



TRINITY
METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE FOR CHRIST

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

*A New Year to **L.I.V.E.** Fully in Christ*

A new year invites us to pause, reflect, and step forward with renewed purpose. As we enter 2026, Trinity is embracing a shared focus that calls us to be intentional about how we live out our faith each day. This year, we are inviting one another to **L.I.V.E.** fully in Christ.

L.I.V.E. is a framework for discipleship that shapes our life together as a church. It reminds us that following Jesus is not passive or accidental, but something we grow into with prayer, intention, and trust. As we look back with gratitude on God's faithfulness in 2025, we also look ahead with expectation for how God will continue His work in and through us in the year to come.

When you hear Trinity leaders talk about **L.I.V.E.**, here is what we mean:

L – Learn & Apply the Word, allowing Scripture to form and transform our hearts, minds, and daily lives.

I – Invest in Others, building relationships that encourage faith, offer care, and strengthen our community.

V – Voice the Gospel, sharing the hope of Christ boldly and compassionately through both words and actions.

E – Engage with God, deepening our walk with Him through prayer, worship, wonder, and daily dependence.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find studies, groups, ministries, and events designed to support these practices. They are offered not as obligations, but as opportunities—pathways that can help you grow where God may already be stirring your heart.

Above all, we encourage you to begin this year in prayer, asking where God may be calling you to **L.I.V.E.** more fully in the light of Christ. Our hope is that the ministries reflected in these pages point beyond themselves, drawing us together as a church that trusts God to continue His redeeming work in us and through us in 2026.

TRINITY CELEBRATES

New Members

Manuell Abedi-Lartey	Taylor Linke
Mandy Anderson	Billy Logan
Godfred Arhinful	Claire Pope
Chelsea Ayers	Philip Matherne
Paden Ayers	Levi McCulloch
Chaz Backhaus	MaddiLu McGehee
Zach Bignall	Kayla McGowen
Elizabeth Caskey	Penny Muse
Nealy Clark	Jason Sellers
Thomas Costanza	Jennifer Sellers
Averie Deville	Landree Smith
Matt Dixon	Roe Smith
Katie Feron	Jack Spangler
Robert Feron	Jason Spangler
Elias Ford	Jude Spangler
Ava Good	Lori Spangler
Caroline Heard	Rhett Thiels
Jo Heard	Tayt Thomas
Todd Heard	Yona Wells
Kate Kyzar	Zac Woodard
Laura Kyzar	Misty Yeich
Jacob Lewis	Sarah Yeich
Jeremy Lewis	

New Spaces, Same Spirit: A Look Inside Trinity's Transformation

Dear Friends,

These are exciting days at Trinity Methodist Church! With joy and gratitude, I want to share some wonderful updates. Our new air-conditioning and heating system is fully installed, bringing comfort to every worship service and gathering. The Children's Ministry space has been beautifully renovated and is already buzzing with life, laughter, and learning. Thank you—your generosity and prayers have made these blessings possible.

As with any great endeavor, we've encountered a few surprises along the way. In addition to the planned projects, we replaced the roof on the gym building to ensure safety and long-term durability. Altogether, these improvements came to \$4,000,000. Through your pledges and gifts, we have already received \$2,320,000—a remarkable testimony to your faithfulness and commitment.

That leaves us with a gap still to close, and this is where the next chapter of our story begins. We do not see this as a burden but as an opportunity for all of us to join together once more in strengthening the ministry and mission of Trinity. Every gift, every pledge, and every prayer moves us closer to completing this work and ensures that future generations will inherit a church that is vibrant, welcoming, and ready to serve.

We are confident that the resources entrusted to us have been used wisely, and we can already feel the benefits of these improvements. Now, we invite you to help us finish the journey. Together, we can celebrate not only what has been accomplished, but also the faith-filled steps we are taking toward the future God is preparing for us.

I look forward with great anticipation to the adventures God will lead us into next, knowing that with your partnership, Trinity will continue to be a place of joy, hospitality, and hope.

