

January 2026 Volume 29, No. 1

Trinity Lutheran Church
A welcoming faith community
living together in God's love to
share the joy of Jesus Christ.

TIDINGS



Spanish Class Small Group Coming Soon ... Again!

There will be another Spanish Class for Beginning and Intermediate speakers starting mid January! Official start date is still being worked out, so check the next couple upcoming e-News for exact start date. Classes are from 3-4 pm (beginners) and 4-5 pm (intermediate) on Thursdays in Room 2. Jim Ogan is our teacher with lots of experience in teaching new and not-so-new Spanish speakers. Contact Jo Gearhart (gearhartjm@yahoo.com), Shellley Aust (shelley1aust@gmail.com) or just show up. There is a fee of \$20 for the class. Esperamos verlos!

Families Fellowship—Get to know Pr. Kaari

Welcome to Pastor Kaari! All households with kids 18 and under are invited to join the Faith Formation committee for a lunch and get-to-know you event with Pastor Kaari on **January 25 after worship**. Faith Formation committee will be providing the basics for a baked potato bar luncheon, and we ask you to sign up for some simple toppings [HERE](#). Please RSVP to Lisa Dunworth via text at 970-213-3113 so we know how many to plan for.

Year End Contributions

Please get your 2025 donations in early! You will be able to put your donations in the offering plate the weekend of December 27/28 and they will count for 2025. For those of you with internet access, you can easily make your donation through our website at trinitylutheranfc.org (until midnight 12/31). Do you use the Venmo platform? We are listed as [@Trinity-LutheranFC](#). If you prefer to mail your contribution, please be aware that check theft has occurred, we strongly encourage in-person or online giving whenever possible. If you do mail your donation, ensure it is postmarked by 12/31/25.

Adult Forum

January 4: Tasha Barron will discuss her 2025 mission trip which was about so much more than just physical work—it was a powerful experience of connecting deeply with the people and culture around her, while also growing in her relationship with Christ.

January 11: Come get to know Pastor Kaari better! Pastor Kaari will have a short presentation on her life and her call story, while leaving space for questions and discussion at the end.

January 18: Living into RIC (Reconciling in Christ). Come hear Claire Ru and Esra tell their stories and why they have chosen to call Trinity their spiritual home.

January 26: Living into RIC with Intention. Exploring how to expand our welcome, advocacy and leadership to marginalized people in our community.

Holiday Office Closure

The Trinity office will be closed from December 24-January 1; however, staff will still be working remotely if needed, to complete their weekly tasks. Office voicemails and staff emails will be checked periodically, if there is an emergency or an immediate need, please call the after-hours emergency number 970-400-7252. This closure over the Christmas break allows Trinity staff time to spend with family and friends during the holiday season, coinciding with a slower business period. It also provides a chance for staff to rest and return to work refreshed in the new year.

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 always collect donated fabric, Fabric, & more 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.

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

Associate Pastor: Kaari Nieuwland
pastorkaari@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Admin: Deana Andrist
office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager: Brenda Moore
bmoore@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Communications & Volunteer Coordinator
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Church Musician: Carrie Hansen
carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Choir: Tessa Espinosa
choir@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Handbell:
bells@trinitylutheranfc.org

Saturday Worship Leader
Clinton Ellerbe
saturdayworship@trinitylutheranfc.org

A/V Technician: 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 Kaari's Kinkling

Hello Trinity! What a joy it has been to officially start as your Associate Pastor. As I'm writing this, I am about two and a half days in and haven't had the chance to meet many of you yet. I know that will change quickly with the midweek Advent service this evening, worship this weekend, and Christmas services coming.

I thought, as an introduction, I would tell you a little bit of my story- though if you'd like to hear the more in-depth version, I will also be leading an Adult Forum on January 11!

I grew up in Longmont, CO, just a little bit south of Fort Collins. I was raised by my mom, Greta von Bernuth. I imagine you might meet her at some point along the way. I'm a lifelong Lutheran, and grew up attending First Lutheran Church in Longmont, CO. It's probably not shocking to you to learn that I was very involved in church growing up. I was a faithful Sunday School attender, participated in Confirmation classes, attended and was a leader in my youth group, and even taught Middle School Sunday School and Confirmation as a high schooler. I was a youth representative on church council, helped lead in worship, and my pastor even gave me the opportunity to help preach on Easter Sunday my senior year of high school alongside my high school sweetheart and now husband, Walter.

