



Vol. 59 No. 1

Glad Tidings

JANUARY 2026

*Disciples of Jesus Christ called to bring God's light into the world:
through worship, serving, learning and sharing the Good News!*

I am writing this in the space between Christmas and New Year's Day. A time when we tend to look back at what has been, and forward to what might be.

When I look back on 2025, I see Sass and Nala and a full Honda on a dark winding road that took us up into the Catskill Mountains on our way to our new home. I remember being horribly sick in a small cabin where the innkeeper was kind, and attentive, and brought nourishment to our door daily until we got better. I remember the joy and distinct ambiance of my installation services. I see Nala romping in the snow in her new fenced-in yard. And our open house when so many of you came by to grace the parsonage with connection and laughter and hope.

I'll remember protests and marches and rallies and hushed conversations with many of you who are deeply concerned about our country, friends, family, and what it means to be faithful at a time so fraught.

I'll remember how kind you were to us when Deb's mom died just a week before Christmas, and my sense of hope for what might be as I watched the candlelight multiply on Christmas Eve.

I cannot yet see what we will share in 2026. But I do know we will see it: in candlelight, between hymns, in the space between my words, the body of Christ, and your word, Amen.

I know we will find it in mutual epiphanies, punctuated by voices rising in enthusiasm.

I know we will anchor it in prayer and the desire to follow wherever Jesus leads us.

Thank you, for your generosity and grace all year and especially this Christmas.

I look forward to seeing with new eyes in 2026, and to walking into it, with you.

Pastor Marie

Date	Worship Leader	Format	Communion
January 4, 2026	Wendy Catera	In House/Zoom	No
January 11, 2026	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes
January 18, 2026	Wendy Catera	In House/Zoom	No
January 25, 2026	Rev. Marie Duquette	In House/Zoom	Yes

To virtually participate in Sunday Service, please join us at 10am on Zoom.
Zoom Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 3158666474 Password: 13350

A message from our Council President, Amy

Hello to Congregation & Voting Members:

It's that time of year again! The Council, Pastor Marie, & Office Administrator Justina are preparing for the January Annual meeting for election of Council & Endowment Committee Members, voting on Trinity's Annual budget, & other items of need.

We found a break-down in the double doors between the lower hallway & the Fellowship Hall, with a split opening up. We can see signs in the upper level Narthex to Sanctuary doors also, indicating they are wearing toward a similar issue. These are "original" doors from the 1987 Addition to the church. We are seeking estimates so we can have a motion ready for a vote by the Congregation if needed, and don't know the cost of appropriate replacements yet as of this writing.

Please mark your calendars & plan to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday 1/25/2026 at 11:15am at Trinity Lutheran Church.

A letter will be going out soon as well. If you are uncertain if you are eligible to vote, please contact our office at 315-866-6474, leave a message, & your call will be answered or returned.

Please come, get involved, volunteer for Council or Endowment Committee open seats, & see what plans are being made for 2026-2027.

Peace & Blessings,
Amy Manning, Trinity Lutheran Church Council President
amanning@trinityherkimer.org

Congratulations Graduate

We want to congratulate Jaxson Manning, who Graduated in December 2025 from SUNY Cortland. His Degree is G.I.S.. He is applying for jobs in Engineering/Surveying. Congratulations & Best Wishes!

Serving & Sharing

Only with God's grace and the help of the community was the Thanksgiving dinner a wonderful success! Many people in the community continue to volunteer year after year and new people, even people in food service, stepped up to continue the 45th year of the community Thanksgiving Dinner. The Reformed Church graciously donated their building to hold the dinner. Just think a few men from the Herkimer churches started this and with many different volunteers and Jesus' love it continues! We served well over 500 dinners this year. Many were taken out and delivered, but a lot were served with fellowship. May this dinner continue for many more years.

Our Christmas Craft Fair provided us with an opportunity to learn about congregation members' talents and connect with community members. Thank you for coordinating the event Wendy DeLuca!

Our wonderful Prayer Cafe has brought us together with others from Zion and across the country. Thank you, Pastor Marie and Deb for all your work on this!

Please let me express how blessed we are, and know it is happening through the Holy Spirit.

Denny's breakfast group will be taking a break for the month of January.

Interested in getting involved? Contact JoAnn Blaise (jblaise@trinityherkimer.org) to learn more about these and other opportunities! Blessings to all.

DONATION FOCUS

For the month of January, our donation focus will be Soup and Crackers for the Food Pantry. Each month we will have a different donation focus, but other items will always be in need and accepted. Thanks to all who continue to donate!

WOMEN OF FAITH

'Norm and Norma'

"Ordinary folks, ordinary place. But a conduit of extraordinary grace. And in God's story, ordinary matters."
(Quote from *They Walked with God* by Max Lucado, p.165.)

Join us for Women of Faith Bible study, Tuesday, January 20th at 7pm on Zoom as we walk with Mary, Mother of Jesus, an ordinary woman called by God for an extraordinary purpose. Consider - what ordinary things make you special? Please read Luke 1:2-37 and Luke 2:1-12 in preparation for our time together. Click here to join the meeting or contact the office for the link (315.866.6474).

Learning

BOOK GROUP

TLC Book Group will meet Friday, January 9th, at 10am at Trinity. We will discuss "*La's Orchestra saves the World*" by Alexander McCall Smith. This standalone novel is set in England during World War II. It was a time when many men and women were called upon to take on new and unfamiliar roles. Please join us for a lively discussion.

Looking ahead: February 13th bring a book you have read and tell the group about it.

FAITH ALIVE

WOW! As you read this the year 2025 is now behind us (history) and 2026 is before us. There's a question that comes to mind. How are we as God's children going to grow in our faith in word and action this year 2026. After all, we need to stay connected to the Lord for this to happen. OK so how do we at FA do this? Answer is we don't, God does, through the Holy Spirit in us. OK so we at FA have a mission with Johnson Park Center in Utica. How do we help spread the Good News to others who have never heard of Jesus and His love for all people. Remember we lean on Jesus Christ first, praying (talking) to Him and asking for His direction. WOW it makes life easier if we don't have to depend on ourselves!!!!!! Well since FA is inclusive of all ages, through prayer, we come up with some very interesting ways. Presently making crosses (laminated) in all sizes, shapes and forms to be distributed, including our own church family, shut-ins, Johnson Park and others. Want to take part, please speak to any one of us or call the church office (315-866-6474). Blessings and Peace!

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for our local food pantry for someone who just might need a little help. Sharing Jesus' awesome love to all is our JOY!

A Bible verse worth memorizing:

"I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever, to all generations I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth" (Psalm 89:1).

January dates for Faith Alive gatherings are Sunday 1/4 & 1/18.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday from 10 till noon in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. Knowledge of the bible is not required. If you have your own bible please bring it with you, if not we will supply one. With the Holy Spirit leading us we come up with some amazing topical studies. Presently each week, after completing Romans, we are studying 1 Corinthians and read a different Psalm, which always leads to exciting discussion, as we grow together in our Faith. As Jesus says "COME" and be blessed in My Love.

Worship, Music, and Prayer

BLESSINGS OF PRAYER:

"O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly. My soul thirsts for Thee. Because thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips will praise Thee." (Psalm 63: 1a, 3)

PRAYER NOTES:

The year 2026 is suddenly upon us. Jesus tells us in Mark 12:30 to LOVE the Lord our God with all our Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength. (Please read the first commandment with its meaning written by Martin Luther). This new year let us prayerfully discipline ourselves to consciously seek Jesus as His Word of truth instructs us to, so that we may be fully equipped to spread the Good News of God's love to others.

When we live by God's laws and walk day by day, moment by moment with the Holy Spirit, we will always be heading in the right direction. And it is not difficult because He does all the heavy lifting. When we lift Him up in praise, He lifts us up in every other way. He becomes our strength when we have none. He is our guide when we don't know what to do. He is our comforter when we are hurting and distressed. God wants us to live our life where we can accomplish things that could not happen if He were not enabling us.

Consider beginning every day in prayer, meditating on His Word, knowing that no matter what unexpected happenings arise we are more than able to endure by leaning on Jesus. Amazing isn't it!

In His Service,
Prayer Ministry

Your past is not your prison. It is your curriculum. Graduate.

January 2026						
←	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	→
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bible Study	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Bible Study Worship and Music Committee Meeting on Zoom	9 Book Group	10
Faith Alive Worship Service						
11	12	13	14 Council meeting via ZOOM	15 Bible Study	16	17
Worship Service Faith Formation with Confirmation Option						
18	19	20 Loaves and Fishes Meeting Women of Faith Bible Study Women of Faith Planning Meeting	21	22 Bible Study	23	24
Faith Alive Worship Service						
25	26	27	28	29 Bible Study	30	31
Worship Service Annual Meeting						

Volunteer Schedule

	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25
Counter 1	Bona Starring	Bona Starring	JoAnn Blaise	JoAnn Blaise
Counter 2	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Phillis Becker	Phillis Becker
Reader	Amy Manning	Phillis Becker	Sue Harkins	Dan Collins
Singer	Sue Harkins	Lori McKusick	Sue Harkins	TBD
Altar	NA	Kylene Jordan	Amy Manning	Amy Manning
Worship Leader	Wendy Catera	Rev. Marie Duquette	Wendy Catera	Rev. Marie Duquette

Please email info@trinityherkimer.org with any changes.