With gratitude and expectation,

Doug de Graffenried
Senior Minister

doug@trinityruston.org



TRINITY CELEBRATES

Baptisms

Ainsley Ayers
Greyson Gene Belcher
Georgia Ann Brown
Katheryne Collins
Matt Dixon
Sutton Leo Hicks
Jacob Lewis
Jeremy Lewis
Sara Josephine Miller
Shepherd Michael Morgan
Isla Grace Adelheid Thiels
Sophia Grace Wilson
Zachary Woodard

TRINITY ADULT MINISTRY

JAN 5-24

21 Days of Prayer

TRINITY CENTER

WEEKDAYS AT 6:00AM | SATURDAYS AT 9:00AM

All are welcome to join us in preparing our hearts for a new year and covering our church, community, and world in prayer.

PHILIPPIANS 6 WEEK BIBLE STUDY

January 15 | 9:30AM | Room 110
Led by Becky Clark

Run for GOD

January 25 • 4:00PM
IESB BUILDING ON WEST TEXAS STREET

Contact the office for more
information about where to meet



Becky Clark
Teaching Pastor
beckyc@trinityruston.org

Resuming January 7:

Wednesday Morning Men's Group (Game Changers) at 6:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Night Adult Small Groups at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to get plugged into a small group contact Becky Clark.

Fellowship Meal at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Adults: \$8, 4-18 years: \$5, Under 3 years: Free

JANUARY MENU

January 7 — chicken and sausage gumbo, crackers, rice, salad, brownies

January 14 — pulled pork sandwiches, green beans, chips, salad, ice cream sandwiches

January 21 — soup, cornbread, salad, yellow cake with chocolate icing

January 28 — jambalaya, corn, rolls, salad, cherry cobbler

Adult Sunday School classes meet every week at 10:00 a.m., offering a wide variety of options to choose from. If you would like help finding a class that's right for you, please contact Becky Clark.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Breakfast: January 21 from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Location TBD.

Freezer Meals: January 19 from 9am-noon. Sign up on the HUB.

The Table: A Family Worship Experience: Sunday, January 25, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and will feature pancakes for dinner, a Family Feud-style game night, and a special guest speaker. Please be sure to RSVP by January 23 so we can plan accordingly.

TRINITYOUTREACH

Faith, Fellowship & Friendship in the New Year

A huge thank you to you all for an amazing Christmas Outreach Season.

You helped 87 Lincoln Parish children through angel tree,
our partnership with Junior Auxiliary.

You helped 125 children in foster care with bicycles and other gifts.

You helped stock up Life Choices Hope Shoppe through the Life Choices Tree.

Thank you for your generous hearts!

Outreach 2026

Beginning February 1 at 5:00 p.m. we will launch our first, 12-week session of **Embrace Grace**. This ministry provides physical, emotional, and spiritual guidance to women experiencing unexpected pregnancy. It closes out with a baby shower for the moms. There are so many ways to volunteer. Check it all out at trinityruston.org/hub.

Ruston Elementary – We will serve another meal for the teachers soon. Join the team to get details first.

Foster Care – Our next Foster Parents Night Out will be in March. Sign up for the team to get those details first.



Marie K. Burns, LMSW
Director of Missional Discipleship
mburns@trinityruston.org

Senior Adults

We enjoyed Jingle & Mingle, a time for staff and our senior adults to visit and enjoy desserts together. Our next Lunch & Games will be February 6 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join us! There is no pressure to play games. We just want to visit and get to know each other better.



CLUB NINE 3



Jesus Loves Us One and All!

Club Nine 3 Special Needs ministry has been growing in faith and fellowship this fall! We have Clubhouse from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Mondays for our adult members, Art Class on Mondays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Club Nine 3 Sunday school classes from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. We appreciate our Trinity Youth small groups for hosting the most incredible Christmas party for us this year!

Our Clubhouse and Art will begin Monday, January 12 for the new year.

Our members are showing so much growth in fellowship! It is wonderful to see them welcoming and helping one another! In December we enjoyed our lessons on Jesus' birth, decorating cookies, and some reindeer games.

If you want to see Jesus' love in action, we invite you to come visit or volunteer with any of our programs. Volunteers need no special skills, just love!

We love new members! Feel free to invite friends who would benefit from our program!



