

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
830 E. PLAZA CIRCLE
LITCHFIELD PARK, AZ 85340
DECEMBER 17, 2023
623.935.4665
WWW.TRINITYLCS.ORG

John the Baptist

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00PM – TRADITIONAL SERVICE IN SANCTUARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30AM & 11:30AM – TRADITIONAL SERVICES IN SANCTUARY

9AM – PRAISE SERVICE IN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

4PM, 5:30PM & 10PM – TRADITIONAL SERVICES IN SANCTUARY

7:00PM & 8:30PM PRAISE SERVICES: HANDBELLS & CHOIR IN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00AM – TRADITIONAL SERVICE IN SANCTUARY

TODAY: Christmas Memorial Service
Sunday, December 17 th 7:15 PM

The Christmas Memorial Service is designed to allow members and friends of Trinity to worship in a quiet Christmas setting of scripture and special music. During the worship service a time is set aside to give families an opportunity to individually remember their loved ones who are not present for Christmas. Even if it has been a few years since your loved one died, you are welcome to join us for this special evening.

LAST Day for the The Angel Trees

Monetary contributions due today, 12/17.
Contact Ruth Fisher • RFisher@TrinityLCS.org



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church!
We are glad that you are worshipping with us this morning. If you are visiting with us, we consider you an honored guest and pray that you enjoy your worship experience. If we can help in any way, please see an elder or usher for assistance.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAISE CHOIR

You are invited to sing in the Praise Choir on Christmas Eve at both the 7:00pm & 8:30pm services with the Praise band and the Handbell Choir.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: final combined rehearsals of all the groups at 8:00am on December 23. Contact Juliann between services or at the church office to let her know you are interested!



The reason His Church gathers together in worship each week is because the risen Christ comes to teach and feed His People. What He did visibly in the 40 days between His resurrection and ascension He now does invisibly until His second coming.

The Blessings Of Weekly Communion, Kenneth W. Wieting, p.20

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE WEAK IN FAITH

Some Christians have a weak faith and are shy, troubled, and heartily terrified because of the great number of their sins. They think that in their great impurity they are not worthy of this precious treasure and Christ's benefits [in Holy Communion]. They feel their weakness of faith and lament it, and from their hearts desire that they may serve God with stronger, more joyful faith and pure obedience. These are the truly worthy guests for whom this highly venerable Sacrament has been especially instituted and appointed. Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, FCSD VII.66

Are you getting emails from Pastor?

If you are not getting our weekly email each week now, then we do not have a good email address for you. **Please send your email to Pastor & he will get you on the list: DBolte@TrinityLCS.org**

There are many ways to support Trinity Lutheran Church. Take a look!

Electronic Giving: Visit our Website at: Trinitylcs.org and click on the "Giving" tab. There are step by step instructions to help you set up your account.

Bill Pay: This is an automatic online Bill Payment Transaction through your Banking Institution to Trinity Lutheran Church. This is a free service through your bank and it alleviates the hassle of writing checks or buying stamps.

Traditional Offering Envelopes: Offering envelopes are available through the church office as a confidential, secure way to give that allows us to keep a record of your giving for personal and tax purposes. Envelopes are helpful in streamlining the counting process and ensuring proper donation credit. The 2024 Offering envelopes are available for pick-up in the Church Narthex and in the FLC. If you would like envelopes, but have not signed up for them please contact Amy Thursam in the Business Office. 623-935-4665 ext 215 or athursam@trinitylcs.org *Please remember to use black or blue ink to write your checks. Red, pinks and purple inks are undetectable by our check reader.*

Trinity is hard at work to ensure your generous gifts to share the Gospel are processed accurately and as quickly as possible.

50th Anniversary Committee

The 50th Anniversary Committee will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 3rd @ 11am.** It is not too late to join us in planning the events to celebrate our 50th anniversary! We are brainstorming ideas, sharpening others, and beginning to implement still others. You are welcome and invited to this meeting in the church office boardroom! (If you have any questions, please talk to, call, or email Pastor Bolte.)

Prayer of the Week

God the Father, we thank you for John the Baptist and his preparing the way for Your Son by preaching repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Help us to hear his voice today, through Your Word, and lead us to repent of our sins and to trust in your forgiveness. Strengthen our faith this week, as we celebrate the birth of Your Son, born in Bethlehem, to be our Savior. In His Name we pray, Amen!

