



Holy Trinity Times

January 2026

Newsletter of The Church of the Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Took Some Huge Steps of Faith in 2025

Master Plan Phase I - Holy Trinity undertook a \$1.2 million project to upgrade infrastructure, renovate existing facilities, and add new ministry space such as All Saints Hall, the playground and Children's Chapel. All of this is to make our church stronger for the future. Funding was provided by the Legacy Society Fund and other committed donors. We'll be wrapping it all up by end of Spring 2026.

3rd Sunday Worship – In 2025 we introduced our 3rd Sunday worship. It's designed to stay true to our traditional liturgy, while making it accessible for people of all ages. Every 3rd Sunday we see children learn to love our traditions while helping our grownups experience God with new eyes. 3rd Sunday attendance in ALL ages has gone up by almost 20%

Youth Service Trip – For the first time in over a decade, we took 20 youth and adults to Santee, NE to serve at the Church of Our Most Merciful Savior on the Lakota Sioux reservation. All of us experienced what servant leadership really looks like.

Diocese of Nebraska Partnership – Our Diocese has seen that God is at work in this church and recognized the possibilities for real impact. In 2025, the Clarkson Episcopal Foundation awarded us a \$90,000 grant to help support the staff we needed to grow ministry. For 2026 they have approved another \$70,000 grant.

Plus So Much More - All of this on top of the ministry that you are always doing: Arts Festival, Lenten programs, Easter worship, Confirmation worship with Anglo and Sudanese congregations, VBS, Kids Camps, Parents Night Out, Seniors Ministry, Outreach, Youth group and summer camp, men's ministry, confirmation, Music ministry, Bells choir, Dinner Circles, Bridge, and on and on.

THANK YOU for making 2025 an extraordinary year! I can't imagine being in any other parish than Holy Trinity.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "Clay +". The signature is fluid and includes a small plus sign at the end.

January 2026

Thu Jan 1, 2026	<i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Offices Closed</i> Sudanese Party 12pm Thursday AA (U)
Sun Jan 4, 2026	9:15am No Sunday School 10:30am No Children's Chapel (CC)
Mon Jan 5, 2026	<i>Deadline for Annual Report Submissions</i>
Thu Jan 8, 2026	1pm Bridge (PH)
Fri Jan 9, 2026	Youth Group Retreat
Sat Jan 10, 2026	Youth Group Retreat 9:30am Woman's Ministry (PH)
Sun Jan 11, 2026	Youth Group Retreat
Thu Jan 15, 2026	8am Third Thursday Eucharist
Mon Jan 19, 2026	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> <i>Offices Closed</i> 6pm EFM (MR/PH) 7pm Vestry (MR)
Wed Jan 21, 2026	4pm DOK (MR) 7pm Youth Group Bible Study (Oasis Room)
Sun Jan 25, 2026	9:15 Annual Meeting (PH) 11:30am Youth Lunch & Serve (MR)
Tue Jan 27, 2026	2pm Sr. Coffee Hour (PH/MR)



*PH-Parish Hall
S-Sanctuary
MR-Memorial Room
CC-Children's Chapel
CR-Choir Room
(downstairs)
LGR/OR-Large Group Room/Oasis Room
(downstairs)
BR-Bell Room*

Sundays

Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30am/Livestream Worship at 10:30am

Family Worship every 3rd Sunday of the Month at 10:30am

Children's Chapel at 10:30am

Adult Sunday School at 9:15am

Dinka Language Worship & Sudanese Sunday School at 1:30pm

Coffee after each service in the Parish Hall

Free Library & puzzle exchange in the Memorial Room

M-W-F Exercise Class 9:30am Parish Hall

Mondays EFM 6pm Parish Hall

Full updated calendar of events

Holytrinitylincoln.com



A Huge Thank You to Everyone Who Helped Make Christmas Eve Happen!

Wow! What an amazing Christmas Eve celebration we experienced this year. We got All Saints Hall open and welcomed over 500 people to Holy Trinity Christmas worship.

All were blessed because of you.

THANK YOU!!!



5:00 pm Children's Service with Our Puppet Friends



8:00 pm Traditional Worship



8:00pm Candlelight Worship Singing Silent Night

Thanks Also to Those Who Invited Friends and Family!

Final Stewardship Update for 2026

As we close out the year, we wanted you to know that you are part of a church of amazing generosity. We have received:

**115 pledges totaling \$375,570
That is 2.5% higher than last year.
But it's not just pledging that matters.**



Making a pledge is just one way to help grow our church. All of us can help by:

- Praying for Holy Trinity daily.
- Inviting friends and family to come see.
- Volunteering TIME and TALENT in ways that inspire you.

Diocese Invests \$70,000 into Holy Trinity for 2026!

For the second year in a row, the Bishop Clarkson Foundation has awarded Holy Trinity a grant to help us reach the next generation. They have seen all the things that God is doing here and want to be part of it too.



McPhee Giving Tree THANK YOU!!!



Thank You for Your Incredibly Generous Support for McPhee.

You all helped us to contribute \$4,200 for faculty and families at McPhee Elementary!! These gifts make a profound difference in what Christmas will be like for folks this year. THANK YOU!



Holy Trinity,
Thank you so much
for your generous
donation of gift
cards. This is a huge
support to our
families who
struggle! Thank
you!

→ Theresia Klaack

It's Never Too Late to Join Us in Sunday School!



Join your friends for all the fun on Sundays at 9:15am in the lower level for Sunday School! We welcome all Kindergarten through 12th graders for large group praise, mini-lesson, and some fun before breaking into age-group classrooms for more in-depth study of the lesson, along with regular take-home crafts/activities before enjoying a themed snack.

At the end of each unit, join us for "Celebration Sunday," a time to celebrate all we've learned over the previous 4-5 weeks! We have relays, snack time, memory verse prizes, music, and so many laughs all around!

Check-in before 9:15am at the base north stairwell, just outside the NEW Chapel space!



December Parents' Night Out Celebrated Christmas!

Our last PNO was all things Christmas! Father Clay had a special surprise waiting for us in the darkened sanctuary. "Be a light, just as Jesus came to be a light to us!" We had an ornament gift exchange, decorated the tree, made our own trees to take home, photo frames, and even got to decorate cookies. Fun was had all around, and the smiles on the kids' faces show it!





to put their faith into practice with various social and service activities.

This next semester kicks off with our “Ignite Retreat” from the 9th-11th of January at Platte River State Park (please pray for growth, faith, and fun!), along with more Biblical profiles in our Wednesday studies, and opportunities to serve on Sundays.

3rd Sunday Family Worship

10:30am

**Come Join Us on the 3rd Sunday of the Month,
January 18th at 10:30am**

Family friendly worship with communion, sermon, readings, prayer and music for young and old.

If you've been looking for a way to help your kids or grandkids feel like Holy Trinity IS a place for them, then this service is for you.



All Kids & Youth are invited to sing with us for our January 18th Third Sunday. Check out the video for words and actions for “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” by scanning the QR code.

IGNITE 2025 - 2026

January

SOCIAL

Jan 9 - Jan 11
IGNITE RETREAT

If you've not signed up & paid for the Ignite Retreat, DO THAT NOW!!! Spots are LIMITED! (TShirt deadline: Dec. 17th!)



STUDY

Jan 21 - Mary Magdalene
7:00 - 8:30pm

Learn more about the church's early leader, disciple, and special *first* witness to Jesus' empty tomb through study & discussion!
Meet in the Oasis Room @HT!

SERVICE

Jan 25
11:30am - 1:00pm

Come after the 2nd service for lunch together, an opportunity to grow our relationships, and serve the community around us, both in church and in Lincoln/ surrounding areas!

Play Bridge January 8th at 1pm in the Parish Hall.

All levels of Bridge players are welcome on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Please contact Nancy Machmer at 618-704-4231 or namach2020@gmail.com to sign up.



Women's Group "Meet and Mingle" January 10, 2026

Ladies of the parish—come join us for a fun morning at our **Women's Group "Meet and Mingle"** on **Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 9:30–11:00am in the Parish Hall**. This casual gathering is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other women in our parish community and enjoy good conversation. Come and enjoy a fun activity, hot drinks, and delicious pastries as you mingle and chat.

All women college age and up are warmly invited to attend. Child care will be provided, so feel free to bring the little ones along.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the hallway, or you can RSVP Sue Everett susane@htlnk.org 402-489-0891. We look forward to seeing you there!



The Order of the Daughters of the King is a Community of Prayer that meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4-5pm in the Memorial Room. Next meeting is January 21, 2026.

This Anglican order is an international spiritual sisterhood for women and girls who are members of churches in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), and Roman Catholic traditions.

The order focuses on a lifelong commitment to prayer, service, and evangelism, guided by a "Rule of Life". Its members strive to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others, strengthening both their own spiritual lives and their parishes.

The group prays daily but meets once a month on the 3rd Wednesday from 4-5pm in the Memorial Room. For more info contact MaryLu Long at 402-429-1021.



Seniors Coffee Hour January 27th @ 2pm in the Memorial Room

Every 4th Tuesday at 2:00pm we'll enjoy coffee, snacks, fellowship and a chance to learn more about the world around us. For more information contact Rev. Verneda at 402-310-5854.

Annual Meeting of the Parish

Sunday, January 25, 2026
at 9:15am
in the Parish Hall

We are having our annual meeting on January 25th. It's a time for us to look back on 2025 and look forward to God's call in 2026. Here's the plan:

1. We'll have two services on January 25th at the usual times.
2. Our annual meeting will be held during the usual Sunday School hour between the services. We will start at 9:15am in the Parish Hall. This will allow people from both services to participate if they desire. There will be Sunday School for grades K-5 in the Undercroft at that time. The Nursery will be staffed as well.

We will be reviewing our Annual Report for 2025 and electing new vestry and delegates for the new year.

Annual report article submissions are due electronically to Nicole, nicoles@htlnk.org, no later than January 5th at noon in order to be printed in the Annual Report.

Consider Joining Us in the New Year for:

It's never too late to get started. **His Story** is a one-year guided journey through the Bible in chronological order. In January we finish up King David and begin with King Solomon. Then keep right on moving chronologically through the Bible. Curated daily readings average about 35 verses a day.

HIS STORY



ONE-YEAR CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY

[Email SusanE@HTLNK.org](mailto:SusanE@HTLNK.org) to sign up

Building Dedication and Consecration will take place on Sunday February 22nd with Bishop Barker.

Please put this date on your calendar. You'll want to be here for this historic moment.

On the Sunday, February 22nd the Bishop of our diocese will be here for worship. At the 9:15am Sunday School hour he will be downstairs in the Children's Chapel to dedicate the space - with the kids. At 10:30am we'll be praying for All Saints Hall during the worship service.



Chalice Bearers, Greeters, and Ushers Needed for Sunday Worship

Training will be provided to help orient you to your new ministry to this community.

The most common reaction of new chalice bearers is the surprise at how much more the worship means when they are actively engaged in it.

Ushers and greeters are the first people encountered when you enter the church for services. They are the face of Holy Trinity in a very tangible way. It is truly hard to overestimate their ministry.

If you feel called to serve in these ways at the 8:00 or 10:30am services please do let us know by emailing Nicole at Nicoles@htlnk.org or scanning the QR Code.



NEW Process! We are now signing up online! Make your own schedule:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrymjd4a>

Or scan this QR code:

Exercise Class M, W, F, 9:30-11am; Parish Hall



Aging is increasing my commitment to exercise. I learn new exercises at Physical Therapy whenever some issue comes along: shoulder, hip, knee, etc. The basic commitment though is God. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, to be treated with respect and care. Body pain and that commitment to care for the temple of the Holy Spirit keep me exercising.

The routine: general stretching until 10:10, then some walk and others chat, and some do floor exercises. 10:35 we relax, then 10:45 we close with moving meditation called chi gong.

We're enjoying the new color and flooring in the parish hall! We meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9:30-11:00 a.m. You're welcome to drop in. Casual attire. If you have questions, contact Christine Grosh: 402-560-0024 or cgrosh@windstream.net.



LPS Emergency Pantry at Bryan Community School

300 S. 48th St., 2:45-5:45pm

Volunteers Needed! One Friday A Month.

Sign up in the south entrance on the NEW Community Ministry table.

The pantry is open three days a week when school is in session and Holy Trinity will provide three volunteers to work at the pantry on the fourth Friday during the school year.

Please consider signing up for one or more sessions and contact Cheryl Hejl
chejl380@yahoo.com with any questions.

Thanks to our many volunteers who make this effort successful!



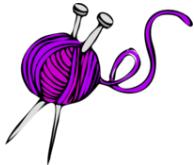
The Holy Trinity Prayer Chain

If you'd like to be part of Holy Trinity Prayer Chain, just contact the email address below.

Anytime you need prayer, you can either call or text the Prayer Chain number or email us at the address below and we will include them for a total of two weeks. Please keep us updated.

Prayer Chain #: (531) 280-8515 **Email:** HolyTrinityPrayer10@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Holy Trinity continues to create prayer shawls and pray for the people who receive them. As we work on each shawl, we are praying for the person who will be wrapped in the love and prayer that is in each garment.

Most of the time we know who will receive our shawls, but there are times when we do not. The warmth and love that the prayers said while making the shawl is there for the recipient to feel.

If you would like a shawl or blanket for someone, please contact Jill Lein 972-948-2211, jilllein1@gmail.com or Susan Zwickle 402-730-7107, suzanzwickle@gmail.com



Join us in the Parish Hall after each service for Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship!

Cookie Donations needed

We are looking for cookies or other treats to serve during coffee hour. If you would like to purchase or make something, please bring it to the kitchen or contact Vicky White dixiejaz3@gmail.com or 402-416-3404 or Liz Johnson 307-760-4623 lizelliot172@gmail.com

Free Library in the Memorial Room has Expanded, Including a Puzzle Exchange!

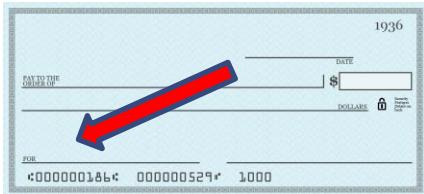


We have expanded the library in the Memorial Room. Take a book or give a book. Exchange your puzzles for fresh ones! Please place all returned or new books in the basket (please, no dictionaries).

Thank you to Nancy Machmer for keeping the library & puzzle exchange organized and up-to-date!



Gifts to Episcopal Relief & Development are a practical way to make a difference right now. They partner with local agencies with life-saving supplies and resources, medicine and emergency support. You can donate directly to them at www.episcopalrelief.org. Or write a check to Holy Trinity with "ERD" in the memo line.



Help Us Get Your Offerings to the Right Place Please specify (“Pledge”) in the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support to Holy Trinity. When you write a check, please let us know in the memo line what you want that check to be for. For example it could be marked as “pledge” or “food cart”. This will allow us to make sure that your giving goes where you want it to go. And as always – THANKS for Giving!



Community Ministry Now Located in the South Entry

Please keep bringing your contributions to our outreach table in the south entry.

The FOOD BOX receives your food donations to be distributed to any persons in need who come to Holy Trinity with the overflow donated to St. Mark's on the Campus.

The BEST CHOICE labels are processed and the rebate distributed by the

Outreach Committee.

ST. MONICA'S donations of unused, individually wrapped, travel size toiletries are given in gift bags in the season of Advent with your donations of calendars, scratch pads and greeting cards delivered during the year.

2026 Calendars will be taken to the City Mission.

Any questions please ask Cheryl Hejl chejl380@yahoo.com



Holy Trinity Times & Bulletin Deadlines

Please send your articles for the next newsletter **by the 20th of the month**.

Weekly Bulletin articles can be submitted as needed but will only be run as space allows for the following Sunday. Please email them to nicoles@htlnk.org.



Weekly Announcements

Are you receiving weekly announcements via email? If not (and you would like to) please email Nicole at nicoles@htlnk.org so we have your correct email address.



Building Use Forms-Yes! We still need these more than ever!

Anytime a group of two or more people meet in the church, a Building Use Form is required. These should be updated once a year for recurring meetings. Please submit a form before you meet to ensure you reserve the space. They are located by the office door or on our website. www.holytrinitylincoln.com. You may also contact the office to have one emailed to you. Nicoles@htlnk.org or 402-488-7139.

**Giving statements are available ANYTIME at
www.Onrealm.org**



January Birthdays



1 Jacob Nhial Guut Amool
1 Jacob Manyang
1 Mary Riak
1 Maya Stieren
3 Christian Sherer
4 Deng Deng
4 Eloise Everett
7 Rev. Helen Goltl
7 Fran Rouzee
8 Casey Jurczewsky
9 Layna Bernt
9 James Walbridge
10 Kaeden Meyer
10 Aaron White
11 Scott Dostal

12 Kok Dneg
12 Amy Whittington
14 Janice(Jann) Horeis
17 Mary Jo Tietjen
18 Manyiel
18 Lucy Winter
19 Terry Edwards
24 Apat Malou
25 Tracy Atteberry
25 Ann Hudson
26 Tammy Schomerus
28 Suvi St. Pierre
28 Dana Visger
29 Mary Fuller
31 Liz Bavitz



Helping Your Church AND Yourself

You can do both. Your donations to Holy Trinity and other charitable organizations are no longer deductible when the standard deduction option is taken. You may still be able to receive the benefits!

Payments made directly from your IRA to Holy Trinity will not be counted as taxable income. So if you can't deduct the contribution, this provision removes the donation from taxable income, giving you the same benefit as the deduction.

You must start taking RMDs by April 1 of the year after you turn 73. Let's say you celebrated your 73rd birthday on July 4, you must take the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) by April 1. You'll have to take another RMD by Dec. 31 and by Dec. 31 each year after that. (For tax year 2022, the age for starting RMDs was 72).

Also, people do not have to wait until they are 73 to make those gifts. They are REQUIRED once they're 73, but they are allowed to make the same type of gift at age 70 1/2 which is called a QCD, Qualified Charitable Distribution.

What to do? Contact your IRA provider and arrange for your donation to Holy Trinity to be made from your required minimum distribution. The check must go directly from the IRA fiduciary to Holy Trinity in order to qualify as non-taxable income. Contact Nicole Sherer or Rebecca Schultz at the church office for more information. Nicole@htlnk.org

**Church of the Holy Trinity Vestry Minutes
December 2025 will be published when approved.**

We are now signing up online! Make your own schedule:
<https://tinyurl.com/mrymj4a>, scan this QR code,
Or email Nicole! nicoles@htlnk.org



Jan 4, 2026	Jan 11, 2026	Jan 18, 2026	Jan 25, 2026
Chalice (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Rev. Verneda Kelly Rev. John Long Marcia White	Chalice (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Rev. Verneda Kelly Rev. Dr. Clay Lein John Schomerus	Chalice (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Robert Hillyer Rev. Verneda Kelly Rev. Dr. Clay Lein	Chalice (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Robert Hillyer Rev. Verneda Kelly Rev. Dr. Clay Lein
Greeter/Usher (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Mary Graft Wade Graft	Greeter/Usher (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Jan Jacob Ron Jacob	Greeter/Usher (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Bonnie Engelhardt Jon Engelhardt	Greeter/Usher (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) TBA TBA
Reader (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) John Schomerus Marcia White	Reader (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Patt Harper John Schomerus	Reader (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Robert Hillyer John Schomerus	Reader (8:00 AM - 9:00 AM) Robert Hillyer John Schomerus

Jan 4, 2026	Jan 11, 2026	Jan 18, 2026	Jan 25, 2026
Chalice (10:30 AM - 11:30 AM)			
Cheryl Hejl	Joni Cover	Beth Davidson	Rev. Verneda Kelly
Rev. Verneda Kelly	Rev. Verneda Kelly	Robert Hillyer	Rev. Dr. Clay Lein
Rev. John Long	Rev. Dr. Clay Lein	Rev. Verneda Kelly	Rev. John Long
TBA	Rev. John Long	Rev. Dr. Clay Lein	TBA
TBA	TBA	Rev. John Long	TBA
TBA	TBA		
Greeter/Usher (10:30 AM - 11:30 AM)			
Don Rabbe	Cheryl Hejl	TBA	Don Rabbe
Linda Rabbe	TBA	TBA	Linda Rabbe
Reader (10:30 AM - 11:30 AM)			
John Andrews	Michael Browne	Youth	Beth Davidson
Beth Davidson	Joni Cover	Youth	Louise Otero

We are now signing up online! Make your own schedule:
<https://tinyurl.com/mrymj4a>, scan this QR code,
 Or email Nicole! nicoles@htlnk.org

