

...and you shall call His name

Jesus

for He will save
His people
from their sins

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
830 E. PLAZA CIRCLE
LITCHFIELD PARK, AZ 85340

DECEMBER 24, 2023
623.935.4665
WWW.TRINITYLCS.ORG

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Please Join Us!

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

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.)*

Portals of Prayer

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

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church!
We are glad that you are worshiping 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.



Thank You!

100+

Did you know that it takes nearly 100 volunteers to make our Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas time so special here at Trinity?! **THANK YOU** to all who helped serve others by using your gifts in our mission and ministry! May the Good Lord be glorified in our efforts!

The Lutheran Confessions does/does not

The Lutheran Confessions (that is, the Book of Concord) never takes the place of the Bible. Rather, they distinguish between What the Bible teaches and the false teachings of others, which undermine the use of God's word. They give Christians a common voice to confess their faith to the world. *Concordia, The Lutheran Confessions, "Introduction ... with intrepid hearts", p.12 [slightly adapted]*

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@trintylcs.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.

The Miracle of Holy Baptism!

How, then, can water cleanse and renew our souls? Simple everyday water certainly cannot do this. But God has established a merciful institution: that when a sinner is baptized with water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, so God Himself desires to be present there and through this, with His Word connected with the water, to wash the baptized's soul of all his impurities, make him into a temple of the Holy Spirit, and call him His child and raise him up to be an heir of eternal life. A great and inexpressible wonder happens in Holy Baptism – that man born in sin is reborn to be a child of heaven. Baptismal water is, therefore, a saving, gracious, heavenly, divine water, full of the wonder of divine grace and compassion. St. Paul called it a washing of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit and said elsewhere: "As many of you are baptized, you have put on Christ." Yes, and St. Peter said: "Baptismal water saves us." *C.F.W. Walther, Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 947*

Prayer of the Week

Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will toward men. Lord we thank you for the message of the Angels, and ask that You help us to take it to heart and believe it as we celebrate Christmas. Grant us Your peace and goodwill through Jesus our Savior. Help us to live lives of peace and goodwill as your people. We pray this in Jesus Name and by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

Men of Faith

Our men's group is studying the official teachings of the Lutheran Church in the "Book of Concord." It is a casual time of study and friendship!

You are welcome to join us; we will resume meeting on **Tuesday, January 2 at 630pm** in the Adult classroom just off the narthex of the sanctuary.

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.



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.

UNDERSTANDING THE ABSOLUTION

Sometimes visitors in a Lutheran service of worship are surprised to hear in the general confession and absolution our pastors saying: "Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Our Lutheran Confessions help us to understand why our pastors speak this way: "It is not the voice or word of the man who speaks it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin, for it is spoken in God's stead and by God's command"(AC XXV.3).

Absolution is the Lord's life-giving, sure and certain word that does for us what no surgery, medicine, therapy, counseling, or advice can do for us. The Lord's Word of Absolution doesn't cover up or hide our sin. Nor does it give us only a temporary relief that soon fades away. Our Lord's word of absolution reconciles us to God the Holy Trinity.

*What About Confession and Absolution?
Dr. A. L. Barry, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

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

*Whoever believes and holds to Christ's Word, heaven stands open to him, hell is shut, the devil is imprisoned, sins are forgiven, and he is a child of eternal life. That is what this book teaches you -- the Holy Scripture -- and no other book on earth."
Martin Luther (WA 48:155)*

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.

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.

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



Christmas Decorations Take Down!

We need help taking the Christmas decorations down! Please join us on Saturday, January 6 at 9am for the Sanctuary, and after the 10:15 service on January 7 for the FLC.

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

LISTEN FOR THE GOSPEL!

The number one thing to listen for in a sermon is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. How is the Gospel being proclaimed? What has God done for you? How does it apply to you? Do you believe what is being proclaimed to you? The Gospel is what creates and strengthens your faith. Be sure to listen for, identify, and apply the Gospel to your own life! The Gospel creates and strengthens your faith!



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