

St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church  
Plankinton, SD

# DECEMBER 2025

## NEWSLETTER

Trinity Lutheran  
Church  
White Lake, SD

### In This Issue

December 2025 Events .....	1
Pastor's Page .....	2
Stay in Touch .....	2
Main Street Living .....	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries ...	3
Word from the Center .....	4
Parish News .....	5
Christmas Story Crossword ....	6
Calendar	

### Contact

Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor  
605-840-0554 (mobile)  
[prdomc5897@yahoo.com](mailto:prdomc5897@yahoo.com)

#### \* OFFICE HOURS \*

St. Paul's, Tuesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.  
Trinity, Wednesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
109 W State St., Plankinton SD 57368  
[www.stpaulplankinton.com](http://www.stpaulplankinton.com)  
605-942-7364

**Elders** ..... Curt Guindon  
Mike Tuschen

**President** ..... Rodney Weber  
**LWML President** ... Marlene Johnson

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
304 S Johnston St., White Lake SD 57383  
[www.trinitywhitelake.com](http://www.trinitywhitelake.com)  
[facebook.com/trinitywhitelake](https://facebook.com/trinitywhitelake)  
605-249-2333

**Elders** ..... Scott Meier  
David Bogenhagen  
Ben Bogenhagen  
**President** ..... Dan Guericke  
**LWML Presidents** ..... Diana Kieffer,  
Hope Circle  
Brianna Bogenhagen,  
Ruth Circle



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and  
Trinity Lutheran Church are  
members of the South Dakota  
District of The Lutheran  
Church—Missouri Synod.

### This Month's Events

#### Divine Worship Service Schedule 2025

Divine Services at St. Paul's 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Services at Trinity 10:30 a.m.  
See page 5 for Advent and Christmas schedule.

#### Christian Education

**Joint Bible Study** – None in December.  
**Catechism Classes** – Mondays, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's  
Dec. 3, 3:30 p.m., rest of Dec. TBD  
**St. Paul's Sunday School** – Sundays, 9:30 a.m.  
**Trinity Release-Time** – Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

#### Lutheran Women's Missionary League

**Trinity Hope Circle** – Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 2 p.m.  
**Trinity Ruth Circle** – Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 1 p.m.  
**St. Paul's Dorcas Circle** – Sat., December 6, 2025, 10 a.m.

#### December 7, 14, 21, 28

##### TRINITY

**Elder** Ben Bogenhagen  
**Ushers** Ron Steffen  
Dan Guericke  
**Acolyte** Blake Bogenhagen  
**Altar** Barb Gilbertz

##### ST. PAUL'S

**Elder** Mike Tuschen  
**Ushers** Lennis Titze  
Howard Weischedel  
**Acolyte** Blake Everson  
**Altar** Deb Haak

#### January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

##### TRINITY

**Elder** Scott Meier  
**Ushers** Dan Meier  
Dean Suelflow  
**Acolyte** Blake Bogenhagen  
**Altar** Jane Guericke

##### ST. PAUL'S

**Elder** Curt Guindon  
**Ushers** Kieth Albrecht  
Josh Kemp  
**Acolyte** Jett Kemp  
**Altar** Sandy Tuschen

#### Scripture Readings for Sundays in November

Dec. 7 Isaiah 11:1–10; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12  
Dec. 14 Isaiah 35:1–10; James 5:7–11; Matthew 11:2–15  
Dec. 21 Isaiah 7:10–17; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25  
Dec. 28 Isaiah 63:7–14; Galatians 4:4–7; Matthew 2:13–23  
Jan. 4 1 Kings 3:4–15; Ephesians 1:3–14; Luke 2:40–52

The **January 2026 newsletter** will be available on or after January 4, 2026. *Articles are due Tuesday, December 30, 2025.*

Please send newsletter/bulletin items to Nancy Bogenhagen at  
[trinitywlsd@gmail.com](mailto:trinitywlsd@gmail.com). **Weekly bulletin deadline is Thursday noon.**  
Please email me if you prefer your newsletter emailed to you. Thank you!



