



THE CHURCH MOUSE



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

1002 East 13th Street, Vinton, IA 52349-2385
319-472-5571

December 2025

January 2026

Worship Schedule

Sunday Divine Worship
with Holy Communion
9:00 AM

Wednesday Vesper
Worship
6:30 PM

Holy Communion offered
the first Wednesday of
each month

Pastor

Rev Stephen Preus
Home Phone 319-472-2898

Our Staff

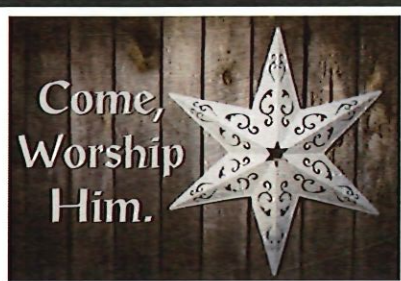
Nancy Hughes- Church Secretary
Lea Winsor- Housekeeper

The Church Mouse
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[Trinity Lutheran Church
Vinton](#)



Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 21, 4:00 p.m.
Soup Supper to follow

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Wednesday, December 24, 6:30 pm

Christmas Day Divine Service
Thursday, December 25, 9 a.m.

Our Angel Tree can be found in the overflow room. If you would like to bring gifts for families in our community who need a helping hand, please see the tags hanging on the tree.

Return your wrapped gift with the tag attached no later than Sunday, December 14th. Thank you!



Decorate the Church
Saturday, November 29th
December 6th, 9:00 a.m.



Congregation Potluck

Sunday, December 7th
Theme: *Soup/Chili/Chili Dump*

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Sunday, January 4th
Theme: *Pizza / Italian*

Join us in the Parish Hall after
Sunday School for good food and
good conversation!



The story of Jesus' birth,
presented by our
Sunday School Children
Sunday, December 22nd
4:00 p.m.
Soup Supper to follow

Free will offering.
Please invite your family and friends!

They make wonderful Christmas gifts!
Our Daily Bread
TRINITY'S 100th
ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

Located in the Narthex \$15 each.

The People Page



December



Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Brenda Barkdol | 17. Kaylin Winsor |
| 3. Diana Hall, Jonathan Licht,
Lucy Preus | 18. Cheryl Thacker |
| 5. Dean Good, Ashley Johnson | 21. Curt Lamont |
| 6. Jonathan Leisinger,
Pam Petersen | 22. Lucas Gattman |
| 7. Rachael Sackett | 23. Jack Wayson |
| 11. Lily Hesson | 26. Becky Fisher, Cheryl Keil |
| 12. Austin Keil | 29. Carilyn Appleby |
| 14. Anne Happel | 30. Michelle Bendickson,
Sharon McAvan |
| 15. Ethan Dedrick, Mary Hagenow | 31. Judy Howe, Bryce Shaw |



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2. Jim Hargrave | 15. Mike Bahr, Diem Curfman |
| 4. Marianne Kreutner | 17. Rick Gordon, Pete Sauer |
| 5. Larry Moody, Emma Wayson | 18. Dave Bierschenk, Sheavie Reagan |
| 6. Carol Joiner, John Preus,
Lettie Reagan, Zelda Sackett | 23. Scott Geissing |
| 7. Reagan Salger | 24. Amy Salger |
| 8. Sue DeVries | 26. Robert Hagenow |
| 11. Bill Garbers, Loretta Simnacher | 28. Lori Staab |
| 12. Grace Gattman, Eric Petersen,
Steve Stulken | 29. Connie Gill |
| 14. Hazel Rublack | 30. Coen Ober |
| | 31. Noah Hesson |



- 14. Robbie and Lisa Gattman
- 31. Kevin and Alex Kistler



- 1. Todd and Diane Gloede
- 4. Jeff and Ashley Johnson
- 12. Mike and Phyllis Severtsgaard
- 14. Josh and Ariane Geiger
- 18. Mark and Sheavie Reagan
- 26. Dave and Carmie Behrens



Altar Flowers

2026 Flower Chart

The Flower Chart is located on the bulletin board across from the secretary's office.
If you would like to provide flowers for our altar, please sign up.
Thank you.

Membership Update

Deaths:

Jeff Barkdoll
Dick Howe

November 4
November 24

Un-Decorate the Church
Saturday, January 10th
9:00 a.m.



From the Pastor's Desk

What About?

