



## THE WONDROUS GIFT

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

Bethlehem was just a backward little town. But they had a glorious history. Folks remembered the home-town-boy-made-good. Long ago, David had become King; he had conquered their enemies and brought the nation together. They believed God's special blessing had come to them with power and prosperity, and that it would go on forever.

But then the darkness came; hope withered and fear took hold. Greed, oppressive laws and practices, injustice callously inflicted on the vulnerable, broken bonds of community—like noxious weeds, these maladies took root. Over time, neglected cities and communities decayed, enemies looted the magnificent temple of King David's son Solomon, and eventually, citizens of Bethlehem joined those who were forced out of their "promised land" into exile in faraway Babylon. All their hopes had been put to the test. They even feared that their God had abandoned them. After the decades, when they finally were allowed to return from exile, rebuilding was a difficult and profoundly discouraging task. In time, after "wars and rumors of wars," Bethlehem and surrounding lands became an occupied territory of the mighty Roman Empire. And so, the taxation registration decree went out from Emperor Augustus, and Mary and Joseph made their way to the dark streets of Bethlehem.

Our own dark streets merge into those dark streets of beleaguered Bethlehem, as we too look for the light of a guiding star. In the midst of stubborn diseases, anxiety about the volatile economy and splintering relationships, we dare to hope against hope each time the angels' song echoes again. Hoping, and yet fearing that the news of God's promise of healing is simply more fake news, and that life will slip again back into the depressingly, perhaps even dangerously, familiar shadows.

We see all around us the effects of dashed hopes, the destructive fruits of weaponized fear in our streets, in our world, and in our hearts. We feel the burdens of anger, violence, selfish and short-sighted decisions, a battle over truth itself, an exile from excitement for caring and sharing. Or maybe we simply have a weary ache for something different, something more. Our hopes and fears also wander the streets of Bethlehem. Into precisely *this* darkness, the Wondrous Gift is given, given for us, given to us.

God's Wondrous Gift came to us as Jesus became fully human. Now as we share and care, we are the human heart and hands of Jesus in our world, agents for continuing his mission of bringing good news to the poor, speaking out for justice, seeking healing, and praying for God's promised peace on earth. To our anxious fears, God says "I am with you." "*God with us: Emanuel*" is our hope, the light shining on our dark streets. The Light Shines in the Darkness. May the blessings of that light fill your life with hope and joy as we enter a new year.

Thank you to the congregation for your words of support in the past year, and your generous Christmas bonus.

-Pastor Karen



Finance & Stewardship -  
 Wednesday 1/4 @ 6:30p  
 Council Retreat - Sat.  
 1/14 from 9a-12p  
 Annual Meeting - Sun.  
 1/15 following service  
 Mutual Ministry - virtual  
 meeting Tue. 1/17 @  
 5:30p

## SYNOD CALENDAR

Jan. 2-3 *Office Closed: New Year's Day observed*  
 Jan. 10 *Dean's meeting: 2:00p est; 1:00p cst*  
 Jan. 12 *Leaders of Shared Ministry: Hybrid - Zoom 10a-12p est; 9a-11a cst.*  
*In Person - 10a-2p est; 9a-1p cst*  
 Jan 14 *Synod Council: by Zoom*  
 Jan 18 *Sacred Ground Dialogue Series: (registration closed) 6-7:30p cst; 7-8:30p est*  
 June 10 *IN-KY Synod Virtual Synod Assembly*



## THANK YOU TO THE DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS:

**Lay assistants:** Sue Gosse, Linda Rodenberger, Gordon Afdahl, Linda Afdahl, Pat McIntyre  
**Recording/sound engineers:** Adam & Jody Pomfret; Andrew & Elizabeth Eichmiller  
**Altar Care:** Suzi Bloomer, Sue Gosse, Denise Taylor, Pat McIntyre, Jody Pomfret  
**Communion Bread:** Sandy Teeters, Jody Pomfret, Kim Schoffstall  
**Ushers:** Tina Teeters, John Schoffstall, Linda Afdahl, Maranda Schoffstall, Kim Schoffstall, Pete & Donna Gustafson, Marvin & Barbara Mericle



