

# Worship Helpers

You can sign up to help in worship on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall or online at: [trinityhammond.org](http://trinityhammond.org)

## Sunday, January 4

Greeter: Brian & Joan Ramberg  
 Ushers: Audrey Aune  
 Acolyte: Aubree Moore  
 Lector: Kira Moore  
 Communion: Zelli Moore  
 Slide show:  
 Sound/Video: Ron Pratt  
 Teacher/Vol. (None needed)

## Sunday, January 11

Greeter: Jean Peterson  
 Ushers: Kerry & Marti Peterson  
 Acolyte:  
 Lector: Marti Peterson  
 Slide show:  
 Sound/Video:  
 Teacher/Vol. (None needed)

# Giving

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

12/24/25 - Attendance: 134 Online: ?  
 12/28/25- Attendance: 35 Online: ?

## November Financial Report

Account Balances as of 11/30/2025

General Fund:	\$ 8,288.31
Youth Org:	\$ 4,810.56
Memorial Fund:	\$23,321.68
WELCA:	\$ 6,622.80

  

November Numbers

Income:	\$ 11,107.16
Less Expenses	\$ 13,806.54
Income Less Exp:	\$ - 2,699.38
Outstanding Checks:	\$ 2,686.81
	\$ - 5,386.19
Less November 1 Bills	\$ 2,993.50
December 2 Balance	\$ - 8,379.69

Year-to-date Numbers

Income:	\$172,617.97
Expenses:	\$163,531.37
Income Less Expenses :	\$ 9,086.60
Less Outstanding Checks and Dec. 1 Bills	\$ 5,680.31

November to date we are averaging \$15,262/month in income and \$16,353/month in expenses. For three months of Sept—Nov. we averaged \$11,444/mo.



Trinity Lutheran Church

Contact us: Office 715-796-2788  
 Pastor Julie Brenden: 715-553-3858  
[trinitylutheranhammond@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheranhammond@gmail.com)

Weekly Newsletter  
 Sponsored by:

January 4, 2026  
 God's Blessings!  
 Happy New Year to All!



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!

## 2026 Star Words

Celebrating Epiphany and distributing Star Words has become a favorite Sunday for me in all the Sundays. The purpose is to take a word out of the pile and focus on this word for the coming year. The celebration happens on a Sunday close to January 6th.

The Day of Epiphany is always January 6th and it follows the twelve days of Christmas. The story of the Day of Epiphany is the familiar narrative of wise men or seers from the East being drawn to a star in the west. They also had heard of the birth of a new king, and they searched for him to honor him. They traveled for days and months before arriving in Bethlehem. When they reach the baby Jesus, they knelt down and worshiped him. To be in the presence of Jesus and acknowledge that he is God leads one to worship the one true God. In his presence, the seers had an epiphany – a life-changing realization. Before they gave their gifts, they were compelled to worship Jesus.

We give Star Words out each year to mirror the search of the wise men for the mystery of God. To encourage you to search for God in daily life, I invite you to take a star word home with you. Your assignment, if you will, is to take the word and reflect on it over the next weeks and perhaps as long as a year. There is nothing magical about any word. The invitation is to enter into this event like the visitors from the East and discover how reflection on a word in your faith life might shape you, or help you to see God in a new way.

For example, my Star Word for 2025 was "nonviolence." I searched and thought about how Jesus models nonviolence in his encounters and relationships with people. I came to understand that nonviolence is a character of Jesus love. Another learning was that to be truly "nonviolent" my attitude must be free of self-righteousness, elitism, and judgement of others. There are many stories in scripture that demonstrate nonviolence.

# This Week at Trinity

Sunday, Jan. 4	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Fellowship, family un-decorate
Tuesday, Jan. 6	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Office staffed
Wednesday, Jan. 7	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Office staffed
	9:00 a.m.	Coffee with Pastor Julie
	6:30 p.m.	NO Confirmation or BAM
Saturday, Jan. 10	12:30-1:00 p.m.	Free Food Truck in lot
Sunday, Jan. 11	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	Fellowship, NO BOLT

## Distribution of Star Words

During worship on Sunday, January 4th, we will distribute Star Words for 2026. Your word awaits. Are you out of town for the season? Simply contact Pastor Julie, [tlchpastor@gmail.com](mailto:tlchpastor@gmail.com), and you can receive a Star Word. Once you receive your word, check with Pastor Julie if you would like a resource to help you explore the subject of your Star Word.

## Un-decorating at Trinity

After the worship on Sunday, January 4th, we will put away the Christmas decorations. Please participate in this service to the congregation, relating with goodwill toward each other. Thank you in advance for your help!

## DISH with the BISH – reserve by today

Bishop Martin Halom is traveling around the synod and meeting people of the church in each of the seven conferences. The meeting closest to Trinity is scheduled for Sunday, January 11th at First Lutheran Church in New Richmond from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. This is a unique opportunity for people of all ages to come together, share a meal and a service project (TBD), and participate in a Q&A with Bishop Martin. Trinity members are asked to **RSVP to Pastor Julie by Sunday, January 4th** to get a count for the meal and activity.

## \$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 total received as of Dec. 1 is \$12,632.72.**



Coffee with Pastor Julie at Caribou in Baldwin on Wednesday, Jan. 7th at 9:00 a.m. All welcome!



Free Food Truck in our lot on Saturday, Jan. 10, 12:30-1:00 p.m.

## Did You Know?

The main image in the Epiphany story is **light**. The star symbolizes a new light in the cosmos. The dawn pierces the thick darkness that has obscured our vision. During January, the northern hemisphere is experiencing a gradual lightening of the darkest time of the year, an appropriate time for the church to praise Christ as the light. This light shines again in the night of the Easter Vigil.

Made popular in hymns, pageants, and crèche sets are the gifts of the wise men: **gold, frankincense, and myrrh**. Gold denotes Jesus as a king. Frankincense and myrrh are sweet-smelling resins that were used in offerings to a god and at status burials. These are symbolic gifts for the divine king who has come to die. The birth narratives contain in them the death of Christ.

The ancient political idea was that monarchs were supposed to ensure safety for their subjects. Christ, not Herod, is the true **king** who gives life, rather than death, to the people.

## Prayer Ministry

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

**Prayer Point:** You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger, rich in love. Receive our prayers as you have promised and uphold us by your Spirit, until all things, mended by your mercy, are made whole and well in you. We pray through Jesus Christ, our healer and our hope. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:** Take a Star Word for 2026 and explore it to discover more about the love of Christ. Are you out of town on January 4th? You may still receive a Star Word. Simple contact Pastor Julie, [tlchpastor@gmail.com](mailto:tlchpastor@gmail.com), and you will receive a word. Once you receive your word, check with Pastor Julie if you would like a resource to help you explore your word from a faith perspective.

**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](mailto:tlchwelca@gmail.com), or call the church office and leave a message at 715-796-2788.