



one body

winter calendar 25-26

watch for tuesday/saturday emails
and visit our website for details

worship together

sundays 9am, wednesdays 6pm

trinity kids christmas program

december 14 | 10:30am

agape mini-markets

dec 7, 10 & 14

community meal

december 18 | 5:30-6:30pm

middle school friday nite live

december 19 | 7-9pm

saalem christmas store

december 20

carol sing-along with the christmas thunder band

december 21 | 10:15am

christmas eve worship

1pm family worship / youth choir

3pm candlelight worship / trinity choir

5pm candlelight worship / chancel bells

10pm worship at the stable
begins in sanctuary with communion

lessons & carols worship | dec 28

epiphany sunday | jan 4

baptism celebration | jan 11

all-church bingo

jan 18 after worship

trinity women bunco nights

jan 20 & feb 17

trinity annual meeting

january 25 | after worship

empty nesters gathering

february 7 | 5:30-8:30pm

ash wednesday | feb 18



TrinityLongLake.org
952.473.8577

christmas at trinity

Mark Hemingway, *Director of Worship & Music* | MarkH@TrinityLongLake.org

carol sing-along with the christmas thunder band

sunday, december 21 | 10:15am

The Christmas Band is back! This long-standing Trinity tradition will warm our hearts with Christmas Cheer, laughter, song, and music. Our band is made up of players anywhere from Grade 5 through age 95, with all abilities and it's never too late to join. Contact Mark to get sheet music.

Gather your friends, family, neighbors, grandchildren, and strangers to spread some Christmas love and light.



christmas eve worship

1pm | family worship

This joyful service is especially for young families and includes an interactive telling of the Christmas story, music from our Youth Choir, and a child-friendly tea-light closing.

3 & 5pm | traditional worship (3pm service is live-streamed)

Join us for beloved carols and Scripture readings, highlighted by music from our Trinity Choir, Chancel Bells, and several soloists and small ensembles.

10pm | candlelight & communion

We gather for a calm, peace-filled service with carols and communion. For many, this treasured hour is the heart of Christmas Eve. We'll conclude the night singing Silent Night at the stable.



christmas season continues

sunday, dec 28 | lessons & carols with soprano Evelyn Tsen

sunday, jan 4 | baptism of our lord

wednesday, jan 7 | wednesday worship resumes at 6pm

all-church bingo

Join us for a fun morning of fellowship and friendly competition on Sunday, January 18 after worship. Proceeds will go to support a local organization.

No sign up required.

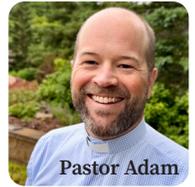


Thank you for being part of our **Community Christmas Concert!**

This cherished tradition felt especially joyful this year — and together we raised **\$2,370** to support our local food shelves!

If you missed it, you can find it on our YouTube channel.

gathered into one. called to one hope. one body knit together.



Adam Paul

These three phrases have been the themes of our last three stewardship campaigns, helping guide us toward collective generosity and the need for us to work together as one to make it possible. Themes aren't magic, though. We are still working to grow our giving to a place that fully supports our mission and ministry budget.

Despite that remaining challenge, something else has been happening that's difficult to measure but is easily felt. All this talk of oneness, beyond just our stewardship campaigns, has strengthened us as a community. And it's not just talk – we're seeing with our own eyes **the power of being united as one body in Christ.**

You'll see a few examples of that in this newsletter – growing small groups that are impacting participants, youth programming that is thriving and building a foundation for the future, worship and music that is bringing people from inside and outside Trinity together, and partnerships with churches and neighborhood stakeholders that are making a difference.

I don't want oneness to just be a marketing gimmick for us here at Trinity because it sounds like something a church should be. I want it to be so ingrained in our DNA as people and as a community that we can do nothing else but to build and promote connectedness and care for one another in everything we do.

When we do that, I believe generosity and stewardship will follow. I know this community will support that kind of work because it's our work together. And I believe this is where God is leading us, to be the kind of place known for the ways it connects and supports and creates belonging for all God's people.

**Thank you for the ways you're heeding God's call in these ways,
and thank you for your generous and faithful support.
It is such a gift to be one with you all.**



We have so much to be thankful for at Trinity - plentiful baptisms, faithful and enthusiastic membership, vibrant worship, and welcoming community events. **The life promised in Jesus is active and moving here!** Now, we need to make sure we match this plentiful level of energy with equal generosity. We have work to do, and it needs more of us - **ALL of us** - to come together as **one body** to get us there.



stewardship frequently asked questions

How much should I give?

