



FEBRUARY 2025



**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:

Jesus said: "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it." (Luke 11:28)

What is the Word of God? The Holy Scriptures, the Bible.

The Bible was written by the prophets of God in the Old Testament and by the apostles and evangelists in the New Testament - by inspiration (God-breathed, God-given) of the Holy Spirit.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." (2 Timothy 3:16) "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21) The apostle Paul said: "And we tell about them in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Holy Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:13)

The whole Bible is the Word of God. And for what purpose did God give us His Word? To "make us wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15) "These things are written so that you believe Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and by believing have life in His Name." (John 20:31)

Please join us every weekend for worship! "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it."

Yours in Christ,
Vacancy Pastor Joel Cluver

PASSION

Passion is a strong and barely controllable emotion. So, what is your passion? We see people cheering on their favorite team, yelling and screaming at the players. We get excited and have a passion for our children to do well in whatever they are doing whether it's school, athletics, choir or a play. When an athlete has a passion for their sport, what do they do? First, they seek coaching to learn how to get better. Then they practice and keep practicing.

Our daughter played college softball. She started as 12U player and learned how to pitch. Through High School she would pitch 3 times a week in the winter and had a coach helping her. Her friends would invite her to do things and a lot of times she couldn't go with them because she had to pitch. She had a passion for pitching.

Our son decided to join a World Vision running team and run in the Chicago Marathon, this was through his church. He ran with the people on the team and did some on his own. The first year he ran a 4:20 time. His goal for the next year was to break 4 hours, his time was 3:52. Then last year he wanted to break 3:30 and he ran 3:32. So this year he is training differently so he can meet his goal.

What about Christians, do they have a passion? What should that passion be? Our passion should be for God. In the book of Revelation. The Church in Laodicea learned what God thought of them. Rev:3-15-16 "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold or hot, I wish you were either one or the other!"¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

Where are we with our passion for our Savior Jesus Christ? Are we Hot, lukewarm or cold? What is the difference between the three?

Cold: new to the gospel, not quite grasping it, but still learning and seeking answers. Wanting to get what others have but not sure how. Somehow it is refreshing to you like a cold drink on a hot day.

Lukewarm: You know it, you understand it, and you're good with that. "Look at the people around me. I'm glad I'm not like them." This was the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They knew the scriptures but yet did not understand them. Even after Jesus would call them out about knowing the Scriptures they did not listen.

Hot: those who listen to God through his word, prayer and other Christians. This comes by reading the Bible not just once but every day, and praying and getting involved in a Bible Study so you can dig deeper into the scriptures. I remember when I was in a Bible Study and a man that I thought knew the Bible inside and out made this statement. "I have read this verse probably a hundred times and this is the first time I got what God is telling me." To me that meant, never think you're done and can learn no more.

So do you want to become a passionate Christian? Come to church ready to listen and participate. Talk to people that you don't know at church, and get to know them. Join a Bible study and learn from each other. Serve, Find something to do like Coffee Hour, Teach Sunday School, help with activities that need volunteers or join the choir. If you have a suggestion for something you would like to happen in our church, let someone know what that is. Most importantly, pray, this is the best way to communicate with God, through our prayers.

Let's make God our number one passion.

God's Blessings,
David Nation, Head Elder



Wee Disciples Preschool News:

On the evening of January 27th, Wee Disciples Preschool had a successful Dr. Seuss Family Fun Night. We had great participation from our preschool families. It was so wonderful to use the Fellowship Hall for our event! We are feeling very grateful.

Starting on February 1st, we begin our 2025-26 preschool year registration process for current students and Trinity families. This year the registration fee in February is \$95 for returning students. Registration is open to the community starting on March 1st with a registration fee of \$120. If you know a family with preschool age children (3-5 years) who may be interested in our preschool program, please share with them that registration has begun. Registration flyers and program brochures are available right outside the preschool classroom. I am happy to answer any questions that families may have regarding our program. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at weedisciplespreschool@yahoo.com.

February at Wee Disciples begins with the study of dinosaurs. For Bible Time we focus on the study of Jesus and his ministry. We share that "We love, because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19. Our February Reading Buddy Time is scheduled for February 5 at 10:30 am. On February 12 and 13, our classes celebrate Valentine's Day with class parties. There is no school on February 14 and 17 (President's Day). Also, we have Chapel with Carol Niemann on February 19 and 20, and our Paw Print Ministry Story Time date is February 21. There is so much to love about preschool!