VLHS is Hiring!

Valley Lutheran High School is seeking a reliable individual to aid them in their shuttle service from the West side of the Valley. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in this paid/flexible position please contact Mr. Gast at tgast@vlhs.org or 602-230-1600



A NOTE ABOUT YEAR END GIVING

We here at Trinity are so thankful for all of your generous support throughout the year. We recognize that some of you may want to offer additional gifts for the 2023 tax year. If you are considering an end of year gift/tithe you will need to do so before December 26th. This will ensure your gift is captured in 2023. Anything after December 26th will be captured in 2024. *This is due to the holidays and our shared branch banking agreement.*

3-minute Mingle

For the next 3 minutes seek out a visitor or a person you don't know well and talk with them, then you can go and talk with your friends.



Portals of Prayer

The Portals of Prayer for the next quarter are available in the entryway of both Worship Centers.

Church Nursery

We love your little ones! Children are welcome in worship! If your little one needs to burn off some energy, the Nursery is available at all of our Sunday worship services, except 6pm. (If you would like childcare during our Sunday 6pm worship, please contact Ruth Fisher at 480-235-1473.)

Mission Moment

We come to God with empty hands. We have nothing to give as sinners. Jesus fills us up with forgiveness, love, mercy, peace, and joy!



"God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with." by Billy Graham

There are so many empty hearts out there in the world! Pass on God's love on to them! **Are you a helper?** Tell them why you help! "Jesus has been so good to me, I want to share this with everyone!!" **Are you a good listener?** Tell your friends that Jesus always listens and can fill their empty hearts and lives. **Do you like to tell stories?** Tell others how Jesus has freed you and filled you! **Invite friends** to come to be filled by Jesus! **Invite a neighbor or co-worker to church.**

Newsletter Articles

To submit an article for the newsletter, email to newsletter@trinitylcs.org The deadline for article submission is Tuesday at noon.

Why go to the Lord's Supper?

But those who are mindful of their weakness desire to be rid of it and long for help. They should regard and use the Sacrament just like a precious antidote against the poison that they have in them. Here in the Sacrament you are to receive from the lips of Christ forgiveness of sin. It contains and brings with it God's grace and the Spirit with all His gifts, protection, shelter, and power against death and the devil and all misfortune. So you have, from God, both the command and the promise of the Lord Jesus Christ. Besides this, from yourself, you have your own distress, which is around your neck. Because of your distress this command, invitation, and promise are given. This ought to move you. For Christ Himself says, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" [Matthew 9:12]. In other words, He means those who are weary and heavy-laden with their sins, with the fear of death, temptations of the flesh, and of the devil. If, therefore, you are heavy laden and feel your weakness, then go joyfully to this Sacrament and receive refreshment, comfort, and strength [Matthew 11:28].

Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Large Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar, V.70ff

ADVENT Pre-Service Meal

Advent Soup Supper in Founders Hall
Sponsored by Ladies of the LWML

Soup supper:
• Dec. 19 th at 5:30
7 PM Advent Service



Hope to see you all there

Daily Advent Devotional Videos

As we journey to the manger during the season of Advent, we are not making this *trip* alone. Trinity Lutheran Church & School has a rich archive - **24 playlists containing over 600 daily devotional videos** that offer guided help to find the gospel message in what is going on all around us, even in preparations that can get hectic at times. Be sure to browse our library now to choose an Advent series and "click play." Please share these with your families, friends, neighbors, and use them in your classrooms if they fit into your day!

TrinityLCS.org/category/advent-devotion-library/

Brightest Blessings as you center in on what is most important not only at this time of the year, but every day -- our Savior, born to set us free from sin and death, born the King to rule in our hearts, born the Brother to love us, born the Friend who will never leave us.

OASIS BIBLE STUDY & CONFIRMATION

Every Wednesday from 6:30pm-7:45pm thru May. Pastor will lead the **Adult Bible Study** in the Church.

CONFIRMATION

Mondays, 6:30pm-7:30pm • 8th grade
Wednesdays, 6:30pm-7:45pm
4th/5th grade, 6th grade, and 7th grade

Sunday Morning – 8:45 Bible Study

The Book of Acts is being studied with Ed Rupprecht as the leader in the Founders Hall across from the Sanctuary. Coffee, donuts & Christian community abundantly offered. All are welcome.

