

Worship Helpers

You can sign up to help in worship on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall or online at: trinityhammond.org

Sunday, January 25

Greeter: Betty Johnson
 Ushers: Kelly & Taylor Browning
 Acolyte:
 Lector:
 Slide show:
 Sound/Video:
 Teacher/Vol. Jess Millar

Sunday, February 1

Greeter: Jean Peterson
 Ushers: Barb Schrank, Lois Koosmann
 Acolyte: Colin Langman
 Lector:
 Communion Kathy & Brody Nusbaum
 Slide show:
 Sound/Video:
 Teacher/Vol. Mandie Langman

Giving

Thank you for supporting the ministry and mission of Trinity Lutheran Church!

1/18/26- Attendance: 44 Online: 10

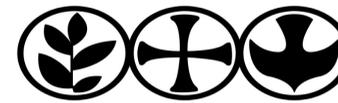
December Financial Report

Account Balances as of 12/31/2025
 General Fund: \$ 9,708.94
 Youth Org: \$ 4,810.56
 Memorial Fund: \$32,100.48
 WELCA: \$ 4,001.82

December Numbers
 Income: \$ 13,696.49
 Less Expenses \$ 14,355.47
 Income Less Exp: \$ - 658.98
 Outstanding Checks: \$ 5,322.90
 Less December 1 Bills \$ - 5,332.90
 January 2 Balance \$ -8,985.38

Year-to-date Numbers
 Income: \$186,314.46
 Expenses: \$177,886.84
 Income Less Expenses : \$ 8,427.62
 Less Outstanding Checks
 and Jan. 1 Bills \$ 8,326.40
\$ 101.22

As of 1/14 we have received \$17, 817.72 toward the \$20,000 matching gift! That is good progress toward our February goal.



Weekly Newsletter
 Sponsored by:

January 25, 2026

In memory of John Newton on his birthday (Jan. 26).

Trinity Lutheran Church

Contact us: Office 715-796-2788
 Pastor Julie Brenden: 715-553-3858
trinitylutheranhammond@gmail.com

Giving to Trinity made easy! Scan this QR code and you will be taken to Trinity's "Give" page. Scroll down for the yellow "donate" button. Thank you!



Some Dimensions to Worship

People of faith ask about the message of sermons and biblical texts. "Aren't these things always supposed to be good news for us? I didn't hear much good news in that sermon, or in that biblical text." The scripture readings, whether they are from the Old Testament or New, recorded in one of the four gospels or Paul's letters or the word of a prophet, can have a variety of emphasis.

Scripture readings can sometimes be pure good news. The form of good news includes promises of God for us as in Ephesians 1:11-23 where the author says "In Christ we have an inheritance...(we) live for the praise of his glory...have the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation...the promised Holy Spirit." It is a text which demonstrates that Jesus is aligned with the God of healing, compassion, life and salvation as in Matthew 11:1-6 where John's disciples wonder if Jesus is the real deal so Jesus rattles off a list of good works.

In Matthew 14:22-33, the account of Jesus walking on water, there are three examples of gospel functions, Jesus comes to us in our distress, amidst the chaos of the world; Jesus makes himself known and tells us "Do not be afraid"; and Jesus reaches out his hand when we falter in faith. In Isaiah 11:1-9, the prophet has multiple announcements of good news: a shoot is coming forth from the stump of Jesse; the Spirit of the LORD will rest on this one, causing this new sovereign to judge the world with equity, righteousness, and faithfulness; and peace will be the new order and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD.

Other times verses of a text function as law. One example is in Matthew 22:23-40. The Word, in this case Jesus, functions to silence his adversaries. Whenever we need to be silenced by Jesus, we are being rebuked, and the function of the Word is to reveal to us our sin, that is, our need of Jesus.

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, Jan. 25	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Fellowship, BOLT
Monday, Jan. 26	6:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 27	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Office staffed
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts meet here
Wednesday, Jan. 28	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Office staffed
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation and BAM
Sunday, Feb. 1	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Fellowship, BOLT

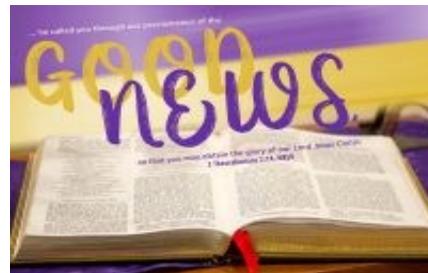
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Another text which functions as law is Jeremiah 23:23-29 where we read that God will not be manipulated. False prophets are a problem for the Hebrew people and God will not tolerate false uses of the divine name. We might identify with those who are being warned in this text.

A third function of the word is the call to repentance. This word is not always comfortable to hear. For calls to repentance, one is asked to relate to the one who is acting as an enemy of Jesus as that is the one whom the word addresses. If we use Matthew 21:23-32 as an example, the Word addresses leaders who refuse to answer Jesus' questions, and they are then condemned by Jesus. It is implied that those addressed need to change their minds.

A fourth way a text functions is as a call to obedience. It is what we do in response to God's love for us in Christ. A simple call to obedience in Matthew 22:34-40 is to love God and love people. The call to obedience is always the Word functioning to invite us to live in a certain way in response to the gospel. Romans 14:1-12 is a full list of behavior appropriate for believers.

These are the four ways the Word functions in biblical texts. Often passages in scripture include more than one of these functions. Understanding these functions can help one to listen to the word in a new manner.

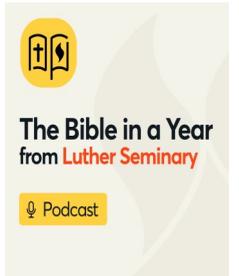


2026 National Day of Racial Healing

This event was live on the evening of January 20 but the recording is available on the ELCA website (elca.org). This is an annual event of storytelling and song. It is over two hours long but the recording can allow you to listen to a story and pause the video for reflection. (elca.org 2026 national day of racial healing)

The Bible in One Year

The third podcast of the year, this time on Leviticus, dropped this week on enterthebible.org. This resource can help you gain knowledge of the books of the Bible. Join Pastor Julie in attending to this podcast.



\$20,000 Match Challenge

A member of Trinity, filled with gratitude, has given \$20,000 to the General Fund in August. They challenge members and friends of Trinity to give above and beyond their regular giving and match the \$20,000 **by February 26, 2026**. Gratitude is social. Let us with gratitude in our hearts sing praises to God and we meet this challenge. **The current total received is \$17, 817.72!**



Prayer Requests: Leo Bork (Sue's brother)
Prayers for the homebound and those in Care Centers:
Jerry Afdahl, Beth Monson

Prayer Point: God of mercy, give me grace to be aware today of your constant, loving presence. Give me wisdom to listen for your voice. Open my heart to your will. Help me to see with new eyes, without judging or reacting, but simply observing. Help me to see you in others and all the created world. Amen.

Spiritual Practice: For the Star Word "awareness", a practice is simply taking the time to really take in daily life. Perhaps instead of eating while watching TV or YouTube, you sit without distractions and savor the food, pay attention to the flavors, aromas, and textures of your food. Eat slowly. Added attention to any daily task can be an exercise in awareness. What do you experience when you slow life down?

To Submit a Prayer Request: Please fill out the blue prayer request sheet found in the sanctuary and place in the offering plate, or email: tlchwelca@gmail.com, or call the church office and leave a message at 715-796-2788.