with my wife Martha and two sons Jonah (16) and Quinn (12) and daughter Maeve (10) attend worship service on Saturday evenings.

The Cliffs Notes version of my life sums to being raised in an LCMS family that pushed me to make myself “physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight” to borrow a bit from the Scout Oath I so often repeat as the leader of the local cub scout pack 12.

The slightly longer version starts in the early 80s with my passion for sports like wrestling, football, baseball and strength training. I was and am a very driven person from youth T-ball throughout high school as a multi-sport athlete up until a major knee injury in baseball of all sports sidelined me. Thus ended my grand delusion that sports alone would carry me to success in life.

My focus quickly turned from physical pursuits to academic pursuits culminating in a master’s degree in architecture from Clemson University in South Carolina in 2008. I was well positioned (or so I told my pregnant wife) to enter the building industry just as the housing market collapsed and a recession closed many previously open doors. We struggled with the help of family to get through those first several months with a newborn in tow, but I eventually gained a foothold in the Champaign-Urbana market. The rest is history, or so I thought.

Like many young fathers that devote themselves to the material wellbeing of their families, I slowly realized that I was not adequately providing in terms of a religious and moral upbringing for our three growing children. My faith, the most important pillar, needed reinforcing to avoid casting seeds onto rocky ground or amongst the thorns as Jesus warned in the Parable of the Sower. I needed to be intentional with my aim and prepare good soil for them.

This adventure is an ongoing trek and although I am far from out of the woods, I continue to pursue God’s will along a narrow footpath. We officially hit the trail when we enrolled Quinn and then Maeve into Wee Disciples Preschool at Trinity back in 2016. We reached a major milestone in December of 2023 when my children were baptized. Jonah has also been confirmed, something that Quinn and Maeve will pursue in the coming years. All along, I have made time to read to them from the Bible to show them that faith is not a performative act and must be practiced daily with purpose not as a means of salvation but as a result of a sincerely held belief.

As an Elder at Trinity, I now find myself in an opportunity to serve a group much larger than my family or scouting organization. I pray that the Holy Spirit guides me to respond to the needs of this congregation with love, wisdom and in a manner that praises Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Nic Fonner
nfonner.28@gmail.com

December 2024 Giving Report

Submitted by David Lange, Treasurer



	General Fund	Building Fund	Other designated gifts
12/1	\$5,601	\$1,075	\$16
12/8	\$3,460	\$1,775	\$17
12/15	\$7,047	\$6,110	\$1,073
12/22	\$3,139	\$1,275	\$805
12/29	\$4,408	\$175	\$38
Direct Deposit Gifts	0	0	0
Subtotals	\$23,115	\$10,410	\$1,949
General Fund Budget Need per Month	\$34,444		
Total Giving	\$35,474		

WIM News

As we roll into 2025, once again we invite all ladies of Trinity and guests to join us anytime. We will be meeting monthly this year, on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

The LWML CID Mission Grant we highlight this month is: **Children's Books for State Fair**. The Central Illinois District's Lutheran Laymen League has sponsored a booth at the Illinois State Fair for over 20 years. Bibles, children's Bible storybooks, Lutheran Hour ministry booklets, and water are given away free of charge. This grant will be used to purchase the materials distributed during the fair.

Please join us in praying that God use the materials distributed during the Fair to bring lost souls to Christ.

From the Property Team...

Please do not change the thermostat settings in the building. There are nine programmed thermostats in the building, and if the setting is changed and remains that way the church's power bills go up. This has been an issue for a while and if it continues we will have to install lock boxes on all the thermostats. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated, THANK YOU.

Thank You!

To everyone who generously contributed to the Hat and Glove Drive for Dr. Preston Williams Elementary School. The donated items will be delivered to the school on January 6th! This is just one way our church serves the community!



To all those who joined in Christmas Caroling, Harry, Hilary, Silver, and Sterling along with Donna Schaal our leader who kept us in tune. Jan and Denny Kane, Dave Kuehn, Andrea and David Nation, and Bob and Nina Frank. We were able to visit 7 of our Home bound members, it was a true blessing and brought us joy and hopefully gave some joy and gladness to all those we saw. Please continue to keep all our home bound members in your prayers. **All God's Richest Blessings in 2025!**

To all who helped with the **Sunday Coffee Hour through 2024:** Phil and Joyce Bell, Hilary Rouse, Susan Sheppelman, Tasha & Arianna Walker-Wiskus, Dee Dee Williams, Karen Rohrer, The Ministry Council, Dan and Ginger Roney, Jennifer Holhubner **and Fred for picking up the donuts and for empty the garbage every Sunday he is there.** (If I have forgotten anyone please forgive me and let me know. **May we continue to serve the LORD with gladness in the New Year.** I have placed a Bright Pink sign-up sheet on the bulletin board just outside the Fellowship Hall. Please check the dates and sign up for one of the Sundays listed.



