



TRINITY

CHURCH

**848 Gold Coast Rd
Papillion, NE 68046
402-339-3788**

**December Newsletter
Printed November 27, 2023**

Note from Pastor Erik, Lead Pastor

As I write this, the sounds, the sights, the lights, and the songs of Christmas are all around. A community event in our Commons is filled with Christmas trees and people preparing to celebrate the Christmas season. Driving through Papillion, we see the Winter Wonderland taking shape. Retail stores are preparing. The culture around us is preparing. The Church is preparing. In fits and starts this season of joy and expectation begins!

However, I draw a distinction between celebrating the Christmas season and celebrating Christmas.

Christmas is about the birth of our Savior. At Trinity, we focus on the Incarnation, God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. It is a wonder to me that God, who created it all, continues to bless all of creation with His presence. He became a human being to walk with us for a time.

Through the birth of Jesus, we realize that God understands our reality. He knows pain, the sting of death, deep sadness, and exuberant joy. He knows what we go through. And, most importantly, He cares deeply for each one of us.

The four Sundays that precede December 25th are called Advent. This word means coming. This season of preparation and introspection focuses our hearts on the precious gift of the Christ Child. It is also time to look to the future, for the scriptural promise that remains true: Jesus will come again.

Come explore with me our 2023 Advent theme "Wonder". We will consider the story of Christ's birth through four songs of scripture.

- December 3 - Song of Mary Luke 1:46-55
- December 10 - Song of Zechariah Luke 1:68-79
- December 17 - Song of the Angels Luke 2:10-14
- December 24 - Song of Simeon Luke 2:29-32

I encourage you to read these songs in preparation for worship each week asking yourself three important questions:

1. What does this ancient song sing into the challenges of our world today?
2. What does this song sing into the challenges of my own heart today?
3. What is the message of this song that I can carry into the future?

The celebration of the Christmas Season is a wonderful experience. Far more wonderful is the celebration of God, who became a human being to save us from our sins.

Throughout this newsletter are activities and experiences hosted by your Church family to build community and help us experience the Wonder of a God who sings into our lives His message of hope each day.

I look forward to celebrating the season and the Incarnation with you.

Your Pastor and Friend,



ADVENT PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL

Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th, and 20th

9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Chapel will be available for self-guided prayer on Wednesdays through Advent. Come quiet your heart in preparation for Christmas. Prayer points will be on the screen, soothing music in the background, and a take-home resource available. Come when you would like, stay as long as you would like.

CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY CHURCH

Traveler's Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Nursery Only, Communion Served

4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Full Trinity Kids Programming

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th

2:00 p.m. - Family Service - Worship Center

Activity Bags, Glow-sticks, Kid's Presentation

Nursery Only, Communion Not Served

4:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. - Worship Center

Nursery Only, Communion Served

8:00 p.m. - Trinity Chapel

No Nursery, Communion Served

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

ONLINE SERVICE ONLY

www.trinitylife.org/live

Includes Games & Giveaways, Kid's Moment,
Message, and Communion

New Years Eve

Sunday, December 31st at 10:00 a.m.

Full Trinity Kids Programming



Ministry at Trinity Church

CONNECTIONS

SAVE THE DATES
Trinity Church's
2024 Marriage
Conference
March 22nd & 23rd

I am praying bold prayers that we as the church will continue to grow DEEPER in our marriages with a foundation on Christ. This event will be an amazing opportunity for you and your spouse to reconnect, laugh, and grow in your faith as one.

More details to come!

Interested in joining a connections group?

Reach out to Morgahn and she will help you find a group in which to grow deeper in community!

"Gathering together with other believers to study the Word ought to be one of our greatest priorities."
Jesus explained this in Matthew 18:19-20

Morgahn Randall
Connections Minister
mrandall@trinitylife.org

MEN'S MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATES
Men's Axe Throwing
January 21st - 1-4 p.m.
ManCamp
Snowy Mountain Range, WY
June 12-16

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY
3-Year Discipleship Journey
Parent & Student Intensive
Begins January 7 | 5 p.m.

TRINITY MISSIONS

Little Miracles Angel Tree
Helping families in need experience one element of the joy of Christmas.

Pick your ornament off the tree, purchase the gift, and return by December 17th.

Pastor Pimpinan
North Sumatra Indonesia

The Raining Season
Orphan Care in Sierra Leone

Stephen Center
Monthly Meal

Matt Pearson
Pastor in Training
mpearson@trinitylife.org

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our Serve Teams are underway and excited about the ways they get to support women! Ready to put your gifts and talents to use in our ministry? Reach out to Juli and she will help you find the right team for you.

Cookie Exchange
December 17 | 11:45 a.m.

Bake your favorite holiday recipe and bring two - three dozen of those treats to share. Great conversation, connection, laughter, and warm beverages await.

SAVE THE DATE
IF:GATHERING
February 22nd & 23rd

Join us in praying for God to bring 200 women from across the metro to gather for this incredible simulcast opportunity.

Chili Cookoff Fundraiser Results
14 entries, 100 tasters and eaters
Congratulations to our winners:
Dustin Johnson and Jon Marvin
Total raised: \$1567
40 backpacks for food-insecure students over the winter break.

