



TRINITY

CHURCH

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

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Printed January 29, 2025

Alive & Active

We're reading
THE BIBLE
together in 2025



FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

I want to share a heartfelt thank you to all those who are a part of Trinity Church. Your patience and grace with me and the Trinity Staff team during our Lead Pastor vacancy has meant a lot. We appreciate your kind words to us and the willingness of so many of you stepping up to help, volunteer, and support our staff team while we were understaffed over the last eight months.

I am excited for Pastor Mike Skunes to join us as part of Trinity Church and our staff team. He will be bringing a passion for the Gospel and sharing it with those both here at Trinity and those who do not yet know Jesus outside the walls of the church. Help welcome him and his family to Papillion and Trinity with an extra helping of Nebraska nice. Let us show him what "The Good Life" is all about!

With our 2025 Alive and Active theme, the whole church is invited to read through the Bible over the next year. We will read about three chapters a day, plus a Psalm. To get started, you will find resources available in the Commons and by email. For those who like to read online, link to the YouVersion plan, **One Story that Leads to Jesus**, which includes helpful videos and articles along the way. In your Connection Groups or in the Commons after worship, engage with one another about what you are learning. Our staff is also planning posts on social media and a podcast (watch for details) to help everyone stay engaged in the plan throughout the year. Join us in reading through the Bible this year. It's going to be great!

We are not far off from Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. This 40-day Church season is a time of reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. It's a time to remember Jesus' death and resurrection, and to live a life more in line with His teachings. We will worship on Wednesdays through Lent at 6:00 p.m. beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. This will be a traditional service the Holden Evening Prayer, liturgically sung and commonly used during Lent, along with a sermon and time for prayer. We look forward to these evenings for worship and reflection. Of note, we are not having Soup Suppers as they have not been well received the last several years.

During Lent, I invite you to the Rooted Experience. This six-week discipleship series will grow your faith as you discover the rhythms of a life with Jesus. In small-group settings, you will connect more fully to God, the Church and your purpose. While this series is required for our confirmation students and parents, **everyone is encouraged to participate**. I am looking forward to growing with you. Mark your calendar to join me on Sundays, beginning March 2 from 4:30-6:00 pm. Register today at trinitylife.org/events or click the Rooted Experience link.

Rooted Experience



Matt Pearson
Associate Pastor



GatherTM 25

25 hours.

February 28-March 1

It's not the gathering of the
global church without **YOU**

Gather25 is just days away!! This is not a little thing...this is a GOD-SIZED reality!!

Jennie Allen, founder of the IF:Gathering discipleship ministry, had been wrestling with the question, What if Jesus were to come back in ten years?

What happens to the 5.5 billion people on the planet who do not know Jesus...yet?

Because the local church is the most effective way to spread the message and hope of Jesus Christ, Gather25 was born. Thanks to translation technology, the global Church can be connected with those gathering locally. That's 2.5 billion people who love Jesus—across every time zone, language, denomination, and generation—equipped to reach the world one community at a time.

Trinity Church is trusting that God is up to something outrageously cool and you are invited.

Trinity will broadcast the full 25 hours beginning with the U.S. on Friday, Feb 28 at 7:00 p.m and “traveling” around the globe - New Zealand, Malaysia, Romania, Rwanda, UK, Peru, and the persecuted church. Come and go as your schedule allows. Believers everywhere will worship our AMAZING God TOGETHER!

This is NOT a women's-only event. This is NOT a Trinity only event. This simulcast is for ALL THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY who love Jesus and live nearby. Invite away!!

Until the simulcast begins:

- 1) BE IN PRAYER for our hearts to be open to what God is up to at Gather25.
- 2) GET EXCITED about Gather25. Trinity folks, please RSVP to help with planning.
- 3) SPREAD THE WORD and extend the invitation to the believers you know. No one should miss out because they had not heard about Gather25.

Every man, woman and child who loves Jesus is invited to come and worship!!

Juli Staab, Communications and Discipleship Minister



Men's Ministry and Missions

ManCamp 2025 | July 30 - August 3

Heading back to Table In The Wilderness Camp, Centennial WY.