This is up to you, and everyone is different. We want you to give what makes sense for you and your family. Here are two things to think about when making your decision:

- Do you give from all of what you receive or from what's left? When we give from our abundance, we're often more generous than if we give from our scarcity. Therefore, when we decide on our capacity for giving last, it can feel like there's not enough and will have an effect on how much we give.
- The Bible talks about giving a lot, and truthfully, we're told to give everything in service to God's work in the world. However, the Bible also suggests the more practical approach of tithing, a kind of giving that encourages setting aside a minimum of 10% of one's household income (first not last) for the work of the church in the world.

What is a pledge and why do I need to do it if I already give?

When you fill out a pledge card, you're simply informing the church what you intend to give in the upcoming year. You're telling us what weekly, monthly, or yearly gift we can count on as we build our ministry budget for the year. And because our budget changes from year-to-year, we ask for a new pledge each year as you consider your capacity to give.

When I go online, do I need to pledge AND set my recurring payments?

Yes. Again, a pledge card simply communicates your intent to give and the amount. The actual payment of that intent is something you must do separately. We prefer online, recurring giving because it's easy to track and gifts tend to be more reliable, but you can give toward your pledge by check, IRA, stock, or donor-advised fund.

What is the difference between capital and stewardship?

Every year, we have a stewardship campaign that encourages pledges and gifts that directly support our operating budget or *Ministry Fund*. We ask our membership for this generosity on an annual basis because we have a new budget every year. A capital gift is one that is designated toward a specific project or campaign, usually related to large building expenses like additions or improvements. We ask our membership for this kind of generosity on a more infrequent basis when need arises. These gifts are above and beyond annual stewardship giving.

Do registration fees for programs like Confirmation or Trinity Kids cover the full cost of participation?

The fees we ask families to pay to be a part of many of our ministry programs are often just a portion of what they actually cost. And that's purposeful - we want everyone to be able to participate, no matter their financial situation. We use our budget to offset those costs, and the generosity of our members is what provides these opportunities for all who want to be involved.



To enter your pledge online and/or sign up for online giving, visit our website:

- scan QR code or text **TOGETHER**
- TrinityLongLake.org/TOGETHER



trinity is fully staffed!

As we enter the busy Advent season, we are grateful to be fully staffed and supported by such a dedicated team. Earlier this year, **Cari Bullemer** transitioned from a part-time role to full-time *Marketing and Communications Manager*, and we continue to appreciate her expanded leadership in branding and communications. **Linda Koltes**—known to many as the warm, welcoming face in our office—has stepped into the role of *Congregational Engagement Coordinator*, guiding key ministries such as New Members, Shift, Stewardship, and other churchwide events. With these transitions, we found ourselves in need of an *office assistant*, and we are delighted to welcome **Amy Jacobson**, who has quickly and skillfully taken on this part-time position. While we are grateful for each member of our staff, we are especially thankful in this season for the gift of a complete team as we continue the meaningful work God has called Trinity to do.

welcome Amy Jacobson

She may be a familiar face as she and her husband, **Seth**, have been active members of Trinity since moving here in 2014. You may know her as a Trinity Kids teacher or a Confirmation Huddle Leader. Now we know her as our newest staff member. Here is a little more about her in her own words.

Born and raised in Shawnee, Kansas, I came to Minnesota in 2006 for a job. Fun fact, that job was at Pace Analytical Services - founded by fellow Trinity member Steve Vanderboom. Coming here was one of my best early life decisions. I met my husband; we have two kids and could not be happier living here and being part of this community. Professionally, I've worked in analytical chemistry, laboratory operations, and small business management. I'm happiest when I'm organizing, improving systems, and helping people solve problems. My new role at Trinity is a great fit. My coworkers are amazing. The church community is warm and welcoming, and my desire to be helpful in the background is fulfilled.



Outside of church and work, you might see me at Orono Volleyball, Softball, Football, Baseball or Wrestling events. I am quite a sports fan, especially when the athletes are my own kids. I would rather read than watch TV. I would rather read than do most things to be truly honest, but I also love cooking, creating, being active and spending time with friends and family. I look forward to new memories made with new friends in the years to come!

