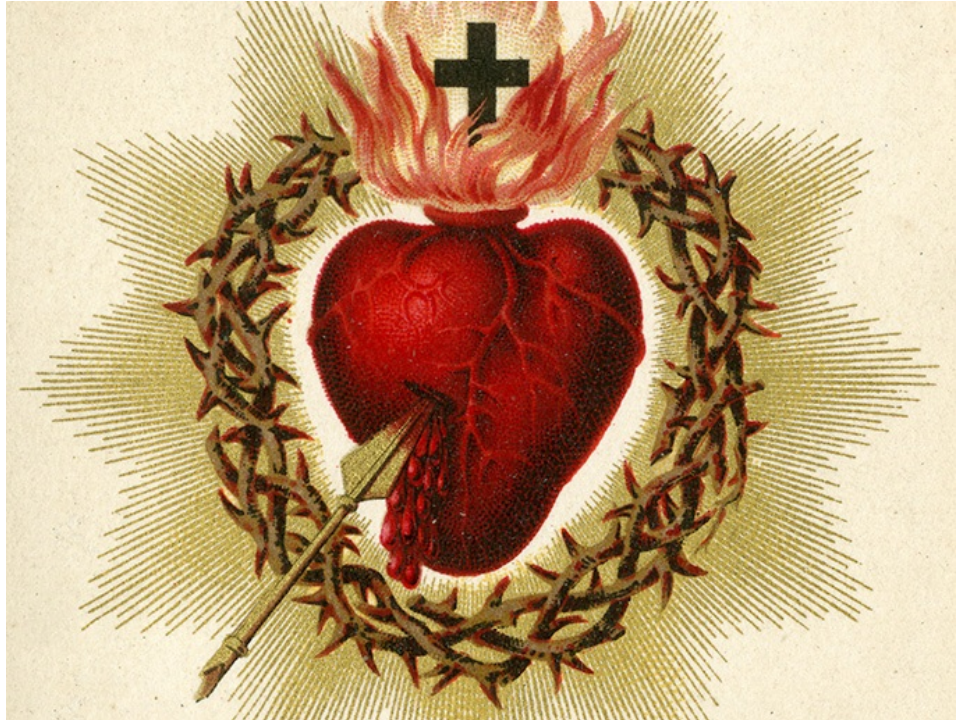


THE TRINITY TRIBUNE

A Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanceville, Alabama

February 2024



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
505 Commercial St. SE
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

www.trinityhanceville.com

Phone 256-352-6442

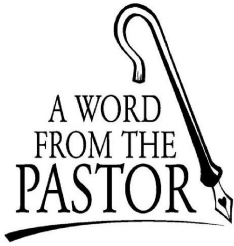
SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY !



Which Heart for February



First of all, don't freak out by the cover art. We haven't "gone Catholic." The picture is of the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" from our Roman Catholic friends. We have theological differences about how this image receives "devotion" in the Roman Catholic Church, but we really have no problem with the image itself. Let me explain.

It is February. This month includes Valentine's Day. It is represented by a heart. Our modern celebration is all about "love" and includes cards, flowers, candies, and many a disappointed heart when expressions of love (which took a lot of courage to state publically for some) are rejected. This modern celebration has dropped "Saint" from the name. Saint Valentine was a third century clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried on February 14. That's where we get the date. From the High Middle Ages, his Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love (you know, Knights and Damsels in distress and all that). That's where the "love" part comes from. Throw out the "saint" and the "courtly love" and you have what we have today - another "Hallmark Holiday" and an opportunity for Hershey, Lindt, and all the others to make a buck off of human hormones. (Did that sound cynical??)

Anyway, that's one heart to choose from for February. The other is that heart I started talking about, the "Sacred Heart of Jesus." The Sacred Heart is often depicted in Christian art as a flaming heart shining with divine light, pierced by the lance-wound, encircled by the crown of thorns, surmounted by a cross, and bleeding. That's Jesus on the cross for us! More than that though, it depicts the long-suffering love and compassion of the heart of Christ towards humanity. So, your choice is a heart emptied of all real meaning and used to make a buck or the heart of Jesus for the salvation of all mankind. Not just from a Christian point of view, but overall, the second sounds to me like an infinitely better heart for February and any time.