## JOY IS FOUND IN JESUS

Dear Members of Trinity and St. Paul's,

Once again we enter into the Advent season. Advent reminds us of the three comings of Jesus into the world. We remember that **He was born** for us to live a perfect life and to give us His perfect righteousness as a free gift, by His death on the cross to pay for our sins. We remember **His coming into our own life**, at our baptism, or when we came to faith in Jesus when we heard His Word. And we remember His promise in His Word that **He will come again** to judge the living and the dead.

Jesus was given the name "Immanuel," which means "God is With Us." The angel said to Joseph, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel." At this time of the year we enjoy giving and receiving gifts, visiting with friends and family, Christmas lights, nativity scenes, and so many other things. But what gives us real joy is knowing that God has taken on human flesh, forever. He became human to become one of us, to live for us, and to die for us.

While all Scripture is written by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I especially like the book of Luke since it records the beautiful story of the meeting of Elizabeth and Mary while Elizabeth was about to give birth to John the Baptizer who would prepare the way for Jesus, and while Mary would give birth to Jesus. Then also in Luke, Mary speaks that beautiful Magnificat which gives all glory to God. Only Luke gives the details of the Nativity, including the manger, shepherds, and flocks in the field, the angels singing praises to God, and Mary pondering all of these things in her heart.

As believers we have so much for which to be thankful. At this time of the year, we have so many things to enjoy, but the greatest joy is found in Jesus who gives the promise that one day we will be with God in the eternal joy of Heaven.

*Pastor McKillop*

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### STAY IN TOUCH

**Pastor Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor**

605-840-0554 (mobile) • [prdomc5897@yahoo.com](mailto:prdomc5897@yahoo.com)

#### Office Hours

Tuesday's, 9–11:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

109 W State St., Plankinton, SD 57368

Wednesday's, 9–11:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church

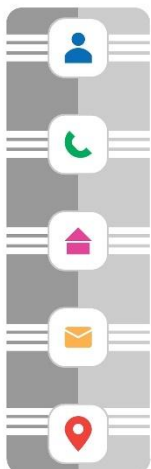
304 S. Johnston St., White Lake, SD 57383

**Websites:** [www.stpaulplankinton.com](http://www.stpaulplankinton.com) ~ [www.trinitywhitelake.com](http://www.trinitywhitelake.com)

**Email:** [trinitywlsd@gmail.com](mailto:trinitywlsd@gmail.com)

**Social Media:** [facebook.com/trinitywhitelake](https://facebook.com/trinitywhitelake)

YouTube channel: Trinity White Lake (recordings of Divine Services)





## MAIN STREET LIVING DECEMBER 2025

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.  
[www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com)

**Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1**

### December 7, 2025

**10 a.m. "Stable Boy"** A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Robert Hinckley**, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Deadwood, SD, presents a message titled "Bear Fruit in Keeping with Repentance". The sermon is based on Matthew 3:7-10.

### December 14, 2025

**10 a.m. "Christmas Is"** The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. David Warner**, pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Custer, SD, presents a message titled "A Different Kind of Greatness". The sermon is based on Matthew 11:2-15.

### December 21, 2025

**10 a.m. "Christmas on Main Street"** The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Matthew Harrison**, president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message.

### December 28, 2025

**10 a.m. "Puzzle Club Christmas"** The Puzzle Club must solve a missing person mystery before Christmas.

**10:30 a.m. Rev. Christopher McCarthy**, pastor at First & Emmanuel Lutheran Churches in Wall, SD, presents a message titled "All Powerful God in Humble Human Vesture". The sermon is based on Matt. 2:13-23.



