

St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
Plankinton, SD

JANUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER

Trinity Lutheran
Church
White Lake, SD

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Contact

Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor
605-840-0554 (mobile)
prdomc5897@yahoo.com

* OFFICE HOURS *

St. Paul's, Tuesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.
Trinity, Wednesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
109 W State St., Plankinton SD 57368
www.stpaulplankinton.com
605-942-7364

Elders

Curt Guindon

Mike Tuschen

President Rodney Weber

LWML President ... Marlene Johnson

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

304 S Johnston St., White Lake SD 57383
www.trinitywhitelake.com
facebook.com/trinitywhitelake
605-249-2333

Elders

Scott Meier

David Bogenhagen

Ben Bogenhagen

President Dan Guericke

LWML Presidents Diana Kieffer

Hope Circle

Brianna Bogenhagen

Ruth Circle



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and
Trinity Lutheran Church are
members of the South Dakota
District of The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod.

GOD'S WORD IS TRUE



Dear Members of St. Paul's and Trinity,

As we start another year of God's grace in Christ in our congregations, we think of the countless blessings that God gave us in 2025. We especially thank God for the forgiveness of sins we have through Jesus. His birth which we just celebrated at Christmas, His perfect life, His death on the cross as the payment for all of our sins, and His resurrection from the dead means we who believe in Him will be raised to life on the last day to live with God forever in the eternal joy of Heaven. We think of the great promises of God's Word for the future such as Lamentations 3:22-23 which says, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning: great is Your faithfulness."

We learn from our mistakes of the past year and pray that God would lead us to live for Him in 2026. We remember how important it is to be in Christ. Psalm 32:10 says, "Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord."

We thank God for His great blessing of religious freedom in America where we can have a church where we can hear God's Word and Bibles to read of God's great love for us in Christ. Very few Christians of the past have had these great blessings as we have today. How foolish it would be to throw away these great blessings from God!

New Year's Day also reminds us of Jesus' promise to return to judge all people. Every New Year Christians wonder, "Will this be the year that Jesus returns to judge all people?" But Matthew 24:36 says that only God the Father knows when that will be. We are to be ready all the time in repentance and faith in Jesus. I John 3:2-3 says, "We are God's children now, and we know that when He appears we will be like Him, because we will see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him, purifies Himself as He is pure."

Thank you for the privilege of sharing God's Word with you as your vacancy pastor this last year! *Pastor McKillop*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday Divine Worship Service Schedule 2026

Divine Services at Trinity 8:30 a.m.

Divine Services at St. Paul's 10:30 a.m.

Special Service — Sanctity of Human Life Sunday January 18, 2026

Trinity Lutherans for Life will be hosting rolls and coffee on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**, following the Divine Service. **Thank you** to our congregation for your continued support of our projects throughout the year.

Christian Education

St. Paul's Sunday School Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Catechism Classes Mondays, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's and Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Trinity.

Trinity Release-Time Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.

Trinity Wednesday School Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Joint Bible Study Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. at Trinity.

Parish Meetings

St. Paul's Council Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 7 p.m.

Trinity Annual Voters Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Annual Voters Sunday, January 25, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Trinity Ruth Circle Sunday, January 4, 2026, following Divine Service; approx. 9:45 a.m.

Trinity Hope Circle Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 1 p.m.

St. Paul's Dorcas Circle Tuesday, January 12, 2026, 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutherans for Life Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 12:30 p.m.

New members and fresh ideas are always welcome, and all are encouraged to attend!

Serving the Lord January 2026

Trinity

Elder Scott Meier

Ushers Dan Meier
Dean Suelflow

Acolyte Blake Bogenhagen

Altar Jane Guericke

St. Paul's

Elder Curt Guindon

Ushers Kieth Albrecht
Josh Kemp

Acolyte Jett Kemp

Altar Sandy Tuschen

Greeters Jan. 4 Kemp Family
Jan. 11 Ruth Merrill
Jan. 18 Marv Jira
Jan. 25 Sharon Boyd

Scripture Readings for Sundays in January

Jan. 4 Epiphany (observed)..... Isaiah 60:1–6; Ephesians 3:2–12; Matthew 2:1–12

Jan. 11 Baptism of Our Lord..... Isaiah 42:1–9; Romans 6:1–11; Matthew 3:13–17

Jan. 18 Sanctity of Life Sunday Job 10:9–13; Hebrews 2:5–18; Matthew 10:24–33

Jan. 25 Third Sunday Epiphany..... Isaiah 9:1–4; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; Matthew 4:12–25



MAIN STREET LIVING JANUARY 2026

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.
www.mainstreetliving.com

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

January 4, 2026

10 a.m. "The Other Wiseman" Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Joshua Jones, pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Rapid City, SD, presents a message titled "Behold, Your King!". The sermon is based on Matthew 2:1-12.

January 11, 2026

10 a.m. "The Christ We Share" Sharing the Gospel is neither swift nor easy, but truly rewarding in the end.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Albert Sutton, pastor at Evergreen Lutheran Church in Evergreen, SD, presents a message titled "What is True Spirituality?". The sermon is based on Matthew 3:13-17.

