

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

717 Stover Ave, PO box 637

Milledgeville, IL 61051

Phone: 815-225-7410

**Partner in Cooperative Ministry**

First Lutheran West Jordan

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**N. IL. Synod of the ELCA**

Ministers

**The People of God**

Interim Pastor **Rev. Carol Soderholm**

Secretary **Janet Barkley**

Organist **Nancy Janssen**



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**Trinity Lutheran Church  
Milledgeville, IL**



**First Lutheran of  
Jordan, Sterling, IL**

**And**





## West Jordan

### Worship Helpers

#### **Alter care, communion assistant, Ushers/greeters**

Dec. 6 , & 13th	Arlyn & Kathy Hinrichs
Lector	Jodi Woessner
Dec. 20th & 27th	Jim & Jan Wetzell
Lector	Jan Wetzell

Circle Hostess: LuAnn Gvozdzak

### **Pastor Carol is available 24/7 to members and friends of Faith on Forty**

Please feel free to call her anytime at 815-973-8011. In spite if the fact that we cannot be together physically, we can spiritually and emotionally.

**Pastor Carol, I'm here for you.**

### **In our prayers:**

#### **From First:**

Irene Burdick, Sandy Bushman,  
Alena Crossman, Myron Deets, Anita Gilbert,  
Linda Habben, Roger Hinrichs,  
Scotty Powell, Jon Ryner, Ramon Woessner  
Gary Sibley, Al Vickers,

#### **From Trinity:**

Jerry Blair, Bill Borth, Ben Bryson, Leland Bryson,  
Shirley Cheeseman, Elena Crossman, June Franks,  
Elena Fraser, Jane Hines, Donna Folkers Johnson,  
Stacy Jacobson, Debbie Howlett, Matthew Foltz,  
Tom Graff, Cinda Heeren, Troy Kendall, Donna Miller,  
Roberta Mosley, Rhva Milnes, Jennifer O'Brien,  
Debbie Oldham, Kim Tomasi,



## **PASTOR CAROL**

**New Phone Number**

**815 973 8011**

### ***How to get what you need at Trinity Lutheran/First Lutheran Church's***

#### **Emergency Pastoral Care Concern?**

*Hospitalizations, Illness,  
Family Crisis*

**Call Pr. Carol Soderholm  
cell phone 815-973-8011**

Do **NOT** rely on the hospital to  
contact the church.

Do **NOT** rely on word of mouth/  
The grapevine.

Do **NOT** rely on mindreading skills.  
Pastor missed that class in seminary.

#### **Non—Urgent**

#### **Pastoral Needs?**

*Scheduling a home visit/baptism/  
wedding. Confirmation/Christian Ed,  
Coffee & Conversation*

Leave a message at Trinity for Pr. Carol.  
She will return it as soon as possible.

#### **E-mail Pastor Carol**

**@carol.soderholm@gmail.com**

#### **Questions about**

#### **Administrative stuff?**

*Announcements for the bulletin, ques-  
tions about schedules, Financial ques-  
tions, hall rental, etc....*

Call the Church and leave a message for  
Janet on the Church answering machine,  
for her to return during office hours

**815-225-7410 or E-mail Janet at**

**telcsecretary@mediacombb.net**

Contact a council member

### **Church Leaders Directory**

#### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

President	Tammy Miller (815-493-6664 cell 815-541-6195)
Vice-President	
Secretary	Lori Oncken
Treasurer	Connie Brockhouse
At-Large	Jim Brubaker
	Karen Landers
	Ken Peterson
Custodian	Lynn Kaufman
Musician	Nancy Janssen

#### **First Lutheran West Jordan**

President	Jan Wetzell (631-9353)
Secretary	Jodi Woessner

Interim Pastor, Rev. Carol Soderholm  
Phone # 815-973-8011

Church Secretary Janet Barkley  
Church # 815-225-7410 Cell# 815-590-0520

**Blessing and congratulations to  
Nick & Ashley Strehlow  
On October 29th they welcomed  
Lukas Alvin Strehlow  
To there Family**



### **The New Church Year start November 29th with the First Sunday in Advent**

The Lutheran church calendar falls into three main seasons: **Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, and Pentecost.** The Advent and Christmas season is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, and it is also a time of joy. Lent is a time to meditate on the suffering and resurrection of Jesus.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* which translates to "coming." This coming is exactly what the church year is celebrating: the coming of Christ. During Advent, four candles (three blue, one pink) are lit each Sunday, on an Advent wreath. The candles represent hope, faith, joy and peace, respectively. Often, a fifth candle, called the Christ candle, sits in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas day.