The long-suffering and compassionate heart of Jesus is what we need, what everyone needs, and that is what we will be focusing on this Lenten season. The special Lenten services in the evenings will look at the Seven Words spoken by Jesus from the Cross. Each one will show in a different way the suffering and loving heart of Jesus toward mankind whom He came to save by His death and resurrection. For instance, the first Wednesday service will look at when Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them.**" Even as our sin was causing the need for Jesus' horrendous death on the cross, He did not lash out in Divine retribution, but rather, He asked His Father to forgive us. That forgiveness could only come by Jesus' sacrifice for us because the Law and it's penalty of death against us had to be satisfied. Jesus speaking forgiveness from the cross; that's exactly the long-suffering love and compassion of the heart of Jesus our Savior for us! We will continue to look at the rest of those beautiful words of Jesus from the cross that He spoke until He died and that Roman spear pierced His heart in death. (Lent may end there and with His burial but, you know that's NOT how things end. Easter victory will come.)

So, two hearts for February. Go ahead; buy that card, flowers, and candy if you want. But remember that all human love is imperfect and often doesn't last. But, the love of God in Christ is perfect and lasts forever. The heart of God in Christ is long-suffering and compassionate to all sinners. Won't you choose that heart and come and revel in that love, especially with our special Lenten services this year, and all through Lent, right into Easter?

In Christ,

Pastor Jankens

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2024</h1>						
				1	2	3 9 am Spruce Up Day
4 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers: Teeny Teichmiller and Joyce Rowe	5	6	7 10:00 am LifeLight Bible Study	8	9	10 10 am Knit/Crochet Service Project
11 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service 4 pm Mardi Gras Bingo Party Flowers: Anne Gotch	12	13 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study 6:30 pm Elders	14 6:30 pm Lent Mid-week Service	15	16	17 10 am LWML
18 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers: Marian Handley	19	20	21 6:30 pm Lent Mid-week Service	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23	24 10 am LWML Zone Service Project
25 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers: Kathy Hays	26	27	28 6:30 pm Lent Mid-week Service	29		

Special Days for the Month of February

Birthdays

Kathy Hays	2/2
Dewayne Coan	2/2
Norma Lampitt	2/3
Natalia Hudson	2/6
Teeny Teichmiller	2/8
Debbie Hamilton	2/9
Renee Smith	2/9
Collin Jankens	2/12
Spencer Cameron-Morin	2/16
Isaac Dale	2/18
Chad Nelson	2/21
Sieglinde Roberson	2/25



Baptism Birthdays

Robert Jochum	2/1
Amelia Cameron-Morin	2/8
Jason Moody	2/13
Judy Jankens	2/15
Chloe Bales	2/15
Zachary Williams	2/18
David Jankens	2/18
Collin Jankens	2/20



Board of Elders News

Greetings from the Board of Elders,

It has been encouraging to see our pews more filled at our services recently, as we see some new faces, along with some long absent faces returning after having missed some during the holidays and due to illnesses.

As we prepare to enter the Lenten Season, we would like to encourage everyone to join us at our mid-week services as well.

- 2/14/24 – Ash Wednesday Service – 6:30PM / with Wednesday services continuing weekly through 3/20/23
- 3/28/24 – Maundy Thursday Service – 6:30PM
- 3/29/24 – Good Friday Service – 6:30PM
- 3/31/24 – Easter Sunday Service (we will not be holding a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday)

Our Sunday morning Bible study continues to be blessing to those who attend, and attendance has been good, so we would invite you to join us as we study God's Word together and interact with each other in Sunday School. Our Wednesday Bible Study has resumed as well.