And finally, to the anonymous donor(s) who made the play kitchen set suddenly appear in our nursery. It is greatly appreciated and will be well used!

THANK YOU EVERYONE!



Happy New Year! Wee Disciples Preschool students will return to school on January 6, 2025. We begin this new semester of school celebrating Epiphany. The students will hear the story of the Wise Men's journey to find the newborn king, Jesus. As January progresses, we will also learn about Jesus as a boy, the baptism of Jesus, and Jesus calling his disciples.

We begin the month of January learning about animals in winter. A fun activity for our students this month is each student taking a turn with our Pip the Traveling Pup. Our pretend Pip the pup goes home with each student, and we will create a journal of Pip's adventures. On January 14 and 15, Champaign-Urbana Public Health will conduct mandatory Vision and Hearing Screenings for our preschoolers. Chapel with Carol Niemann is on January 15 and 16. Our own Comfort Dogs, Sterling and Silver, and Hilary and Harry Rouse will read with our preschoolers on Jan. 17. Then, January 20, we will observe Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with no school. To end the month Wee Disciples has a Family Fun Night planned for our Wee Disciples families on January 27.

Peace and God's Blessings in the New Year,

Karen Rohrer,
Director and Teacher

Dear Trinity Congregation,

Our small girl scout troop meets here the first three Thursdays of each month. As a gift of gratitude and with permission, our five junior girl scouts would like to start up the food closet again for outreach.

With Thrivent Action Team funds, we are purchasing a new cabinet that will be stored in the Nurses/LWML office next to the nursery.

We are asking for donations throughout the month of January of non-perishable food items. We will have wagons and boxes set in the narthex for collection.

On the first Sunday of February, our girls will present the food during the first service to be blessed and then to be sorted into the new cabinet.

Thank you in advance for your contributions!
Jen Holhubner, Misty Johnson and Scouts



01/01	Rick Kubetz
01/05	James Holhubner
01/07	Amy Dannowitz
	Roy Messmann
01/10	Mabel Clemens
01/14	Kateryna Silvestro
01/15	Quinn Fonner
01/20	Carol Niemann
01/22	Joyce Bell
01/24	Justin Otis
01/25	Rebecca Kane
01/29	Phil Bell
01/29	Wanda Werner
	Blake Wetzel
01/30	Mark Wetzel
01/06	Harry & Hilary Rouse (48 years)
01/19	Doyle & Tonda Hartle (45 years)

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

May God make your new year a happy one!

*Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
but by being forever near and strengthening you to bear it
as it comes.*

*Not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy
to travel any path.*

*Not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from
your heart.*

*Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping
your face bright,
even in the shadows.*

*Not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing
you when people
and their causes need you most and bringing you to be
there to help.*

*May God's unceasing love, peace, hope and joy bless and
guide you throughout the coming year.*

Trinity Small Groups

Please reach out to the individual group leaders for additional meeting details.

- Women's Book Group - 6:15 p.m.-1st and 3rd Mondays at church (DeeDee Williams)
- Pieces of Love at church - 5 p.m. Wednesdays (Jennifer Holhubner)
- Women in Mission at church - "LWML (WIM)" - 2nd Tuesday at 6:30p.m. (Faith Wetzel)
- Breakfast Bible Study at Urbana Gardens, 7 a.m. 1st and 3rd Thursday (Phil or Joyce Bell)
- Couples + Bible Study (stay tuned)
- Friday Night Small Group at church (Hilary Rouse)



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 5:30p Worship Service
5 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	6	7	8 5p Pieces of Love	9 6:30p Girl Scouts	10	11 5:30p Worship Service
12 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	13	14 6:30p Women in Mission	15 5p Pieces of Love	16 6:30p Girl Scouts	17	18 5:30p Worship Service
19 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	20 6:15p Women's Book Group	21	22 5p Pieces of Love	23	24	25 5:30p Worship Service
26 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	27	28	29 5p Pieces of Love	30	31	