**Colors of Advent and Christmas:** The colors typically used during Advent are blue or violet. More commonly, blue is used to signify hope. The violet color is traditionally used to proclaim the coming King, Christ. For Christmas, white is used to represent holiness, glory, and joy.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**  
Have a safe and merry  
Holiday Season.

### **Council Highlights from November 17th**

New Toilet's in upstairs women's bathroom.

Church will be close till at least till December 5th. We will let you know when our next in church service will be by phone or on our Facebook page.

Connie Brockhouse retired as treasure and Donna Landis was appointed to take over the treasures duties.

Kim Steward resigned as Council President, Choir coordinator, and WELCA President, and Music & Worship, Shoe Box Ministry, and Landscape coordinator.

### **Our Southtown Ministry**

Will be Tuesday, December 15th

Lynn will be dropping off Christmas gift cards, for the residences Christmas gift.

### **Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

Trinity will have their next council meeting

December 16th, 2020 @ 7:00pm

### **OUR ADVENT SUNDAY READINGS ARE;**

<b>Nov. 29th</b>	<b>Dec 6th</b>	<b>Dec. 13th</b>	<b>Dec 20th</b>
<b>1st Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>2n Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b>	<b>4th Sunday in Advent</b>
Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalms 126	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26
1 Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-13	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27
Mark 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1:16-38

### **THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS**

<b>Dec. 24th Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Dec. 25th Christmas</b>	<b>Dec 27th 1st of Christmas</b>
Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 62:6-12	Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Psalms 96	Psalms 97	Psalms 148
Titus 2:11-14	Titus 3:4-7	Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:1-14[15-20]	Luke 2:[1-7]8-20	Luke 2:22-40

## December Daily Prayer

**Dec. 1st**—Help me, O God, to follow your call to labor in Jesus' name. Amen

**Dec. 2nd**—Help me, Jesus, to turn away from my worries and toward you. In your name. Amen.

**Dec. 3rd**—God, help us trust that you are here, and that there is life in you—enough for us to share with neighbors in need. Amen

