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Trinity Lutheran Church  
Milledgeville, IL

And



First Lutheran of  
Jordan, Sterling, IL

December Mission Focus

First, West Jordan

We have ‘adopted’ a family from the YWCA. Information on the family and suggested gifts are available in our narthex. Please sign up and help this family celebrate Christmas

Trinity, Milledgeville

Our annual Christmas gift drive for families in the Chadwick-Milledgeville School district has begun. Gift tags with child age/gender and suggested gift (value no more than \$30) are available in the narthex.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Of West Jordan  
20314 Hickory Hills Road  
Sterling, IL 61081  
815-625-5407  
Worship: Sundays 8:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
717 Stover Ave, PO Box 637  
Milledgeville, IL 61051  
815-225-7410; telcsecretary@mediacombb.net  
www.trinitymville.com  
Worship: Sundays 10:15 AM

Glad Tidings  
“Sound the Good News”



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<sup>3</sup> *A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*  
<sup>4</sup> *Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.* <sup>5</sup> *Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” - Isaiah 40:3-5*

Advent is a season of preparations. In our homes we prepare with decorations, wrapping paper, baking, and eggnog. In our worship, we prepare to hear the story of Jesus’ birth. One of the aspects of Advent that is often set aside or lost to all our other preparations is the season of Advent also prepares us for the Second Coming.

Yes! Jesus is coming again. Not as a baby in a manger, but as the King of Kings, the Prince of Peace, the heir of righteousness, the one who has brought salvation through his death and by his resurrection has brought everlasting life. Yes, that very Jesus is coming again. And yet, we are often too busy with our carols, our wreaths, our bows and safe-winter driving to remember this very important aspect of our faith.

So when Isaiah cried out “Prepare the way of the LORD” he was looking forward to the day the messiah would come and restore Israel. When we cry out, “Prepare the way of the LORD” we are looking forward to the return of the Messiah. What are we doing then to prepare the way?

We prepare the way when we provide a place for forgiveness to be experienced. We prepare the way when we fight for social justice and equality. We prepare the way when we reach out in love to someone who has never experienced love. We prepare the way when we do these things and so much more, all because Jesus calls his disciples to do this.

Feed the hungry (the Milledgeville Food Pantry), when we clothe people (the Pitter Patter Pantry, Mia’s elementary school classroom, coat and mitten drives), when we bring Jesus to homebound and shut-in members, when we laugh, sing and pray with Southtown residents.

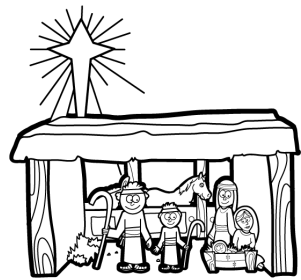
Jesus is returning. And when he does, he will not count how many presents are under our tree, or how many lights brighten our house for the holidays. He will look at how many people we have fed and how many oppressed we have proclaimed freedom to. Jesus will ask if we joined the worker crews—not to smooth out the pavement on our ancient downtown blocks, but have we cleared the obstacles that prevent people from hearing the Good News that God loves them.

Looking forward to the Second Coming really means a lot of work. It sounds exhausting, so it is easy to distract ourselves with all those other preparations. And yet, we are given this season of Advent to prepare our hearts for the work that lays ahead of us. Join us in worship this season, take a break from the other distractions of the season and hear God’s calling to be a part of the work crew preparing the world for Jesus’ return!

Pastor Jamie Gallagher



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
717 Stover Ave, PO box 637  
Milledgeville, IL 61051  
Phone: 815-225-7410  
Partner in Cooperative Ministry  
First Lutheran W. Jordan  
N. IL. Synod of the ELCA  
Ministers  
The People of God  
Pastor  
Jamie Gallagher  
Secretary  
Janet Barkley  
Organist  
Nancy Janssen



### Community Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 3rd at 6:00 PM  
Live Narration of the Christmas Story  
**IN THE BARN!**

Experience the sights and sounds in the barn with a Narrative reading of the Christmas story with a cast and live animals for one short program with a big importance.

“Christmas in the Barn” will be our Community Church celebration, church choirs and volunteers for the cast are welcome.

“Christmas In the Barn” will be at the Rahn family barn located at 20769 IL Rte 40, Mt. Carroll

There is handicap parking and access available. The service will take place inside the barn. For questions, please call 815-499-0463

### TLC WLCA Christmas Party/Meeting

All Women are invited to attend our annual holiday tradition on December 5th at 2 PM

We will gather at Lois Simmon’s house.

