



TRINITY

CHURCH

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

**December Newsletter
Printed November 20, 2024**

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Are you waiting on something? Wondering why God isn't answering your prayers? Does God even care? Advent is a season of waiting. It reminds us of the experiences of God's people. They had been waiting for thousands of years for the Christ, the Messiah to come and deliver his people and to destroy evil. Yet, God waited and so did the people.

Then after 400 years of what felt like complete silence - from the end of the Old Testament prophetic books until an Angel appeared to Zechariah and to Mary as told in the book of Matthew - the long awaited one comes to us in the flesh (incarnate), in a manger, in a tiny backwoods town.

Advent is a good reminder for all of us, as we wait (often impatiently) for God to respond and move, that God does hear us and does respond even if it's not in our timing or in our desired way.

This Advent and Christmas season our Sermon theme is "His Gospel is Peace". Join us in worship as we discover how Jesus takes away our fear. My hope is that this Christmas and Advent season draw you closer to Christ and that you fully experience the Gospel which brings peace!

I'm looking forward to seeing you all during Advent and at our Christmas services.

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Sunday, January 12th, 2025

We have opportunity to celebrate what God is doing in the lives of those who have not yet been baptized. At Trinity, we lean into Jesus' command to be baptized. Within that command we realize disagreements around how and when are often over prioritized.

In obedience to Jesus' command, we baptize at any age (infant to 100+) and with any amount of water (sprinkle, drop, immersion). While it may be unknown how God works in the midst of both sacraments (communion and baptism), we simply trust and believe "for the forgiveness of sins" (communion) and through the water and the word (baptism) that God gives us the Holy Spirit and new life.

The invitation is open. If you have not yet been baptized and have put your faith and trust in Jesus, this is an opportunity to respond to His command to be baptized.

[Click here](#) to let us know you are ready.

Pastor Matt Pearson

ADVENT PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL

Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th, and 18th

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 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Nursery Only

Communion Served

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, 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

Trinity Kids Nursery & Pre-K Only

*Communion Served at 6:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. - Trinity Chapel

No Nursery, Communion Served

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25th

ONLINE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 A.M.

www.trinitylife.org/live

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

Last Worship Service in 2025

Sunday, December 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Full Trinity Kids Programming



Ministry at Trinity Church

CONNECTIONS

SAVE THE DATES

Trinity Church's 2025 Marriage Conference

March 21st & 22nd

You are more than roommates, in marriage you are teammates! It's time to get in the game—run the race together, united with Christ at the center. We can't wait for you to join us for two days of fun, laughter, and growing closer with your spouse and Christ.

MORE THAN ROOMMATES



MARCH 21ST-22ND, 2025

If you haven't already, be sure to pick up an Advent guide for your Connection Group! Not in a group yet? No problem—this is the perfect time to get connected! Reach out, and I'd be happy to help you find the right group!

Morgahn Randall
Connections Minister
mrandall@trinitylife.org

MEN'S MINISTRY

What's App!! This is the best way for the men of Trinity to stay connected. From conversation to what's happening for the guys, [here's your invitation.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

ManCamp

Snowy Mountain Range, WY
July 30-August 3, 2025

TRINITY MISSIONS

Little Miracles Angel Tree

We are helping families in need experience the joy of Christmas.

With 499 tags to bless 40 families and 145 individuals, you are invited to take one or more ornaments off the tree in the commons, purchase the item(s), and place them under the tree by December 8th. We appreciate your support of this impactful ministry.

Pastor Pimpinan
North Sumatra Indonesia

The Raining Season
Orphan Care in Sierra Leone

Stephen Center
Monthly Meal

Matt Pearson
Associate Pastor
mpearson@trinitylife.org

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Game Day Fun

December 8 | 11:45 a.m.

With a delicious lunch, great conversation, and games to play, laughter and connections will abound. Come join the fun!!

RSVP at trinitylife.org/events.

Food Team

Let's extend a hearty THANK YOU to Melanie Iverson for leading this group in preparing delicious meals for our quarterly parties. Melanie has used her gifts and talents to tickle our tastebuds and nourish our bodies. We appreciate her leadership over the past year.

Introducing our new Food Team leader, Judy Montague. In January, we are expanding the Food Team to include Care Bags. These bags will be available for those in times of need or celebration. Judy brings her love for cooking, heart to serve and connect, along with her ability to facilitate in this role.

Join the Food Team

Chili Cookoff Fundraiser Results

With 13 entries and 100 tasters we raised \$2098 to prepare food-filled backpacks for local food-insecure students over winter break.

Congratulations to our cookoff winner: JEN DOORLAG

Thank you to Jamie Reimer and team for all of your efforts and yummy desserts, to those who brought chili, and to all who came to support this important mission. Special thanks to Janet Noddings and her bible study for writing notes to put in each backpack.

Juli Staab
Communications & Discipleship
jstaab@trinitylife.org

Stephen Center

Changes in the Kitchen and a New Meal

One of Trinity's longest running outreach missions has been providing the evening meal at the Stephen Center on the fourth Friday of each month.