**Dec. 4th**—Lord Jesus, help me to truly live as one consecrated by you to do your holy work. Amen

**Dec. 5th**—Lift my burdens, O God, and fill my heart with love for my neighbors. In Jesus' name. Amen

**Dec. 6th**—Jesus, help me be a messenger of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen

**Dec. 7th**—Turn me back to you, O God, that I might be refreshed to serve my neighbor. In Jesus's name. Amen

**Dec. 8th**—God, may I find glory only under the canopy of your love, intended as shelter for all people. Amen

**Dec. 9th**—God, help me to watch always for where you are at work, even in situations that seem scary at first. Amen

**Dec. 10th**—Lord Jesus, Help me turn to you for direction. In your name. Amen

**Dec. 11th**—Lord, help me celebrate the wonderful things you have done and share your abundance with others. Amen

**Dec. 12th**—God, help me exult over all you have done for me. In Jesus' name. Amen

**Dec. 13th**—Help, me tell and show others what I believe about you, Jesus. Amen.

**Dec. 14th**—Help me trust you, O Lord, for you alone abide forever. Amen

**Dec. 15th**—Holy Spirit, draw me back to the life and freedom God has already given me in Jesus. Amen

**Dec. 16th**—Listening God, thank you for taking note of me and listening to me always. Amen

**Dec. 17th**—Lord Jesus, may your life, death, and resurrection be the foundational story of my life. Amen

**Dec. 18th**—Gifting God, help me respond to your call to serve in your sharing love. Amen

**Dec. 19th**—God, we hear you calling, but sometimes other voices drown out your message. Help me listen. Amen.

**Dec. 20th**—Abiding Spirit, keep us mindful of your presence, the greatest gift, new each day. Amen.

**Dec. 21st**—Creator God, thank you for sending us forth with a song to sing to all creation. Amen

**Dec. 22nd**—Trustworthy God, you guide us on life's path and stand ready to catch us when we fall. Thank you. Amen

**Dec. 23rd**—Abiding God, speak to us in new ways, calling us to abide in your promised presence. Amen.

**Dec. 24th**—Manger-child, open us to the fullness of your light as we tell the God-with-us story. Amen.

**Dec. 25th**—God of deliverance, help us deliver the good news of the gift of Jesus to all. Amen.

**Dec. 26th**—God of boundless love, teach us to be your light-bearers in the world. Amen.

**Dec. 27th**—God of promise, with Simeon and Anna we praise you for the gift of Jesus today and always. Amen

**Dec. 28th**—Faithful Creator, we venture through uncharted terrain, clinging to trust that you carry us in love. Amen.

**Dec. 29th**—Lead me, God, in pathways that will make known your love, grace, and mercy. Amen

**Dec. 30th**—God of infinite patience, teach us to value the days given to us, trusting your goodness. Amen

**Dec. 31st**—God-with-us in all our days, we praise you for your pres-



## Daily Devotions



<b>Dec 1st</b>	Micah 4:6-13
<b>Dec 2nd</b>	Luke 21:34-38
<b>Dec 3rd</b>	Hosea 6:1-6
<b>Dec 4th</b>	Jeremiah 1:4-10
<b>Dec 5th</b>	Ezekiel 36:24-28
<b>Dec 6th</b>	Mark 1:1-8
<b>Dec 7th</b>	Isaiah 26:7-15
<b>Dec 8th</b>	Isaiah 4:2-6
<b>Dec 9th</b>	Luke 1:5-17
<b>Dec 10th</b>	Habakkuk 2:1-5
<b>Dec 11th</b>	Psalms 126
<b>Dec 12th</b>	Habakkuk 3:13-19
<b>Dec 13th</b>	John 1:6-8, 19-38
<b>Dec 14th</b>	Psalms 125
<b>Dec 15th</b>	Acts 3:17—4:4
<b>Dec 16th</b>	Malachi 3:16—4:6
<b>Dec 17th</b>	Hebrews 1:1-4
<b>Dec 18th</b>	Hebrews 1:5-14
<b>Dec 19th</b>	Judges 13:2-24
<b>Dec 20th</b>	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Dec 21st</b>	Luke 1:46-55
<b>Dec 22nd</b>	Romans 10:5-13
<b>Dec 23rd</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-20
<b>Dec 24th</b>	Luke 2:1-20
<b>Dec 25th</b>	Isaiah 52:7-10
<b>Dec 26th</b>	Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60
<b>Dec 27th</b>	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Dec 28th</b>	Psalms 124
<b>Dec 29th</b>	John 21:20-25
<b>Dec 30th</b>	2 Peter 3:8-13
<b>Dec 31st</b>	Psalms 146



THE POWER OF  
PRAY





# Christmas Word Find

G C P M E H E F F N Y Y A S E  
V F I O G K N O C Y R R I L B  
Z H S J Z X U H E G A B Z N B  
H A T I D U R X S Z M E I P E  
R P L R S I L E N T N I G H T  
R K O Q S N E M E S I W A J H  
Y L X T Y Z S W C Z S P E P L  
M I M F H F N P N S J V E K E  
J A B T T B A R I O R S X Z H  
S A I Y L Y T E K V O F L W E  
H A Y E Y T I G N J I O E E M  
F A M K R H V N A E V U G P E  
M A A N W A I A R S A S N O E  
C I H O T C T M F U S O A H F  
D J E D K Q Y S V S W T E K Q

JESUS  
MARY  
JOSEPH  
WISEMEN  
MANGER  
NATIVITY  
BETHLEHEM  
CAMEL  
DONKEY  
STAR

HAY  
ANGEL  
FAITH  
HOPE  
FRANKINCENSE  
MYRRH  
SILENT NIGHT  
LORD  
SAVIOR  
CHRISTMAS



## Christmas Symbolism



**Star represents the bright star that shone the night Jesus was born.** "Where is the new born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2