—Steve Currie, Vision Team Member

who we are - what we believe - why we're here

TRINITY VISION

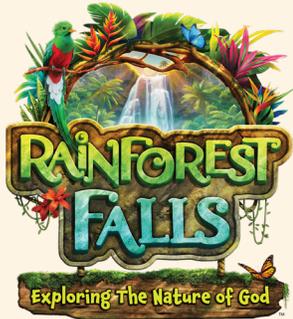


As we go through this Advent season, we are reminded of the story of Jesus's birth. It's one of many Bible stories that have deep meaning to us as Christians. Many of us have specific pieces of scripture that resonate with us, give us joy, motivate us or help us through difficult times. This is an important part of this phase of our vision journey; using scripture that speaks to us, so we impart "*what we believe*" into our vision of Trinity. Throughout Advent, you'll see a table in the Narthex setup to gather your impactful verses. These may be verses you've used for years (e.g., confirmation verses), verses from your wedding, small group or just a verse that you find impactful. If you're not sure, the Vision Team can help you find it!

If you're unable to join in-person you may participate online. Scan code or text VISION to visit our website and complete the scripture exercise.

children, youth & family

Julie Vagle, Director of Faith Formation + Children & Family | JulieV@TrinityLongLake.org
Kiana Temanson, Youth Ministry Coordinator | KianaT@TrinityLongLake.org
Stacy Thoma, Early Childhood Coordinator | StacyT@TrinityLongLake.org



vacation bible school june 8-11, 2026

Rainforest Falls VBS is June 8-11 from 9am-12pm. Registration opens March 1. VBS is for ages 3 years by June 1st through 4th grade. We will be going on a jungle adventure as we explore the nature of God. More details about ways to volunteer and support VBS financially will be shared when registration opens. Thank you for the ways you support this wonderful week of ministry.



camp wapo summer dates

The summer theme is "Wonder" focused on Matthew 19:26- *With God all things are possible*. Registration opens on January 15 and Trinity's spots are

held until February 15 when they are open to all churches on a first come first registration basis. Spots may fill up, so don't wait! Fundraising is available for weeklong and high school campers. If you plan to fundraise, only pay the deposit.

• seeds | june 19-21 (1st-3rd gr wknd)

A weekend of camp fun for our youngest campers filled with fun, faith formation, games, worship, Bible study, singing, swimming, and making new friends.

• family camp | july 10-12

Bring your family to camp for the weekend and join your Trinity friends for a weekend of connections, fun, outdoor games, campfires, and Sunday morning church at the beach.

• camp wapo | july 26-31

(4th-8th grade week)
Campers will experience a place of grace to meet new friends, grow closer to God, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Each day includes Bible study, chapel, cabin activities, free time, field games, campfire and so much more.

• roots | july 26-31 (high school week)

A weeklong camp experience created just for high school campers. Roots include all the traditional camp fun plus time for community building, leadership development, and off-site adventures.



high school mission trip san diego, california july 24-31, 2026

Get ready for an unforgettable week of service, sunshine, and spiritual growth! This summer, Trinity Youth is heading to San Diego, California for our High School Mission Trip. We'll serve alongside local ministries, build connections, and experience how God is at work in new places and people.



To learn more about the trip details, fundraising, and how to be part of this life-changing experience

check out the website or contact Kiana with any questions. Register by December 17.



MIDDLE SCHOOL FNL CHRISTMAS PARTY

friday, december 19 | 7-9pm

bring friends! inflatable fun, ugly sweaters contest, games, gingerbread house building, activities, snacks

ALL MUST REGISTER!



SCAN CODE OR TEXT FNL

affirmation of baptism



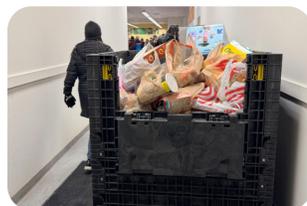
On October 26, Trinity celebrated a very special day in the life of our congregation—Confirmation Sunday! Thirty-seven 9th graders affirmed their faith and the promises made at their baptism surrounded by family, friends, and our church community.

We give thanks for these amazing young people and the faith mentors, parents, and pastors who have walked alongside them throughout their faith journey.