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/3 Charles Parks  
 1/9 Trenton Shook  
 1/13 Jean Chance  
 1/16 Corrine Errickson  
 1/16 Jody Pomfret  
 1/17 Marvin Mericle  
 1/23 Donna Gustafson

1/25 Adam Pomfret  
 1/26 Sue Gosse  
 1/29 Helen Andres

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/3 Rudie Butler  
 2/7 Rev. Dana Newhouse  
 2/8 Andrew Baber  
 2/8 John Schoffstall  
 2/9 Sean McLennan  
 2/11 Randy Bland  
 2/11 Aiden Pomfret  
 2/11 Sandy Teeters  
 2/12 Beth Faust

2/13 Jim Rodenberger  
 2/14 Margie Phillips  
 2/14 Jim Ross  
 2/17 Robert Dierdorf  
 2/19 Maggie McLennan  
 2/22 Cody Spallone  
 2/23 James Woolsley  
 2/26 Luke Yeagley  
 2/27 Arianna Greene



### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/2 James & Denise Pendergast  
 1/12 Joe & Darlene Kuzmission  
 1/16 John & Kim Schoffstall  
 1/25 Darren & Mary Lee



### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

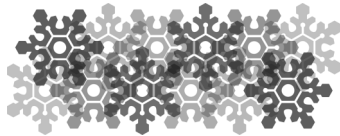
2/2 Harry & Virginia English  
 2/25 Adam & Jody Pomfret

## VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY

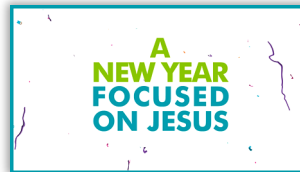


**Counters for January:** Pete & Donna Gustafson

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Lay Assistant</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion Assistants</u>
1/1/23	Gayle Bland	Aiden Pomfret	Jody Pomfret (set-up/clean-up) Jody Pomfret (bread)
1/8/23	Carol Hawn	Pete & Donna Gustafson	Suzi Bloomer/Sue Gosse (set-up/clean-up) Sandy Teeters (bread)
1/15/23	Linda Afdahl	Bob & Denise Taylor	Denise Taylor (set-up/clean-up) Donna Gustafson (bread)
1/22/23	Eli Moffett	Ray & Suzi Bloomer	Jody Pomfret/Pat McIntyre (set-up/clean-up) Carol Hawn (bread)
1/29/23	Gordon Afdahl	Andrew & Elizabeth Eichmiller	Suzi Bloomer (set-up/clean-up) Denise Taylor (bread)



**Good home needed for a lift chair!**  
If you are interested, contact Denise Taylor at 812-249-9958 or see her at church.



*Happy New Year & Happy New Year*

### Sisters of Providence: Upcoming Events

- ◇ - **Taizé:** Tuesday, January 10th 7-8pm.
- ◇ - **Faith & the Arts:** Saturday, Jan. 14, 9a-noon; Foley Room, PSCC



Join Dr. Arthur Feinsod, former ISU professor, as he shares how faith can be solidified and amplified using works of visual arts, drama and poetry. The first half of each session will be a lecture on the material made available beforehand. An open discussion where all will delve deeper into the ideas that were touched upon in the first half will follow.

- Presenter: Dr. Arthur Feinsod
- Cost: \$25/session. Includes materials and refreshments. Register by Jan. 12th for the Jan. session, and by Mar. 30th for the Apr. 1st session.
- Future sessions: Apr. 1; Jun. 3



*The 2023 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for those who want to sign up in honor or memory of a loved one.*



**FIRST FRIDAY CARDS:**

The fun continues on Friday, January 6th at 6:00pm.

**TRINITY WOMEN**



The next Trinity Women's gathering is Wednesday, January 11th at 7pm. Suzi Bloomer will be hosting and leading a study of Judges 13.

**Iron Sharpens Iron One-Day Men's Conference 2023**

- ◇ 8:30a-4:55p
- ◇ Men of all ages (13+)
- ◇ Nationally known presenters
- ◇ 16 different equipping seminars

Register with the men of your church. Learn more @ [rpmfm.org](http://rpmfm.org)

See poster in the narthex.