The Elders are continuing to contact those we see absent from service, but everyone can assist in this, if you notice someone missing and would like the Elders to contact them during the week, please let one of us know as you leave service that Sunday.

Please feel free to engage any of the Elders in conversation or approach us with any questions or needs that you may have.

May the Lord bless and keep each of you always.

Your brother in Christ,

Tim Smith / 205-492-0235

Board of Education News

Happy Valentines Day!

As I look around the church on Sunday, I see love. Whether it's the couple who has been married for 67 years with the twinkle in their eyes, or the newlyweds of a month holding hands during the service, a greeting when coming into church or a handshake going out, it reminds me of what Jesus taught all of us: "of these, love is the greatest". February is the month designated for love. On February 11th, the Board of Education will be "Sharing the Love" with goodie bags.

Pastor Jankens has begun first communion instruction with River Nelson, Hazzie Bales and Amelia Morin. Please keep them in your prayers.

The expression "you learn something new every day" can be applied to Christian instruction (whether it's one of Pastors sermons or it's one of the many Bible classes offered). Please check out the list below and decide which one you would like to try out to see what fits!

Sunday School and Adult Bible class: 8:45 am

Second Tuesday Ladies Bible study: 1:00 pm with Marty

Every Wednesday Bible class: 10:00 am with Pastor (on hiatus during Lent. Re-starting after Easter)

Third Saturday Men's Bible class: 9:00 am with Dan Dahlke (beginning after Easter)

Third Saturday LWML: 10:00 am Bible study with Judy

Can't wait to see you!

As always in Christ,

Anne Gotch (256-636-4288)

LWML News

The LWML will host a Zone Service Project day on Saturday, February 24th 10:00 AM to Noon. Backpacks will be filled with personal care items for the homeless. Each society will collect and bring items to sort and fill backpacks. The morning will start with a devotion focused on Lent. Light refreshments and lunch will be provided. All of our ladies are invited and encouraged to join us for fellowship and a chance for service.

The new green paraments were dedicated on Sunday, Janurart 14th. Thank you to all that helped and contributed to purchase them . They will adorn our altar for many years.

Monthly LWML meetings will continue to be on the third Saturday at 10:00 AM and also a Bible study on the second Tuesday every month at 1:00 PM.

Ladies come and join us in Bible study, fellowship, and to "Serve The Lord With Gladness".

Board of Evangelism News

Thank you, members of Trinity, for all the times you have demonstrated Christ's love and compassion to those in need! Now we need your help with two special opportunities given us to show our care and concern for others.

Trinity has been contacted by Wallace State Community College asking us to participate in a "donation rotation" of essential items for their Lions' Kitchen Food Pantry which is open to any student who needs food assistance. The number of students in need using the pantry has tripled in the past year and donations are needed more than ever. The Board of Evangelism feels this will give us a connection to Wallace students and an opportunity to witness Christ's love. Each month Trinity will be asked to donate a specific pantry item, such as pasta, peanut butter, etc. Our item for February is **pasta** of any type. We will collect the pasta items the whole month of February. Contact Paula Wiram (205) 446-8206 for more information.

Trinity's other opportunity to show God's love and care in our community is the Knapsacks for Kids program. Currently the program provides bags of food for about 100 children in need. Trinity, along with many other churches in the community, provide the supplies and pack these bags which are taken to Hanceville School where they are distributed every Friday to the children who have qualified for the program. This gives these children food on weekends when they do not have access to school lunches. We, the members of Trinity, continue to provide **boxed** YooHoo drinks to go in these bags. Contact Linda Durand (256) 339-2269 for more information.

Collection boxes for both these projects will be available in the fellowship hall and in the narthex of the church if you would like to contribute. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Thank you, Trinity church family for any help you can give on these projects.

Mardi Gras Bingo Party

Get ready for a fun evening of fellowship! Everyone is invited to join us on February 11th beginning at 4 pm in the fellowship hall for an exciting game of Bingo. We ask each person to bring a wrapped white elephant gift to be put in the prize pool. It can even be something around your house that you no longer need or would just like to get rid of. Since Fat Tuesday will be two days later, the Board of Evangelism will provide a Mardi Gras supper with Black Beans and Rice, Gumbo, Jambalaya, salad, and drinks. Please bring a dessert to share and invite your friends for some good Christian fellowship.

In His service,
Margie Burkart
256-531-4122

Board of Stewardship News

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper - down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

Board of Property News

The Properties Board met Sunday, January 14, 2024. All members were present.

HEATING AND COOLING UNITS:

Service call for heat pump to fellowship hall.	\$89.00
Fan noise and delay in unit cutting- on is normal.	
Repair to Heat Pump for down stairs of education building.	\$656.00
Gas valve replaced.	

NEW FIRE ALARMS TO BE PURCHASED AND INSTALLED.

ICE MACHINE:

Drainage is good. No moisture under the building.
Checked by pest control service rep.

PENDING:

Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas report of reliable operations check.
Lawn repair where the new sewer line was installed.
Properties survey list: Work continues by our church members.(THANK YOU)
On-going repairs and spruce-ups needed.

SCHEDULED PLANS:

Saturday February 3, at 9:00 To remove old carpet from the rooms behind the choir loft.

FUTURE PLANS:

To clean and organize the rooms behind the choir loft after carpet is removed..

A CONTINUED THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTE
AND HELP IN ANY WAY.

Respectfully submitted,
In His Service,
Kay Michelfelder

Spruce Up Day

Help is needed to spruce up the rooms behind the choir loft. The properties board has scheduled a workday, Saturday, February 3rd at 9:00 am. Plans are to remove the old carpet. If you would like to help mask will be made available or you can bring your own. Your help to get this part of our sanctuary cleaned and in order is appreciated. If you have any questions, see Kay Michelfelder.

Thank You!

I would like to take the time to say thank you to the Trinity congregation for your continued support and encouragement since our family first started to attend in June 2022. At the onset you enveloped us into the warmth of Christian love. I distinctly remember a voice within my soul as I stepped inside the front door say, "Home." It was not a coincidence that the Holy Spirit led us to attend that fateful Sunday service.

Soon thereafter my health deteriorated. But, with the addition of this church family, and it was (is) a family as Pastor Jankens declared, we felt the outpouring of your care, concern, and prayers. To which the circumstances of my serious health conditions were chronicled in my recently published memoir, *God is Good: A Journey to Complete Trust*.

The book launch and signing event in December was a success due to the attendance of Trinity's members. Once more, thank you for loving, encouraging, and supporting our little family as you do.

Blessings,

Caroline Moody





Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father this blessed Christmas season!

My husband, John, is a first year seminarian at Concordia here in Fort Wayne. He is originally from the mountains of western North Carolina where we met during college over 25 years ago. We moved here from central Arkansas so John could follow God's calling. Our daughter, Rosie, just turned 5.

We are settling in well and have found the seminary community to be very welcoming and supportive of us while John completes his studies towards becoming an LCMS Pastor. We are so humbled to be here and are grateful for the blessings God pours on us through people like you. The Walmart gift cards you gave us have helped us keep groceries on the table and buy the little things we need from day to day - thank you!

May our Lord pour His blessings on you in the New Year. Please continue to keep us in your prayers - we are most grateful for those!

In the light of Christ,
John, Jana, and Rosie
Carpenter



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the gift cards. We really appreciate the support while Nathan is at seminary and Cosette stays home with the twins.

Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year

The Keesers

27 November 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church
505 Commercial Street Southeast
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

Greetings in the name of the Lord,

My name is Ryan Nichols, and I am a first-year student at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Just a little information about myself and my journey towards becoming a pastor: I have felt the call to become a pastor for around 15 years, but it wasn't until Easter of 2022 where I decided to become fully invested in pursuing ministry as my lifelong calling.

My wife, Leah, and I got married in 2010, and we have moved nine times in the last 13 years. We've always wanted to buy a house, raise a family, and stay in one location. But we've quickly realized that is not what God has in store for our lives, and here we are in Fort Wayne pursuing ministry full time.

