St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Plankinton, SD

DECEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Trinity Lutheran Church
White Lake, SD

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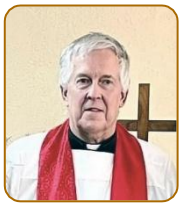
Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor
605-840-0554 (mobile)
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*** OFFICE HOURS ***
St. Paul's, Tuesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.
Trinity, Wednesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
109 W State St., Plankinton SD 57368
www.stpaulplankinton.com
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
facebook.com/trinitywhitelake
605-249-2333
Elders ..... David Bogenhagen
Ben Bogenhagen
Scott Meier
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.



GOD'S PROMISE FULFILLED

Dear Members of Trinity and St. Paul's,

Someone once said, "Promises were made to be broken." And who could even begin to know of the countless numbers of promises that have been broken throughout the history of the world?

But how wonderful it is to know the One who never has and never will break a promise! We sing in one of our liturgies in the hymnal, "Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy, with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia."

God gave a promise to Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior who would overcome the devil's power, (Gen. 3:15) and that is what He did by sending Jesus, who did everything necessary to save us from our sins. We know the words of the angel who came to the terrified shepherds who were watching their flock by night. The angel said, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

God promises forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Heaven to all who repent of their sins and put all their trust in Jesus for forgiveness. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out."

What a promise! We have so much to celebrate during this Advent and Christmas season!

Pastor McKillop

Christian Education

Adult Bible class at Trinity: No classes in December.
7th and 8th grade Catechism class at Trinity: Sundays at 4 p.m.
7th and 8th grade Catechism class at St. Paul's: Mondays at 7 p.m.
Sunday School at St. Paul's: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday School at Trinity: No classes in December.
Release-Time at Trinity: Wednesdays, 2:15 p.m.



Upcoming Special Services

- **Advent Joint Services**: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 and 16 at Trinity. Dec. 9 at St. Paul's.
- **Christmas Eve Children's Service**: Thursday, December 24, 2026, 5 p.m. at Trinity.
- **Christmas Day Joint Service**: Thursday, December 25, 2026, 10 a.m. at St. Paul's.
- **2027 Divine Worship Services:** St. Paul's, 8:30 a.m. | Trinity, 10:30 a.m.

Serving the Lord during December 2026

Trinity

Elder	Ben Bogenhagen
Ushers	Dan Guericke
	Dan Meier
Acolyte	Brant Bogenhagen
Altar	Barb Gilbertz

St. Paul's

Elder	Curt Guindon	
Ushers	Lennis Titze	
	Howard Weischedel	
Acolyte	Blake Everson	
Altar	Deb Haak	
Greeters	Dec. 6	Peg Hoffman
	Dec. 13	Lennis & Sandy Titze
	Dec. 20	Dan & Tina Gerlach
	Dec. 27	Sharon Boyd

Scripture Readings for Sundays in December

Dec. 6	Second Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 40:1–11; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8
Dec. 13	Third Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; 1 Thes. 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28
Dec. 20	Fourth Sunday in Advent	2 Samual 7:1–11, 16; Romans 16:25–27; Luke 1:26–38
Dec. 27	First Sunday a. Christmas	Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Galatians 4:4–7; Luke 2:22–40

Trinity Lutherans For Life News

Trinity Lutherans for Life, White Lake, would like to thank everyone who supported or participated in our 8th Annual Christmas Aid event.

Trinity 2026 Updates

Trinity was blessed to make these improvements and contribution this year.

- New cement step on south entrance as well as portions of the sidewalk around the church building.
- The surface of the altar was repaired.
- The carpet in the addition was cleaned.
- A contribution of $500 in Thrivent Choice Dollars was donated toward the White Lake Senior Citizens' new lighting project.

Special December Events

December 1, 2026. Trinity Hope and Ruth Circles

- 1 p.m. Ruth Circle will hold their regular business meeting.
- 2 p.m. Hope and Ruth Circles will join to celebrate Christmas with a devotion and lunch. The devotion, "Circle of Light" is a short program centered on the Light of Christ with the use of candles, Scripture readings, and Christmas carols. All are welcome to join!
- 3 p.m. Hope Circle will hold their regular business meeting.
  Ruth members will decorate Trinity. All helping hands are welcome!

December 5, 2026. St. Paul's Dorcas Circle

Dorcas members will gather at St. Paul's at noon to exchange prayer partner gifts and to pack cheer boxes for college students and senior citizen members. All are welcome to join!

December 24, 2026. Joint Children's Christmas Eve Service

Children from Trinity and St. Paul's will present the Christmas message at Trinity Lutheran, White Lake, at 5 p.m. We have 20 students participating this year, including K-8th members from Trinity and St. Paul's and Trinity's K-5th Release-Time students.

To Us a Child Is Born celebrates the birth of Christ with traditional hymns and a new song for Christmas, "To Us a Child Is Born". As the central theme for this Christmas service, the words of Isaiah 9 help us reflect on the promise God the Father fulfilled through the birth of His Son, a gift to us, that we may become the children of God.

To us a child is born,
To us a son is given.
This Christmas we receive
The blessed gift of heaven.

December 25, 2026. Joint Christmas Day Service at St. Paul's, 10 a.m.

Newsletter

The **January 2027 newsletter** will be available on/after January 3, 2027. Please submit news/articles to the parish secretary at *trinitywlsd@gmail.com* by Wednesday, December 30, 2026. If you would prefer an emailed digital newsletter instead of a printed copy, please contact Nancy at the same email address. *Thank you!*



Pastor Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor
605-840-0554 (mobile) *prdomc5897@yahoo.com*

Office Hours

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 109 W State St., Plankinton, SD 57368 ~ Tuesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, 304 S. Johnston St., White Lake, SD 57383 ~ Wednesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

Websites: *www.stpaulplankinton.com*
www.trinitywhitelake.com

Email: *trinitywlsd@gmail.com*

Social Media: *facebook.com/trinitywhitelake*
YouTube channel: Trinity White Lake

Visit the websites for resources for Services and News, including LCMS SD *District News* and LWML SD District *HiLites*.

