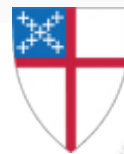


The Good News



**TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

**101 East Mansion Street
Marshall, Michigan 49068-1186
(269) 781-7881
<https://www.trinityofmarshall.org>**



Trinity Episcopal Church

101 E. Mansion Street
Marshall, Michigan 49068-1186

Office@TrinityofMarshall.org
(269) 781-7881

Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Schedule

9:30 am Sunday Service (also Virtual)

Staff

Music Director: Randy Turpin
Parish Administrator: Rikki Mileski
Bookkeeper: Diane Vezmar
Sexton: Pat Chadwick
Nursery Attendants: Kessy Cook and
Christene Lewicki

Vestry

Anne Bohl, <i>Senior Warden</i>	Jan 2026
Cherie Riser, <i>Junior Warden</i>	Jan 2027
Wendy Myers	Jan 2027
Karla Love	Jan 2026
Julie Kaminski	Jan 2026
Jill Goodsell	Jan 2028
Zack Shippell	Jan 2028

Send electronic submissions for the next
issue to **office@trinityofmarshall.org**
Deadline: 20th of the previous month



Office Notes

- The Bulletin Deadline is Tuesday morning of the preceding week.
- Paper submissions for the Bulletin or the Good News newsletter can be placed in the designated boxes in the Office.
- Electronic submissions can be sent to the church email address:
office@trinityofmarshall.org
- Please note, we renew the Prayer List every month.
- Please call the office if you would like a Pastoral visit from Deacon Wendy or the Pastoral Care Team.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY AFTER OFFICE HOURS, CONTACT:

Rev. Deacon Wendy Pearson (269) 781-3235
Anne Bohl, Senior Warden (269) 224-1664
Cherie Riser, Junior Warden (269) 274-2185



Senior Warden Letter:

During the four weeks of Advent, we reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as we look forward to celebrating Christmas. The

hope we have because of our faith; God's **peace**, which surpasses all understanding; the **joy** with which we await the birth of Jesus; and God's **love** for us—the greatest gift. May God's hope, peace, joy, and love surround you this Advent season.



You will notice a couple of changes to the church based on the recommendation of the Worship Committee - one now and another in the near future. The pew dividers were recently removed to make it easier to move from one aisle to the next and to help project a welcoming atmosphere. The dividers were removed from all but the Nathan Benedict pew. That one remains to preserve a historical perspective. The other change coming in the next couple of months is the removal of a few pews at the back of the church. This will take place for a variety of reasons: to improve accessibility for those who might find it difficult to navigate tight corners, to provide space during special services, and to open up an area for families or individuals needing a larger space.

Also, the desk that is currently set up under the Te Deum window will be moved up into one of these spaces, out of the way, near the back pew. This move will provide better functionality for those who run the weekly broadcast, allow room for a more spacious desk that also better matches the church's decor, and most importantly, will remove the current desk from the entryway, removing an eyesore and opening up the narthex.

Although change can be difficult, the Worship Committee and the vestry truly hope you feel these changes enhance the worship experience for all.

Anne Bohl, Senior Warden

Staff Feature

This fall, we are highlighting Trinity's staff in this monthly newsletter. Not every parishioner gets the opportunity to meet or interact with our staff, so we thought it would be nice to share a bit about each person.

Kessy Cook - Nursery Attendant

Kessy joined Trinity as a Nursery Attendant in June 2024. She works alongside Christene to care for and lead activities with Trinity's children during our weekly worship service.



Previously, she worked in a preschool and now holds a full-time position at Marshall Public Library, focusing on programs for children from preschool through middle school. Originally from Battle Creek, she has lived in Marshall for two years. She has one dog, two cats, and chickens. Kessy is currently studying Library Services at Oakland Community College.

Comments from Trinity parishioners about Kessy:

Kessy is amazing! She knows kids and interacts so well with them. Without her we wouldn't be able to come to church and be able to attend and engage with open hearts and open minds. Having her with the children gives

a sense of peace and calm. The kids also absolutely love her!

Kessy has captured the hearts of our Trinity youth and gained the respect of our Trinity parents as she has created a nurturing and loving community; both through her work at the Marshall District Library and the Trinity Nursery.