Currently, my wife is working as a nurse to help support me through seminary, but unfortunately, due to several chronic health issues, she can only work part time. Your wonderful generosity helped us greatly during this stressful holiday season, as your donation helped toward the costs of gas, food, and utilities.

We want to personally thank you for your generosity, and we will pray for God's blessings over you in the upcoming year.

Peace of the Lord be with you.

Sincerely,

Ryan and Leah Nichols
1104 West State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46808

Dear Trinity,

From the bottom of my heart I thank you for the generous gift you have given to support me during my time here at the seminary in Fort Wayne. It is so encouraging to experience such selfless love and sacrifice from Christians who don't even know me! Your kindness is a living testament to the love of God, which we have come to know through the Father sending His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to dwell among us in the flesh and to take our sin and suffering upon Himself. May God bless you for taking upon yourself my burden!

Because of your kindness, I will be able to put energy into my studies and personal devotions rather than taking on more hours at work. Because of your sacrifice, I will be able to spend more time dwelling in the Scriptures and meditate on the Truth therein. Not only is this a great blessing to me, which will enlighten my eyes with the truth of Jesus Christ, but it will be a blessing to the Church, as I bring this knowledge out into my calling and into the world after my time here at seminary.

I pray this letter finds you well, that the ills and cares of this world do not pull away your eyes from the great joy we share in the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. God, the Creator of all, the righteous Judge, has sent His Son to take on our flesh, so that through His flesh we could enter eternal paradise. Keep in the promises of Jesus Christ and continue in His works. Our eternal crown is soon to come!

My dear brothers in Christ, thank you so much for your kindness!

May God bless and keep you until Christ's return! Merry Christmas!

Zigmas Kisielius

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zigmas Kisielius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'Z'.



Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
(St. Matthew 25:34-40, ESV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe we are in a new year already. I am amazed at the outpouring of love and generosity to our students on a daily basis by you, our wonderful donors. However, I cannot properly convey to you the gratitude felt by every student who uses the Co-ops on a weekly basis, so I will leave that to one of our student families.

Please accept my prayers for a beautiful new year and my heartfelt thanks for your continued support of *your* future pastors and deaconesses as they prepare for full-time service in the harvest field of Christ to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all.

In His service and yours,

Deac. Katherine E. Rittner

Deaconess Katherine E. Rittner
Director, Food and Clothing Co-op



Member Care Mania

Ali has had quite a number of opportunities to serve in a member care capacity here in Ethiopia. It has indeed been a busy season for her.

At the beginning of November, Ali, along with her friend and fellow member care provider from another organization, Hannele Secchia, facilitated a session for Ethiopian missionaries during their pre-field training. In this session, they discussed the Biblical basis for member care. Participants read Bible verses and shared how they can care for themselves and fellow missionaries on the field. Although the training was done in Amharic (through

translators), it was encouraging to hear what participants learned during this short session.

Hannele and Ali teamed up again in early December to talk to the grades 11 and 12 students at Bingham Academy, where our kids attend. This time the topic was Third Culture Kids (TCKs) and transition. Many of these students are planning to attend university outside of Ethiopia and we wanted to be able to share with them some of the things they may experience when leaving the country that they have called home, some of them for their entire lives. Ali was pleasantly surprised how quickly students engaged with the information. Even more so, it was exciting to hear from a few parents that their children were impacted by the session and were talking about it at home.

Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills

The Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills (SYIS) Workshop was held in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia about an hour outside of Addis Ababa. Ali wasn't originally planning to be part of the workshop team, but two facilitators were unable to participate due to illness and Ali was asked to step in. Paul had only returned from an extended trip to the US 36 hours before Ali headed out for this workshop. Although the timing wasn't ideal, Ali was reminded how much she loves being part of this workshop. This was a unique setup in that there were two sessions running simultaneously! Fifty participants, divided between two conference rooms with four facilitators for each session, made for quite a full venue. Even though it had been several years since Ali had facilitated an SYIS, she quickly found her way and was glad she could help out when this need arose.