Congratulations to all our newly confirmed students! We're excited to see how God continues to work through you—using your gifts to make a difference here at Trinity and beyond.

a season of service

Our confirmation students continue to put their faith into action through meaningful service. In October, each grade gathered for a **Confirmation Service Project Night**—assembling household kits for Bridging, packing snack bags for the Sparks program, and creating tie blankets for Trinity's Faith Chests. The night was full of teamwork, laughter, and the joy that comes from serving others together.



On **December 3**, more than **100 youth and adults** headed out to four local grocery stores—Target, Aldi, Hy-Vee, and Cub. Each group received \$100 and the challenge: **purchase enough food to support a family for one week.** After shopping, everyone delivered their groceries to IOCP, where they learned about the organization's services, current needs, and had an opportunity for Q&A.

Together, our youth purchased **627 pounds** of food and hygiene products—an incredible effort that will directly support neighbors in need.



What a powerful picture of generosity, compassion, and community!

investing in our youth

When **Jonathan Niesche** joined the mission trip to Colorado last summer, he didn't know what to expect.

"I met just a small handful of students... I didn't realize how important it was for me to accept going on this trip until later on," he shared. *"As I came to understand its significance, I felt honored to be there... The trip overall was a great experience—I met a lot of new people and got more plugged into the church because of it."*

Jonathan believes in the value of youth ministry:

"You can make lifelong friendships that truly span your lifetime, and it allows you to grow in your faith together with fellow students who share and understand the same things you do."

Addy Hallen echoes that passion:

"We've been at Trinity for almost 17 years. It's very clear that the Holy Spirit is at work with our youth! The youth group has grown exponentially in the last year—it's a blessing to work with such great kids. We are extremely grateful for Kiana and Julie's leadership and the way they support youth both inside and outside the church."



outreach ministry

Jill Cornell, Shared Ministries Director | JillC@TrinityLongLake.org

To sign up & stay updated
check the weekly bulletin, emails,
or visit TrinityLongLake.org/Outreach.



recurring service

- **Simpson Shelter**
Help with monthly lunch service
10-1:30pm
Jan 17, Feb 21 & Mar 14.
Any age can help.
- **IOCP Food Shelf**
Help with one of Trinity's shifts
4:45-7:30pm
Jan 8, Feb 5 & Mar 5.
Must be 18 or older.
- **Salem Monthly Community Meal**
Serve with Trinity members
alongside Salem 4-7pm
Jan 13, Feb 10 & Mar 10.
Any age can help.

the giving tree

Get into the giving spirit!

For over 20 years, the Giving Tree has been a cherished tradition at Trinity, spreading joy and blessings throughout our community. To participate, simply take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift(s), and note instructions on the back of tag including due date.



This year, your generosity will support:

- Interfaith Outreach Community Partners (IOCP)
- WeCan
- LSS Homeless Youth
- Woodlands Group Home
- Long Lake Assisted Living
- Salem Lutheran Christmas Store
- Simpson Shelter

Additionally, we are collecting socks, hats, mittens, scarves, and waterproof gloves for shelters through Christmas. Donations can be placed in the basket under the tree.

Thank you for making a difference!
Marlys Jensen, Coordinator



partnering with salem lutheran church

From serving alongside one another at the MN State Fair to AGAPE Gift market, our partnership with Salem Lutheran continues to grow as we serve our communities together. If you attended the market, you may have enjoyed Swedish Egg Coffee served by Rachel Carmichael, Salem's Outreach Coordinator.

We also provide volunteers and funding for Salem's weekly community meals, helping on the **2nd Tuesday of each month**.

Upcoming Opportunity: Help at **Salem's Annual Christmas Store on December 20**. Sign up via the weekly email or at the Sign-Up Center.



seeds of hope – student sponsorship in el salvador

The Seeds of Hope Education program is a collaboration of several churches in Minnesota and the Lutheran Synod of El Salvador. Since 2012, Trinity members have been sponsoring students as part of this program. The school year in El Salvador runs from Jan–Nov. This year, we had six Trinity-sponsored students graduate from the University, which is a great accomplishment – about 5% of the total youth in the country achieve this level of education. For the 2026 school year, Trinity members will be sponsoring 47 of the total 200+ students in the program.

I'm so excited that my student, Wilfredo, will get to go to college in 2026. I have been sponsoring him since he was five. He is interested in computer science!

We'll change the world, one student at a time!

