Trinity Lutheran Church

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Rev. Richard Norris, Sr. Pastor: Pastortrinitylp@gmail.com / Rnorris1975@gmail.com



- Sunday Worship Services 10AM
- Holy Communion

1st & 3rd Sunday of each month



DECEMBER 2026, TIDINGS

Our Mission and Ministry Statement is: "To Know Christ and Make Him known"

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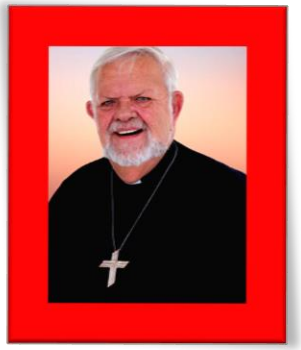
From the Pastor – December 2026





I know that probably most of you do not have a great deal of mystery or surprises as you once did when it comes to Christmas. But when you think back, did you open your presents on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? We all know that the stocking got filled sometime Christmas Eve, so did you have to check them on Christmas morning? Was or is your tree artificial or natural? I can remember the days when we had live trees. Do you decorate the outside of your house as well as the inside?

Christmas customs – every family has them and Christmas just wouldn't be the same without them, or so we think. While Christmas customs are meant to get us in the holiday spirit, they can easily become Christmas chores – just another list of things we need to do. If that's happened, it's time to set aside the customs and get back to the basics. Getting back to the Christmas basics is simple. Celebrate your Christmas as the shepherds did; just listen.

The night of that first Christmas must have seemed like any other night to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem. All the sheep had been gathered in and there was nothing left to do except to keep watch, visit with one another, and stay warm. That quiet routine, however, was shattered when an angel of the Lord burst onto the scene with the bright light of God's glory. Unasked and unexpected, that's how the angel arrived just as God continues to enter into hearts today.

How did the shepherds react to this heavenly invasion? They were terrified! What's your first reaction when the phone rings in the middle of the night? You fear the worst, don't you? In the same way the shepherds must have feared the worst when they saw God's messenger standing before them. Had he come to announce that it was Judgment Day? If so, were they ready to be judged by the righteous God?

But that's not why the angel had come. **"Do not be afraid."** The angel said. **"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord"** (Lk. 2:10, 11).

Just by listening to this message the attitude of the shepherds changed. Their fear was replaced with joy. The Saviour had been born in Bethlehem just as the Old Testament prophets said he would be. By listening and taking to heart this message the shepherds learned that the Bible could be trusted. They also learned that this child was not just human; *He was God as he was called "the Lord."* But most of all the shepherds were overjoyed because this Saviour had not just come to save a select group of people. The angel said that this news was for **"all people."** No, there had been no tree, no treats, and no turkey but the shepherds were happy. What made that first Christmas such a merry one? Listening to the angel's message.

In the same way our Christmas will be merry if we celebrate as the shepherds did – by listening and taking to heart the angel's message. Jesus has come to bring peace to all. He did that by dying on the cross and forgiving all of our sins - sins of unfaithfulness, selfishness, laziness, anything we do, think, or say to show that we care about ourselves more than we care about God and others.

God's forgiveness plan is like no other. God does not forgive only after we have reformed ourselves. Unasked and unexpected God intervened in history to forgive us and give us the promise of eternal life in heaven through faith in Jesus: God's forgiveness gives us the reason to change our life.

But the shepherds weren't just content to hear the message, were they? They wanted to learn more about this Saviour and so without delay they went to Bethlehem. It's interesting, isn't it? They didn't debate whether they had time to go, or whether it was convenient for them. They didn't even worry about who would watch the sheep. They rushed to find out more about their Saviour.

Friends, we too should not be content just to hear about the Saviour but to hurry to Bethlehem and see the Christ-child. Don't be satisfied just to make note of Jesus once a year in the Christmas carols or in the Christmas Eve service but come and learn about him often. God's plan of salvation is awesome and has many facets to it. The more you listen to it and learn about it the more joy it brings into your life and will prepare you to face any kind of difficulty you may have to face.

While there is nothing wrong with looking forward to our Christmas customs of opening presents or sharing Christmas dinner with loved ones, those customs can never replace the real reason for our joy at Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour from sin. Don't let the customs crowd out the basics. Celebrate like the shepherd's by listening to the angel's message.

Merry and Blessed Christmas to all!

Pastor Norris

Church Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 6th - 8:30AM / Adult Bible Class

Monday, December 7th - 4PM / Women's Christmas Tea Party





Next Fellowship Hour

December 13, 2026 – (Hostess needed)
December 27, 2026 (Hostess needed)

WISH TO HOST ANY EVENT?
Please see the Sign-Up Sheet for upcoming dates
In the Narthex to pick a day. **All events will follow the services.**

Next Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 26, 2026 &
Every LAST Saturday of the month at 8AM
At Oscar's Kitchen, 1979 Placid Lake Blvd.
Lake Placid, FL



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7th

4:00 PM

Trinity's annual Christmas Tea has become a popular event among the women and it's just around the corner. Imagine the church sanctuary filled with beautifully set tables of plates, silverware, teacups, and napkins. Add the glow of Christmas candle-lit centerpieces, a beautifully decorated Christmas tree and carols playing in the background, the chatter of friends new and old, the aroma of tea and coffee brewing and the biggest appetizer, dinner and dessert table you have ever seen. Put that all together and you have one of the nicest evenings that you'll spend with your friends.

To come to this festive evening, you either need to sign up to be a hostess or be invited as a guest. If you have never been a hostess before, why not give it a try? Invite 3 or 4 friends from your neighborhood or perhaps someone new to our church, bring your candle centerpiece to church before the event and then arrive with your guests on December 7th to spend a few hours sharing a cup of Christmas Tea (or coffee).

Sign up on the bulletin board to be a hostess.
Your invitations for your guests will be put in your mailbox.
We ask that you donate $5.00 per person to help cover the cost of the food.

***If you would like to come but don't think you'll be able to be a hostess, call the church office and leave your name. We may have some hostesses who need additional guests at their table. LADIES-this is the year of OUTREACH. Why not invite a new member or some people from the office list or maybe a lonely woman in your neighborhood? Just a thought!**



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Are you a Thrivent member? Do you know a Thrivent member? Would you like more information about Thrivent life insurance and investment products? Our Thrivent representative is Mr. Brian Heipp and he will come here to the church to meet with you.

Have you checked your Thrivent Choice Dollar balance lately? Thrivent has changed its Choice Dollar policy and now anyone with any Thrivent product receives Choice Dollars to give away. You don't have to wait until the end of the year. They are now available at the start of the year.

Trinity Tots could really use some of those free Choice Dollars this year. We have 8 empty 3-yr. old spots due to a low birth year across the country and that adds up to a minimum loss of **$32,000**.

The church also has some opportunities to help others in our community such as Manna Ministries and LP Middle School Food Pantry. Your Choice Dollars will also go to those needs.

So check your Choice Dollar balance and if you feel so moved, direct those dollars to either Trinity Tots Preschool or Trinity Lutheran Church. Thanks for your willingness to help.

Have questions? Susan Norris can try to answer them for you or get you to the person who can.

Food Pantry Opportunities To serve!

(All items may be placed in the Narthex at any time.)

Must be turned in by Sunday, December 13

The Dragon's Den Children

- **Individual food cups &**
- **Individual Microwavable cups**

Manna Ministry

Toiletry/personal hygiene products:



- combs
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- deodorant
- disposable razors
- bars of soap

Special Days to Celebrate!!!

December 2026



Happy Anniversary!

11 John & Linda Taylor '17

Happy Birthday

8 Linda R. Taylor
9 Kathryn Elmira Lunz
11 Michele Baker
18 Emma Kenyon
19 Robert Thurow
20 Julie Foland
20 Michelle Silvestre
21 Beverly Smith
22 Wanda Lynn Gregg
25 Jesus, Our Savior
25 Carol Jones
26 Linda Thomas
28 Fred Foland
28 Marc Lester Firme
29 Pastor Norris
31 Joan Terrell





DECEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 **8:30am Adult Bible Class** **10:00am Worship Service followed by Fellowship Hour**	30	1	2 4:00pm Advent Mid-Week Service	3 4:10pm Christmas Bus Trip Concert	4	5
6 **8:30am Adult Bible Class** **10:00am Worship Service with Communion**	7 4:00pm Trinity Ladies Christmas Tea Party / Please sign in to host or attend	8	9 4:00pm Advent Mid-Week Service	10	11	12 12:00pm Trinity Ladies Christmas Party
13 **8:30am Adult Bible Class** **10:00am Worship Service followed by Fellowship Hour** **4:00pm Trinity Tots Christmas Program**	14	15	16 4:00pm Advent Mid-Week Service	17	18 Trinity Tots Pajama Day	19
20 **8:30am Adult Bible Class** **10:00am Worship Service with Communion**	21	22 11:00am Trinity Tots Christmas Parties / School closes by 1PM	23 No School / Christmas Recess	24 No School / Christmas Recess 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 No School / Christmas Recess 10:00am Christmas Day Service	26 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Oscar's Kitchen
27 **8:30am Adult Bible Class** **10:00am Worship Service followed by Fellowship Hour**	28 No School / Christmas Recess	29 No School / Christmas Recess	30 No School / Christmas Recess	31 No School / Christmas Recess	1 No School / Christmas Recess	2