



January, 2026

Trinity Merrill Lutheran Church  
107 N. State Street, Merrill, WI 54452  
[www.trinitymerrill.com](http://www.trinitymerrill.com) (715) 536-5482

Our Mission: Courageously Carrying Christ to our Congregation and Community

For as the rain and the snow come  
down from heaven and do not return  
there but water the earth, making it  
bring forth and sprout, giving seed to  
the sower and bread to the eater.

Isaiah 55:10

# JANUARY

*Dear Lord, May my New Year's resolution  
be to follow You more closely and to trust  
in Your loving guidance.*

# Amazing Things Are Happening At Trinity

## Dear Trinity Lutheran,

Thank you for extending a call to me to teach at Trinity. After thought and prayer about where God is leading me, I will be taking this call to teach at Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill, starting at the beginning of January. This will be a transition for everyone. I ask that you keep my husband and I in your prayers. I am grateful that Trinity is welcoming my family and I with open arms. I am looking forward to where God is leading me in my teaching career and I am blessed that I get to teach 4th grade and excited to meet my new students. Thank you again for this opportunity, I look forward to all that is to come! ~ God's Blessings, Joy Neideffer

Dear Trinity Congregation,  
Happy New Year! As we begin 2026, we are reminded of God's faithfulness in every season. Our students will return eager to learn, and we're excited for the opportunities ahead. We hope you'll join us in thanking God for our teachers, students, and the mission we share. Let's continue walking together in faith as we grow in Christ. ~ Principal Scott Johnson

## HELP by sponsoring donuts for CAFE!

You and/or a business may sponsor for one or more Sundays, a month or whatever you choose. The cost ranges anywhere from \$300-\$350/month or approximately \$75/week. CAFE provides a welcoming space for everyone. Also, it's a great way to bless our community and build connections. If this is something you are interested in, please contact Dawn Teske at 715-536-7693 or dawn.teske53@gmail.com

## TRINITY OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY

Open on Wednesday's and Friday's  
from 2:00-4:00

## Men's Club Chili Luncheon

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, February 1st, 2026



The meal will feature 10 varieties of chili, including Beer Chili, Pineapple Chili, Lo-Sodium Taco Chili, EXTREME Chili, White Chicken Chili and 5 choices of mild or medium chilies. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids ages 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.

## TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Help Us Spread the Word - Open House Invitation -  
January 28, 2026 - 5:30-7:00 PM

We are excited to welcome new families to Trinity Lutheran School and invite you to share our upcoming 4K-8th Grade New Student Open House with friends, neighbors, coworkers, and relatives who may be looking for a Christ-centered school community. Our Open House will be held 5:30-7:00 PM on the last Wednesday in January, and it's a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to see what Trinity is all about—faith, strong values, leadership, meaningful friendships, and academic challenges that help students grow.

Families will be able to:

- Meet our teachers and staff
- Tour classrooms and learning spaces
- Learn about Full-Day 4K, our STEM-Innovation Lab, and the Wisconsin Choice Program & tuition assistance.

Experience the welcoming, family-focused environment that makes Trinity so special.

## Support the Trinity Lutheran Junior Honor Association Alumni Scholarship Fund

The Trinity Lutheran Junior Honor Association (LJHA) is one of the many ways our students learn to live out their faith through service, leadership, and school spirit. Throughout the school year, LJHA members make a meaningful difference in our school and community. They raise funds for children battling cancer, work to support needs in our school and community, help organize school events, and build Hawk pride by encouraging students and staff to wear Trinity logo wear on Fridays.

To continue recognizing and supporting these dedicated young leaders, Trinity Lutheran School established the **LJHA Alumni Scholarship Fund**. This scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who were part of LJHA as 7th and 8th graders at Trinity and who have maintained a **3.5 GPA or higher** in high school. Eligible students may apply if they have been accepted into a **one-, two-, or four-year program** at any college or university.

Your donation to the LJHA Scholarship Fund helps celebrate the lasting impact of our students' leadership and service. Every contribution—large or small—helps us invest in the next generation of Christ-centered leaders.