### Choir Rehearsals

Tuesdays December 5th and 12th at 6:30 PM  
We will rehearse for a song we will perform on Sunday, December 17th

### Christmas Pagaent

Sunday, December 17th during our morning worship  
Enjoy the Premiere of the new Christmas Worship Play  
“Royal Highway Construction Crew Local 717”

Imagine the Christmas story told by the road workers who built the roads for everyone to get to Bethlehem!



### EPIC ADVENT GATHERINGS

Wednesday nights in Advent will be EPIC!

Wednesday, Dec 6th, 6:30 PM Advent Craft Night

Wednesday, Dec 13th, 6:30 PM Advent Baking Night

Wednesday, Dec 20th, 6:30 PM Christmas Caroling around town

Join us on the Wednesday nights for an EPIC time. The crafts and baked goodies will be taken with us as we carol to folks in the community.

### Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

**December 24th 10:15 AM**  
Joint Advent Worship at Trinity

**Dec 24th 4:00 PM Christmas EVE at First**  
**Dec 24th 9:00 PM Christmas EVE at Trinity**

### New Year’s Eve Worship Scheudule

**December 31st 8:30 AM**  
Joint Sunday Worship at First

Bring a Christmas Poem or reading or meaningful prayer to share during worship. We will have a Christmas Hymn sing mixed with these personal reflections.

**“Adore, the Greatest Gift Ever Given”**  
Presented by Emmanuel (Morrison) Voices of Praise

Fri. Dec 15, 7pm; Sat. Dec 16, 3pm;  
Sun. Dec 17, 7 pm

Emmanuel Reformed Church  
202 E Morris Street, Morrison

***Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near! Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!  
The greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story: Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!***

Our Advent theme is Prepare the Royal Highway. We will hear this theme as we sing our Advent Candle song, LBW Hymn #26. It was even the basis for the Christmas Pageant we will see on Sunday, December 17th, as we hear how a crew of road workers built the roads that brought Mary and Joseph and the Magi to Bethlehem as well as the road that saved Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus on their way to Egypt.

This theme is also our stewardship theme this year. Jesus calls us to build not a royal highway but a ministry that carries his name into the hearts of the world around us. We do this by having a wonderful church structure to gather in and worship and host community meals and so much more. We do this by sending our members to volunteer with delivering golden meals or helping at the food pantry or going on mission trips as the youth did a few years ago.

What enables us to build this ministry? Our dedicated members make this happen. And yet the word “member” makes church sound like a social club, where membership has its benefits, or a shopping club, where membership means you get discounts. So let’s not use the word members anymore.

What enables us to build this ministry? Jesus’ disciples do. And Jesus empowers his disciples to be stewards. We who gather here are disciples. We are not members. We are disciples. We are empowered by the Spirit to build our ministry. This includes supporting our annual budget.

This season you received a letter sharing some Biblical principles of stewardship as well as some information about our current budget. This letter is an invitation to prayerfully consider how being Jesus’ disciple is a calling in your life to increase how you support our annual budget. The Spirit empowers Jesus’ disciples to build ministry and building ministry comes with a budget.

Prayerfully consider how the Spirit is empowering you to increase your support of our ministry budget; your gifts are a mark of discipleship and a sign of your thankfulness to God for his Son Jesus!

### What to Watch for In January

Beginning on January 11 the TLC Dorcas WELCA Circle will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 2 PM. Locations will rotate each month. Watch for newsletters and bulletins for updates.

January Bible Study

Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM. Starting January 11th. We will be exploring the New Testament Letters 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus.

A Wednesday evening session may be scheduled if we get participants to sign up.

Sign ups for the books will be available in each narthex



**Grace Meals**  
**Tuesday, December 19th**

**11:30 AM at Trinity**

### EPIC Sunday School in January

Sunday, January 21st after worship  
Light Lunch is included. We will have Chicken Soup for lunch.

**Congregation Annual Meetings**  
Will be on January 28th after worship

Birthdays and Anniversaries  
for both congregations will now be listed on our monthly calendar pages.

Please let the office know if your birthday or anniversary information is missing, needs to be corrected, or should be removed. Thank you.