Most importantly in all that church engagement, I learned how to ask questions. The more I engaged in church, the more questions I had. About how church worked. About why we did the things we did. About who God was. And about how God was engaging in our lives. Thank goodness I had a pastor (Pastor Paul Judson, who some of you may know as having just retired from CSU Lutheran Campus Ministry/LuMin) who was willing to engage my questions rather than shut them down. Pastor Paul and I met for a lot of coffees and a lot of conversations. He helped me explore my questions; he taught me about different theological lenses, like the Theology of Glory (which Lutherans do not subscribe to) and the Theology of the Cross (which Lutherans do believe in!). He helped me find language for what I was feeling and experiencing as my faith butted up against some of my experiences in the world, and in how I heard other people talk about God. Through all that questioning, I began to discern God's call to me to be a pastor.

By the time I graduated from high school, I knew I was heading toward seminary eventually. I did my undergraduate degree at CSU where I majored in English with a concentration in Literature and a minor in History. During college, I participated in Lutheran Campus Ministry, and even worked here at Trinity as the FoCoLu Intern, Pastoral Assistant, and Walter and I both helped play music at the Saturday night services. After college, Walter and I got married and we moved together to Berkeley, CA where I attended Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

As a pastor, I still believe that questioning is one of the most important things we can do as faithful people. When we ask questions, it means we're paying attention to our lives, to the world around us, and to how God is present in the midst of it all. A part of my call, then, is to help us all ask the right questions- to approach God and faith with curiosity and wonder- so that we can see how God is at work in our lives and our world, bringing liberation through love for all people.

I am excited to meet all of you, to see how God is working at Trinity, to ask some great questions together, and to join in God's work of liberation in this place.

With joy and anticipation, Pastor Kaari Nieuwlandt

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 6

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
4 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	5 9:30am Trinity Readers 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	6 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice 6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ
11 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship	12 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6 pm Property 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	13 4:30 pm Birdhouse Bldg 6:30 pm Executive
18 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:45 am Faith Formation	19 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	20 6:30 pm Council
25 9 am Education for All 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Family Fellowship	26 12 pm Sermon Discussion 6:30 pm Male Spirituality	27 5:30 pm FP Eco Justice



Birthdays

Lois Smith	1/2	Susan Snyder	1/11	Dean Gebhardt	1/19
Delores Wisner	1/3	Sara Flatley	1/13	Heidi LoRash-Neuenschwander	
Amy Jo Martinson	1/5	Tom Simmons	1/14	1/22	
Vicky Splittergerber	1/6	Dan Merz	1/15	Steve Dugger	1/23
Ron Splittergerber	1/9	Ru Orchard	1/15	Carly McClure	1/23
Kathy Gauger	1/10	Char Gaalswyk	1/16	Peggy Lynch	1/26
Tim Gauger	1/10	Susan Lamb	1/16	Don Heyse	1/28
Greg Schairer	1/10	Justin Dickson	1/18	Margaret Wick	1/29
Ryan Andrist	1/11	Jan Garman	1/18	Pat Wiedower	1/30

Anniversaries

Becki & Jim Oscarson 12/20

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed	2	3 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
7 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	8 9:30 am Bible Study 11 am FP Clergy Mtg 3:30pm FPGetTogether 4 pm Finance 6:30 pm FP Co-Op Mtg	9 10 am Quilting 6:30 pm TGIF	10 12 pm Sweet Treats 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
14 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	15 9:30 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Pub Theology	16 10 am Quilting	17 2 pm Prayer Cards 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
21 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	22 9:30 am Bible Study 7 pm Immigration	23 10 am Quilting	24 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship
28 5:15 pm Bells 6:30 pm Choir	29 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Chap 2 Readers	30 10 am Quilting	31 5 pm Worship 5:45 pm Fellowship

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

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

January 3/4 Sherry Albertson-Clark / Katie Barron

January 10/11 Vicki Volbrecht / Karl Schmidt

January 17/18 / Rich Fennig

January 24/25 / Joey Prows

January 31 Vicki Volbrecht

Small Groups

Sermon Discussion Enjoy a discussion of the weekend sermon to share where we see God present in our lives. Join us most **Mondays at 12 pm** in Fireside Rm.

Male Spirituality Carrying on the work of Fr Richard Rohr and Illuman we will utilize the power of ritual, image, and story to expand the depth and breadth of love in ourselves to make a difference in the world, using a circle of structured sharing. Join us every **Monday at 6:30 pm** in Room 5.

Bible Study meets **Thursdays from 9:30-11 am** in Room 2 returning January 8. The topic is the transition from Mosaic Covenant to the New Covenant. We have finished readings from Exodus, Deuteronomy, and Jeremiah and are doing readings from Matthew followed by Romans.

301 Quilters meets **Fridays from 10 am-12 pm** in Room 2. If you'd like to join us, please come!!; NO experience needed, NO need to have been coming last year, NO worries. Hope to see the old familiar as well as new faces. We're a fun and caring small group that has a purpose of aiding those in need.