January 18, 2026

10 a.m. "Live Option" A 15-year-old pregnant daughter and her mother disagree on the future of her child.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Michael Salemink, from Lutherans For Life presents a message titled "From Invisible to Indispensable". The sermon is based on 1 Corinthians 12:22.

January 25, 2026

10 a.m. "Missing Ingredient" Bob (Jack Nicholson) and his fiancée Lynn (Susan Crane) are planning their wedding when she overhears her parents planning to separate shortly after.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Norman Wacker, pastor at Mount Calvary and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches in Sundance and Moorcroft, WY, presents a message titled "The Word Brings Light!". The sermon is based on Matthew 4:12-25.



JANUARY 2026

Josiah Stotts, TR	Jan. 3
Merlyn Haak, SP	Jan. 5
Eric & Jessica Olson, TR	Jan. 8
Sandy Titze, SP	Jan. 10
Mike Tuschen, SP	Jan. 14
John & Kris Kieffer, TR	Jan. 15
Linda Smith (84), TR	Jan. 16
Blaire Bopenhagen, TR	Jan. 18
Charlie Everson, SP	Jan. 18
Dona Steffen, TR	Jan. 20
Brian Ruden, TR	Jan. 24
Thomas Geyer, TR	Jan. 24
Ron Steffen, TR	Jan. 28
Diana Kieffer, TR	Jan. 29
Orion Steichen, TR	Jan. 29

Newsletters ~ Bulletins LCMS South Dakota District News

Missed a service, misplaced or filed printed copies? They are available on each website's News page: trinitywhitelake.com/news and stpaulplankinton.com/news.

The February 2026 newsletter will be available on or after February 1, 2026. If you prefer having a digital newsletter over a printed one, please contact me at the e-address below and I will email you a copy. *Articles are due Tuesday, January 27, 2026.*

Weekly bulletin deadline is Thursday noon.

Please send newsletter and bulletin items to trinitywlsd@gmail.com. Thank you!

Nancy Bopenhagen
Parish Secretary



WORD FROM THE CENTER

A “Just in Time, at This Place” Salvation for You!



⁴ But when the fullness of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons and daughters. ⁶Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba! Father!” ⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:4–7).

One of the reasons that I love the Bible and its teachings is **the uniqueness of its message when compared to all others**. There are other religions and philosophies out there, but there is nothing like the proclamation of God’s gracious activity in Jesus Christ for all of humanity in history. Those other religious messages are the opinions of sinful people like you and me, all trying to get us to follow some path to peace or tranquility; some are even brazen enough to speak about it as a “salvation.” Unfortunately, like so much of our human posturing, both philosophically and religiously, they all leave us wanting and dismayed. The same can be said for “faith” in our scientific and economic prowess. In our culture today, we have so many material things, but our lives are just as sinful and broken as ever. And no belief in our superiority or any myth about our unlimited potential or capacity can change that.

The good news? There is another message in the world. It’s not a philosophical, political, scientific, or utopian one. It is NOT about our prowess or even our religious works. It’s, first of all, about our need, incapacity, and brokenness. And then, even more importantly, it’s about a **Savior who has come, not with judgment, but with His mercy and forgiveness**. You see, the Christmas message is not a religious call for sinners to turn themselves into better

people. **It is rather a proclamation of grace, life, and salvation**. Due to God’s work on our behalf, all of these are offered as gifts to those who are undeserving. Then that undeserved grace does indeed motivate us to live different and better lives for others, but as a response of utter joy and thanksgiving.

On top of that uniqueness is the way that this salvation comes into the world. This Good News of God’s grace comes at specific times and places to people whenever and wherever they receive the unique message of Jesus. It summons us to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ alone. May this Epiphany season call you to look away from the fear that pervades so much of our culture today, to turn away from the bravado of political nobodies who claim to know how to solve all of our problems. Instead, may the Good News of Jesus come boldly “just in time, at this place” to fill your life this year and to remain there always.

The message of the Bible is that God always does things at the right time for you and for me. “When the fullness of the time came,” He was willing to be “born of a woman” (Mary) which made Him vulnerable to the very world He created. He was willing to be “born under the Law,” taking your place and mine under God’s judgment, so that we might be saved. By His Word and Holy Spirit, He still comes “just in time” for you and for me wherever we may be, giving us a reconciled relationship with God as our “Abba! Father!”

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for leaving Your heavenly throne just in time for us and for our salvation. May that joy fill our lives this Christmas Season, throughout the New Year, and forever. AMEN

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz



Lent — Holy Week — Easter Schedule

As determined at the Joint Voters Meeting September 23, 2025

Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

5 p.m. at Trinity

7 p.m. at St. Paul's

Joint Midweek Services

2nd Wednesday in Lent, February 25, 2026 — 7 p.m. at Trinity.

3rd Wednesday in Lent, March 4, 2026 — 7 p.m. at St. Paul's.

4th Wednesday in Lent, March 11, 2026 — 7 p.m. at Trinity.

5th Wednesday in Lent, March 18, 2026 — 7 p.m. at St. Paul's.

6th Wednesday in Lent, March 25, 2026 — 7 p.m. at Trinity.