Men's Breakfast at Cackleberries this month on Tuesday 1/10 & 1/24 at 8:30am.



**CREATED TO BE: 2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING**

July 16-20, 2024      1-888-411-3522  
[gathering@elca.org](mailto:gathering@elca.org)      [Elca.org/gathering](http://Elca.org/gathering)



**Ruth Circle**  
1/18 @ 10am

The **quilting group** will meet Saturday January 14th at 9am in the fellowship hall. Quilts are made for both LWR and Union Layettes. Experience required: being able to tie knots in your shoelaces.



**Tuesday Zoom Bible Study 11:30-12:30 COME as you ARE!**

Topical Bible study using the book, *102 Fascinating Bible Studies*, written by a Baptist pastor, Preston A. Taylor. The unusual thing about this study is that each of the 102 chapters stand alone. There are 102 topics arranged in alphabetical order. Each chapter contains ten Bible passages with questions related to the topic.

We read the Bible passages and discuss the questions. We usually spend two meetings on each chapter. Talk to Johnny Neuenschwander who sets up the Zoom meetings. He will send you a link and reminder. Everyone is welcome to participate.

If viewing the pdf while you are online, you can click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9142075889?pwd=VkU5R3BydFMzMzZOZzgyS3kvdjFzdz09>



**JESUS SAID TO THEM, "VERY TRULY, I TELL YOU, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM."**  
JOHN 8:58, NRSV



Gail Hayes  
 Karen & Jeff Showers  
 Amber McNamara Houston  
 P. K. Johnson  
 Cindy Wembley

Don, Keith, & Larry Johnson  
 Cheryl Johnson  
 James Rodenberger  
 Sherry Tacker





From the **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

We extend our gratitude to those who have helped to provide music for our 10 am worship services in December.

Our musicians: the Trinity Choir who provided offertory anthems on December 4<sup>th</sup> and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; Trinity Ringers who rang our Advent Tolls on all four Sundays in Advent and also provided prelude music and special music on December 11<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve; John McIntyre who composed the Advent tolls for all four Sundays of Advent; soprano and guitarist Elizabeth Eichmiller who stepped up on short notice and provided a beautiful setting of the Magnificat for the offertory music on December 18, led and accompanied the sending hymn and provided instrumental music during communion; and Pastor Karen who served double duty and accompanied the Gathering Hymn and the Hymn of the Day on December 18<sup>th</sup> when Sara was ill.

Our corps of cantors: Charles Parks, Patricia McIntyre, John McIntyre, Bill Strecker, and Elizabeth Eichmiller.

Our Parish Administrator Jennifer Black for providing all our printed and online worship materials, keeping us informed of our schedule of activities and performing many unseen, but necessary tasks.

And last, but certainly not least, our gratitude is extended to Pastor Karen for her leadership of our congregation, her meaningful messages and her pastoral care. We discovered how multi-talented she is when she also provided music for worship on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We are blessed to have her leadership of Trinity during these challenging times.

Trinity is blessed to have all of you sharing your talents in service to Christ during our worship services.  
Thank you all.



Dear Trinity Family,

*Thank you very much for the generous Christmas gift from the congregation. It is very much appreciated. Thanks also for your individual cards, gifts and personal notes. It is a blessing and a privilege to be part of the Trinity family.*

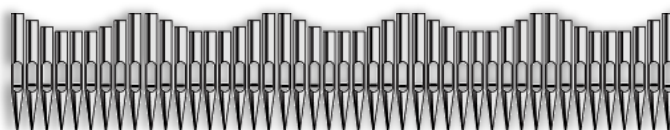
*In Christ's love and service,  
Sara J.*

## OUR 2022 ORGAN FUND UPDATE

The Organ Committee launched its pledge drive three years ago – Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019. We appreciate all gifts received to date. **The onsite organ construction work has been delayed again and is expected to begin in February.**

Through November 30, 2022, **\$139,703 in cash gifts** had been received and \$132,113 has been paid on the organ contract (\$118,125) and for other construction costs (\$13,988) to date. An estimated \$27,887 remains to be paid for the projected total cost of \$160,000. With outstanding pledges of \$6,073, there remains total **unfunded costs of \$14,224**. Although the use of “internal borrowing” is currently expected to be adequate to pay these unfunded costs, **we welcome your continued support to help cover the estimated unfunded costs.**