After 16 incredible years, our beloved cooking team lead, Rudy Krueger, and team member, Allen Christensen, are retiring. Their dedication and passion have nourished countless souls. We thank them for their invaluable contributions and wish them all the best in their well-deserved retirement.

As we say goodbye to these culinary legends, we're excited to welcome Judy Montague as our new cooking team lead. Judy brings a wealth of experience and innovative ideas to the role.

A New Meal for November

To kick off her tenure, Judy introduced a new meal for November:

- Baked Chicken Thighs with red potatoes, steamed vegetables and dinner rolls

Judy can be reached through our [Stephen Center Group](#) if you have any questions or are interested in joining the cooking team.

A New Way to Give

We're thrilled to announce a new way to support our mission. You can now make a monetary donation to the [Trinity Stephen Center Fund](#). Your generous contributions will help us continue to provide nutritious meals to those in need.

You can find links to join the Stephen Center mission, contribute food, donate money or serve the meal on the [Trinity website under the Events tab](#).

Thank you for your continued support of the Stephen Center! Your generosity makes a difference!

Brad Queck
Trinity's Stephen Center Liaison





A Thank You: Operation Christmas Child

A big thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year! We gave away 100 boxes and saw a lot of enthusiasm from our kids and families for this outreach project. These boxes will be sent globally to kids in need, and every kids who receives a box will also go through a class on who Jesus is! What an awesome thing to be apart of!

TK Advent Packages: Scripture Paper Chain Set

Each year we resource families with an advent calendar/devotional of sorts! This year you are welcome to pick up a free packet on the last two Sundays in November (17th & 24th), outside the TK Check In desk. In this packet you will receive supplies for an advent paper chain that has a specific scripture for each day prior to Christmas, plus a Christmas story page that you can read through with your kids! Prayers for all our families in this special time as we teach our kids the reason for the season.



Amanda Lynn

Children's and Family Minister
alynn@trinitylife.org

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2025!

JUN
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

OCT
10-12

ELEVATE RETREAT

Camp Rivercrest
Fremont, NE



Chris Randall

Student and Family Minister
crandall@trinitylife.org

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 12/03 - Ed Niemann
- 12/22 - Carol Gates

50+ Anniversaries

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

Newly Married

- 11/09 - Andrew and Josie (Willard) Kosol

New Members

- 11/05 - Ty & Caitlyn Ottoson and their daughter, Rylee (2 months)
- 10/15 - Matt & Christy Shuput and their daughters, Audrey (17) and Emily (13)

Baptized

- 10/27 - Matty Murray, son of Samantha Murray. Matty's sponsor is Lindsey Wilson

Health and Healing

- Cindy Miller, Claire Keogh, Sue Lauritsen, Nancy Aken, Deb Bowen, Mary Kreager

Sympathies

- to the family of Trinity member, Eugene Monagan, who went home to the Lord.

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.

Trinity Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 25

TRINITY CONNECTS PEOPLE TO CHRIST

Tithes and Offerings

OCTOBER OFFERING

Offering Entries	411
From Online Giving	294
From Cash & Checks	117
# of Donors	201
# of New Donor	3
# of Recurring Donors	108
Offering:	\$115,267.91
	www.trinitylife.org/give

GENERAL FUND GENEROSITY APPEAL

Received 01/01/24 - 11/20/24

\$852,256 of the \$765,748
promised in 2024.

\$581,498 from pledged gifts
\$270,758 from non-pledged gifts

OCTOBER ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ 218,532

Building Fund: \$ 281

Endowment: \$ 401,850

Memorial: \$ 61,742

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TOWARD THE GO VISION APPEAL!!

In October we received 67 gifts totalling \$ 17,138.34

Join in what God has planned for Trinity Church in 2025.

No matter the size of the gift, your involvement matters to the ministry and mission we have been called. Our prayer is for 100% participation from our church family.

The results of our Capital Campaign invitation to 486 households:

- Three-year Here for Good mortgage & debt reduction. Goal of \$1.5 million. We have received 87 pledges totaling \$963,138
- 2025 General Fund daily mission & ministry expenses. Goal of \$1.1 million. We have received 92 pledges totaling \$571,993.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity to Trinity. As you share your intention cards, we encourage electronic givers to update their online or billpay giving amounts to reflect your generosity.

You are invited to participate.
trinitylife.org/intent

Bi-monthly giving statements were emailed and mailed in November. Please review yours for accuracy. Reach out to Carolyn Bestmann, Contributions Manager, with any questions or corrections at cbestmann@trinitylife.org.



December at a Glance

Little Miracles Angel Tree to Help Families in Need

Tree is in the Commons - Deadline December 8

Advent - And His Gospel is Peace

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 | 8:00, 9:00, 10:30 a.m.

Self-Guided Prayer during Advent in the Chapel

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 | 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Family Movie Night with Cookies and Milk

Sunday, December 8 | 4:00 p.m.

Legacy Morning (55 and older)

Thursday, December 12 | 9:00 a.m.

Traveler's Christmas

Thursday, December 19 | 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

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

Christmas Day - Online Only

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

Stephen Center - 4th Friday Meal

Friday, December 27

Last Sunday in December in Person

Sunday, December 29 | 10:00 a.m in the Worship Center