There are plenty of issues that people have questions about in our churches. To address these questions, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) produced a series of 29 pamphlets called "What About?" While produced a couple of decades ago, they are just as relevant now as then. The truth is always relevant. While we might *add* a few more contemporary issues that the church is currently dealing with, we would certainly not *subtract* any of the "What About?" series. They address important topics of morality, doctrine, and practice.

Since these pamphlets are so helpful for our unity as a congregation and a church body, we have begun providing one issue in the "What About?" series per newsletter. This current month, we will consider the topic of "Angels." In this pamphlet, we learn things like:

- What does the word "angel" mean?
- What are angels?
- How powerful are angels?
- Where are angels?
- What are evil angels, and what do they do?
- What do good angels do?

While I will also supply newsletter articles from time to time, I would really like to turn your attention toward this series each month. By contemplating these topics, you will understand where our congregation and church body stand on these important biblical issues. And where *you* should joyfully stand too.

If you find a topic helpful, let me know. If you find that you disagree with a topic or are confused about a teaching or practice, let me know. I would love to discuss it with you and help you to see that the teaching of our congregation and church body is faithful to our Crucified and Risen Savior and His holy Word.

Below is the "What About?" pamphlet on "Angels."

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Preus





What About . . .

Angels

It seems as though angels have captured the imagination of people everywhere. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation about angels, along with superstitions and unscriptural understandings. This pamphlet will provide a Biblical perspective on angels.

Do angels exist?

The Word of God—not popular television shows or magazine articles—is our only reliable source for knowing what angels are, and what they do. The Bible teaches us that angels were made by God during the six days of creation. Before creation there was only God (John 1:1-3), and after creation, we are told that on the seventh day God “rested from all the work of creating he had done” (Gen. 2:3b). The Bible does not indicate on which day of creation God made angels. But angels are very real.

What does the word “angel” mean?

The word “angel” comes from a Greek word that means “messenger.” Angels are God’s messengers. Elsewhere in the Bible, angels are described as spirits (cf. Acts 23:9; Heb. 1:14). The word “angel” is actually a description of what they do.

What are angels?

Angels are spirits. They are beings who do not have a physical body. Jesus Himself said, “a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have” (Luke 24:39). Evil angels too are described as not having “flesh and blood” (Eph. 6:12). In the Scriptures, when angels do appear in human form, this is only a momentary appearance for those who need to see them. Angels are not gods. They are God’s creation and serve His holy and perfect will. The good angels are said to be “ministering spirits” (Heb. 1:14), sent by God to serve us, His people.

Are angels human?

Human beings are the crown of God’s creation. Only of human beings, and no other creature, did God say, “Let us make man in our own image” (Gen. 1:26). Furthermore, the Scriptures reveal that only into human beings did God breathe the breath of life (Gen. 2:7). Also, God did not give angels rule over His creation. This privilege He gave only to mankind (Gen. 1:26-28). Angels are not human beings. They exist as spirits who serve God and His people.

Do human beings become angels when they die?

No, human beings do not become angels when they die. The Scriptures are clear on this point. Until the last day, the

souls of the dead are before the Lord, enjoying peace and rest in His presence, awaiting the final day when they will receive glorified bodies for all eternity (see 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 5:17; Rev. 7).

Are angels intelligent beings?

The Bible describes angels as having both intelligence and a will. The good angels know and follow the wisdom of God, which He has revealed through Christ to His church (Eph. 3:10). They gladly serve us, who are the heirs of the salvation Christ has won for us (Heb. 1:14). However, angels do not know all things. For instance, they do not know the thoughts of our hearts (1 Kings 8:39).

How powerful are angels?

Angels are extremely powerful beings. They are described as “mighty ones” (Ps. 103:20; 2 Thess. 1:7). The good angels guard and protect God’s children (Ps. 91:11-13). The power of the angels is never unlimited, but is always subject to the will and authority of God.

Evil angels too are powerful beings. The Bible tell us that they hold captive all unbelievers (Luke 11:21-22; Eph. 2:2). Believers in Christ are able to withstand the temptation of evil angels through the power of God (Eph. 6:10-17).

Where are angels?

Angels, like God, do not inhabit the same physical dimension that human beings inhabit. From time to time, they are ordered by God to appear in our physical dimension. Thus, while there are times when angels will make an appearance at a distinct place (cf. Acts 12:7), they remain beings that inhabit no physical space.