Sincerely,  
The Organ Committee



### Bottle Cap Collection

We are collecting bottle caps for Reach Services in Terre Haute. Info on what is accepted is located in the narthex. We look forward to collecting caps and lids & building more benches! For more information, contact Elizabeth Eichmiller @ 812-698-3365 or ebrochin95gmail.com)

**Pastor's Discretionary Fund** assists with individuals in need of assistance, primarily utility needs by working with the Salvation Army. Any help replenishing this fund is greatly appreciated. Mark your offering envelope to donate.

### TRINITY BLESSING BOX

We have served many vulnerable people through this ministry. Many people come to the box every week. Please consider donating - add to the **baskets in the NARTHEX!**

#### What is NEEDED?

- ♦ **Hygiene items:** Shampoo, combs, brushes, toilet paper, feminine care products, toothbrush/paste, deodorant, razors, hand soap, dish soap, hand sanitizer, baby supplies.
- ♦ **NON-perishable SAFE items** (NOT expired). Best if cans have pull rings: vegetables, beans, rice, cereals, condiments, dried fruit, canned meat, pasta, peanut butter, and crackers
- ♦ Consider the **SEASON**.
- ♦ **Not acceptable:** Produce, damaged cans or boxes, dairy.

**Special thanks to the monthly coordinators who have helped to stock the box:**

Bland, Taylor, Eichmiller, Gustafson, Afdahl, Schoffstall, Pomfret, Eichmiller, & the Care Committee.

**Sign-up for 2023 is located in the narthex!**

### PENNY POWER OFFERING

On the last Sunday of each month, our pennies are donated to Lutheran World Hunger in order to buy milk for children in a developing country.

January	4,973
February	7,851
March	5,410
April	13,672*
May	6,624
June	9,124
July	4,171
August	5,554
September	4,918
October	4,854
November	2,392
<u>December</u>	<u>8,182</u>
<b>2022 Total:</b>	<b>77,725</b>



Equals 77,725 cups of milk for needy children.

\*includes a special \$80 gift to ELCA world hunger relief.

BLESSED IS  
THE MAN WHO  
PERSEVERES  
UNDER TRIAL,  
BECAUSE WHEN  
HE HAS STOOD  
THE TEST, HE  
WILL RECEIVE  
THE CROWN OF  
LIFE THAT GOD  
HAS PROMISED  
TO THOSE WHO  
LOVE HIM.



- JAMES 1:12 -

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Operating Budget Summary at November 30, 2022

	2022			2021	% of Budget	2021
	Actual	% of Budget	Budget			
Giving/revenues received for budget	\$128,855.07	70.4%	\$ 182,952.00	\$150,041.69	89.0%	\$168,659.24
Expenses for budgeted items	\$129,308.48	70.7%	\$ 182,952.00	\$149,194.97	92.1%	\$161,939.17
<b>Revenues over/(under) expenses</b>	<b>(\$453.41)</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$846.72</b>		<b>\$6,720.07</b>

At November 30, 2022, unified giving and other revenues were \$21,186.62 lower than the previous year, and were \$38,840.93 lower than budget for the year. Expenses were \$38,397.52 lower than budget for the year, which results in expenses exceeding revenues by \$453.41.

## UNCOMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT RACE AND RACISM?

Are you looking for some help to peel away the layers around race and racism that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day? The Terre Haute Sacred Ground Team invites you to join with others looking to better understand the ways racism has operated in our society and continues to do so in all of our lives.

Sacred Ground is a FREE eleven-part series on race built around documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. It is especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. For more information visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/>

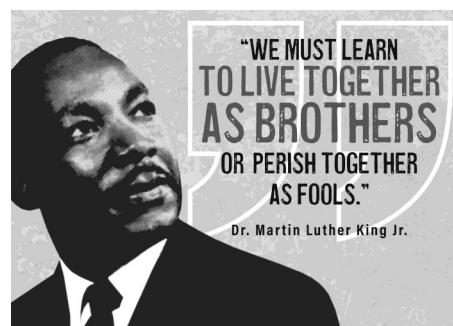
The Terre Haute *Sacred Ground* team includes Bill Hughes, Sister Barbara Battista, and Chuck Fisher and is sponsored by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and the Racial Equity and Equality Task Force of the Sisters of Providence. The series will meet via Zoom from 6:00 – 8:00 pm (EST) every other Thursday beginning January 5, 2023. The series ends on May 25.