Joint Maundy Thursday Service

April 2, 2026, 7 p.m., at Trinity, w/communion.

Joint Good Friday Service

April 3, 2026, 7 p.m., at St. Paul's.

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026, regular service times: 8:30 a.m., at Trinity | 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's.



stay
CONNECTED

Pastor Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor

605-840-0554 (mobile)

prdomc5897@yahoo.com

Office Hours

Tuesday's, 9–11:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
109 W State St., Plankinton, SD 57368

Wednesday's, 9–11:30 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church
304 S. Johnston St., White Lake, SD 57383

Websites: www.stpaulplankinton.com ~ www.trinitywhitelake.com

Email: trinitywlsd@gmail.com

Social Media: facebook.com/trinitywhitelake

YouTube channel: Trinity White Lake (recordings of Divine Services)

The Fifth Commandment

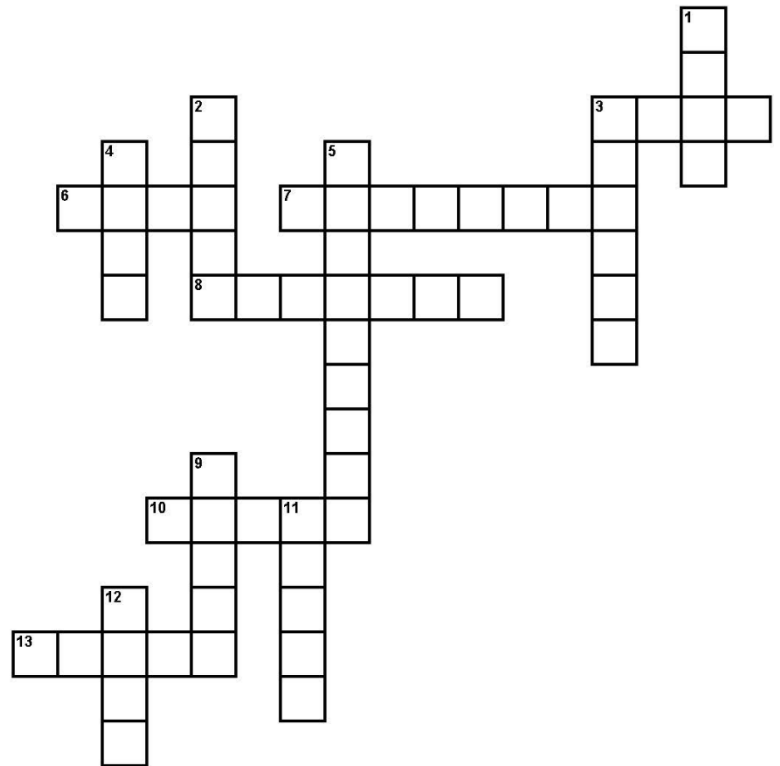
Find the bold words of the 4th Commandment and its meaning in the puzzle below.

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should **fear** and **love** God so that we do not **hurt** or **harm** our **neighbor** in his **body**, but **help** and **support** him in **every physical need**.

Y A G F R L O V E T
R O N A E L N P V R
D H N O V A R E E O
L T E R P H R O R P
H H I M T S O T Y P
E A G N D E E N T U
L T H O O R H M Y S
P D B N O D D U O P
R B O D Y T E R U P
O T R L R E A D D U
E D H U H G M E U P
Y G H R L H A R M O
A B L A C I S Y H P








Across

- 3 For I was hungry and you gave me no _____. Mt 25:42
- 6 Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the _____ and needy. Prov 31:9
- 7 You shall love your _____ as yourself. Mt. 22:39
- 8 I was _____ and you gave me no drink. Mt. 25:42
- 10 "Vengeance is Mine, I will _____, says the Lord. Rom 12:19
- 13 You are not your own, for you were bought with a _____. 1 Cor 6:20

Down

- 1 Whoever says, "You _____!" will be liable to the hell of fire. Mt 5:22
- 2 We love because He _____ loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 3 Before I _____ you in the womb I knew you. Jer 1:5
- 4 And above all these put on _____, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Col 3:14
- 5 I praise You, for I am _____ and wonderfully made. Ps 139:14
- 9 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to _____, and to give His life as a ransom for many. Mk 10:45
- 11 Let all bitterness and wrath and _____ and clamor and slander be put away from you. Eph 4:31
- 12 Be _____ to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Eph 4:32

January 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)  Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's TR Ruth Circle 9:45 a.m.	5 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	6 Epiphany TR Hope Circle 1 p.m.	7 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	8	9	10
11 The Baptism of Our Lord  Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	12 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	13 SP Dorcas Circle 2 p.m. SP Council Mtg. 7 p.m.	14 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17
18 2nd S Epiphany/Sanctity of Life Sun.  Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	19 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	20 TR Annual Mtg. 7 p.m.	21 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25 Third Sunday after Epiphany  Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's SP Annual Mtg. 9:30 a.m.	26 SP Catechism 7 p.m.	27	28 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. Joint Bible Class @TR TR Wed. School 5:30 p.m. TR Ctchsm 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31