In addition to caring for Trinity's children each Sunday, Kessy has occasionally provided essential coverage in the office when help was needed. She is knowledgeable and always willing to pitch in.

Christene Lewicki - Nursery Attendant

Christene joined Trinity in October 2024 as a Nursery Attendant. She works alongside Kessy to care for and lead activities with Trinity's children during our weekly worship service.

With four years of nanny experience and three years in preschools, she earned her Child Development Associate credential during that time. Family is very important to Christene. She currently lives with her fiancé, her dad,



her younger sister, and two dogs. She enjoys outdoor activities, taking walks, and playing in a pool league.

Comments from some Trinity parishioners about Christene:

Christene is so kind to all the kids and makes sure they're always having fun. Our kids look forward to their time in the nursery each week and Christene is a big part of why!

Christene is great with the kids. She has no problem letting them get out any craft thing they want and make as big of a mess as they would like. She is calm and patient and the kids feel comfortable with her and have fun with her.

Christene has been a wonderful addition to our staff. She jumped right in to help run the nursery and is extremely capable of managing our spirited youngsters! She and Kessy seem to work very well together. We are blessed to have them as a team.

Thank you, Kessy and Christene!



Morning Prayer Leaders needed

Brooks Grantier is unable to serve as our weekday Morning Prayer leader at 6:30 am in the Trinity Chapel while recovering at home. We welcome anyone to offer to lead this ministry at any time in the morning in our chapel or via Google Meet or Zoom. Please contact the office to make arrangements for the timing or for the need of a church key.

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettia dedication forms are now available outside the office and at the entrances to the sanctuary. All dedications are due by December 18th. Help beautify our Christmas worship by donating a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. Thank you for adding to the joy and warmth of our celebration!

MACS Christmas Basket Program

MACS is once again organizing Christmas gifts and food baskets for families in need in the Marshall area.

Monetary Donations:

Make checks payable to MACS Inc.,
P.O. Box 611, Marshall, MI 49068.

Gift Donations:

New gifts only, please—deliver to Trinity by
Noon, Mon, Dec. 8, 2025.

Ideas: books, art supplies, games, puzzles, stuffed animals, Legos, headphones, gloves/hats, and gift cards (especially for teens).

Thank you for helping share Christmas hope and joy in our community!

The Giving Tree

This Advent Season, we're collecting mittens, hats, and warm socks for adult women and children. Please place donations in the box next to the Giving Tree in the Parish Hall. The Trinity Kids will decorate the tree as they learn about generosity. Donations will be accepted through the end of the year and delivered to Safe Place, with extras going to the Share Center. Questions? Contact Debbie Egnatuk or Patty West. Thank you for your generosity!

Joyful Sunday Celebration – December 14

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Joyful Sunday, marked by lighting the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath. This candle represents joy in anticipation of Jesus' birth and the many gifts the Lord has given us. Join us in celebrating Joyful Sunday with a parish potluck during Coffee Hour—a wonderful time to share food, fellowship, and the joy of this season!

Pastoral Care Committee

The pastoral care committee is here for you! Please reach out to Mike Renaud (269) 830-2403 or pastoralcare@trinityofmarshall.org for your pastoral care concerns. The pastoral care committee is here to support you in your emotional and spiritual life, and to pray for your physical needs. Please share with us if you also know of concerns for others.

Christmas Eve Celebration – December 24

All are invited to eat, drink, and be merry before and after our Christmas Eve service!

3:30–4:30pm – Parish Hall: Hors d'oeuvres/appetizers, homemade cookies, punch, and wine.

4:30–5:00pm – Sanctuary: Christmas carols accompanied by Randy Turpin on the magnificent historic Muller organ.

5:00pm – Rite II Service: Led by Father Rick Stravers.

After the service – Parish Hall: Fellowship continues with eating, drinking, and celebrating Christmas together!

We are looking for 4–5 volunteers to bring appetizers for 30–40 people. Please bring contributions by Tuesday, December 23, 5:00pm. Neil will share his famous buttery, frosted Christmas cookies! 

Sign-up sheets for appetizers are available in the Parish Hall. Thank you for helping make this festive celebration warm, delicious, and full of Christmas cheer!