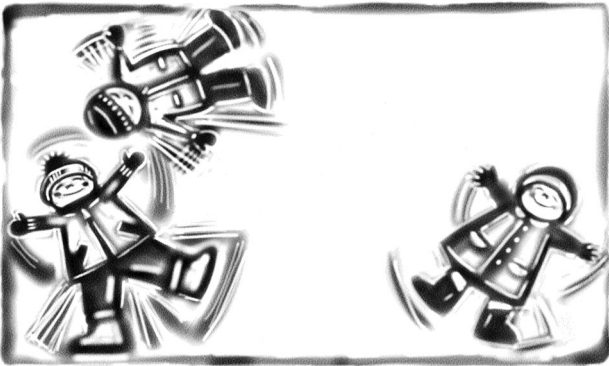
If you have questions, contact Bill Hughes at [whughes@indstate.edu](mailto:whughes@indstate.edu) or 812-249-0647.

If you register, please plan to attend all eleven sessions in order to honor the integrity of the small group discussions. After you register you will be sent a link to access the sessions. Registration will remain open until we reach 50 participants.

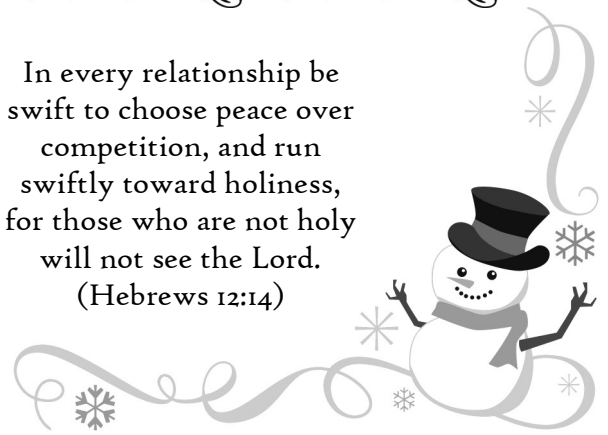
REGISTER AT THIS ADDRESS:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZordOusqD4vHNFjJPoPXXKoW8V8XU2NGOMC>





In every relationship be swift to choose peace over competition, and run swiftly toward holiness, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.  
(Hebrews 12:14)



### January's Joke!

Where was Solomon's temple located?  
On the side of his head!!



**HAPPY New Year!**



# PUZZLE

## Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

*Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.*

FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH

- God made wild animals and livestock.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God said, "Let there be light."  \_\_\_\_\_
- God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."  \_\_\_\_\_
- God created plants and trees.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God separated the light from the darkness.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God made the water teem with living creatures.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God made the sun and moon.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God made birds fly above the earth.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God made stars.  \_\_\_\_\_
- God created mankind in his own image.  \_\_\_\_\_

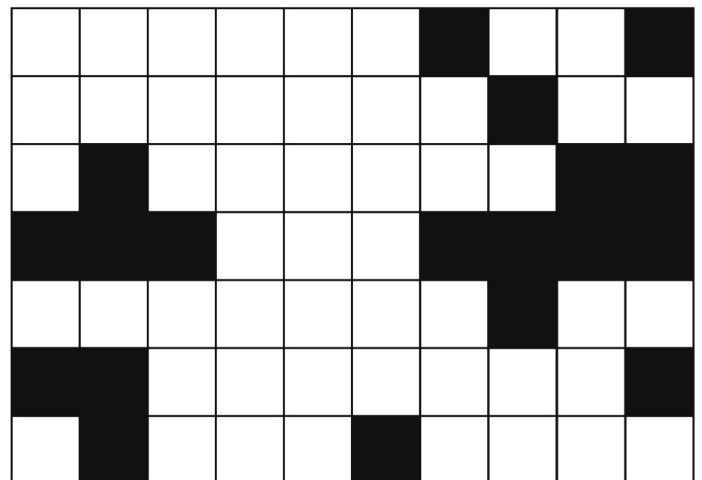
God    aw all tha    he    ad ma    e, an    t was ve    y g    od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

# Puzzle!

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to complete an NIV Bible verse about an important commitment.

Y		M	L	L	O	W	F	O
A	S	E	A	M	P	L	E	X
		O	F	O	L	L	I	
O	F	E	A	M	P	L	E	X
.		S	C	H	R	I		
:	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	

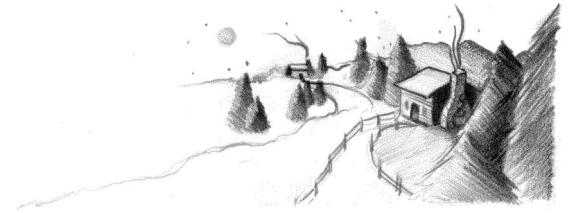


Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fourth, fourth, fourth, sixth; God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.



# 9 January 2023



The Lamplighter

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b>  10:00a Worship	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b> 11:30a Zoom Bible study <i>Charles Parks</i>	<b>4</b> 5:00p Handbells 6:15p Choir 6:30p Finance/Stewardship meeting	<b>5</b> <i>Jen Out</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Jen Out</i> 6:00p 1st Friday cards	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00a Worship	<b>9</b> 5:20p E-Connect <i>Trenton Shook</i>	<b>10</b> 8:30a Men's breakfast 11:30a Zoom Bible study	<b>11</b> 5:00p Handbells 6:15p Choir 7:00p Trinity Women	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Jean Chance</i>	<b>14</b> 9:00a Quilting 9a-12p Council retreat
<b>15</b> 10:00a Worship Following service: Annual meeting	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Jr Day <i>Corrine Erickson</i> <i>Jody Pomfret</i>	<b>17</b> 11:30a Zoom Bible study 5:30p Mutual Ministry <i>Marvin Mericle</i>	<b>18</b> 10:00a Ruth Circle 5:00p Handbells 6:15p Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Newsletter Items Due	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00a Worship	<b>23</b> <i>Donna Gustafson</i>	<b>24</b> 8:30a Men's breakfast 11:30a Zoom Bible study	<b>25</b> 5:00p Handbells 6:15p Choir <i>Adam Pomfret</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Sue Gosse</i>	<b>27</b> <i>Jen Out</i>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Penny Power 10:00a Worship Following service: potluck <i>Helen Andres</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 11:30a Zoom Bible study	<b>Counters:</b> Gustafson	<b>Office:</b> 812-232-7628 trinity2620@live.com		



### MISSION STATEMENT:

Believing in Christ, we  
**GATHER, GROW and GO**  
with the good news of  
His love, compassion and forgiveness.

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Phone: 812-232-7628 FAX: 812-232-3406

Pastor Husby: 812-230-2628

TLC email: [Trinity2620@live.com](mailto:Trinity2620@live.com)

TLC website: <https://trinityterrehaute.org>

#### Office Hours:

Mon-Thur: 9:00a-12:00p

Contact Hours for the church office: 10:00a-12:00p

### Sunday Services

10a IN-PERSON &  
ONLINE SERVICE



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCu1siDnnzqBNsnQM1xAH-Sw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu1siDnnzqBNsnQM1xAH-Sw)

### TRINITY'S VISION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming family of believers in the triune God; we believe we are called to live out our faith by serving others and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

#### Accompanying Guiding Principles

- We are committed to a triune God who governs our lives: God the Father, Jesus Christ—his Son our Lord, and the Holy Spirit.
- We acknowledge our spiritual weaknesses and accept our forgiveness as sinners redeemed by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection; it is by God's grace that we are saved.
- We praise God, pray for his help in our lives and seek a strong sustaining relationship with Him.
- We pursue the expression of Jesus Christ's teaching in our lives, supporting each other, and inviting all to join with us.
- We strive to be a community of believers, helping and supporting, within the congregation and in the broader community; we believe that we should love our neighbor as ourselves.

Trinity Lutheran Church  
2620 Ohio St.  
Terre Haute, IN 47803