Ali was invited to speak to the Pastoral Care and Trauma Healing class at the Mekane Yesus Seminary. She used her knowledge of trauma together with the sessions she created for the Concordia Mission Institute last summer to present to the class. Ali shared about the basics of what trauma is, what happens to your body when you experience trauma, how to recognize the lasting impact of trauma, and how to care for yourself and others after trauma. It was interesting to hear what happens in different cultures as they respond to difficult circumstances. For some students, they were hearing this information for the first time. Others were either knowledgeable on the topic or had experienced the importance of caring for people post-trauma and not just trying to carry on with life as if nothing different had occurred.

Paul & Ali FEDERWITZ

Hannah, Levi & Eden

ABOUT US

Paul's role is two-fold: He provides strategic leadership internationally as LBT's Director for Field Programs while serving locally as Director of Programs in Ethiopia.

Ali is the Member Care Facilitator for LBT.

Paul and Ali's ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals and groups.

CORRESPONDENCE

✉ Paul and Ali Federwitz
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Lutheran Bible
Translators

CONTRIBUTIONS

Lutheran Bible Translators
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Please make checks payable to
Lutheran Bible Translators and
designate *P/A Federwitz Ministry*

Online giving at
<https://go.lbt.org/pafederwitz>

Podcast: A Conversation About A.I. Have you been hearing a lot about artificial intelligence in the news? Join LBT's CEO Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske and Paul as they talk about this cutting edge technology and how it relates to Bible translation. Where can A.I. help and what is the role of the Holy Spirit in this important work? Tune in for a balanced discussion of technology and human experience. Listen to Episode 94 at www.LBT.org/podcast.



Certified Professional Coach

Just before Christmas, Ali completed the coursework and requirements needed to become a certified professional coach. She plans to mainly use her coaching skills in the context of her role in member care with Lutheran Bible Translators. However, she is also able to use her training to coach others and has an interest in working with women who are experiencing transitions internationally. It will be interesting to see how her interest in and knowledge of trauma can also inform her coaching. Her next goal is to log 100 hours of coaching so that she can apply for certification through the International Coaching Federation (ICF).

Lots of Visits to the Doctor

Levi was innocently playing tag at school one day and as he fell, his thumb is what caught him. Although it looked a little gnarly at first, the school nurse didn't think it was a major injury but suggested an x-ray to be safe. Guess what? It was broken and needed a procedure to set it. We were truly blessed by the missionary community through this process. A pediatric orthopedic surgeon at a hospital that specializes in caring for cleft palates, clubfoot, and the like, had heard about Levi's injury through some mutual friends and asked to see him. Upon his evaluation, he asked us to bring Levi to the hospital to have the bone set and they added a wire to make sure it was stable as it healed. All of this was done free of charge, as is all of the medical care at that facility. Levi had a cast for 3 weeks and was not allowed to participate in any sports until just before Christmas. It was hard for him to miss out on events at school as he was hoping to join the track team this year, but he persevered!



The week of Thanksgiving, Eden had complained of stomach pains that were similar to what she had experienced a few times in Ghana when she had to be admitted to hospital for treatments. Although we never got clear answers then, we knew it couldn't be treated at home, so we took her straight to the pediatrician. After a few tests, he arranged for us to go to a trusted hospital for further evaluation. For the first time, we really felt as if the doctors listened to us as we shared what Eden had experienced in the past and how it was treated. We told of our concerns that no previous solution was really clear and that these illnesses are painful and traumatic for Eden. They treated Eden with kindness and gentleness and spoke to us about a plan that would require surgery but hopefully put an end to these issues. Paul and Ali were able to take turns being with Eden in the hospital, even staying in her room overnight. She did have surgery and it went very well. Although she is now functioning normally, her physical activity will continue to be restricted until early in the new year. We hope and pray that this is the end of these problems for Eden.