### Our December Southtown Ministry

Will be Tuesday, December 19th at 4:30 PM

January 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day			6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Basement	Pastor's Day Off	Epiphany
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Baptism of our Lord	11a-3p Sewers Meet	1:30p-3:30p Naomi Circle	9a-12p Pastor at Conference Meeting	10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Birthday: Ray Ricklefs	
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ				2p-4p Dorcas Circle	Birthday: Scott Hinrichs	
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity					Pastor's Day Off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Martin Luther King Jr Day	11:30a-12:30p Grace Meals (Trinity Lutheran Church)		10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ	11a-3p Sewers Meet	4:30p-5p Southtown Ministry (Southtown home), Milledgeville)		6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Basement		
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Birthday: Meghan O'Brien	Birthday: Myron Deets	Birthday: Janet Koett		10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
Third Sunday after Epiphany	11a-3p Sewers Meet					
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ						
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity						
11:30a-1p EPIC Sunday School						
28	29	30	31	Notes:		
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	11a-3p Sewers Meet					
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ						
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity						
11:30a-12:30p Annual Meeting						

December 2017							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
					1	2	
					Birthday:Gavin Schildgen	Birthday:Bridget Newcomer	
					Pastor's Day Off	Birthday:Melissa Wagenknecht	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
First Sunday of Advent		Birthday:Bob Oncken	Anniversary:Carol & Gary Sibley	6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Base-ment	Birthday:Lori Anderson	Birthday:Colton Simpson	
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ		2p-4p WELCA Christmas Meeting/Party	Birthday:Josh Nye		Pastor's Day Off	8a-12p Girl Scouts	
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity		6:30p-7:30p Choir Rehearsal	6p-7p EPIC Advent - Crafts				
6p-7p Community Christmas Celebration Live Nativity (Rahn Family barn 20769 IL Rt 40\, Chadwick)							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Second Sunday of Advent	Birthday:Janis Bowers	Birthday:Becky Anderson	9a-12p Pastor at Conference Meeting	7p-9p Dorcas Circle	Birthday: Lucille Hook		
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ		6:30p-7:30p Choir Rehearsal	6p-7p EPIC Advent - Baking		Birthday:Adam Williams		
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity					Pastor's Day Off		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Third Sunday of Advent	Trinity Delivers Golden Meals						
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ	1p-3p Tri-County Conference	11:30a-12:30p Grace Meals (Trinity Lutheran Church)	Birthday:Tyler Miller	Birthday:Amanda Smith	Pastor's Day Off		
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity		4:30p-5p Southtown Ministry (Southtown home\, Milledgeville)	6p-8p EPIC Advent - Caroling	Birthday:David Williams			
							Birthday:Shane Harris
							Birthday:Sydney Barkley
						Birthday:Will Schmidt	
				6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Base-ment			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Birthday:Bill Borth	Christmas Day	Anniversary:Kevin & Becky Anderson	Birthday:Brandon Eye		Pastor's Day Off	Birthday:Ramon Woessner	
Christmas Eve		Birthday:Collin Eubanks	Birthday:John Murray				
Fourth Sunday of Advent							
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity							
4p-5p Christmas Eve Wor-ship (First Lutheran West Jordan)							
9p-10p Christmas Eve Worship (Trinity Lutheran\, Milledgeville)							
31	Notes:						
Birthday:Ashley Wagenknecht							
Birthday:Keasha Kelly							
First Sunday of Christmas							
New Year's Eve							
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ							

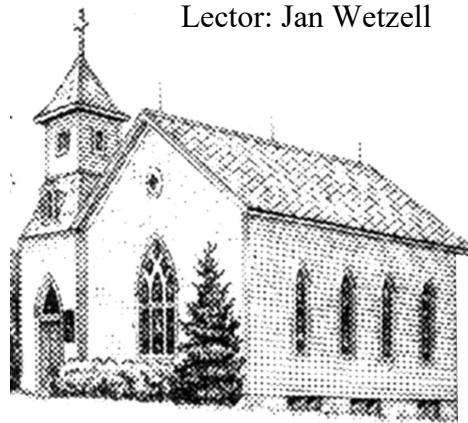


First, West Jordan

Worship Helpers

December 3 & 10—  
Lee and Kathy Hinrichs  
Lector: Amanda Baron

December 17 & 31—  
Jim and Jan Wetzell  
Lector: Jan Wetzell



December 31st Worship

Our joint worship service will be hosted at West Jordan at 8:15 AM

We will have a hymn sing, using our hymnals you will be able to request what Christmas songs we sing.

We invite you to bring a Christmas related reading, poem or story that you would like to read between the hymns.

Join us for a very special way to close out the year, celebrate Christmas and prepare for the new year.