AMOS = A Ministry of Seniors

AMOS will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 27 in Founders Hall from 10AM-1PM. ALL seniors are welcome for great Christian fellowship, Bible Study & games. *Bring your own sack lunch.* AMOS meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. We look forward to seeing YOU (senior) at our coming time of fellowship & friendship.

The Mystery of Holy Baptism

Oh, so do not let your Baptism be taken away! It is your greatest treasure! It is a ship that shall never be wrecked, which leads you into heavenly harbor. It is quite true that the rebirth that happens at Baptism cannot be truly perceived with the senses. But what did Christ say? "Do not wonder at what I have said 'You must be born anew.' The wind blows..." That is, you see the water well, you hear its sound and you hear the Word that is spoken over the baptized one, but the inner working of grace in his soul on account of it, you cannot see. *C.F.W. Walther, Treasury of Daily Prayer, page 947*



Trinity Lutheran Church

CHRIST-CENTERED • BIBLE-BASED • FAMILY-FOCUSED



The teachers of Trinity are qualified and caring. Even more importantly, they are committed to sharing the Gospel on a daily basis. The seed of God's Word is planted in the hearts of the children and the Holy Spirit creates faith. The teacher may not always see the fruit for some

sow the seed and some water. Our teachers are a blessing to the congregation and the school families. Be sure to keep them in your prayers.

Meet Mrs. Jody Gurnsey, one of the First Grade teachers

Mrs. Gurnsey has been teaching since 2000 at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. Mrs. Gurnsey graduated received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Grand Canyon University and her Master's degree from Northern Arizona University. Mrs. Gurnsey completed the colloquy program of the LCMS. She loves teaching and feels it's a true blessing to be able to teach others about Jesus' love and His saving grace. She and her husband, Art, have 2 children, Lynda and Andy, both of whom are Trinity graduates. Lynda lives in San Diego and Andy lives in the East valley. The Gurnseys have been members of Trinity Lutheran Church since 1999.



From Last Week: Amanda Acuna, First Grade



Mrs. Amanda Acuna was born in Pasadena, CA and moved to Phoenix in 1992. She graduated from GCU with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and ESL endorsement. She continued her education at NAU, where she received a Master's

degree in Early Childhood Education with a reading endorsement. Her teaching career began in 2005 at St. Paul Lutheran Church where she taught preschool for two years. From there, she taught 16 years in the Cartwright School district, teaching kindergarten, first grade, and serving as a reading specialist and literacy coach. The Acuna family are members of Trinity Lutheran Church & their children attend Trinity Lutheran School. Mrs. Acuna feels blessed to be joining Trinity.

Questions about Trinity School?

Astraea Rohloff
Principal
ARohloff@TrinityLCS.org

Heather Chapman
Early Childhood Director
HChapman@TrinityLCS.org

Trinity Lutheran School • We're Hiring!

TLS has an opening for a part-time middle school teacher (20 hours/week). Applicants must have a valid teaching certification and fingerprint clearance card. **Please email your resume to ARohloff@trinitylcs.org**

HOW TO LISTEN TO A SERMON

PAY ATTENTION TO THE LAW OF GOD!

The Law of God will expose your sin and lead you to confession. It is not pleasant nor easy to hear — but you need to hear it and believe it! The Law of God convicts you of sin and exposes your pride, rebellion, disobedience and immorality. Let the Law of God work in your heart, turn from your sin, and confess it to God. Then believe that the Lord forgives you in His Son Jesus Christ! (This entire process is called "repentance".)



Meet Our Staff

Rev. Dave Bolte
Senior Pastor
DBolte@TrinityLCS.org
Deaconess Ruth Fisher
Director of Family Ministry
RFisher@TrinityLCS.org

Juliann Dolge
Director of Music
JDolge@TrinityLCS.org
Amy Thursam
Business Manager
AThursam@TrinityLCS.org

Sunday Worship on Campus 830 East Plaza Circle • Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

7:30am Traditional Worship
9:00am/10:15am Contemporary Worship
11:30am Blended Worship
6:00pm Casual Traditional Worship

Services are also posted on Facebook and TrinityLCS.org
School: 623.935.4690 • Church: 623.935.4665