MAIN STREET LIVING
DECEMBER 2026

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.
www.mainstreetliving.com

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

December 6, 2026

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

10:30 a.m. Rev. David Warner, pastor at Our Redeemer and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches in Custer and Hill City, SD, presents a message titled "Comfort in Christ for God's People". The sermon is based on Isaiah 40:1–11.

December 13, 2026

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

10:30 a.m. Rev. Normon Wacker, pastor at Mount Calvary and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sundance and Moorcroft, presents a message titled "Greater Things Yet to Come!". The sermon is based on John 1:6-8, 19-28.

December 20, 2026

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. Gregory Hinners, pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Philip, SD, presents a message titled "It's All About Jesus". The sermon is based on Mark 1:1–8.

December 27, 2026

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

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



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 2026

December 1 – *Howard & Sharon Weischedel, SP*
December 5 – Jenna Haak, SP
December 10 – Andrea Morenz, SP
December 10 – Ann Borgmann, TR
December 10 – Kayden 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 21 – Kendal Borgmann, TR
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 – Katina Kueltjes, TR
December 29 – Doug Vandenhoek, TR
December 30 – David Bogenhagen, TR
December 30 – *Richard & Diana Kieffer, TR*



LCMS Worship — Advent 2026 Brief Devotions

An Advent wreath may be lighted, adding the lighting of one candle for each week in Advent.*

First Week in Advent

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *LSB* 357:1

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prophecies of Christ Daily Readings

Nov. 29 — *Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths* (Psalm 25:4).

Nov. 30 — *Jesus said, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45)

Dec. 1 — *Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch … And this is the name by which He will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."* (Jer. 23:5–6)

Dec. 2 — *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel* (Gen. 3:15).

Dec. 3 — *The scepter shall not depart from Judah* (Gen. 49:10).

Dec. 4 — *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"* (1 Chron. 16:31)

Dec. 5 — *I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel* (Num. 24:17).

Second Week in Advent

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *LSB* 357:4

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prophecies of Christ Daily Readings

Dec. 6 — *I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers* (Deut. 18:18).

Dec. 7 — *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given* (Isaiah 9:6).

Dec. 8 — *And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6).

Dec. 9 — *Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* (Luke 21:28)

Dec. 10 — *The LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you* (Isaiah 60:2).

Dec. 11 — *Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come* (Rev. 19:7).

Dec. 12 — *Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes."* (Isaiah 62:11)

Third Week in Advent

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *LSB* 357:2

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prophecies of Christ Daily Readings

Dec. 13 — *Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down* (Isaiah 64:1).

Dec. 14 — *[Rejoice,] O heavens, and exult, O earth… for the LORD has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted* (Isaiah 49:13).

Dec. 15 — *[His] coming forth is from of old, from ancient days* (Micah 5:2).

Dec. 16 — *The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing* (Zeph. 3:17).

Dec. 17 — *I came forth from the mouth of the Most High and covered the earth* (Ecclesiasticus 24:3).

Dec. 18 — *The LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; He will save us* (Is. 33:22).

Dec. 19 — *In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place shall be glorious* (Isaiah 11:10).

Fourth Week in Advent

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *LSB* 357:5

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prophecies of Christ Daily Readings

Dec. 20 — *I will place on His shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and He shall shut, and none shall open* (Isaiah 22:22).

Dec. 21 — *For you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings* (Mal. 4:2).

Dec. 22 — *I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts* (Hag. 2:7).

Dec. 23 — *The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel* (Isaiah 7:14).

Dec. 24 — *You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins* (Matt. 1:21).

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*Meaning of Advent Wreath Candles [1]

The Advent wreath is adorned with four candles, each carrying its own distinct symbolism and significance. These candles are traditionally lit on each Sunday of the Advent season, leading up to Christmas. As each candle is kindled, it illuminates the deeper meanings and themes associated with the anticipation of Christ's birth.

The first blue candle, known as the "Prophecy Candle" or "Hope Candle," symbolizes the eager anticipation of the Messiah's coming. It represents the hope and expectation of the Old Testament prophets, who foretold the birth of a savior who would bring light and salvation to the world. This candle serves as a beacon of hope, reminding believers of the promise of redemption and the fulfillment of God's divine plan.

The second blue candle, often referred to as the "Bethlehem Candle" or "Preparation Candle," signifies the preparation and readiness for the arrival of the Christ child. It serves as a reminder of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the humble manger where Jesus was born. This candle encourages reflection on the importance of spiritual preparedness and the welcoming of the Savior into our hearts and lives.

The third pink candle, known as the "Shepherd Candle" or "Joy Candle," represents the joy and rejoicing that accompanied the announcement of Jesus' birth. It symbolizes the proclamation of the good news to the shepherds in the fields, bringing tidings of great joy for all people. This candle serves as a joyful reminder of the immense blessings brought forth by the birth of Christ and the profound sense of joy that permeates the Advent season.

The fourth blue candle, often called the "Angel Candle" or "Love Candle," embodies the message of love as exemplified by the angels who heralded the birth of Jesus. It symbolizes the boundless love of God, manifested through the gift of His Son to humanity. This candle serves as a poignant reminder of the unconditional love that permeates the Christmas story and the profound impact of Christ's birth on the world.

[1] *christian.net/special-themes/what-do-advent-wreath-candles-represent/#meaningofadventwreathcandles_1_2*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church

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