Trinity's Annual Meeting

Trinity's annual meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, January 25th. All are warmly encouraged to attend as we review the past year and look ahead together. Childcare will be provided.

Free Exercise Classes at Trinity



- Free and Open to seniors 60 and older, held in the parish hall
- Senior Fit and Fun chair exercise Wednesdays at 1:00 pm
- Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Thursdays at 6:00 pm
- Join us for fun and fellowship with these exercises anyone can do. Questions? Call Julie 269-986-1583



SA.F.E. Place

Our Advocates will always be here for you at 269.965.7233. Calling our helpline can connect you to emergency shelter,

counseling, legal advocacy, and survivor advocacy. Additionally, you can visit our website at safeplaceshelter.org, navigate to "What We Do," and select the service that you are seeking. On each page, there is a form you can complete to have an Advocate follow up with you. Please note, these forms are not monitored 24/7. We're here for you. ❤️



We pray for all who are ill, for their families, and for those who are caring for them.

Please call the office to let us know if someone needs to be added or removed from our monthly prayer list.

Bells of Appreciation, Echos of Thanks

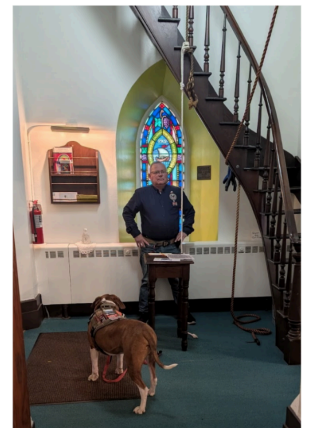
A HUGE shout-out to those who both participated in and attended the Bells of Peace, honoring both past and present Veterans. This solemn service included prayers from the Armed Forces Prayer Book, read by Karl Loomis, Ret. Capt., US Medical Corps, and Deacon Thom McPherson, Ret. Commander, US Navy, accompanied by organist Randy Turpin.

At precisely 11:00, the bells of both First Presbyterian Church and Trinity tolled 21 times in a collective moment of gratitude.

Bell tollers included Todd Kaminski, Lt. Col. Ret., USMC; Dennis Wilson, Ret. Lt. Commander, US Navy, accompanied by his stepfather Ken Reddick, US Navy, EM2; and Jeff Karns.

Thanks also to those working behind the scenes: Pat Chadwick, Ron Koetje, Karla Love, and Rikki Mileski.

A small reminder: the peace and freedoms we enjoy are a gift we must cherish and a sacrifice we must never forget.



Historic Trinity Tid-Bits

For those of you who follow Trinity's Historical Tid-Bits, you may recall a previous posting about world-famous British cartoonist Norman Mansbridge (1911–1993), illustrator for the weekly *Punch Magazine*, among others. Norman became a lifelong friend of Harold Brooks, making two trips to the States—in 1952 and 1958—during which he stayed at the Brooks home.

During Mansbridge's second visit, he allowed the Journalism class of MHS to conduct a "press conference." MHS students were surprised to learn how the English live in ways influenced by Americans. He also noted that Elvis Presley was as much a sensation in England as in the U.S.