Men's Breakfast All men are welcome to join at the Breakfast Club (Ft. Collins) for discussion and fellowship on the **1st Tuesday (January 6) at 7:30 am**.

301 FP Get-Togethers take place the **2nd Thursday (January 8) at 3:30 pm**. Location is picked closer to the date so watch the e-News for brewery. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

TGIF (One Friday a month at 6:30 pm) - Note, Hosts can opt for a Friday of the month that works for them. 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. On break for December but join the fun on **Friday, January 9**: Rebecca & Andrew Roland! An RSVP to the host is appreciated but not necessary to attend.

Trinity Readers will meet on **Monday, January 12 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Rm where we will have brunch, attendees are asked to bring a food item to share. We will be selecting books to read for 2026, please bring two book recommendations. Questions, call Cheryl Smith at 970-218-5750.

Birdhouses Join us on the **2nd Tuesday (January 13) at 4:30 pm** in Room 2 to build and decorate bird houses and feeders to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Ages 8 and up invited!

Pub Theology V.3 will meet **Thursday, January 15 at 5:30 pm** at Stodgy Brewing, 1802 Laporte Ave. We will explore a variety of texts and discuss how we live out our relationship with God and support each other along the way.

Prayer Cards This group meets to make homemade greeting cards **Saturday, January 17**. The group will decide how the cards will be used. No crafting skills needed, just a willing heart to serve others. Open Invitation to come when you are able BUT an RSVP to [Erik Elliott](#) is needed for supplies.

Chapter Two Book Group is an open small group for 301 Faith Partners and the wider community, new participants are always welcome to join the casual discussion. No long-term commitment required! If you have trouble finding any of the books and would like Trinity to order a copy for the library, please let [Maddie Fairfax](#) know at any time. On break for December but join us on **Thursday, January 29 at 6 pm**: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See.

Little Pantry During Advent season, our community came together in a remarkable display of generosity by contributing to the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who donated and helped make this drive a success. Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year! 301 Faith Partners Little Pantry Small Group

Your Gifts In Action ~ Outreach Fort Collins

Mission: Reducing the impacts of homelessness through collaborative, compassionate street-based outreach. This non-profit that is supported by Trinity's benevolence is a community based program in the Fort Collins downtown, midtown, and northern Fort Collins areas focused on helping and building trusting relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness. Outreach Fort Collins provides on-the-ground compassionate outreach support and rapid response. Their professional staff identify needs and connect with services. Issues addressed may include disruptive behavior, mental health concerns, and safety risks for a safe and welcoming environment for all. Proactive outreach enables concerns to be addressed before they escalate, also providing for basic needs and any behavioral health support. Their on-call team is available Monday through Friday from 8 to 6 pm and collaborates with local businesses, law enforcement, service providers, and city departments. Trinity members Lisa Dunworth and Andy Sprain work for Outreach Fort Collins and have given the church great advice on how to understand the persons experiencing homelessness that we encounter on our property.

Please visit their [website](#) to get a better picture of how this amazing organization works to make Fort Collins a welcoming community for ALL! Also, check out the [interview with TLC member Lisa!](#)

When you give to Trinity, you give to Outreach Fort Collins!

TLC 2025 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals		
	November 2025	Year-To- Date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$ 43,983	\$ 363,286
SPE and MoM Building Use Donations	4,580	50,380
Building Use	1,547	19,664
Benevity Funds Released	1,050	15,325
Total Receipts:	51,160	448,655
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	\$ 22,479	\$ 291,935
Ministries	10,296	102,548
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)	-	20,720
Total Expenditures:	32,775	415,203
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ 18,385	\$ 33,452
Total Checking/Savings as of 11/30/2025		\$ 211,235.88
Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2024		\$ 204,772.61
Difference		\$ 6,463.27



TRINITY LUTHERAN
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301 FP JET ECO Tip of the Month

Experts say the air dry option is the most underrated dishwasher setting, and it can save you a significant amount of energy and money if used regularly. This is because the heat dry option requires a lot of electricity to maintain the high temperatures to dry dishes quickly. Some dishwashers automatically apply the heat dry setting, so you may be using heat dry without realizing it. Check your dishwasher selections before starting each cycle, and if heat dry is applied, unselect it to air dry your dishes instead. While air drying dishes takes more time, White says it's the most energy-efficient setting.

"The normal cycle with an air dry option will almost always be the lowest energy usage," Meera White, senior product marketing manager at Whirlpool Corporation, says.

If your dishwasher comes with an eco mode, that's another setting experts recommend using for energy efficiency. When it's combined with the air dry setting, each load has maximized efficiency.

The Joint Ecological Team (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 [Amanda](#) in the office. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, January 27 at 5:30 pm**. Be sure to check out the JET table and bulletin board in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall!