

Lumpa & Nordland Lefse

Join us on **Thursday**, **February 20 from 10 am-2 pm** for Lumpa cooking, a potato thick Lefse that looks like a tortilla. We will eat polsa with it or hot dogs, mustard, ketchup as you like. On **Thursday March 20 from 10 am-2 pm** we will be making the Nordland Lefse we were going to make in December! Come join the fun for these free cooking events.

Intergenerational Game Day!

Individuals and families of all ages are invited to an afternoon of games, food and fellowship on **Sunday, February 23 after worship, 11:30 am-2 pm**. We'll have lots of game options, and ask you to bring your favorites too. Since it's over lunch time, the Faith Formation committee will be hosting a baked potato bar. We'll provide the potatoes and multiple gluten free topping options. We'd like to get an idea on numbers, so please RSVP your attendance to Deacon Katie at katie@trinitylutheranfc.org. We'd ask that if you're planning on coming, please invite another Trinity community member along, could be your pew neighbor, your friend from choir practice, a new member, whoever!!

Adult Forum

February Adult Forum Programs are still under construction... watch the weekly e-News for the specifics!

Giving to Trinity

If you make regular on-line donations using Realm, Venmo, or another platform, this is a gentle reminder to update your giving to reflect your pledge for 2025. If you need assistance in updating Realm, please contact Brenda Moore in the office.

Habitat for Humanity

Ft. Collins Habitat has opened applications for their homeownership program. They often hear from Habitat homebuyers that they didn't think they would qualify, but thankfully someone in their life encouraged them to apply and now they are in a safe, stable, and affordable home in the community they love. If you have someone in mind that you think might qualify, please encourage them to apply. More information and all required first steps can be found HERE. This round will be open through **February 10**. Contact Jo Gearhart or Steph Dugger with questions.

Donation Corner

Prayer Cards Small Group needs:

- #5 1/2 invitation envelopes
- All color card-stock paper
- Any other scrap-booking paper or supplies, even stamps!

Quilting Small Group needs:

 We will still (and always!) collect donated fabric, Fabric, FABRIC.

Thrivent Action Teams: Are you an eligible Thrivent member and have choice dollars available to direct? There are a number of groups that count on the Thrivent Action Teams. Talk to Dcn. Katie.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



www.trinitylutheranfc.org

Phone: (970) 482-1226 After Hours Emergency: (970)-400-7252

OFFICE HOURS MON-THURS 9AM-3PM

WORSHIP TIMES SAT: 5 PM | SUN: 10:30 AM

Senior Pastor: Rick Reiten pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org

Education & Family Minister
Deacon Katie Kline
katie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Admin: Deana Andrist office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager: Brenda Moore bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org

Volunteer Coordinator

Amanda Backsen

amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Church Musician: Carrie Hansen carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Choir: Tessa Espinosa choir@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Handbell: Jill Hunt bells@trinitylutheranfc.org

Saturday Worship Leader

Clinton Ellerbe saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org

A/V Techician: Claire Pickerel claire@trinitylutheranfc.org

Sunday School: Jennifer Reeve childrensminister@stpauls-fc.org

Nursery Coordinator

Tiffany Klijewski tiffany@trinitylutheranfc.org

TLC Preschool Director
Brenda Harju
brenda@trinitylutheranfc.org



Pastor's Ponderings: Where are these New Members coming from?!?

At worship on the weekend of February 1st and 2nd we will welcome new members to Trinity. Maybe you will recognize their faces – maybe you will know their names – maybe you greeted them when they visited, maybe you are wintering in Arizona and haven't met them yet.

We all have an opportunity to listen to fascinating stories of these new folks to the Trinity community. We have an opportunity to continue living our welcome statement. We have an opportunity to extend hospitality beyond fellowship.

'Why Trinity?' and 'Why now?' are good questions to ask...and these are the simple questions Deacon Katie and I asked at the New Member Information Class. Love was expressed in Trinity's open and affirming (Reconciling in Christ) statement. Hope revealed in our collaborating partnership model with Mary of Magdala and St. Paul's. Joy, laughter, celebration heard in the people of Trinity.

We are a community grounded in theology and tradition, with enough grace, flexibility and space to expand in new ways that God is moving us. We are not going to be the congregation for everyone, btu we are going to be this unique congregation situated in a unique place for these moments. God said "It is good," and Luther said, "This is most certainty true."

I am excited to welcome close to 25 new members, including a few who have joined but have not received an official welcome. For new members and experienced members...these times of change are anxious and unknown – learning one another's stories will helps us see together what God has in store for us. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Rick

301 FP Joint Ecological Team (JET) ECO Tip of the Month

Low-Water Gardening Made Easy https://resourcecentral.org/gardens/ The Garden In A Box program (headquartered in Boulder, serving all of NOCO) makes it easy to transform your CO yard into a beautiful, drought-tolerant oasis helping you to use less water on your landscaping year after year. Each spring and summer, we offer a selection of professionally designed, low-water garden kits tailor-made for Colorado yards. These do-it-yourself kits include quart-sized perennial plants, plant-by-number maps, seasonal maintenance suggestions, and watering schedule recommendations

How it Works: Pre-order in March for pickup and planting in May and June. Pre-order in June for pickup and planting in August and September. Join the Interest List for all 2025 Garden season news and updates at: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/zlr0ZQi/2025

The JET meets as needed to plan educational events, bike to work day, volunteer opportunities, and advocacy. If you have any suggestions for future Eco-Tips, please email them to the Trinity church office. (amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org). Our next meeting is **Tuesday, February 25 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall.

Small Groups

Irish Elementary WHY NOT TUTOR A YOUNG CHILD LEARNING TO READ? Are you interested in having a rewarding, making-a-difference experience? Please consider listening to a child who needs help with reading. We need tutors at Irish Elementary School. We currently have need of a tutor at **10:40 am on Wednesdays**. Although Irish is a bilingual school, you do not need to know Spanish to help. If you spend 30-45 minutes a week helping a child read, you'll be rewarded knowing that you've made a big difference in that child's life. Please email Jo Anne Gearhart. Thank you.

Quilting join us weekly on **Fridays from 10 am-12 pm** NO experience needed, NO need to have been coming last year, NO worries. Hope to see the old familiar as well as new faces.

Trinity Readers will start 2025 by reading two non-fiction books that deal with social issues. On **Monday, February 3**, we will explore the issue of the oppression of women worldwide as portrayed in *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. On **Monday, March 3**, we will discuss the hugely neglected subject of white poverty as illuminated by the Rev. Dr. William Barber in *White Poverty: How Exposing Myths about Race and Class can Reconstruct American Democracy*. Join us at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room for one or both of these discussions, or join via Zoom. Questions? Call Nadine Hunt at 970-825-3730.

301 FP Fellowship Get-Togethers take place the **2nd Thursday of the month at 3:30 pm**, the location is picked closer to the date, check e-News. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

TGIF (Second **Friday** at **6:30 pm**) - *Note*, Hosts may opt for another Friday of the month. Come, kick back, relax, and enjoy an evening connecting with others from the Trinity family and meet new faces! Bring yourself, an appetizer/dessert and a beverage you'd like or would like to share. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to host, please contact Liz Johnson or 402-320-3699. **February 21**: Kathy & Jack Lipscomb **March 14**: Sara and Peter Mullarky **April**: *Still Available*

Good Grief Book Study will meet the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 10am, except no meeting on May 24. The remainder of the dates are as follows: 2/8, 2/15, 3/8, 3/15, 4/12, 4/26, 5/10, & 5/17. *Good Grief* identifies ten stages of grief, recognizing that grief is complex and deeply personal. Whether mourning the death of a loved one, the end of a marriage, the loss of a job, or other difficult life changes, *Good Grief* is a proven steady companion in times of loss. This group will discuss one chapter of the book at each meeting. <u>Good Grief: A Companion for Every Loss</u>, is available at Amazon for \$4.99. If you have any questions contact <u>Patty Heyse</u> or <u>Stephen Zink</u>.

Grace Tables Grace tables small groups have been going on since 2017, but we refresh every year as new folks join. We get together about once a month to share fellowship, a DVD study, and prayer. Currently, we meet in the church library, once a month on **Sunday nights (February 16) from 6:30-8 pm**. We are diveing into a DVD study with Max Lucado as he tours the Holy Land. You don't need to be a Bible scholar – just have a heart for God and a desire to connect with others. Call/text or email 970-310-3482 or Ron & Bonnie. Thanks – Ron & Bonnie Bend | Holy Land Tour Study

Pub Theology 2.0 OPEN Group (meaning any and all are welcome!) will meet on the third **Monday**, **February 17** at **Moot House at 5:30 pm**. We will continue our exploration of Barbara Brown Taylor's Holy Envy chapters 4-6. We will discover more about the choice of the book's title, and the influence of Krister Stendahl, a Swedish Lutheran theologian who had **suggested three rules for religious understanding!**

Small Groups Continued...