**Please consider making a gift today** to support the Trinity Lutheran Junior Honor Association Alumni Scholarship Fund and help our former Hawks soar even higher! If you would like to contribute, you can send a check made payable to Trinity Lutheran School. Please be sure to note "Alumni Scholarship Fund" on the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of Trinity Lutheran School.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16



# We Love Trinity... Come See Why!!

## God's Richest Blessings...

### To these (80+) Seniors with Birthdays in January

David Herdt.....	January	6
Theodore Ley.....	January	6
Sandra Mahn.....	January	8
Larry Sabatke.....	January	12
Betty Belgram.....	January	12
Norbert Holz.....	January	13
Jerry Tubbin.....	January	16
Joe Thomaschfskyr.....	January	17
LuEllen Natzke.....	January	17
Orville Schult.....	January	19
Karen Radloff.....	January	19
Cleone Turner.....	January	25
David Hahn.....	January	26
Judith Karau.....	January	28

### And to these Couples with Anniversaries (50+ years) in January

David & Jerrilyn Arseneau.....50 Years on January 10

- In the new year... be sure to
- update your contact information at the church. Let us know if you've moved, changed your phone number, got married, had a child, your child is in college.... etc.
- We also need your email addresses.
- You're important to us and we want to keep in touch.



## Are You a Thrivent Member?

As a Thrivent member you may have Choice Dollars that can be directed to the organization of your choice. LEA is a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization. Directing Choice Dollars is easy! Visit [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more OR call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Please take a moment to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars® to support the ongoing work of Trinity.

## Please consider joining our team of volunteers....

The Trinity CAFE is one of the ways you may serve the Lord at Trinity. It's rather easy! All you need to do is arrive approximately 45 minutes prior to each service, brew coffee and set out coffee, milk, juice and donuts. And, offer a welcoming smile and "good morning" to worshippers. If this is of your interest, please contact Dawn Teske at 715-536-7693 or [dawn.teske53@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.teske53@gmail.com)

## Dorcas Card Nook

A wide selection of cards are available at the Dorcas Card Nook located in the Trinity Fellowship Hall. Cards are \$6.00 per box or \$.75 each card.

## Radio Broadcasts are so important to our ministry here at Trinity.

Thank you to the following for sponsoring a broadcast so we can reach our homebound listeners.

**December 7-** In memory of Wayne Teske who passed away 5 years ago, by Marlene (Molly) Teske and family.

**December 14-** In loving memory of Fred Merkel by his wife, Phyllis Merkel and family

**December 21-** In loving memory of Madison Seeger & Lu Benzinger by Shawn & Laurie Schultz & family

**December 24-** In celebration of blessings received by Roger & Rebecca Hinner.

**December 25-** In loving memory of all of our loved ones by Laurie Buck

**December 28** In memory of Walter & Ann Koebe and Bob Koebe by Jim Koebe

## Thank you to those who helped to beautify our church with altar flowers in December

**December 7-** In memory of the 88th birthday of Robert Bonke, by his sister Barbara Bonke

**December 14, 21,** - In loving memory of Alvin Steffenhagen & David Teske by Bernette Steffenhagen, Dawn Teske & family

**December 24 & Dec. 25** - In loving memory of David Teske & Alvin Steffenhagen by Bernette Steffenhagen, Dawn Teske & family

**December 28** In loving memory of Herb & Grace Lau by Shawn, Laurie, Molly & Bethany Schultz

## Pastoral Acts...

### Baptism:

**December 6, 2025** Cade Daniel Hafemeister, son of Kyle & Ally Hafemeister. Cade's sponsors are: McKenzie Stahl and Craig Hafemeister.

**December 7, 2025** - Levi Joseph Hartwig, son of Joshua and Britnee Hartwig. Levi's sponsors are Erich & Rebekah Johnson

**December 14, 2025** - Blaire Elizabeth Depies, daughter of Tanner Depies and Kallie Lee. Blaire's sponsors are: Ashley Ronis & Cody Depies.

### Wedding:

**December 6, 2025** Michelle Peck & Jeffrey Raymer

### Funeral:

Charlotte Richardson d/o/d November 14, 2025  
Funeral: December 6, 2025

Sandra Annis d/o/d December 8, 2025  
Funeral: December 16, 2025

# Community and Trinity Happenings!

## Griefshare at Trinity

Griefshare begins Feb. 23, 2026 and meets weekly both online (Zoom) and in person for 13 weeks. Whether it has been recent or many years since the loss of your friend, spouse, parent, sibling or child, all are welcome! (church membership not required) Registration is available at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/275994>, and includes a participant guide, (if you haven't attended previously) and access to videos and other content useful in the journey from mourning to joy. Joy may seem out of reach when learning to live without our loved ones, yet the support of others and focusing on God's word makes room for the seeming impossible process of healing. Join us and learn more at [www.Griefshare.org](http://www.Griefshare.org).