**Candy cane represents the shepherd's staff. Christ is also called the Good Shepherd.** And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Luke 2:8



**Gifts represent the gold, frankincense and myrrh.** ...And when they opened they had opened their treasures, they presented him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11



**Evergreen tree represents the eternal life.** For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



**Christmas carollers represent the multitude of angels that sang on the night Jesus was born.** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..." Luke 2:13-14



**Christmas candles and lights represent the light that Jesus has brought to the world.** To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79



**Holly Berries represent the blood that Christ shed for us.** For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many remission of sins. Matthew 26:28



**Nativity scene represents the scene in the manger where Jesus was born.** And she brought for her firstborn son, and wrapped him swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. Luke 2:7



**Christmas wreath represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified.** The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head... John 19:2



**Christmas Bells represent the call of mankind to worship the Lord.** For the Son of man came to seek, and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

You Look for Me at Christmas...

*Author Unknown*

If you look for me at Christmas,  
you won't need a special star;  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me  
amid the celebrations.

You'll have to look beyond the stores  
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do,  
and listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,  
you're the reason that I came,  
and you'll find Me in the stillness,  
as I'm whispering your name.

*Love, Jesus*

*Christmas*  
BEGINS WITH  
*Christ*

# DeCEMBER



## An Advent Prayer for The Lord to Come

Prayer is a wonderful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth. Here is a sample prayer to use during the season to focus your heart and mind for the birth of Jesus Christ.

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.  
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.  
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,  
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.  
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.  
You came as a baby born in a manger.  
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,  
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.  
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,  
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.  
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.  
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."  
"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.  
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.  
Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.  
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.  
Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.  
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.  
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.  
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.  
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.  
Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.  
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.  
Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.  
~Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart" from [Proverbs 31 Ministries](#)

The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. Advent begins on Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year) **Advent 2020 begins on Sunday, November 29th, and ends on Thursday, December 24.**

Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

Advent candle tradition, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth





FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Of West Jordan  
20314 Hickory Hills Road  
Sterling, IL 61081  
815-225-7410  
Worship: Sundays 8:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
717 Stover Ave, PO Box 637  
Milledgeville, IL 61051  
815-225-7410; telcsecretary@mediacombb.net  
Worship: Sundays 10:15 AM  
trinitymville.360unite.com



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Dear friends and members of Faith on Forty,

The year 2020 will be remembered for generations as the year when the world stood still - for many of us. Our fast-paced and frenzied lives basically came to a halt as nations and people faced a global pandemic. If we wanted to survive, physical distancing (staying away from each other) was required. Public places closed. **Home was the safest place to be.**

**"Come home for Christmas"** used to be a national mantra. Do you remember that? I believe it was sponsored by the Catholic church. In December we would see it frequently on television. **"Come home for Christmas"**.

Coming home for Christmas used to include church = Christmas eve or Christmas day service. Sadly, it might not this year depending on how serious the flu/Covid season is. This season our home home might become our church home. If it does - no problem. The early Christians celebrated the birth of Christ in their homes. During the first hundred years of the church there were no churches. Small groups gathered in someone's home. Church was home.

This year, if church is home for you - celebrate that!. If you are well be grateful. If you are alive be grateful. If you are comfortable and warm in your home, be grateful. If you have a full Christmas dinner on your table be grateful.

The pandemic forced us back into that sacred place called home.....to be with families we had maybe taken for granted. Home is our faith community now.

The pandemic this Christmas gives us an opportunity to practice what is so important to Saint Paul : heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, generosity, patience, forgiveness and peace. Scripture tells us to strive for this more excellent way.

In 2020 the world stood still. Billions encountered their families again.....and home as a sacred space. May we have the wisdom to treasure this blessing.

With all my love and prayers for you,  
Pastor Carol

PS... On a lighter note, I was talking to Ray Ritcliffs this week about Christmas and whether we might be able to enjoy the church this year. He said, "Well..... the mice are the only ones coming to church these days - and the usually live to regret it." ☺