Chapter Two Book will be back with a fresh start in 2025 to a monthly rhythm and in-person meetings. Join us **Thursday February 27 at 6 pm** in the Fireside Room

301 FP Prayer Group meets the **last Monday of the month at 10:30 am** in the Fireside Room to pray for the 301 Partnership. If you have questions or comments please email or call <u>Pat Wiedower</u> or 619-994-2641.

JOY delights in welcoming all older adults and those young at heart to join for their next luncheon on **Monday, February 17**. Look for more information in the future Tidings and e-News.

Little Pantry is lovingly remembering Carol Hemken. With her heart of faithful service, she began this ministry and we are grateful. We give thanks to all of you who participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar and filled our cupboards. We are also appreciative of those of you who gave cash donations. Especially in these cold months, we want to keep the pantry stocked. Protein items usually get used up first. When you add an item or two to your grocery shopping and deposit it in the blue basket at the back of the fellowship hall, your help will keep this mission going. God bless you, Marilyn Morrissey and 301 Faith Partners Little Pantry small group.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

For Ash Wednesday, there will be three opportunities to worship with the 301 Faith Partners:

7 am Trinity Lutheran

12 pm Mary of Magdala Ecumenical Catholic

7 pm St. Paul's Episcopal

Everyone is welcome to any of these services.

TLC Preschool

January has flown by, despite the more wintry weather. The children have been busy learning about snow, winter and hibernating animals, as well as making lots of snow-themed art. There are also plenty of science experiments going on with the properties of snow and ice, sinking and floating, and melting.

As we move into February, our focus will be on how we love one another and showing God's love to all. And our Valentine party is always a big hit!

Behind the scenes in the preschool is also busy with attending the Fort Collins Preschool Fair, updating preschool information and prepping for enrollment for the 2025/26 school year! Enrollment for both preschool and UPK are both now open, so if you know of anyone interested in enrolling, please have them reach out to me at 970-221-9852, or they can register through the preschool website at www.tlcpreschoolfortcollins.weebly.com. All updated information and tuition costs are available on the preschool website.

God's Peace, Brenda Harju, Director

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	
9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship <i>New</i>	3 9:30am Trinity Readers	4 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	
Member Welcome 11:30 am Fellowship 11:45 am Small Group Check in	12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property	5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ	
9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	12 pm Sermon Discussion	11	
		6:30 pm Executive	
9 am Education for All 10:30 am Shared Worship 11:30 am Shared Brunch 12:30 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Grace Tables	12 pm Sermon	18 6:30 pm Council	
9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Game Day	24 10:30 am FP Prayer Group 12 pm Sermon Discussion	5:30 pm FP Eco Justice	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			5 pm Worship <i>New Member Welcome</i> 5:45 pm Fellowship
10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm	9:30 am Bible Study 11 am FP Clergy Mtg	7 10 am Quilting Grp	8 10 am Good Grief
Volunteer @ Irish Elem 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	J. J		5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm	9:30 am Bible Study	14 10 am Quilting Grp	15
Volunteer @ Irish Elem	3:30 pm FP Get Together		2 pm Prayer Cards
5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	4 pm Finance 6:15 pm FP Co-Op Mtg		6 pm Supper Symposium
19	20	21	22
10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem	9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Lumpa Cooking	10 am Quilting Grp	10 am Good Grief 12 pm Sweet Treats
5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir		6:30 pm TGIF	5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
26	27	28	
10:15am, 10:40am, 1:25pm, 3:05pm Volunteer @ Irish Elem	9:30 am Bible Study	10 am Quilting Grp	
5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	6 pm Chap 2 Readers 7 pm Immigration		

Pull Me OUT! HANG ME up!! PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

Assisting In Worship

February 1/2 Vicki Volbrecht / Gerry Olsen
February 8/9 / Tessa Espinosa
February 15/16 / Nadine Hunt
February 22/23 Vicki Volbrecht / Kathy Lipscomb