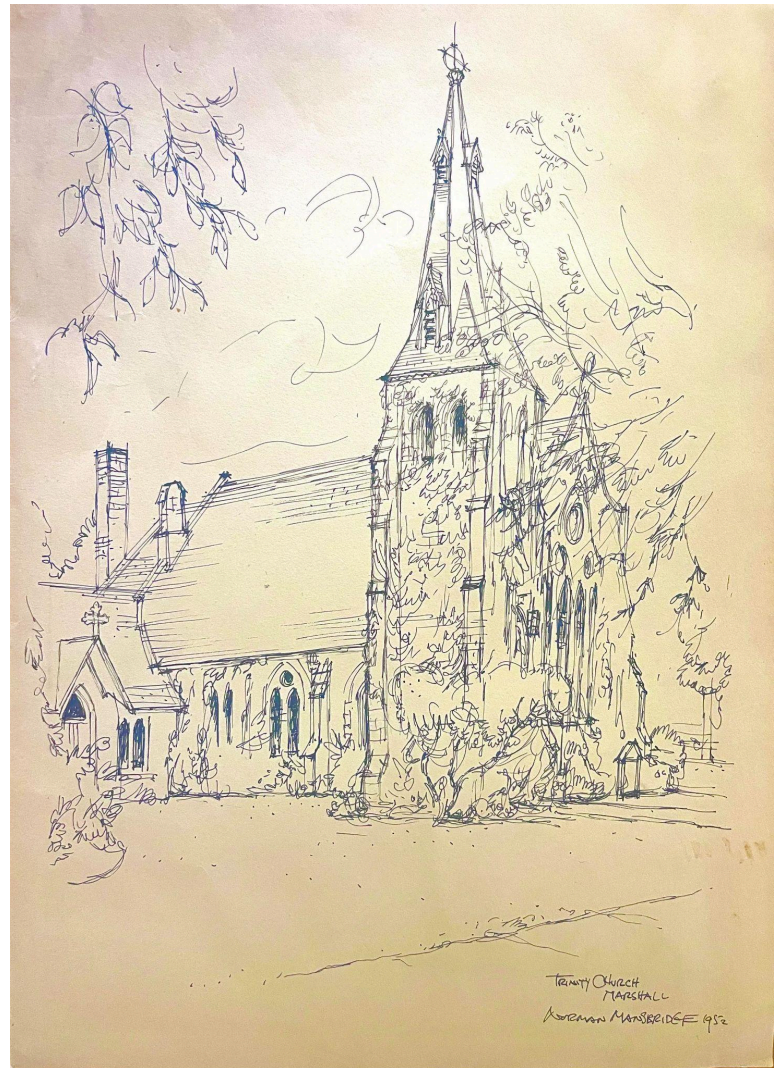
Mansbridge went on to say, "And Marshall is not just a brick town. It's a wealthy and up-to-date town, as you could wish a town to be... All the natives are enormously concerned about their health. They drink gallon after gallon of milk but carefully avoid fattening foods. Filter-tip cigarettes are everywhere..."

During his first stay, he sketched Trinity and its choir. The choir sketch has been featured previously; however, the exterior drawing of Trinity was unknown to exist until a few weeks ago.

Mansbridge worked first in pencil and then with a fountain pen and black ink, preferring to memorize a subject rather than draw it on the spot.

This and other information about Marshall was printed in *Punch Magazine*, London, England. Additionally, the Marshall Evening Chronicle archives featured Mansbridge's stay.

- Becky Wright
Trinity Episcopal Church Historian



Historic Trinity Tid-Bits

Today's Historic Trinity Tid-Bit features a handwritten title: *"Trinity Christmas Pageant, early 1940s."* It is a wonderful black-and-white photo depicting the cherubs of the day. Names have been provided as written on the back of the photo as well as on a separate piece of paper; however, there are some discrepancies.

I welcome your comments and assistance with identifying the names.

Left to right:

Front center: Martha Schnaitman; Louis Gereaux(?) or Dan French(?)

Left of Mary & Joseph: Doris Mathew; Franklin Line(?); Higby

Right of Joseph: David Page; Bob Schnaitman; Dave Hoeltzel

Third row: Ted Wilson (Herbert Edward Wilson)?; Judy Tenney; Carolyn Love; Janice Tenney; Sheila Sellers; Virginia French; Liz Tessla; Dorothy Schaeffer; ?; Patty Page

Candle bearers: Geraldine Rose; ?; Esther McGee; Marilyn Brownfield; Quick

- Becky Wright

Trinity Episcopal Church Historian



Historic Trinity Tid-Bits

Trinity is fortunate to have six colonial-style, rush-seated Hitchcock chairs and an accompanying mirror as part of our historic collection. Sexton Pat Chadwick recently noticed markings on the back of the mirror while rehangng it after painting. At this time, we do not know who donated them or when. The two armchairs have long been positioned around the baptismal font, while the four side chairs and mirror have been scattered about the church.

Why these chairs are special:

The chairs were created by Lambert Hitchcock, son of an American Revolutionary War veteran, who opened a furniture factory in Riverton, Connecticut (later Hitchcocksville) in 1818. Hitchcock was an early innovator, producing chairs with interchangeable parts in an assembly-line fashion—decades ahead of Henry Ford—allowing for affordable, elegant furniture for the American middle class.

Hitchcock chairs are recognized for their wide back panels, slim slats, square drop seats, elegantly tapered legs, and hand-painted stenciling.

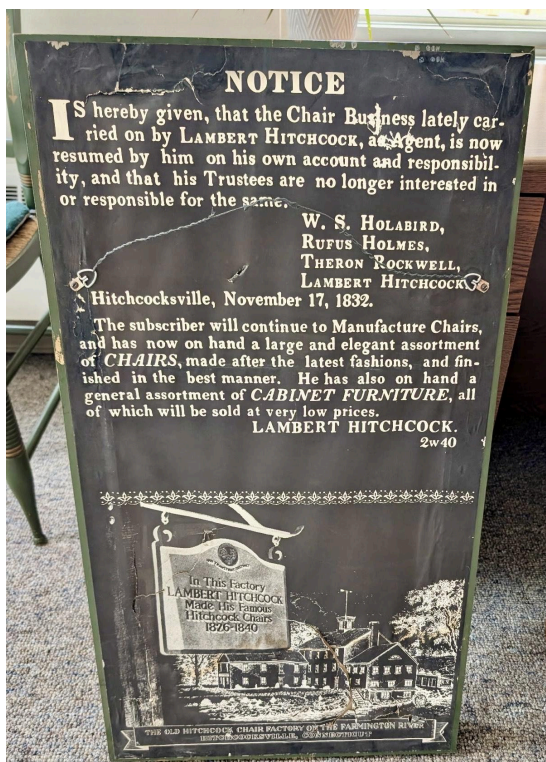
Original seats used interwoven natural cattail leaves. Trinity's chairs bear the logo of 1832–1840: *L.HITCHCOCK. HITCHCOCKVILLE, CONN WARRANTED.*

Despite his innovations, Lambert faced financial struggles and died penniless in 1852. Yet his designs endured: by the mid-20th century, Hitchcock chairs closely resembled the originals, and production continued until 2006.

These nearly 200-year-old chairs are a remarkable part of Trinity's history, connecting us to early American craftsmanship and the Episcopal Academy Lambert once attended.

If anyone knows the story of how these chairs came to Trinity, please reach out!

- Becky Wright
Trinity Episcopal Church Historian



Historic Trinity Tid-Bits

Historic Trinity Episcopal Church is truly blessed!

Hats off to McFarland Painting for their outstanding work at Trinity. Not only did they do a beautiful job, but their professionalism and great personalities made the experience even better.

A special thank-you to our Sexton, Pat Chadwick, for coordinating the preparation and cleanup—carefully taking down and moving items before painting, ensuring everything was put back in place afterward, and making sure our floors were shiny and welcoming.

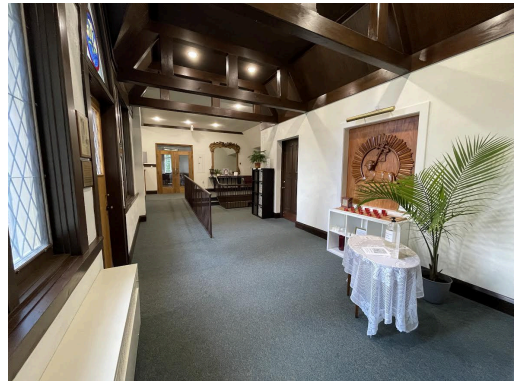
Our gratitude also goes to the Bishop Whittemore Foundation for their generous support. Their dedication to helping Episcopal churches across Michigan achieve important maintenance and improvement projects makes a tremendous impact in today's challenging world. 💕

But don't just take our word for it—come in and see the transformation for yourself!

Order of photos:

- Memorial Garden entrance
- 1904 Parish Hall
- Choir door entrance (Division Street entrance)
- 1967 Parish Hall extension
- Kitchen
- New refrigerator

- Becky Wright
Trinity Episcopal Church Historian



Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry MINUTES

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Call to order and opening prayer was led by Anne Bohl at 7:00.

Present: Anne Bohl, Cherie Riser, Wendy Myers, Julie Kaminski, Zack Shippell, Jill Goodsell, and Karla Love. Absent: none

Cherie Riser motioned, and Karla Love seconded the motion to accept the September 2025 vestry minutes as presented, and the motion passed unanimously.

Wendy Myers motioned, and Jill Goodsell seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda as follows. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- Board of Missions - Low activity in October
- Worship Committee – Meets on October 26. Canon Tracie will celebrate HE on Nov 16.
- Pastoral Care – Visits with our members who are ill or in rehab.
- Trinity Historian –Submitted Bells of Peace article (Nov 11) to Advisor. Received BluFish video of Stained Glass tour. Christmas Eve reception to be hosted by the Somsels.
- Adult Bible Study – studying the upcoming Sunday scriptures.
- Sunday School/Youth Ed - Sunday School will continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Deacon Wendy will also lead Children's time in the sanctuary on Sunday School mornings.
- Staff - Staff performance reviews are being conducted.
- Building & Grounds - No October meeting as waiting on bids.

Financial Report

- Reports were reviewed.
- It was decided that moving some of the MCCU accounts to a Kasasa account to get higher interest will not work due to account requirements.
- 2026 pledge letter was drafted by Tasha Shippell and will be sent in October. Discussed emailing the letter and the pledge form versus mailing with the postal service, but determined this communication is best via postal service.

Discussion was held on the status of our search for the Rector. Vestry will be reaching out to St. James for their thoughts and to the Diocese for more support.

Old Business:

- Trinity Communication/Social Media Policy was presented. Anne Bohl motioned, and Wendy Myers seconded to approve the policy, and it passed unanimously.
- Establishment of a Trinity Communication Team was also presented, and we will work with the Parish Administrator to discuss further.

- The Vestry will not be doing Mrs. Claus' Purse fundraiser as November is such a busy month.
- Zack Shippell is working on Trinity-imprinted clothing with FUG. We hope to have samples soon.
- The Vestry viewed Trinity's new website and plan to share it after Sunday Service. Kudos to Anne Bohl and Cherie Riser for the beautiful graphics and written messages on the site.
- The Worship Committee has approved the removal of the *two back pews* on the east side to move the DAVE desk into this space. Jill Goodsell motioned and Julie Kaminski seconded the motion to use funds in the 2025 Hardware/Computer budget line for this work. Motion passed unanimously. Donor money is needed to cover the expenses of this rewiring project quoted by BC Sound.
- Trinity is hosting the Marshall Chamber "What's Brewing" event on Thursday, November 13th at 8 am in the Parish Hall - a breakfast meeting with 60-85 attendees. Tables will be set on Wednesday afternoon, November 12th, at 3 pm. Karla Love will be at the church at 7 a.m. on Thursday to greet Patty Williams.
- Deacon Wendy will attend the Diocesan Convention along with delegates Jill Goodsell and Karla Love on October 24-25. Sunday, October 26 will be a Day of Prayer for the Diocese of the Great Lakes.
- Proposal for Holy Ground for Whole Communities offered by diocese consisting of Four-session hybrid training. Application is open until Nov 30.

New Business:

- Discussion was held on the proposed 2026 Working Budget, and several budget lines still need to be filled in after further research.
- Fr. Rick has agreed to serve Trinity twice a month through 2026 or as needed.
- Sanctuary changes recommended by Worship Committee will commence. Need a small crew to remove the pew dividers and one pew on west side of sanctuary. Goodsell and Bohl families will set times to do this.
- A motion was made to approve the Letter of Agreement for Deacon Wendy by Anne Bohl, seconded by Cherie Riser and passed unanimously.
- Julie Kaminski motioned to approve the Letter of Agreement for Diane Vezmar, Zack seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- Staff Performance Evaluations are taking place this month, and the personnel committee recommended a pay increase for 2026. The staff has been doing an excellent job maintaining the parish operations while we are without a priest. Each team member is dependable, dedicated, and performs their duties enthusiastically. Anne Bohl motioned to approve the wage increase, Julie Kaminski seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment and closing prayer provided by Anne Bohl.

Cards Appreciated This Holiday Season

As we enter this season of warmth and care, we invite our parish family to send holiday cards to those who are unable to join us on Sundays.

If you would like mailing addresses, please contact the parish office during business hours, stop by for a printout of addresses, or email rikki.mileski@trinityofmarshall.org for details.

Rev. David and Deborah Ottsen
Ellen Stewart
Kathy Fryar
Dick and Abbey Mortensen
Shirley Coulter
Jan Christner
Judy Kidder
John and Harriet Montgomery
Ginny Baldwin
Dick and Sue Lackey
Jim and Jan Needham
Hugh Welsh

A Note from Father David and Deborah

Dear Friends: Deborah and I have been overwhelmed by your generosity, prayers, offerings of food, and by having several members come to our home for a visit! We thank you so much. We pray you all have had a good Thanksgiving Day. While there is much in our world that vexes, there is far more for which to give thanks to God. Of those things, for Deborah and me, that is Trinity of Marshall.

Deborah's healing is indeed a very slow process. Right now, we are in what I am describing as a "holding pattern". We are hopeful that the procedure done in early October will at least lead to a healing of her head trauma. We are told that it takes a while, so we are trying to be patient. So your prayers for patience and healing are much welcomed by both of us.

Again, thank you and praise God for bringing us together!

Love in Christ, Fr. David & Deborah Ottsen



Please keep the following members of our parish family in your prayers.

Suzanne, Julie, Ellen, Sue, Dick, Hugh, Jan, Jim, Shania, Shirley, Cindy, Father David & Deborah, Nancy, Dick, Becky, Joel, Stacy, Mike, Randy, Brooks, Beth, Lee, Pat, Karen, and Sharon.

December Calendar - What's Happening at Trinity This Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	12pm AA Meeting	10am Bible Study 12pm AA Meeting 7pm Pastoral Care Team	12pm AA Meeting 1pm Senior Fitness & Fun	12pm AA Meeting 6pm Tai Chi-Senior Health Partners/Free	12pm AA Meeting	9am AA Meeting
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30am Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 1:30pm AA Meeting 2pm MACS Christmas Week	8:30am MACS Christmas Week 12pm AA Meeting	8:30am MACS Christmas Week 10am Bible Study 12pm AA Meeting 6:30pm Board of Missions	8:30am MACS Christmas Week 12pm AA Meeting	7:45am MACS Christmas Week 12pm AA Meeting 6pm Tai Chi-Senior Health Partners/Free	12pm AA Meeting	9am AA Meeting
14 Joyful Sunday	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30am Service 10:30am Parish Potluck 1:30pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting	10am Bible Study 12pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting 1pm Senior Fitness & Fun	12pm AA Meeting 6pm Tai Chi-Senior Health Partners/Free 7pm Vestry Mtg	12pm AA Meeting	9am AA Meeting
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27
9:30am Service 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Hour 1:30pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting	10am Bible Study 12pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting 3:30pm Christmas Eve Celebrations 5pm Christmas Eve Service		12pm AA Meeting	9am AA Meeting
28	29	30	31	1/1	1/2	1/3
9:30am Service 10:30am Coffee Hour 1:30pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting	10am Bible Study 12pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting	12pm AA Meeting	9am AA Meeting

December 2025 Worship Schedule

Date	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 24	Dec 28
Celebrant	Father Rick	Father Rick	Tasha Shippell	Father Rick	Anne Bohl
Deacon	Deacon Wendy	Deacon Wendy	Deacon Wendy	Deacon Wendy	Deacon Wendy
Broadcast	Marguerite Grupke	Julie Kaminski	Zack Shippell	Anne Bohl	Julie Kaminski
First Reader	Sara Huggett	Elliott Huggett	Karl Loomis	Sarah Loomis	Karla Love
Second Reader	Anne Bohl, Nancy Weatherwax	Nancy Weatherwax, Patty West	Becky Wright	Patty West, Mike Love	Kara Boughton
Ushers	Jill Goodsell, Tom Goodsell	Ann Marie Renaud, Tom Goodsell	Ruth Ann Thomas, Wendy Myers	Keri Koch, Scott Koch	Ann Marie Renaud, Mike Love
Count Team	Diane Shreve, Ruth Ann Thomas	Andrea Tucker, Ann Marie Renaud	Diane Shreve, Ruth Ann Thomas	Keri Koch Ivan Egnatuk	Andrea Tucker, Paul Rauth
Coffee Host	Keri Koch, Jan Christner	Parish Potluck (Joyful Sunday)	Stacy Konkle	Somsels	Wendy Myers, Deb Kay

