

TRINITY

tidings

TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH

JANUARY
2026

A Pastoral Message for These Troubled Days

By The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop ELCA
November 12, 2025

When I was installed as your presiding bishop, the preacher proclaimed that in times of division, disruption and fear, God calls us, through love, to lift up one another just as Christ lifts us up. I have taken that to heart and been alert to all the ways in which we, made into God's own beloved through word and sacrament, testify to that love in daily service and ministry. Across the ELCA, I have seen and am deeply grateful for:

- Ministries mobilizing to serve meals and distribute food amid the harm, chaos and confusion of a government shutdown and the ongoing blocking of food assistance for 42 million people in our nation.
- Congregations offering accompaniment and hope as they come alongside neighbors made vulnerable by aggressive and indiscriminate immigration enforcement.
- Leaders from Lutheran Disaster Response urging members of Congress to commit to programs that lift up those made vulnerable in disasters.
- Congregations reaching out to federal workers by supplying meals, meeting daily needs, providing gift cards and helping them find work.
- Preachers faithfully proclaiming the theology of the cross that illuminates the brokenness of sin but also the mystery of a grace that claims us, frees us and sends us to be messengers of hope in a hurting world.

The Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA will be holding 2026 Lay Leadership Day on Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Schaumburg.

THEME: STRONGER TOGETHER

"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

(Matthew 19:6)

THIS IS PRIMARILY FOR LAY LEADERS:

- CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS
- COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS
- YOUTH AND EDUCATION LEADERS
- ALL BAPTIZED WHO SHARE IN YOUR CONGREGATION'S MISSION

THERE WILL BE:

- KEYNOTE SPEAKER
- PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS
- NETWORKING WITH OTHER CONGREGATIONS
- WORSHIP

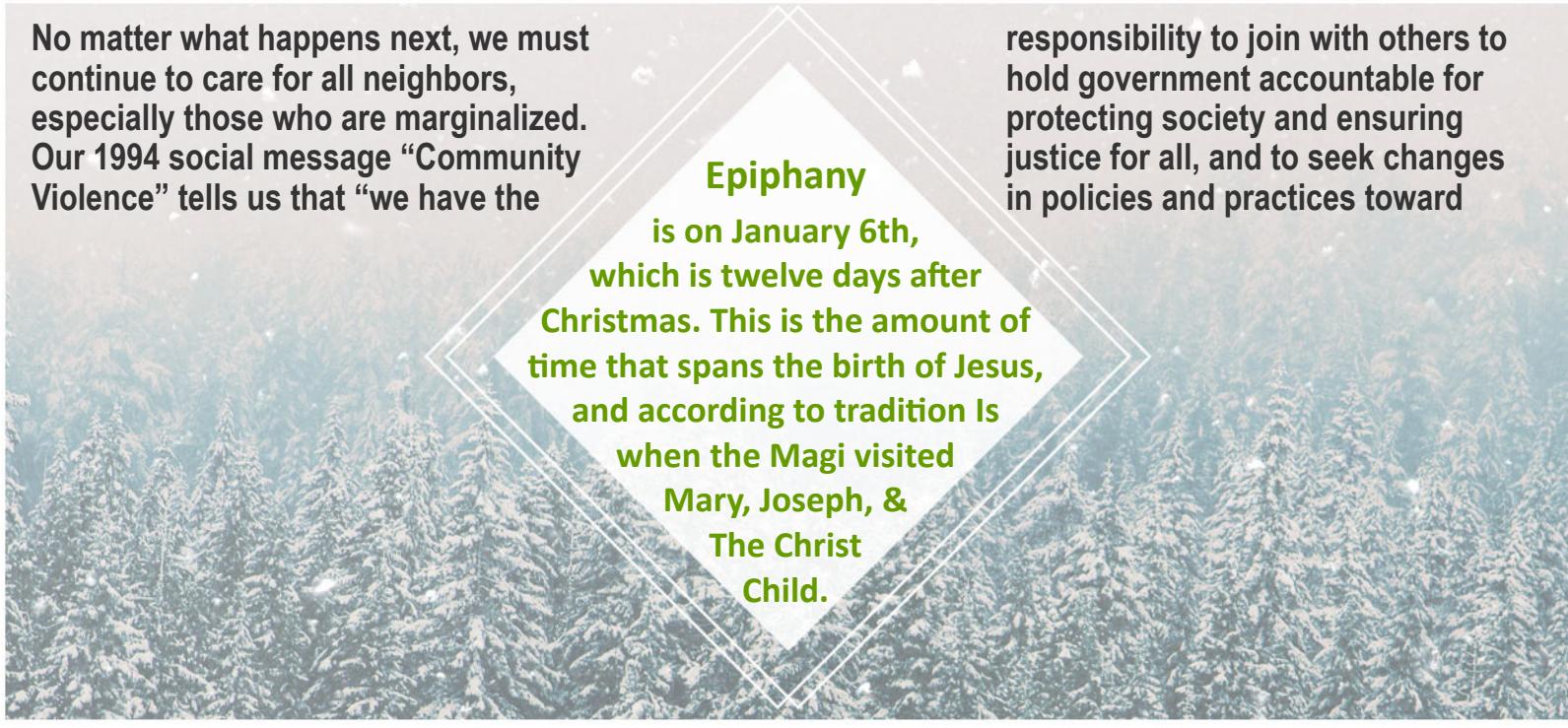
Registration details will be available soon. If you would be interested in attending or finding out more, please contact Pastor Hildner or Dan Phillips.