Felicia Dunbar
Special Needs Coordinator
feliciad@trinityruston.org

TRINITYKIDS

Exciting Adventures Ahead for Our Littlest Disciples



We are overflowing with gratitude as we celebrate all that God is doing in our children's ministry this season! Our newly refreshed space has already become a place of joy, connection, and meaningful worship, and we are so thankful for the many hands and hearts that helped bring it to life.

A special thank you goes to our incredible Small Group Starship Koimonia for hosting such a beautiful Family Advent Event. Your creativity, planning, and servant hearts helped families focus on the true gift of Christmas—Jesus.

Our children presented the musical, The Amazing Gift. It was a joy it was to watch them proclaim the story of the birth of Christ. A heartfelt thank you to Debbie Cloud for writing and directing this wonderful production.

In January we will launch a Wednesday night series on prayer, designed to help our children grow in confidence as they talk with God and learn the power of prayer in everyday life. Finally, in Sunday School, our children will be studying the stories of Jesus' miracles, discovering that He can do the impossible.

We are so grateful to walk this journey with you and your family!

Katie Clark
Director of Children's Ministry
katiec@trinityruston.org

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus looked at them intently
and said

"Humanly speaking, it is
impossible. But not with
God. Everything
is possible with God."

Mark 10:27

Mother and Son SCAVENGER HUNT

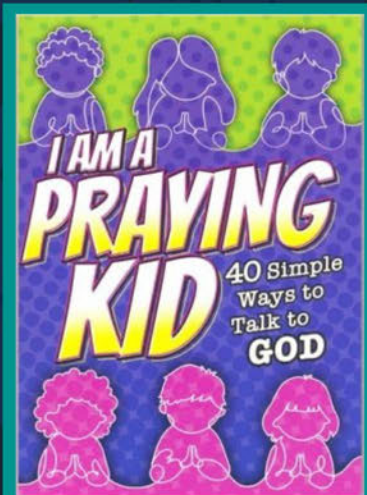
JANUARY 23 • 5:30PM
Ages K-5th grade

Register at www.trinityruston.org/sign-ups

Upcoming Sunday School Series

Jesus Does the Impossible...

Jan 11	...and cares about our problems	John 2:1-12
Jan 18	...so go to Him	Mark 1:40-45
Jan 25	...so lets keep our eyes on Him	Matt 14:22-33
Feb 1	...through us	Acts 9:32-42



Wednesdays at 6:00p.m.



New Year, Same Purpose — Growing Together in Faith

TRINITY YOUTH

This past season has been a beautiful reminder that when our students serve, God is at work—not only in the lives of those they help, but in their own hearts as well. Through service projects like Nursing Home Bingo, students shared laughter and presence with residents who were eager for connection. At 4 Paws Dog Rescue, they offered compassion and care for God's creatures. Serving with WOC, Buddy Ball and planning a Special Needs Christmas Party gave students the gift of seeing Christ in every person and celebrating the joy and dignity of all abilities.

These moments of service are shaping our students into leaders, strengthening friendships, and most importantly, forming them as followers as Christ. They are learning that faith is not just something we talk about—it is something we live. This was wonderfully displayed through the Advent Devotional Booklet that was written by some of our students.

Alongside service, God has given us meaningful moments of connection. From summer activities, to camp experiences, to gathering around bonfires, to sharing a joyful Friendsgiving together, students have built friendships and experienced the blessing of Christian community. These moments matter! They create space for belonging, laughter, and faith to grow naturally.

As we look ahead, we are excited to kick off the winter season with more opportunities for growth and connection. Our Winter Kick-Off includes a hockey game, Six Flags trip, serving at Revive Winter Mission in Texas, and spiritual retreats: Wonderfully Made for our girls and Man Maker for our guys.

We are deeply grateful for the love and support of our church, for the endowment fund that makes opportunities like Camp Electric possible for our worship team, and for the purchase of two new vans that allow our students to travel safely for missions, retreats and fellowship.

Parents, we invite you to be a part of what God is doing. There are opportunities to volunteer, help provide meals, and join us for a newly launching monthly time of prayer where parents and leaders can come together and pray for students. Your involvement makes a lasting impact!

Thank you for supporting our students as they grow in faith, love, and service. We can't wait to see how God continues to move in the new year!

With Love and Gratitude,
Lori Spangler
Director of Youth Ministry
loris@trinityruston.org