- Camille Pearson Walz



oven build



October 7-17, a group of six women with five from Trinity traveled to Costa Rica on an exploratory trip to learn how to build a brick oven with one of our partner organizations, Bricks to Bread, for the women of the community of Carpintero.

Sarah reflects on the trip:

"We only knew the women from pictures and short bios, we knew nothing about building an oven. Today I think how blessed I am to have been a part of this extraordinary experience. Knowing these women are skilled in the kitchen (their meals were amazing), their faith was strong, their future is just beginning. We have planted a seed and knowing they are ready to grasp it and grow. I love that I was part of their promising future. I am returning home with a happy heart!"

After curing for a month, the oven was ready—and the women celebrated their first baking at the end of November.

Trip participants:
Susan Vickerman,
Sarah Hrusovsky, Barb Whitney,
Camille Pearson Walz,
Melanie DeLuca, Paula Schwarz

council president corner

It is great to have everyone back in church as we head into the winter season! The energy and fellowship you bring are truly a blessing.

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in our recent Stewardship gatherings and those who have already returned their pledge cards. **Your commitment is vital.**

If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please do so soon. Your timely response is crucial for our budgeting process, allowing us to plan effectively for the exciting year ahead.

We are also thrilled to announce that all staff positions are now filled! We are incredibly excited about the amazing activities, events, and gatherings that this dedicated team will bring to our community in the coming months.

Warmly,
Gavin Tempero,
Council President



club sandwich

If you're part of the "sandwich generation," juggling the needs of your kids and supporting aging parents, Club Sandwich offers a place to simply connect with others who get it. It's a relaxed, social gathering where shared experiences spark conversation, understanding, and a little encouragement along the way.

Sign up to join us on **Monday, Jan 12, from 7-8pm at the home of Anna & Adam Holmes.**

Scan code or text SANDWICH.

trinity women bunco nights

Save the date for two fun Tuesday nights—**Jan 20 & Feb 17, 2026!** Whether you're rolling the dice for the first time or you're a seasoned Bunco pro, this is a great chance to laugh, mingle, and enjoy a lighthearted evening together. Details to come in January.

trinitarians

The Trinitarians gather during the day for social events, service projects and helpful informational sessions.

- **Trinitarian Game Day** at Church
Jan 15 @ 10:30 am
- **How Deep is Your Love**
Sidekick Theatre | Thurs, Feb 12

- **On the Road Again**
3 Decades of Classic Country Music
Sidekick Theatre | Wed, Mar 18
 - **Birthday Candles Comedy**
Sidekick Theatre | Thurs, Apr 16
- See **SignUp Center** or **Ron Schulte** (ronaldasch@msn.com, 763.473.9633).

empty nesters

Join us **Friday, Feb 7 at Kathi & Bob Tunheim's home** for an evening of conversation, drinks, appetizers, dinner and dessert. This group is all about building deeper connections and getting to know Trinity members in a relaxed, social setting.

Scan code or text EMPTY.

Let's make it awkward (and awesome!)

MomCo has been gathering since the start of the year, and there's still room for you! We meet on the first and third Thursday, 9:30-11:30am, for coffee, conversation, and community.

Our theme this year is "Make it Awkward." Life can be messy—and that's okay! We're embracing awkwardness as we learn to own our stories, speak kindness, practice bold faith, and find joy in everyday moments.

Come as you are—we'd love to meet you!

It's refreshing to be our true selves and to share our journeys as moms with all the highs and lows in our lives. I'm so grateful for such a supportive, caring and fun group of wonderful women!

Anya Voxland, mother of 3 & 6 yr-olds

Thank you to those of you who plan and coordinate behind the scenes of MomCo. I have enjoyed our time together with the warm, welcoming, supportive and nonjudgmental acceptance you all exude. It's so nice to share or vent what is happening in my life, but also, listen and understand everyone has similar struggles or experiences. I have enjoyed being part of MomCo and appreciate finding such a wonderful group of moms and women I can relate to.

Michelle Vosburgh, mother of 6 & 9 yr-olds

I am grateful to have a place that I can commiserate, be uplifted, get support or just plain vent. I love knowing I'm not alone in this motherhood journey.

Katie Bergstrom, mother of 7, 9 & 11 yr-olds



trinity preschool

Kelly Govrik, *Preschool Director* | Preschool@TrinityLongLake.org

Each month, Pastor Adam and Pastor Ann joyfully welcome our Trinity Preschoolers to **Chapel Time** in the sanctuary. Together, we sing with joy, hear child-sized sermons, and learn about God's unwavering love. It's a truly special time filled with music, laughter, and meaningful moments.

Our preschoolers love spending time with the pastors — they're incredible listeners and always eager to share what they know about God, Jesus, family, friends, and love.

We are reminded that God is everywhere — in our hearts and always with us, because He loves us so very much. Of course, the children have a few important reminders of their own to share with Pastor Adam and Pastor Ann: "I feel shiny after the Bible stories."

- "Joy is down in my heart!"
- "Jesus is God's son, really?"
- "The cross is so we remember Jesus."
- "Babies get Baptized but don't really know who God is, but their parents will help them"

And all God's children say — "Amen!"



congregational life

Linda Koltes, *Congregational Engagement Coordinator*
LindaK@TrinityLongLake.org

As we move through this season together, we celebrate the joyful moments, mourn those we've lost, and welcome new faces into our Trinity family. This is the life of the church—marked by baptism and farewell, and by the shared journey in between, all held in God's care.

baptisms

8/3 Millie Paulazzo
8/24 Lillian Powell
9/28 Emilia Erichsen
10/12 Alani, Sunny & Julia Bigalke
10/21 Raeken and Jersey Stubbs
10/22 Michael, Sheena, Promise,
 Carlina West, Nancy Fitzloff
10/26 Cooper Frank

deaths

8/2 Dick Lecy
9/10 Timothy Ungerman
10/4 Phyllis Rydell
10/15 Tom Lane
11/18 Weston Paszkiewicz
11/20 Carol Moleski

new members recognized on oct 15

Ryan & Andrea, Bauer, Beckam,
Greyson Beduhn
Jay Henningsgard
Mary E. Hyde
Trisha Kedoshim
Dwain & Nancy Klemmensen
Kristina Kulle
Jonathan Niesche
Randy & Carol Niewenhuis

west suburban grief coalition

Grief never truly ends—but it does change. It isn't a sign of weakness or a lack of faith; it's the love you shared taking on a new form, one that can be carried with grace and gratitude. And connection helps.

The West Suburban Grief Coalition exists to provide understanding, support, and education for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. Many in our congregation walk this journey, and this coalition is a meaningful resource.

They meet every Thursday from 4-6pm (except holidays). Each gathering includes refreshments, a speaker, and small group discussion. This winter, meetings are hosted by Minnetonka United Methodist Church through February 26 (17611 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka).



Scan code to find additional resources their website.

We're so grateful to welcome new members into the life of trinity!

Meet new members, Randy & Carol Niewenhuis

My wife and I started attending Trinity in September 2024 and became members in October 2025. Our connection to Trinity actually began years earlier when Julie Brown invited me to join the Community Choir, where I first met Mark Hemingway. Those experiences opened the door to the welcoming fellowship at Trinity, and we've felt at home ever since. We appreciate the ministry and leadership of Pastor Adam and Pastor Ann, and

we've been impressed by how strongly this congregation lives out Christian community.

Since coming to Trinity, we've enjoyed being invited into many parts of church life—Choir, grounds cleanup, the men's study group, golf league, Summer Nights, Trinitarians, and Agape Gift Market.

Carol and I are both retired—me from a career in IT and Carol from Health Care. Our five grown children are spread out, with three living in the Twin Cities and two in California, and we're blessed with four grandchildren. We spend a lot of time at our cabin near Annandale, which keeps us busy and gives our family a place to gather. Carol loves gardening, and I enjoy golfing and taking care of the grounds.



interested in becoming a member?

Simply sign up – it's that easy!

SCAN CODE,
TEXT JOIN OR CALL



trinity lutheran church
2060 cty rd 6, long lake mn 55356

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SCAN CODE
OR TEXT WATCH

christmas eve worship

- 1pm *family worship*
- 3pm *candlelight*
- 5pm *candlelight*
- 10pm *worship at the stable*

trinity long lake newsletter | winter edition 2025



Let's get social!
@trinitylonglake



Thank you to everyone who supported the AGAPE Gift Market & Mini-Market!

Whether you shopped, volunteered or donated items—we are grateful to all, and your support helped make a difference. We will share impact of the market in January.

TrinityLongLake.org
main/text-to 952.473.8577