How many angels are there?

The Bible does not give us an exact number, but does clearly teach that there are incredibly large numbers of angels who serve God. Scripture speaks of “ten thousand times ten thousand angels” (Dan. 7:10). Elsewhere Scripture speaks of “a great company of the heavenly host” (Luke 2:13).

From every indication in the Bible, there are an unimaginably large number of angels, of whom we are totally unaware most of the time. There is a fixed and limited number of angels, never increasing or decreasing. Unlike human beings, angels do not marry and have children (Mark 12:25). They are immortal.

Are all angels the same?

Within the large numbers of angels there are apparently cer-

What About Angels?

tain orders or classes of angels. Scripture speaks of “cherubim” (Gen. 3:24; Ps. 80:1), “seraphim” (Is. 6:2), “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities” (Col. 1:16), “archangel” (1 Thess. 4:16).

Also among the evil angels there are ranks and classes of angels (Matt. 25:41). Satan is described as the “prince of the devils” (Luke 11:15). It is pointless, however, to try to invent complicated divisions and ranks of angels, since Scripture itself does not provide us with this information.

What are evil angels, and what do they do?

Originally, all angels God created were good and did His will perfectly. At some point after God created them, some angels chose to rebel against Him. They fell away from God and into great sin and evil. At that point, they were confirmed in their evil condition. There is no hope for them. In Matt. 8:29, they recognize that there will be a time when they must suffer eternal torment and punishment for their rebellion against God.

Satan is the chief evil angel, the “prince of demons” (Luke 11:15). Here is how our Lord Jesus Christ describes Satan: “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44).

When precisely the evil angels rebelled and fell away from God we cannot say for sure, but we do know it was some time at the very beginning of the world. Most Christian church fathers believe that the evil angels’ original sin was pride, based on the fact that Satan’s temptation of Adam and Eve was an appeal to their pride. Also, 1 Tim. 3:6 indicates that pride was the cause of the devil’s condemnation.

The devil is our great enemy, who “prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). The Bible tell us that the devil is the cause of unbelief in the world (Eph. 2:1-2). Every person who does not believe the good news of Christ Jesus is thinking and doing what the devil wants. Unbelievers are described in the Bible as being in the devil’s kingdom and under his power (Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13). The very fact that people do not realize this, and even deny it, is the devil’s greatest deception. The devil is so deceptive, at times he will even disguise himself as an “angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14). In fact, the Old Testament once refers to Satan as “Lucifer,” which means, “light bearer” (Isa. 14:12; KJV).

We need to keep in mind that all the Bible says about evil angels, and their eternal punishment, is for the purpose of making us recognize the need to repent and to believe in God’s Son, Jesus Christ, who has ransomed mankind by His death, and saved us for eternal life, not in hell, but in heaven.

What do good angels do?

Good angels enjoy the blessing of being able to see God. They are in the immediate presence of God, always beholding

His great glory, majesty and power (Matt. 18:10). This is called the “beatific vision,” which all Christians will enjoy one day when they are in heaven.

God’s Word reveals the following things about the activity of good angels: They praise God (Is. 6:3; Luke 2:13), and they are the Lord’s servants in the world and in the Church (Ps. 103:20-21; Heb. 1:14).

God sends angels to serve and to protect Christian believers in their work and their callings in life (Ps. 91:11-12). They attend to the dying (Luke 16:22). They care for children (Matt. 18:10). Angels are deeply interested in all that occurs in the Church. They adore and take great joy in the work of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world (Luke 2:13; Eph. 3:10). They rejoice over every sinner who repents (Luke 15:10).

Scripture mentions the presence of angels at every great event in the Kingdom of God. Angels were present when God gave His law on Mount Sinai (Deut. 33:2; Gal. 3:19). Angels were present at the conception, birth, resurrection and ascension of our Lord (Luke 1:26; 2:11; Mark 1:13; 24:5ff; Acts 1:10ff). Angels will come with Jesus when He returns on the last day (Matt. 13:41ff.; 24:31).

The Bible tell us that angels are present in the public worship of Christians (1 Cor. 11:10). God also uses angels to help the family and to preserve law and order (Gen. 24:7; Matt. 18:10; Dan. 10:13).

How are we to treat angels?