TLC 2024 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals							
	December 2024	Year-To- Date					
Receipts:							
Offerings	\$ 53,700	\$ 371,197					
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	55,562					
Building Use	577	12,589					
Benevity Funds Released	2,800	17,204					
Total Receipts:	61,657	456,552					
Expenditures:							
Operating and Support	\$ 26,327	\$ 297,100					
Ministries	14,709	109,798					
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	7,915	27,834					
Total Expenditures:	48,951	434,732					
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ 12,706	\$ 21,820					
Total Charling/Savings on of 12/21/2021		¢ 204 772 61					
Total Chapter / Savings as of 12/31/2024		\$ 204,772.61					
Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2023							
Difference		\$ 38,116.61					





Glenn Schneider	2/1	Ron Mullenbach	2/12	Charlotte Thompson	2/21
Donna Dauner	2/2	Pastor Rick Reiten	2/12	Greg Brissey	2/22
Levi Schmidt	2/2	Shelley Aust	2/13	Katie Barron	2/24
Ronald Smith	2/3	Ruth Dietz	2/14	Wally Jacobson	2/25
Carolyn Biedermann	2/6	Eileen Ackerson	2/15	Tristina Schmidt	2/25
Cal Fairfax	2/6	Blake Dugger	2/16	Duane Ehrlich	2/26
Renee Mize	2/6	Susannah Foos	2/16	Barbara Dunworth	2/27
Nolan Dickson	2/9	Lindsay Reiten	2/16	Jack Mullenbach	2/28
Larry Ackerson	2/11	Susie Stark	2/18	Clinton Ellerbe	2/29
Ron Dunworth	2/12	Jo Anne Gearhart	2/20	Linda Hamilton	2/29
Annie Lavden	2/12	Marv Ann Miller	2/21		



Eileen & Larry Ackerson 2/2 Aida & Rob Schmidt 2/24

Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Co-Op Committee composed of clergy and lay leaders of each faith community discuss the functioning of the faith partnership, coordination of collaborative projects, and other items affecting the faith communities. At the 9 Jan 2025 meeting the following items were discussed:

Furnace Update: The status of the furnace replacement in the Fellowship Hall was provided as well as noting the completion of the furnace repair in the east wing.

<u>Property Committee Update</u>: The installment of the handicap accessible door in the accessible bathroom (across from the men's bathroom) is completed. Other items on the property to-do list were covered.

Lease with St. Paul's and Mary of Magdala: The first year of the two-year lease is coming to an end and the three congregations discussed this and what follows.

New Co-Op Members:

St. Paul: Raven Agape, the current junior warden, will move to the senior warden position. Sarah Jameson will assume the junior warden position. Both will serve on the Co-Op Committee.

Trinity: Paul Johnson will replace Vicki Volbrecht as vice-president of Trinity on the Co-Op committee. Mary of Magdala: No changes as of now, but their fiscal year is different than Trinity's and St. Paul's, so it is possible after April there will be a new member or members joining from their leadership team.

<u>Safe Parking Initiative</u>: The safe parking initiative will be brought to each congregation's leadership for consideration. The safe parking initiative would provide a limited number of parking spaces in the Trinity parking lot for homeless people living in cars to park at night and sleep in their cars. Cameras to monitor the area and a portable toilet(s) would be needed. Those parking in the spaces undergo a background check.

If you would like to receive a copy of the minutes of the Coop Meetings, please email your request to Deana at office@trinitylutheranfc.org. Respectfully submitted, Vicki Volbrecht, VP Trinity Council

Free Workshop "Introduction to Centering Prayer"

Are you looking for a way to explore or deepen your relationship with God? You are invited to participate in a free workshop "Introduction to Centering Prayer" on **Saturday**, **March 29 from 9 am–12 pm** in the Sanctuary. In this workshop, you will discover a centuries-old prayer method. Centering Prayer consists of simply sitting in silence with God - beyond thoughts, words, and emotions - and opening our mind, heart and whole being to the Ultimate Mystery.

You will learn the basics of Centering Prayer, experience it in a guided setting, and be able to ask questions and share experiences with the presenter and your fellow initiates.