Juli Staab
Communications & Discipleship
jstaab@trinitylife.org

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT - CHRISTMAS EDITION

Sunday December 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Come spend some time together celebrating the season with carols, fresh movie theatre popcorn, hot cocoa, and the animated Grinch movie! Wear your Christmas Pj's and feel free to bring blankets and extra movie snacks for a super fun and cozy evening.

You can RSVP at trinitylife.org/events!

CHRISTMAS IN TRINITY KIDS

Full programming will be available the first three Sundays. On December 24th, we have one 10am service that includes a lesson and Christmas party in our classrooms.

See page 3 for Travelers Christmas and Christmas Eve service details regarding kids.

CHRISTMAS GIFT

Our elementary kids will be decorating a small tree in our kids worship space. Throughout December kids are encouraged to bring a small gift for a family in need to put under their tree. This can be anything-even second hand (if in good condition). Parents of elementary-aged kidS will get a handout on December 3rd with more details.



Amanda Lynn

Children's and Family Minister

alynn@trinitylife.org

TRINITY STUDENTS CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

Celebrate the holiday season at our Christmas Party on December 13th! Join in the festive fun with activities like floor hockey, Christmas cookie decorating, and much more! The theme is pajamas, so make sure to wear your favorite PJs for a cozy and enjoyable time! Bring your friends for this evening of fun!!

HOLIDAY BREAK

Trinity Students will be on break starting on Wednesday, December 20th and will resume on Wednesday, January 10th, 2024.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE*

TAILGATE (5:30p - 6:30p).

Unstructured time to hangout, play games, and buy pizza!

PROGRAM (6:30p -8:00p).

Worship, God's Word, and meaningful conversations in small groups!



Chris Randall

Student and Family Minister

crandall@trinitylife.org

****When Papillion LaVista schools are not in session, Trinity Students does not meet.***

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 12/03 - Ed Niemann
- 12/10 - Eugene Ellefson
- 12/22 - Carol Gates
- 12/28 - Otis Carr

50+ Anniversaries

- 12/11/64 - Dale & Caryl Horton
- 12/19/64 - Jim & Shelly Petersen
- 12/22/68 - Jim & Nancy Thomas
- 12/23/56 - Otis & Marlene Carr
- 12/27/63 - Tom & Beverly Vitamvas

Welcomed to Our Church Family

- 11/14 - Sam, Lisa, Claire, Jacob and Owen Ucman; Laurel Wilson and children Brandon and Katelyn Blodgett; Caleb, Amber, Hayden, Liberty, and Jonas Clark; Brian, Bailey, Jack and Blake Feekin
- 10/29 - Justin, Alicia, James, Charley, and Miles Greiner; Jonathan and Tiffany Alcocer and children, Gage and Ainsley Sawyers

Health and Healing

- Alice Bailey, Nancy Aken, Doc Watson, Wanda Butts, Rich Webb

Sympathies

- Mike and Kathy Jones on the loss of Mike's brother.
- Patti (Stahl) Bochnicek and family on the loss of her son, Blake.
- The family of Paul Schroeder who passed away in November.
- Montana and Shea Duryea on the loss of Montana's grandmother.
- Sue Lauritsen and family on the loss of Sue's mother, Lila Christensen

OUR VISION: A place to belong and become who God is calling us to be

OUR MISSION: Connecting People to Christ

OUR STRATEGY: Love Jesus | Transform Lives | Serve the Community

Trinity Church Office Closed

Monday, December 25

TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings
Connect People to Christ!

IN OCTOBER

Donation Offering Entries

From Planning Center	289
From Cash & Checks	171
# of Donors	205
# of New Donors	2
# of Recurring Donors	81
October Offering:	\$90,073.05

SEPTEMBER ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ -153,971
Building Fund: \$ 126,784
Endowment: \$ 343,764
Memorial: \$ 69,887

GO Vision Initiative (Mortgage)
Received through print date \$920,735
of our \$1,200,000 goal.

Please review your bi-monthly giving statements for accuracy. Reach out to our Contributions Secretary, Carolyn Bestmann with any questions at cbestmann@trinitylife.org.

5 WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON

Place check or cash in the black box in the back of the worship center



Download the
CHURCH
CENTER
APP



TEXT TO GIVE

Text any amount to
84321



BY MAIL

Trinity Church
848 Gold Coast Rd
Papillion, NE 68046



ONLINE

www.trinitylife.org/give

We are getting ready for an incredible year ahead.
Join what God has planned for Trinity Church in 2024
www.trinitylife.org/intent

Our goal is 100% participation.
Currently we are at 52% plus 20 new donors.



December at a Glance

Little Miracles Angel Tree to Help Families in Need

First Three Weeks in December - Deadline December 17

Advent - Wonder - Four Weeks in December

Sundays, December 3, 10, 17, 24 | 8:00, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.

Self-Guided Prayer during Advent in the Chapel

Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 | 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Family Movie Night *Christmas Edition*

Sunday, December 10 | 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Women's Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 17 | 11:45 a.m.

Traveler's Christmas

Thursday, December 21 | 6:00 p.m.

Stephen Center - 4th Friday Meal

Friday, December 22 | Drop off ingredients by Dec 20

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24 | 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 p.m.

Christmas - Online only

Sunday, December 25 | 10:00 a.m.