We need to praise and thank God for good angels. We are told that we are to take care not to offend them through sin and unbelief (1 Cor. 11:10; 1 Tim. 5:21). But the Scriptures are also clear that we must not pray to angels, nor offer them our worship. The angels themselves protest any worship given to them (Rev. 22:8-9).

As believers, we have the privilege of having angels surrounding us and protecting us and working to do God’s good and perfect will in our lives. Our hope and trust is always in God, whom we know sends His angels to watch over us and to see us through whatever difficulty in life may come our way.

Because of our Lord Jesus Christ’s perfect life and sacrificial death for the sins of the world, we have the assurance of the complete and total forgiveness of all our sins. We know that God loves and cares for us as His own dear children. Furthermore, we know that the Lord sends His angels to care for us in order that some day we may join them, and all the company of heaven, in seeing God and singing His praises for all eternity.

— Dr. A. L. Barry
President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

TLC Preschool



The Savior is coming! In the midst of planning Christmas celebrations, holiday decorating and purchasing gifts, we all must focus on the true meaning of Christmas. As we watch and hear the children learn about Christmas, we feel blessed to be a part of their learning experience. Sharing gifts at our gift exchange teaches the children the feeling of giving to others much like Jesus, coming to give us salvation.

Showing thanks for Jesus and learning how He helps and heals will be our lessons when we return from Christmas break. We will discuss how caring and powerful Jesus is when feeding five thousand people. The Good Samaritan, healing a blind man, and the story of Jairus' daughter tell of Jesus showing mercy. Health, safety and wellness will be our focus for the month using puppet plays and team work as problem solvers.

Christmas Blessings,
Gail Gerber



Voters present at the November 9th Annual Voters Meeting elected the following to serve on the Trinity Church Council for 2026:

Officers:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Brian Kreutner |
| Vice President | Kris Muhl |
| Head Elder | Brett Caspers |
| Treasurer | Nancy Hughes |

Standing Boards:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Elders (3 yr term) | Bram Byroade |
| | Wayne Rhinehart |
| Trustees- Properties | Josh Geiger |
| Education | Lea Winsor |
| Stewardship | Betty Cayton (1 year to finish term of Nancy Hughes) |

Many thanks to everyone who served on our Church Council this past year.

2026 Offering Envelopes

Available soon in the overflow room, if you don't see a box with your name, contact Nancy Hughes in the church office and one will be made for you.



2025 Offering Statement

If you received a statement last January, one will be prepared for you again in 2026. If you don't receive one, see Nancy Hughes.



October Budget Needs: \$20,100

October Offering Income: \$ 19,983

October Budget Expenses Paid: \$ 16,869

10/31 Year to Date Offering Income:\$ 184,629

10/31 YTD Expenses Paid (Budget items):\$ 195,943

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1		2	3 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Divine Service	4 9:00 am Bible Study-Parish Hall	5 Pastor's Family Day	6 9:00 am Decorate the Church
7 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 11:30 am Congregation Potluck 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Vespers Service	11 9:00 am Bible Study-Parish Hall	12 Pastor's Family Day	13
14 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Vespers Service	18 9:00 am Bible Study-Parish Hall 7:00 pm Men's Study	19 Pastor's Family Day	20
21 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Program / Soup Supper 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 9:00 am Divine Worship	26 Pastor's Family Day	27
28 9:00 am Divine Service *NO Sunday School 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 6:30 pm Vespers Service	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d9ead3;"> <p>Altar Guild Gail Gerber Bonnie Stephenson</p> <p>Offering Counters Kris Muhl Lea Winsor</p> </div>		

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day NO Bible Study	2 Pastor's Family Day	3
4 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm NO Bell Choir	5	6 Epiphany	7 6:30 pm Prayer Service	8 9:00 am *NO* Bible Study	9 Pastor's Family Day	10 9:00 am Undecorate the Church
11 9:00 am Divine Service guest Pastor Stephenson 10:20 am Sunday School 4:00 pm Preschool Board 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	12	13 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	14 6:30 pm Prayer Service	15 9:00 am *NO* Bible Study	16 Pastor's Family Day	17
18 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School / Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30 pm Vespers Service	22 9:00 am Bible Study-Parish Hall	23 Pastor's Family Day	24
25 9:00 am Divine Service 10:20 am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28 5:00 pm Catechism 6:30pm Vespers Service	29 9:00 am Bible Study-Parish Hall	30 Pastor's Family Day	31