In our prayers:

From First:

Ruth Borth, Irene Burdick, Sandy Bushman, Linda & Myron Deets, Kyla Eastabrooks, Anita Gilbert, Linda Habben, Milford Habben, Jules Headrick, Roger Hinrichs, Tammy Hinrichs, Kara Koett and Abel Dowse, Scotty Powell, June Purvis, Jon Ryner,

In our prayers:

From Trinity:

Lori Anderson, Adlee Barajas, Carl Bauling, Jerry Blair, Ruth & Bill Borth, Leland Bryson, Kyla Eastabrooks, June Franks, Jenna Frawley, Barb Gerdes, Tammy Hinrichs, Lynn Kaufman, Kara Koett and Abel Dowse, Lawrence Maxwell, Kim Mennenga, Barb and Ivan Miller, Dan Nye, Corinne Ohlwine, Sue Pope, Craig Schligden, Gladys Schopp, Cherrie Simpson, Melinda Wieck, Ruth Wolf

Church Leaders Directory

Trinity Lutheran Church  
President Kevin Anderson (625-3403)  
Vice-President Harlan Meinsma  
Secretary Karen Landers  
Treasurer Connie Brockhouse  
At-Large Tammy Miller  
Sharon Woodard  
Kim Stewart  
Custodian Lynn Kaufman  
Musician Nancy Janssen  
Financial Secretary Ken Peterson

First Lutheran West Jordan  
President Jan Wetzell (631-9353)  
Secretary Jodi Woessner

Attention Snowbirds

Please let the office know when you leave and return, so we can make sure we send the newsletter to the correct address.  
Thanks

Weekly Prayer Supplement

Each day when you take your quiet time to pray, here are some concerns —local and global— for you to include in your daily prayers

Week of December 3—December 9

As the media continues to report numerous cases of public officials who have allegedly committed sexual abuse, we must remember there are many unnamed cases. Pray for the safety of women and children who are trapped in abusive situations, pray for shelters like Sterling’s YWCA and other homes that provide safe haven and a place to begin anew.

Week of December 10—December 16

Pray for our friends at Southtown and for their caretakers; pray for our active military members who are serving in places far away from home, that they may be safe and their loved ones who miss them this holiday season may prepare to welcome them home safe.

Week of December 17—December 23

Pray for families that are separated by physical miles or personal conflict; pray for children who divide holiday time between parents; pray for lonely neighbors who have no one to gather with this season. And then consider, how might that prayer lead to action—to do something for the lonely neighbor, or for the hungry this season

Week of December 24—December 30

Pray for our partner ministries in Milledgeville—Chadwick: Chadwick Evangelical Free Church, Pastor Terry Komrska; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chadwick, Pastor Chris Shoon; Fairhaven UMC/Hope UMC/ Hickory Grove UMC, Pastor Mary Bohall; Milledgeville Brethren Church, Pastor Jim Black; Dutch-town Brethren Church, Pastor Rick Koch; Milledgeville UMC, Pastor Sophia Hyon

For our Partner Congregation in the Faith on Forty Parish, for the Northern Illinois Synod and Bishop Jeff Clements, for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Daily Devotion Bible Book Mark

Welcome to the Christmas Season. It is a season full of shopping, baking, hosting guests, being guests, and we still have to get to our children and grandchildren game’s.

As the season fills quickly our calendars, take a moment each day to seek God’s Word, just a verse a day can help remind us of the larger picture, and our proper place in this Christmas season.

Dec 3 Revelation 12:5  
Dec 4 Isaiah 9:6  
Dec 5 John 3:16  
Dec 6 Luke 2:13-14  
Dec 7 Luke 2:10  
Dec 8 Isaiah 7:14  
Dec 9 Luke 2:11

Dec 10 Micah 5:2  
Dec 11 Matthew 1:23  
Dec 12 Matthew 2:10  
Dec 13 Matthew 1:21  
Dec 14 Luke 2:15-16  
Dec 15 Luke 1:35  
Dec 16 Luke 2:12

Dec 17 Luke 2:9-12  
Dec 18 Galatians 4:4-5  
Dec 19 Psalm 107:1  
Dec 20 Luke 2:7  
Dec 21 Luke 1:14  
Dec 22 Isaiah 11:1  
Dec 23 Romans 6:23

Dec 24 James 1:17  
Dec 25 John 14:27  
Dec 26 Luke 2:8  
Dec 27 Matthew 2:2  
Dec 28 Psalm 72:11  
Dec 29 Matthew 2:11  
Dec 30 John 1:14