Grief is difficult. Share your burdens and grow through your unique healing this spring online and in person through Griefshare at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill.

"For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ." 2 Corinthians 1:5

Manda Norman (715)351-1399



## The Trinity Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

will resume our gatherings in the new year, with our next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 17th. We hope you'll join us for a morning of fellowship, food, and time in God's Word. This time of fellowship is held at Trinity Church lower level, fellowship hall on the third Saturday of each month at 7:30 am for breakfast with bible study from 8-9:00.

Our 2026 Offering envelopes should be arriving soon. Keep your eyes on the weekly bulletins for news on the 2026 envelopes. The new envelopes can be found in the basement Fellowship Hall. Offering envelopes are made for members age Grade 3 and older. (unless you give electronically.) Thank You!

## RIGHT NOW MEDIA

We are excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to RightNow Media—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has more than 20,000 videos taught by leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, J.D. Greear, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. There's even a library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. You should have already received an email invitation for FREE access to RightNow Media. (If you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder.) Or Contact the Church office to receive an email invitation. ENJOY!

## YOUTH NEWS FOR JANUARY -

**Middle School Youth: 3:30-5:30 PM - in the Youth Room**  
January 7, 14, 21, 28

**High School Youth- 7:00-9:00 PM- in the Youth Room**  
January 4th & 18th

**Circuit Event: January 11 @ St. John**  
Volleyball & Dodgeball Tournament

### **Coming Soon:**

Winter Outing on Pesobic Lake- Stay tuned for details of Icefishing and more!

Winter Retreat at Forest Springs- February 8th.  
Immediately after the 10:30am service!

Trinity will be partnering with HOPE Life Center throughout the month of January. Hope provides confidential help, compassionate care and free services, to those faced with an unplanned pregnancy, possible STD, or dealing with a past abortion. We take time to build relationships and encourage individuals to make good choices. Most importantly, we share the love and forgiveness found only in Jesus Christ. With your support, we are committed to building a community of grace that extends beyond the birth of their child. Operation Baby Bottle (OBB) provides support for the mission of Hope, and is a simple way for our congregation to get involved. Please pick up a bottle as you leave church, fill the bottle with coins, bills or checks, and then return the bottle to church. You can also donate online at [HOPEWI.ORG/DONATE](http://HOPEWI.ORG/DONATE)

Trinity is collecting throughout the month of January.

**HOPE OBB**

**PICK UP A BOTTLE**

**FILL THE BOTTLE**

**RETURN THE BOTTLE**

**THANK YOU!**

**OPERATION BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER**

**OR GIVE ONLINE: [HOPEWI.ORG](http://HOPEWI.ORG) / [DONATE](#)**



# Trinity Financial News & Happenings

	Nov-25	Nov-25	Nov-25	Nov-2025	Nov-2025	Nov-2025	Nov-2025	Nov-2025	Jan-Nov. 2024
Ministry	Income	Expenses	Profit/Loss	YTD Income	YTD Expense	YTD P & L	YTD BUDGET	YTD VARIANCE	Prior P&L YTD
Church	\$ 212,877.06	\$ 56,551.02	\$ 156,326.04	\$ 1,253,562.23	\$ 680,429.62	\$ 573,132.61	\$ 441,679.40	\$ 131,453.21	\$ 484,559.23
School	\$ 116,889.45	\$ 90,889.66	\$ 25,999.79	\$ 700,094.35	\$ 1,023,187.95	\$ (323,093.60)	\$ (520,816.00)	\$ 197,722.40	\$ (359,465.57)
Teacherage	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 3,351.42	\$ 4,898.58	\$ 6,425.73	\$ (1,527.15)	\$ (17,032.26)
Child Care	\$ 56,749.05	\$ 61,393.21	\$ (4,644.16)	\$ 662,669.99	\$ 686,439.51	\$ (23,769.52)	\$ (37,569.60)	\$ 13,800.08	\$ (221,731.73)
After School Care	\$ 1,373.00	\$ 1,791.92	\$ (418.92)	\$ 54,856.81	\$ 41,469.94	\$ 13,386.87	\$ 7,020.64	\$ 6,366.23	\$ 15,165.78
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 388,638.56</b>	<b>\$ 210,625.81</b>	<b>\$ 178,012.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,679,433.38</b>	<b>\$ 2,434,878.44</b>	<b>\$ 244,554.94</b>	<b>\$ (103,259.83)</b>	<b>\$ 347,814.77</b>	<b>\$ (98,504.55)</b>