As a church, we do not hold back in lifting up those whom God calls us to serve, even and especially when government abdicates its responsibilities for the common good. My installation as your presiding bishop coincided with the start of the longest government shutdown in our nation's history. In this moment, I draw strength from the writings of Martin Luther, who used the example of Mary and the words of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) to urge the rulers of his time to exercise power in ways that serve all people.

Jesus gave us an image of a vine and its branches (John 15:1) to illustrate our connectedness to him and, through him, to one another. Our rootedness in Christ sustains us with his love. His love connects us to one another. We must stay connected to face the challenges of this moment.

An end to the government shutdown will not immediately resolve food insecurity, so we will keep feeding and supporting our neighbors. The racial profiling and harm to our immigrant neighbors show no signs of diminishing, so we will heed God's call to show up alongside these neighbors in solidarity. Our broken politics and partisan divisions will not heal by themselves, so we will show up through participation, bridge-building and advocacy.

No matter what happens next, we must continue to care for all neighbors, especially those who are marginalized. Our 1994 social message "Community Violence" tells us that "we have the



Epiphany
is on January 6th,
which is twelve days after
Christmas. This is the amount of
time that spans the birth of Jesus,
and according to tradition is
when the Magi visited
Mary, Joseph, &
The Christ
Child.

responsibility to join with others to hold government accountable for protecting society and ensuring justice for all, and to seek changes in policies and practices toward

these ends" (p. 4). As we do, I am confident that Christ's grace will be sufficient, freeing us to lift up others and seek justice for everyone.

I invite you to pray for and participate in ELCA ministries that support the well-being of all including by taking [advocacy action](#), applying for ELCA World Hunger [Daily Bread Matching Grants](#) to support your hunger ministry, and watching the recent ELCA Advocacy webinar "[Faith Communities and the Realities of Food Assistance](#)".

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants, that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



- Jan 11—Trinity's 2nd cereal Sunday, cereal collection for Lutheran Church of the Cross' food pantry
- Jan 13—Ladies group meets at 12 noon, we will lunch together, bring your own lunch, afterwards a movie
- Jan 4 & Jan 18—Winter Market with bakery, produce and meat vendors 9:00 am until 1:00 pm in Trinity's Fellowship Hall.



Thanks To All Our Volunteers Who Beautifully Decorated Our Lord's Church For Christmas!

EARN MONEY FOR TRINITY ON YOUR NEXT MEAL OUT!

DID YOU KNOW? PARTICIPANTS IN OUR RAISERIGHT PROGRAM CAN EARN 5% BACK FOR TRINITY EVERY TIME YOU DINE AT YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL RESTAURANTS! HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- **LINK A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD FOR LOCAL DINING IN YOUR RAISERIGHT ACCOUNT**
- **SEARCH FOR PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS NEAR YOU IN THE RAISERIGHT APP**

DINE AND EARN 5% ON YOUR ENTIRE BILL WHEN YOU PAY WITH YOUR LINKED CARD

WITH 20,000+ PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS NATIONWIDE, YOU CAN DINE AND EARN NEAR HOME OR WHILE TRAVELING.