## DECEMBER 2025

December 1 - *Howard & Sharon Weischedel, SP*

December 5 - Jenna Haak, SP

December 10 - Andrea Morenz, SP

December 10 - Ann Borgmann, TR

December 12 - Marilyn Markhardt, TR

December 12 - Larry Hoffman, SP

December 12 - *Collin & Anastasia Borgmann, TR*

December 13 - Kristofer Guindon, SP

December 13 - Billie Madsen, SP

December 17 - Tessa Overweg, SP

December 17 - Robert Fink, SP

December 18 - Carol Schaefer, SP

December 21 - Brent Morenz, SP

December 22 - Sandy Tuschen, SP

December 22 - Lindsay Zobrist, TR

December 23 - Ruth Merrill, SP

December 25 - Rachal Byrd, TR

December 26 - Blake Bogenhagen, TR

December 28 - Katrina Kueltjes, TR

December 29 - Doug Vandenhoek, TR

December 30 - David Bogenhagen, TR

December 30 - *Richard & Diana Kieffer, TR*





## WORD FROM THE CENTER

### “GOD WITH US” – DON’T SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS!

*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins ... they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). (Matthew 1:21, 23b).*

Who could refuse a peace that lasts because God Himself is with us? Well, many do. Why? Because as sinful, rebellious people by nature, we tend to settle for counterfeits, instead of the real thing. When offered an eternal peace that comes from sins forgiven, we would rather settle for peaceful circumstances, or just our temporal “peace of mind,” right? We want the peace that comes with bills paid, relationships intact, body/health doing fine, and purposeful work to do for as long as we’d like to do it. Instead of “God with us” no matter the circumstances, we would rather just have circumstances to our own liking.

Let this Christmas, then, be a time of reflection when you think about what it means to have faith in the Savior who is “God with us” no matter the circumstances of the moment.

That’s the offer that faced Joseph that first Christmastide. He had so much on his mind. Mary was pregnant, but the child wasn’t his. What would he do? How would he face the sneers of the people of his community? He had a bit of courage; he reasoned that he would try to protect Mary amidst his disappointment, “divorcing her quietly” (Matthew 1:19). But then things changed dramatically. Suddenly, an angel appears saying, “Do be afraid to take Mary as your wife” (Matthew 1:20). Why? Because God is at work in ways that you can’t totally understand. Joseph could have run for the hills. But thankfully, Joseph put His faith in

God’s Word and wouldn’t settle for anything less than Mary as his wife, and Jesus as His Savior, no matter the personal cost of the moment.

Christmas and Easter are vital to us because they deliver what we really need. It’s the reality of sins forgiven and eternal life secured. It’s the promise of a peace that lasts, peace that endures no matter what the present trouble. And that’s what our Bible verses tell us today. They tell us about **the peace that God brings** when He comes into our world, when He promises to be with us in all circumstances in this world, and that in Him we will live forever in heaven. It’s the peace that comes when you know that there is one who is able, one who is capable, and one who is with you in all things to bring you blessing. Faith in Him says, “Nothing else, and surely nothing less.” “O come, O come Emmanuel,” come mightily into our daily lives. For **when “God with us” is also God “for us,” we can face whatever comes because our lives are secure in His hands.** When we realize that IN CHRIST we have more than ENOUGH, then life becomes a journey of “God with us” that experiences His abundant joy, eternal life, and a peace that lasts amidst whatever circumstances come our way. A blessed Christmas to you all!!

**PRAYER:** Dear Jesus, give us the wisdom and the faith of Joseph to take You at Your word, even when circumstances seem to the contrary. And give us a sense of what it means to live life with faith in the God who came into our lives to save us, “God with us” even now. AMEN

*Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz*



# NEWS

*From Our Parish*

## Thank You

Trinity Lutherans For Life would like to thank everyone who generously contributed to their Ultrasound Fund collection as well as donations for their Christmas Aid project.

## Lutheran Witness Update Reminder

The *Lutheran Witness* will continue to be printed, published, and mailed, however the District news insert will be no more. What does this mean for District communications?

The good news is that the District will continue to provide information and is striving to improve our means and method of communication with our people and congregations.