## Do you or someone you know need a visit from the Pastor?

Please reach out to Robin in the church office so she can schedule you for a visit from one of our pastors. Maybe your homebound, sick or just need to speak to the pastor. Our pastors, and our church family loves you and wants you to know we are here for you. Call the church office at 715-536-5482 if you need a visit.

## **Dorcas Cookbooks make wonderful gifts!**

Cookbooks make wonderful gifts for that new bride / groom. They also make great birthday & anniversary gifts. Do you know someone who might need a few new recipes for those family get-togethers? Cookbooks are available for purchase in the church office. Cookbooks are \$10

## Junior Counselors are needed at Camp Luther

High schoolers, this one's for you! If you are currently in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade and love working with kids, apply to be a Junior Counselor at Camp Luther. Spend two weeks volunteering, leading camper groups, and growing as a leader while making unforgettable memories. Contact Camp Luther if this is something you're interested in.

## Camp Luther's Men's Retreat - February 5-8, 2026

Men, it's time to step away from the everyday. Whether you're looking to unwind, recharge, or seek adventure, this retreat offers a weekend to reconnect—with God, with brothers in Christ, and with yourself. Registration is now open!

## **Sound Loop at Trinity**

If you have trouble hearing in church check out the Hearing Loop. The loop covers all the pews on the main floor in the church proper. There are two ways to use the loop. **1)** If your hearing-aids have a "T-coil" in them, you turn on the coil and your hearing-aids will lock onto the PA system signal. You may have to see your hearing-aid specialist to see if you have "T-coils" and learn how to turn them on. **2)** If your hearing-aids do not have a T-coil, or you do not have hearing aids, we have receivers with headphones (in the narthex) Just pick one up before the service, put on the head-phones, turn the top knob "on" and adjust the volume. You are also welcome to use your own head-phones. Just unplug the churches and plug yours in. (Standard 1/8" stereo plug.) God's blessing as you listen to His Word.



Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone that wanted to go to church could go!! Many of our own family, friends and neighbors would love to be able to go to church. Many just need an invitation and a ride. Think about that and consider being the person who makes someone's wish come true. God bless you as you considering showing extra love to your fellow man.

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## Seller Schedule

### January 4

8:00 am - Randy & Sharon Welch  
10:30 am - Jim & Jean Wiseman  
6:00 pm - Jeff & Cindy Artus

### January 11

8:00 am - Marty & Barb Sizer  
10:30 am - Dennis & Jocelyn Weber  
6:00 pm - Al & Joy Hulke

### January 18

8:00 am - Joe & Marlene Thomaschefskey  
10:30 am - Jean Ravn & Molly Schult  
6:00 pm - Robin Tomajcik

### January 25

8:00 am - Carol Holz & Donna Rhode  
10:30 am - Robin Grenfell & Raena Grisa  
6:00 pm - Dawn Ives

### February 1

8:00 am - Janet & Emily Grunenwald  
10:30 am - Randy & Kathy Pfantz  
6:00 pm - Mark & Laurie Folz

### February 8

8:00 am - Ed & Julie Cordova  
10:30 am - Dennis & Jocelyn Weber  
6:00 pm - Jeff & Cindy Artus

### February 15

8:00 am - Fern Whiting & Jane Dehnel  
10:30 am - Jennifer Rajek  
6:00 pm - Al & Joy Hulke

### February 22

8:00 am - Randy & Sharon Welch  
10:30 am - Jim & Jean Wiseman  
6:00 pm - Robin Tomajcik

If you are willing to help sell scrip during services....  
Please call Grace Frick at 715-536-4985.



# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <b>8:00am Traditional Worship Service (IC)</b> 9:15am –10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" <b>10:30am Contemporary Worship Service (IC)</b> <b>6:00pm Traditional Worship Service (IC)</b>	<b>29</b> <b>NO SCHOOL - Christmas &amp; New Year Break</b> 1:00pm –3:00pm Quilters	<b>30</b> <b>NO SCHOOL - Christmas &amp; New Year Break</b> 6:00pm –7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm –9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>31</b> <b>NO SCHOOL - Christmas &amp; New Year Break</b> <b>6:00pm –7:00pm New Years Eve Service</b>	<b>1</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <b>NO SCHOOL - Christmas &amp; New Year Break</b>	<b>2</b> <b>NO SCHOOL - Christmas &amp; New Year Break</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>8:00am Traditional Worship Service</b> 9:15am –10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" <b>10:30am Contemporary Worship Service</b> <b>6:00pm Traditional Worship Service</b> 7:00pm –9:00pm High School Youth	<b>5</b> 1:00pm –3:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study	<b>6</b> 9:30am Park Place Service 10:00am Stone Bridge Service 12:30pm Jenny Tower Bible Study 1:00pm –4:00pm Men's Club Card Party 1:15pm Jenny Tower Service 2:30pm –3:00pm Woodland Court Service 6:00pm –7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm –9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 8:10am TLS Chapel Service led by Church Staff & Praise Team 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm –5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group 6:00pm Holiday Choir Practice Church Choir Room 6:30pm –8:00pm Public School Confirmation	<b>8</b> 9:30am ELC Chapel Service at ELC	<b>9</b> 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Circuit Youth Volleyball / Dodgeball Tournament at St. John <b>8:00am Traditional Worship Service (IC)</b> 9:15am –10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" <b>10:30am Contemporary Worship Service (IC)</b> <b>6:00pm Traditional Worship Service (IC)</b>	<b>12</b> 1:00pm –3:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study	<b>13</b> 6:00pm –7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm –9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 8:10am TLS Chapel Service led by Drama in Worship 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm –5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group 6:00pm Holiday Choir Practice Church Choir Room 6:30pm –8:00pm Public School Confirmation	<b>15</b> 2:00pm Pine Crest Service	<b>16</b> 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>17</b> 7:30am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study "Living and Leading as a Man of God"
<b>18</b> <b>8:00am Traditional Worship Service</b> 9:15am –10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" <b>10:30am Contemporary Worship Service</b> <b>6:00pm Traditional Worship Service</b> 7:00pm –9:00pm High School Youth	<b>19</b> 1:00pm –3:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study	<b>20</b> 2:00pm –8:00pm Men's Club Meeting and Dinner 6:00pm Baptism Class 6:00pm –7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm –9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 8:10am TLS Chapel Service led by Pastor Danner 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm –5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group 6:00pm Holiday Choir Practice Church Choir Room 6:30pm –8:00pm Public School Confirmation	<b>22</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED- NWD Team Ministry Workshop for Church Staff</b> 9:30am ELC Chapel Service at ELC 2:00pm Bell Tower Church Service 6:30pm Church Council meeting	<b>23</b> 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:00am Traditional Worship Service (IC)</b> 9:15am –10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" <b>10:30am Contemporary Worship Service (IC)</b> <b>6:00pm Traditional Worship Service (IC)</b>	<b>26</b> 1:00pm –3:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study	<b>27</b> 6:00pm –7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm –9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 8:10am TLS Chapel Service led by Camp Luther 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm –5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group <b>5:30pm –7:00pm TRINITY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Church Council meeting with Strategic Planning	<b>30</b> 2:00pm –4:00pm Food Pantry	<b>31</b>





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*The mission statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is:  
"Courageously "Carrying Christ" to our congregation and community*

CUT AND SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH SOMEONE !



**TRINITY MERRILL**  
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**107 N. State Street,**  
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Join us for our weekly services:

Services are in person at Church and also  
on FACEBOOK at Facebook.com/TrinityLutheranMerrill

8:00am Sunday Morning Traditional Service

10:30am Sunday Morning Contemporary Service

6:00pm Sunday Evening Traditional Service (in person only - not live streamed)

8:00 am Service can also be heard by radio on 730 AM & 96.3 FM at 10:30 am

(Communion is served in person at church the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month)