Enjoy cabins and a great get away!

Worship, study Gods word together, campfires, cards, and LOTS of options for adventure in the Snowy Mountain Range.

Go for a hike or a moose chase (Matt's hoping for a black bear).

Relax around the campfire. Sit and watch hummingbirds float all around.

4 Wheelers, White Water Rafting, Canoeing in Mountain Lake, Hot Springs, and so many other options!

REGISTER TODAY!

COST: \$260 plus your choice of adventures

NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: \$75 holds your spot.

EARLY BIRD: Save \$40, register before February 8.

MEN'S GROUP | SUNDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.

Currently in a series on Apologetics

Come wrestle with hard questions and learn to effectively communicate and engage with others. You will likely find answers to questions that rattle in your mind. Grab a coffee and donut and head to the Garage Room in the Student Wing. If you haven't joined in, this is your invitation!! You won't regret the conversations or getting to know this great group of guys!!

MISSIONS

Pastor Matt is exploring leading a team in fall of 2025 to visit our mission partner, The Raining Season (TRS) in Sierra Leone, West Africa. He has been on this trip nine times and assures you that it is a great experience to travel and visit the orphanage there.

TRAVEL: Typically flights from Omaha to Chicago to Brussels to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

THINGS NEEDED: Passport, Yellow Fever vaccine

WHAT WE DO: Play, read, and engage with TRS kids. Serve and care for the staff. Serve local communities around the orphanage. Various work projects

WHERE WE STAY: A westernized hotel a few minutes away from the Orphanage

Interested in learning more?

Email Pastor Matt at mpearson@trinitylife.org.

FROM THE CALL TEAM

With the announcement of Pastor Mike Skunes as Lead Pastor at Trinity Church, the official duties of the call team are complete. When we started our duties back in May, the Synod warned us there were not many lead pastor candidates out there and some churches in our Synod had been looking for a lead pastor for over two years. However, our team knew Trinity had too much going for it for our search to take that long. In the end, our team actually had three strong candidates interested in our call, any one of which we would have been very proud to recommend to the Church Council as lead pastor.

As Call Team Chairperson, I'd like to offer thanks to some people involved in our call process. First and foremost, I'd like to thank Associate Pastor Matt Pearson. Without his influence, Pastor Mike may not have even been aware of our call. Pastor Matt called Pastor Mike even before our committee was formed and asked him to consider a call to Trinity. Throughout our call process, Pastor Matt's unselfish attitude and concern for our church was noted and greatly appreciated.

I'd also like to thank the members of the congregation who attended our forums and gave us input about what traits they would like to see in a new lead pastor. Those suggestions helped us formulate our interview questions and clarify our search.

Finally, I'd like to thank the six members our call team for their professionalism and attention to detail. The Church Council did a great job in appointing Barb Grell, Stephanie Wiese, Brittany Fahrenkrog, Nick Sasada, Kylie Scallon and Abbey Tointon to our team. We had just the right mix of expertise and experience and it was truly a team effort. Thanks to all of you!

George Madson, Call Team Chairperson

American Red Cross

Give blood.

Help save lives.



**Saturday, February 15, 2025
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
Trinitychurch to schedule an appointment.

**Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to
Feb. 28 for a \$15 e gift card rcblood.org/flurry**



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTER

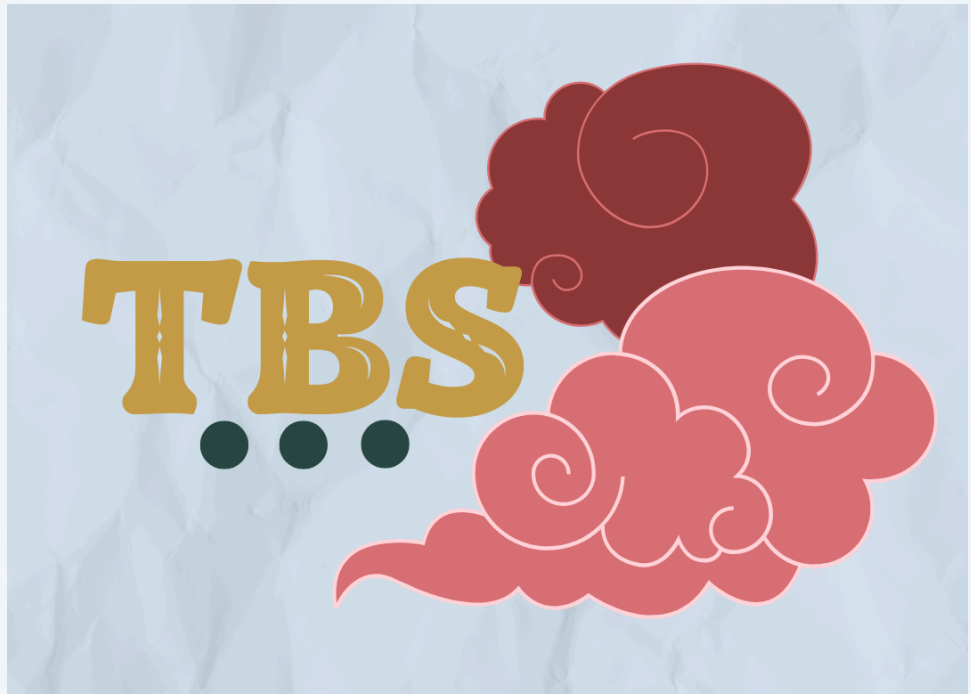
4th & 5th Grade

Did you know that the pre-teen age is proven to be one of the most-likely ages for people removing themselves from church and/or their faith?

It is because of this that we are very intentional with our 4th & 5th graders as they start to make their faith their own, and transition into Student Ministry.

Check out trinitylife.org/events to find out more about TRAILBLAZERS- a new discipleship club for this group (to 6th grade), and SuperStart- a preteen conference we will be attending late Feb!

If you know of anyone in this age group, please feel free to invite them along, otherwise be praying for fruitfulness as these kids explore their faith in a new and deeper way.



PREPARING FOR NEXT FAITH MILESTONES

Each year we prepare our older Elementary kids for one of their next faith milestones- taking communion!

We will have two teaching classes. The first is on 03/23 where we will go through the scriptural and historical background of communion and learn what it's all about. Then on 03/30, kids will break into groups meeting at two host homes to bake their communion bread together.



These instructional classes are recommended for 5th graders and older, but if you have a 3rd or 4th grader that you feel is ready to learn about this sacrament, feel free to bring them along!

And finally the big day! First Communion is April 6th. Kids will participate in Communion with their family during the worship service you typically attend.

Save the dates and register at trinitylife.org/events.

Thank you! Please email alynn@trinitylife.org with any questions.

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

FROM THE STUDENT'S & FAMILY MINISTER

Save the Date and Register Today!

**JUNE
23-27**

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Table in the Wilderness
Centennial, WY

**JULY
7-11**

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

Christ In Youth: MOVE
Lincoln, NE

Chris Randall
Student and Family Minister
crandall@trinitylife.org



WHAT HAPPENS WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS?

Doors open at 6:00 PM

Program runs 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Fantastic time of worship, teaching, and small groups

**This is an amazing opportunity to grow closer to Jesus
and connect with friends who share your faith.**

Don't miss out, See you there!

FROM THE CONNECTIONS MINISTER

As we kick off 2025, are you longing for genuine community? A place where conversations go deeper than the surface, where you can grow in God's Word, prayer, and authentic relationships? Imagine being surrounded by people who celebrate the wins, like your kid's soccer games, and step up in hard times, dropping off a meal when life gets tough.

We invite you to join a Connection Group—a space to belong, grow, and do life together. My role is to help connect you with a group of people in a similar stage of life. Your role? Show up, give it a chance, and be open to building meaningful relationships.

Ready to get started? Scan the QR code below, and let's find the right group for you!

Also, check out our Marriage Conference that will be on March 21st-22nd. It will be an amazing two days to reconnect and grow deeper with Christ and one another.