Sharing God's love,
Karen Rohrer, Director and Teacher



**WE ARE SEEKING A VBS COORDINATOR
AND HELPERS
IS GOD CALLING YOU?**

**YOU CAN LET US KNOW BY EMAILING
LIZA AT THE CHURCH OFFICE**

LIZA@TRINITY-URBANA.ORG

Updates & Reminders



On December 29, 2024 we received information on eight new candidates from the District office. On January 15, the Call Committee met to review the information and select candidates for further examination. After reviewing the materials, the committee selected three candidates to invite for conversations (Zoom interviews) to learn more about them and to give them the opportunity to learn about Trinity. We are currently working with our new Circuit Visitor, Pastor Michael Stoerger, to schedule these interviews in February. Once these meetings are completed, we will ask for a meeting with the congregation to present at least two candidates to consider for calling as our new pastor.

—The Call Committee



Courage Connection

Matt Fletcher, the Director of Development and Outreach at Courage Connection in Urbana, will be speaking to our Women in Mission group on **Tuesday evening, February 11 at 6:30**. We invite all members and friends of Trinity to attend this informative session. Courage Connection provides emergency residential shelter for the hundreds of women and children in our community who are victims of domestic violence. Matt will speak to us about the support services they provide including housing, counseling, legal advocacy, food insecurity, education, and employment. We hope you will join us. Refreshments will be served. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex so we can better plan. Thanks. We hope to see you there.

LWML CID Mission Grant #6 – Large Print Bibles, Prison Bibles & Devotions

Effingham's St. John Large Print Center prints, binds and ships large print Bibles and devotionals for people world-wide who have a visual impairment. These funds will be used for upkeep of printers and purchase of paper, spirals, cartons, tape, and envelopes.

Please pray that God provides the opportunity for those people with visual impairments to come to know or continue their belief in the Lord through the receipt

More Updates & Reminders



March 5 (Ash Wednesday)

Dinner at 5PM

Service at 6 PM



March 5, 12, 19, 26,

April 2, 9

April 17 (Maundy Thursday)

April 18 (Good Friday)

Services at 6 PM

(No dinners)

EASTER April 20
breakfast between services during the
Sunday fellowship hour

Bingo and trivia hosted by
Kevin Donoho



**The following Church Officers
and Council Members for 2025!
They were installed during ser-
vices on January 25-26**



Parish Council Members

Jennifer Holhubner – President

Phil Bell – Vice President

Joyce Bell – Secretary

Marianne Whitacre – Treasurer

Harry Rouse – Member at Large

Nina Frank – Member at Large

Dan Roney – Property Manager

Ministry Council Members

Brenda Donoho

Kevin Donoho

Dee Dee Williams

David Nation

Karen Rohrer

Hilary Rouse

Elders

Nic Fonner

Kevin Donoho

Chaplain Bob Frank

David Nation (Chair)

Adam Rusch

The



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To the anonymous church member who supplies donuts for weekly fellowship...every week!



And to all who help with the coffee fellowship in so many ways, DeeDee, Randy, Hilary, Jean, and so many more! from Nina



To all who generously donated hats and gloves for the school children. In God's perfect timing, they were there for the teachers to give out when the snow and COLD came right after the Christmas break!



To all who donated to the Girl Scouts' re-start of the Trinity Food Pantry!



To everyone who contributed to the Dr. Williams Teacher Encouragement Project. The baskets filled with teacher supplies and Panera goodies will be delivered to Dr. Williams Elementary School on February 10th. Please pray that this gift will provide encouragement and spread the love of Jesus to the staff at Dr. Williams Elementary School. Thank you to Trinity Lutheran Church membership for your contribution to this community outreach project!



To all who contribute items to this newsletter!