The District Board of Directors has agreed to establish a part-time Communications Coordinator to work on providing timely, easily accessible, and attractive news and information. **Highlights of this new communication will include:**

- Continued distribution of the District e-newsletter with some changes and additions to “flesh out” this newsletter with more news, features, and profiles.
- Production of a once-monthly printable piece that will approximate the *Lutheran Witness* insert. This piece will be delivered to congregations electronically, allowing everyone to disseminate it in their preferred ways to those who don’t use email or the internet.
- Increased communication and presence in the area of social media.

## 2025 LSM Musical Advent Calendar

Experience the fifth annual Musical Advent Calendar from Lutheran Summer Music, November 30–December 24—daily musical meditations to inspire reflection throughout the Advent season.

Sign up to receive each day’s video directly to your inbox by clicking on the “Join the Advent Journey” button at [LSMacademy.org/acal](https://LSMacademy.org/acal)

## Upcoming Special Services

- **Advent Joint Services**  
December 3, 2025, 7 p.m. at St. Paul’s  
December 10, 2025, 7 p.m. at Trinity  
December 17, 2025, 7 p.m. at St. Paul’s
- **Christmas Eve Children's Service**  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 5 p.m., at Trinity.
- **Christmas Day Joint Service.** Thursday, December 25, 2025, 10:30 p.m., at St. Paul's.
- **2026 Divine Worship Services**  
Trinity, 8:30 a.m. | St. Paul's, 10:30 a.m.



# The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1–20, KJV



## Across

- [3] Because there was no room for them in the \_\_\_\_.
- [4] That all the world should be \_\_\_\_.
- [5] Because he (Joseph) was of the house and lineage of \_\_\_\_.
- [10] For unto you is \_\_\_\_ this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
- [11] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and \_\_\_\_ God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
- [12] And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of \_\_\_\_.
- [13] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called \_\_\_\_.
- [14] And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a \_\_\_\_ from Caesar Augustus.
- [17] And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the \_\_\_\_ which was told them concerning this child.
- [19] And they came with \_\_\_\_, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
- [21] Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the \_\_\_\_ hath made known unto us.

## Down

- [1] And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good \_\_\_\_ of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- [2] And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a \_\_\_\_;
- [6] And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were \_\_\_\_ that she should be delivered.
- [7] And all went to be taxed, every one into his own \_\_\_\_.
- [8] And all they that heard it \_\_\_\_ at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- [9] But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her \_\_\_\_.
- [11] And it came to \_\_\_\_, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another,
- [12] And there were in the same country \_\_\_\_ abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- [15] \_\_\_\_ to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
- [16] And, lo, the \_\_\_\_ of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- [18] To be taxed with \_\_\_\_ his espoused wife, being great with child.
- [19] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly \_\_\_\_ praising God, and saying,
- [20] And this shall be a \_\_\_\_ unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

# December 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. TR Catechism 3:30 p.m. Joint Advent @ SP 7 p.m.	4	5	6 SP Dorcas Circle 10 a.m.
7 Second Sunday in Advent  <b>Divine Services</b> 8:30 a.m. St. Paul's 10:30 a.m. Trinity <b>Sunday School</b> 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	8 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	9 TR Ruth Circle 1 p.m. TR Joint LWML 2 p.m. TR Hope Circle 3 p.m.	10 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Advent @ TR 7 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Third Sunday in Advent  <b>Divine Services</b> 8:30 a.m. St. Paul's 10:30 a.m. Trinity <b>Sunday School</b> 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	15 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	16	17 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Advent @ SP 7 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Fourth Sunday in Advent  <b>Divine Services</b> 8:30 a.m. St. Paul's 10:30 a.m. Trinity <b>Sunday School</b> 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	22 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	23	24 Chidren's Christmas Eve Service @ TR 5 p.m.	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Joint Christmas Day Service @ SP 10:30 a.m.	26	27
28 First Sunday after Christmas  <b>Divine Services</b> 8:30 a.m. St. Paul's 10:30 a.m. Trinity	29	30	31			