Joyfully,

Morgahn Randall
Connections Minister





TRINITY
W O M E N

No matter where we are on the journey of life,
Trinity Women grow with Jesus and invite
all women to do the same.

Care Card



When you know someone
who needs a Care Bag.

New from Trinity Women in 2025: CARE BAGS.

Care Bags are frozen meals, cooked and prepared with love by our Food Team. These bags will be available when there is a joy to celebrate or a challenge to meet. Taking a meal to someone's home is a simple gesture that reminds us that we are loved by God, and cared for by our church family.

Be patient as we launch this ministry.

[Join the Food Team](#) - women who prepare the meal

[Join the Celebrations/Care Team](#) - women who deliver

Trinity MomCo of Papillion is chartered by Trinity and is part of Trinity Women. This relationship has been a blessing for both! Currently, 48 moms (10 on the waitlist) and three mentor moms meet twice a month. While moms are forging relationships and learning about Jesus, their children are cared for in the Trinity Kids spaces.

In addition to meetings, **MomCo** also offers

- Book Club
- Mom's Night Out
- Walking Club
- Bible Study
- Play Dates
- and more

Mom connections are important and MomCo does an great job! Please keep moms and our partnership in prayer.



[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



Red Robin® will give

**20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO**

TRINITY MOMCO

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to
your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

11675 S 73Rd St, Papillion, NE 68046

February 20, 2025*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at order.redrobin.com and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin

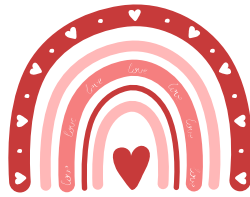
FROM THE CAFE MANAGER



Remember those *Valentine's Day* parties in elementary school? It was so fun to decorate a shoe box, write Valentine's cards for all your classmates and read through all the cards you received in return. It was a sincere time of joy, sharing, and friendship. Stop by the cafe any time during February and write a friend or family member a Valentine. There will be markers and postcards available at the counter.



Happy Valentine's Day



**FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM
FOR 25% OFF
ONE DRINK**

@trinitycafepapillion



TRINITY CAFE
MARKETPLACE & CRAFT FAIR
APRIL 5, 2025 10:00A-2:00P

*NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS
FOR VENDORS
CONTACT TERA ARQUITTE
tarquitte@trinitylife.org*



VOLUNTEER IN THE CAFE!!

We would love to have you join our team! No, you don't have to like coffee! You just have to like people! Contact me today! jill@trinitylife.org

**MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
8:00a - 12:00p**

Café & Play
Trinity Café
Every Tuesday

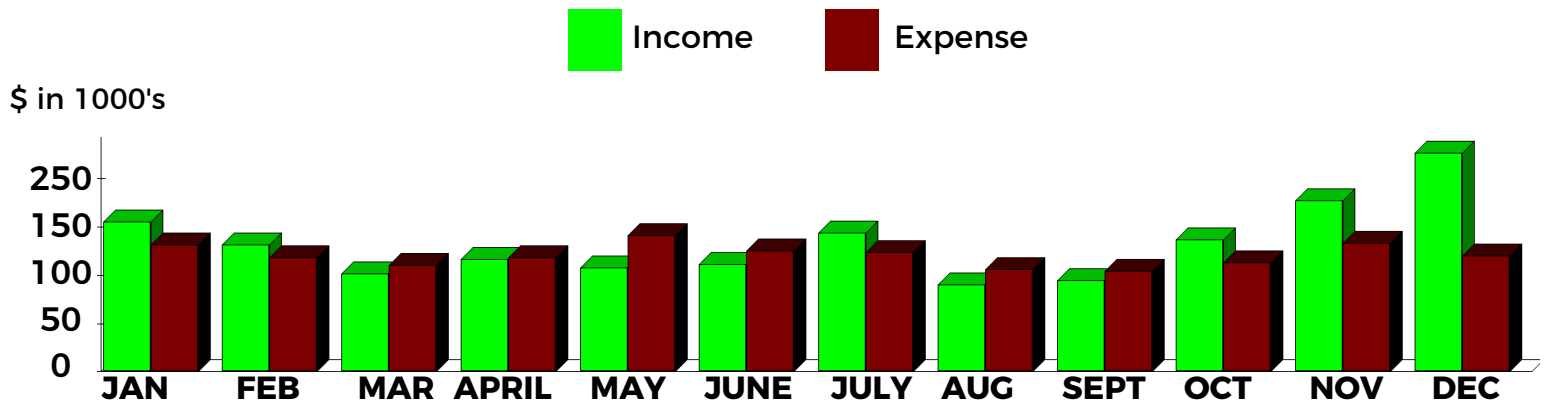
Legacy Mornings
Trinity Café
One Thursday Each Month