Did You Know:

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6, when we remember the three Wise Men's visit to the Christ Child. The color for Epiphany Day is White. During the time after Epiphany we hear stories about Jesus' baptism and early ministry, The color for these Sundays is sometimes white and sometimes green. On the last Sunday we celebrate the Transfiguration. The color for this day is white, and we hear the story of Jesus shining brightly on the mountaintop.

The Lutheran Handbook copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress

Our Church Family

God's children in need of support through prayer of healing of mind, body and or spirit. Such prayer of Intercession is a blessing for us and for those whose names we lift to Jesus, our intercessor. He knows all of us uniquely and it pleases Him when we come to Him with our concerns and certainly not depending on ourselves. So thanks to all who take time to write a note of encouragement or make a connection of caring with someone who comes to mind, particularly those listed below.

Daily prayers are appreciated for: Jean, Julie, Forest, Rich, Junifer Scott, Jim, Nancy, Gary, Edith, Ron, Marie, Klaus, Jonah, Sonya, Rosemarie, John, Barbara, Karen, Allen, Charlie, Sheila, Pat, Linda, Leah. Picture Jesus with a smile on His face as we pray for others.

A Suggested Prayer: Precious Jesus, we come before You with one voice praising Your Name with Joyful songs of Thanksgiving. Lord we have so much to bring before you, (Joy, sadness, sickness, fear etc), our veterans who bravely fought for our freedom, the families of all those who have been innocently murdered by evil, natural disasters and many others who need your healing touch. The list goes on and on. We comprehend the Wisdom of God, Your Holiness with amazement, when we look at the CROSS with our spiritual eyes and heart wide open. What an incredible love, the GOSPEL message of good news. John 3:16 and by Your Grace it's FREE - PASS IT ON!!

In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!!

A CELEBRATION of the RESURRECTION, for our sister in Christ, Joyce Schrader, was held at Fenner Funeral Home on Sunday December 14, 2025. Joyce went into the loving arms of Jesus on December 3rd at 95 years old. At this time please remember in your prayers, Susan and Becky her daughters and Rudy her son, grand/great grandchildren, all other family members and friends for our Lord's blessings of His Comfort and Peace be upon them. Thank you!!

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life ; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies; and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die". John 11:25, 26.

Genie Bohn, a beloved child of God went home to be with the Lord this week and now is in the loving arms of sweet Jesus. Please keep in your prayers her daughter Sass (Deb) and son Frank, family and friends for God's comfort and His peace surrounding them at this difficult time.

"Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live" John 11:25

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS:

We at Trinity are blessed in many ways. As the choir raises their voices in praise to the Lord, which leads the congregation into full worship as one is beautiful. Thank you Sue and all members of the choir for sharing your gift of music. We are blessed!

Prayerfully consider joining Trinity's prayer chain. If so led by the Holy Spirit please speak to Phillis or Pastor Marie. Peace!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Christine Stegeman
Cindy Manning
Gabrielle Griffin
Myrtle Irons
Colt Nemecek
Rebecca Shaut
Zachary Snow
Carol Obermann
Jonah Levi

Kali Gorski
Maria Schroeder
Daniel Pollak
Shane Kucerak
Kendall Guccione
Kathy Schrader
Miranda Meinzer
Rebecca Walrath
JoAnn Blaise

Timothy Marusic
John Wilcox
Jenna Macri
Joanne Mencer
Arnold A. Schrader
Connor Griffin
Victoria Bunn

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY Myrtle Irons!

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Maria & Jerome Madden
Rebecca & Michael Marusic

Kathy & Frank Kapusta
Kathy & Donald Schrader

If you spot an error or omission, please notify the office. We will be happy to update this list!

Council Contact Information

President: Amy Manning	315-868-9224	amanning@trinityherkimer.org
Vice President: JoAnn Blaise	315-868-0291	jblaise@trinityherkimer.org
Treasurer: Wendy Catera	315-360-7447	wcatera@trinityherkimer.org
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Bona Starring	315-868-8393	bstarring@trinityherkimer.org
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Pastor Marie	315-316-1866	pastor@trinityherkimer.org
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**Worship With Us
From Anywhere!
Call on your landline
phone, use your
computer or use your
device!
See Worship Schedule
for details.**

If you would like to receive a copy of finalized Council meeting minutes please contact the office.

Note of Appreciation:

I want to thank everyone for the cards, hugs, kind words and prayers for the passing of my mother. The outpouring of love you all show is exactly what I need to help me/us through these times. I am deeply grateful for this wonderful Trinity family.

- Sass