If you would like to thank an individual, group, or the whole congregation for an act (or acts) of service, just email me at croegge@gmail.com. Thanks!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: 90+ CELEBRATION

During worship on January 18/19th we took a few moments to recognize our 18 church members who will celebrate a 90+ birthday this year:

Helene Strater; Ed and Wanda Werner; Jean Baker; Bob McColley; Al Willms; Robert Freese; Roy Messman; Juanita and John Steer; Lorene Cress; Fred Holhubner; Lois Roney; Jean Anderson; Mabel Clemens; Lyla Nofftz; Shirley Witte; and Mary Ann Luedtke.

We had a birthday party during the fellowship hour. We also gave each an opportunity to share a favorite Bible verse, confirmation verse, and/or words of wisdom. We heard from several in person and some by email. We thank all of them for their faithful witness to our Lord and Savior and their example to our church and community. You have been and continue to be a blessing!

Mabel Clemens: Baptismal verse - "But Jesus called them unto Him and said, 'Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God'" (translated from German). Confirmation verse - Rev. 2:10 "Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life". Heb. 13:5 "Be content with such things as you have for He hath said I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Favorite Bible verses in addition to the confirmation verses: - Ph.4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Mt.21:22 "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." All the words of wisdom you need are found in the Bible. It is very interesting to hear that eighteen of us are over 90. It would be great if there were 18 or more of us in every decade. The young leaders in our church are working very hard and it is appreciated. Thank you!

Wanda Werner: My favorite Bible verse that has encouraged me all through my life and still does is Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." It gives me peace to always know that God is with me, strengthening me through all situations. Words of wisdom to all: Keep your faith strong and always remember the Lord is with you.

Ed Werner: Favorite verse: Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." Favorite Hymn: My Faith Looks Up To Thee LSB 702 ORIGINAL VERSION. This I sing silently to myself almost every night after going to bed and have requested that all four verses be sung at my graveside services. Parting Words: Do not let the devil play with your mind telling you that you have not done enough or have done sins that are not forgivable. Tell him that you rely not on what you have or have not done but rely on what Jesus Christ has done and claim His righteousness as your own.

John and Juanita Steer: I am sending this information on behalf of my parents John & Juanita Steer. They will not be able to make it to any of the services since they are home-bound. This is what they wanted me to relay to you; Mom's confirmation verse was Psalm 27: "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation, whom shall I fear?" Her favorite Hymn is I Know That My Redeemer Lives. We could not find any confirmation verse for my Dad since he joined Trinity as an adult and had not been confirmed before then. He said his favorite thing is when The Lord's Prayer is sung by the choir or an individual.



January Giving Report

Submitted by Marianne Whitacre, Treasurer

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Other Designated</u>
1/5	3,174	675	6
1/12	2,762	175	23
1/19	5,428	100	235
1/26	2,380	350	27
Direct Deposit Gifts	750	290	0
Subtotals	14,494	1,590	291
Total January Gifts	16,375		
General Fund Budget Need/Month	34,444		

Treasurer Report

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the Treasurer for Trinity Lutheran Church. Along with that transition, we will also be transitioning to using the accounting services of HD Financial LLC. Mary Lynne will continue as our accountant with them.



02/02	Bob McColley
02/06	Linda Lindsay
02/08	Martha Fonner
02/12	Elizabeth Knocke
02/24	Chris Roegge
02/27	Jan Brooks
02/28	Mark Tomory
02/10	Ernie & Jerilyn Parks
02/14	Fredrick & Jennifer Holhubner
02/14	Kyle Steinbach & Tricia Herman-Steinbach

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)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	5:30p Worship Service
2 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	3 6:15p Women's Book Club	4	5 6:30p Choir Practice	6 7a Breakfast Bible Study 6:30p Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall	7	8 5:30p Worship Service
9 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Service	10	11 6:30p Women in Mission: Courage Connection Presentation Congregation is invited to attend!	12 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir Practice	13 6:30p Girl Scouts, FH	14 No Preschool 7p Friday Nite Small Group at Rouse's	15 5:30p Worship Service
16 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	17 President's Day - no preschool 6:15p Women's Book Club	18 6p Parish Council	19 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir Practice	20 7a Breakfast Bible Study 8:30-5:30 Lifeline Screening, FH 6:30p Girl Scouts, FH	21	22 5:30p Worship Service
23 8:30a Traditional Service 9:45a SS & Bible Class 10:45a Contemporary Service	24	25 7:30p Ministry Council	26 5p Pieces of Love 6:30p Choir Practice	27	28	