Jill Pratt

From the Financial Team

INCOME AND EXPENSE FOR ALL FUNDS BY MONTH



DETAILS FROM DECEMBER 2024

All Fund: \$221,591.83 254 Donors 1 New Donors 109 Recurring Donors
General Fund Tithes and Offerings = \$156,725.95 Mortgage Fund Gifts = \$52,573.72



We finished 2024 with revenue exceeding expenses by \$90,000 and into 2025, our generosity toward the Here for Good (HFG) and General Fund campaigns continues to grow. Some encouraging stats include:

- 34 households who had pledged to our previous GO! campaign increased their HFG pledges by over \$200,000.
- 66 households who had not pledged to GO! did pledge to HFG for an increase of over \$300,000.
- 29 households (new or recently returned) plan to contribute over \$165,000 to HFG.

Thank you for your generosity. Join your leadership in praising God for His goodness and how our church family is living our mission and connecting people to Christ.

3 Ways To Give



ONLINE
TRINITYLIFE.ORG/GIVING



IN-PERSON
BLACK BOXES IN THE BACK



BY MAIL
MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR
GIFT TO CHURCH

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 02.02 - Connie Leversee
- 02.03 - Waunetta Williamson
- 02.04 - Karen McCauley
- 02.12 - Glenn Koca
- 02.13 - Karen Snead
- 02.18 - Dean Peterson
- 02.19 - Shelly Petersen
- 02.25 - Janice Lind
- 02.27 - Jane Haffke, Susan Travis, and Bill Saarela

Happy Anniversary to those Married 50+ Years

- 02.01 - Dean & Judy Abels
- 02.09 - Pat & Carol Seek
- 02.12 - Jack & Lois Andres
- 02.16 - Ron & Carlene Maeder
- 02.21 - Bill & Nancy Aken
- 02.24 - John & Karen Popelka

Congratulations to:

- Julia Heidrick on the birth of her son, Kylo Michael Heidrick born 01.27.25.

Baptized into Our Family of Faith on 01.12.25

- Affirmation of Baptism - Taryn Besse, Anna Claire Covi
- Baptism - Cole and Emily Boyer, Brynlee Dale, Londyn Girvan, Hayley Johnson, Ayda Marie Peterson, and Jacob Uzman

Health and Healing

- Sheryl Kenworthy, Vicki Schrawyer, Arlyn Montgomery, Del Reibold, Jim & Shelly Petersen, Norm & Ruth Schuessler, Mary Jane Nelson

Sympathies to

- the family of Jeff and Kim Norblade on the loss of Kim's dad, Ed Jenkins
- the family of Scott and Kelly Gatewood on the loss of Kelly's mom, Marlene Syas

New Church Leadership

- **Church Council:** Dan Benson, Amber Clark, and Lisa Schraufnagel
- **Endowment Committee:** Rick Olstad
- **Nominating Committee from the Congregation:** Steve Arquitte and Connie Scherzberg
- **Nominating Committee from the Council:** Jeff Norblade and Mark Frerichs
- **Executive Team:** President - Victoria Tomanek, Vice President - Jeff Norblade, Treasurer - Mark Frerichs, Secretary - Doug Seaman

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

OUR MISSION: Connecting people to Christ.

OUR PURPOSE: Love Jesus. Transform lives. Serve the community.