HAVEN'T JOINED OUR RAISERIGHT PROGRAM YET?

DON'T LEAVE MONEY ON THE TABLE! JOIN OUR RAISERIGHT PROGRAM TO START EARNING ON YOUR EVERYDAY PURCHASES LIKE GAS, GROCERIES, OR DINING OUT. TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE DAN PHILLIPS AT CHURCH OR SEND AN E-MAIL TO DPHILLIPS@TLCRM.COM.



Suggested Scripture Readings for January

Sundays and Principal Festivals	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
4th: Second Sunday of Christmas	Jer 31:7-14	Ps 147:12-20	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:[1-9] 10-18
6th: Epiphany of Our Lord	Isa 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7, 10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Matt 2:1-12
11th: Baptism of Our Lord	Isa 42:1-9	Ps 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matt 3:13-17
18th: Second Sunday of Epiphany	Isa 49:1-7	Ps 40:1-11	1 Cor 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
25th: Third Sunday of Epiphany	Isa 9:1-4	Ps 27:1, 4-9	1 Cor 1:10-18	Matt 4:12-23

Happy New Year



ELCA
World Hunger

ELCA WORLD HUNGER WORKING TOWARD A JUST WORLD WHERE ALL ARE FED

One out of every 11 people — as many as 720 million — in our world are hungry.¹ As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to accompany communities in need because we work with congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as other partners and Lutheran churches overseas.

From health clinics to microloans, water wells to farm animals, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

For many years, Trinity has been helping to support ELCA World Hunger with your donations from the "Thanksgiving Offering" envelopes. Thank you for your donations this year. The total collected from Thanksgiving Offering envelopes was \$945. There was a matching gift challenge in progress through the end of the year, so your gifts were doubled!

[1] ["The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025,"](#) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

- **Thanks to all who participated in Trinity's Gift Card Program in 2025!**

Together we purchased a total of \$7,220 in gift cards during the year and Trinity received almost \$400 in rebates after paying shipping fees.

We will order gift cards again in March, but you don't have to wait until then.

Please see Dan Phillips if you would like to reload a card that you already have from a past order, or if you would like to order an eGift card that can be delivered via email to anyone you choose on whatever delivery date you choose.

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Thanks to your generosity, Trinity sent financial support to these ministries in 2025:

- **\$7,120 - Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA (to support the work of the church, locally, nationally, and internationally)**
- **\$945 - ELCA World Hunger (Thanksgiving Offering)**
- **\$105 - Lutheran Disaster Response (Texas Floods in July)**
- **\$1,572 - Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (Good Shepherd Sunday)**
- **You also gave generously with:**
 - **Over 1,000 boxes of cereal collected for the Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry**
 - **Thanksgiving Food Baskets for families in Palatine Township**
 - **Christmas Gifts for families in Rolling Meadows**

These are just some of the ways that we made a difference in people's lives in 2025. A heartfelt thanks for your support!

Direct Your 2025 Thrivent Choice Dollars® Grant Funds Before They Expire!

Thanks to Thrivent and its clients with membership, Trinity has received \$12,884 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funds since the program started in 2010.



Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars® available have until **March 31, 2026** to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars®.

You can help support Trinity with your Thrivent Choice Dollars®. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

**Happy
New
Year!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	29	30	31  5:00pm Peaceful Baptist Church - New Year's Eve Worship	1  New Year's Day 3:00pm Masihi Church of God Worship and Fellowship	2	3 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
4  9:00am TLC Farmers' Market 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	5	6  Epiphany 7:00pm Fellowship Ministry	7	8	9	10 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
11  TLC Second Sunday Cereal Food Drive 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	12	13  12:00pm Talk, Lunch, Crafts - TLC Ladies Club	14	15  7:00pm TLC Council Meeting	16	17 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
18  9:00am TLC Farmers' Market 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	19 Martin L. King, Jr. Day	20	21	22	23	24 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
25 9:30am Trinity Worship Service - Worshipping At Church AND via ZOOM 11:00am Peaceful Baptist Church Worship 2:30pm Masihi Church of God Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31 10:30am Tu Familia SDA Worship
January Birthdays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betty Anderson 20 • Rebecca Vigna 20 • Michelle Henry 25 • Chuck Cosman 31 						

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