Centering Prayer is based on a Christian contemplative practice first described in The Cloud of Unknowing, written in the latter half of the 14th Century. It calls us to abandon any consideration of God's attributes and actions, and to surrender to his/her influence in our lives.

It is a very personal prayer practice but can also be practiced in groups. It opens us to God's presence within and to his/her infinite love and power to heal.

Sky Ranch

Would your child like to go to Sky Ranch this summer? Elementary, Middle, and High School students are invited to Sky Ranch with other Trinity youth the week of July 20-25 (or half week for lower elementary 20-23). Please register directly with Sky Ranch: SUMMER CAMPS (skyranchcolorado.org) and use the code: 25TLCFC). Trinity will pay \$200 per camper! This amount will automatically be taken off your registration when you use the code. If you decide to go a different week (I know, schedules are complicated) please mark Trinity, Fort Collins on your registration and let me know and you to get the same offer. As always, scholarships are available, contact me for more information. To use this discount, you must register by April 1 (earlier is better to ensure there is enough space!)

Family Camp

If you would like to go to family camp at Sky Ranch, they have a week dedicated for you! June 29-July 4, FAMILY CAMPS to learn more and register. Again, on your registration please indicate that you are part of Trinity, Fort Collins and your whole family will get the \$200 off as well.

Trinity's Easter Brunch

The Faith Formation Committee and the friends and families of the Trinity youth are hosting Easter Brunch for ALL on Easter Sunday after the 10:30 am worship service. More information will come out as we get closer to Easter (April 20).

First Communion

Has your child been asking questions about communion? Is your child waiting to take communion until first receiving instruction? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, it may be the right time for your child to receive first communion class (note: this is not a requirement at Trinity to receive communion). We suggest this instruction happen sometime during the 1st – 3rd grade time. If you would like your child to participate in First Communion Class, please contact me to express your interest. Class date and the celebration of communion dates are still being determined

VBS

Save the date for Vacation Bible School preschool – 5th grade for **June 9-12** (Monday – Thursday). Grades 6th -12th, you can sign up to help in leadership roles. More information to register and themes will come out in March.

e-News

Are you getting Trinity's e-News? The e-News is an electronic way TLC shares what is happening in the life of our church. Each week, an email is sent out with the weekend's happenings, upcoming events, and news to share. We also use this method to inform members of funerals and other time sensitive news. If you would like to receive Trinity's emails, please email Amanda at amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org.

From Pastor Rick

Dear Trinity –At the beginning of December I preached a sermon that included our welcome statement and how I feel welcomed in this statement as well, especially as Huntington's progresses. We all bring our diverse abilities to the Church, including physical, mental and developmental circumstances. Some diversity is apparent, some is hidden, and all our diverse ways are loved by God and welcome in this place. Thank you. - Pastor Rick

The following is the welcome in our bulletins.

To all who gather: We are Reconciling in Christ, which means we strive to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and to work for racial equity and to commit to anti-racist work.

We welcome believers, seekers, and the curious, regardless of religious background. God makes no distinction based on race; ethnicity; immigration status; economic status; physical, mental, or developmental circumstances; or other life circumstances. God loves and welcomes all people. Therefore, we welcome all people to the life of Christ at Trinity.

<u>From Pastor Rick</u>: This community affirms its welcome by accepting me in this place. Diagnosed with Huntington's (HD), my progressing symptoms and neurodiversity are displayed publicly. The uncontrolled movements (chorea) may limit my functionality, or appear in other ways; yet, it is an opportunity to learn and love alongside one another. HD is part of me, but I am not defined by the diagnosis. As for all of us, I am defined as child of God.



Signing up is easier than ever, thank you SO MUCH for helping to make our church possible!

SATURDAY Sign Up Here—> https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4fafa929aaf49-tlcsaturday

Communion Preparation: Set up and Clean up Elements for Saturday Service

Communion & Assistant: Readings for Service & Help Serve Communion

Fellowship: Prepare treats (i.e. wine, cheese, & crackers), greet attendees after Saturday Service **Greeter:** Unlock/Lock doors, turn on/off lights, greet, hand out bulletins, count offering for Fellowship, count participants in service

SUNDAY Sign Up Here—> https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b054eafa62da3fa7-sunday

Welcome Table: An usher and a greeter had a baby, that baby became the Welcome Table Host.

Fellowship Host: Make a fresh pot of coffee during postlude, then clean up at 12 pm.

