

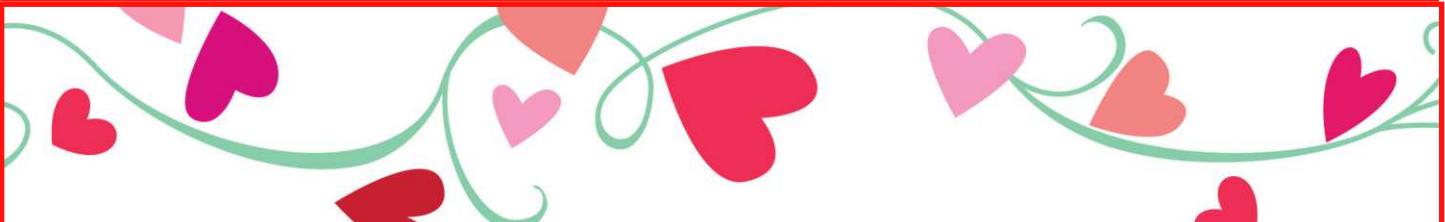
February, 2026

Trinity Merrill Lutheran Church
107 N. State Street, Merrill, WI 54452
www.trinitymerrill.com (715) 536-5482

Our Mission: Courageously Carrying Christ to our Congregation and Community

The LORD is a
compassionate and
gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding
in love.

Psalm 103:8, NIV



Amazing Things Are Happening At Trinity

Men's Club Chili Luncheon

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, February 1st, 2026



The meal will feature 10 varieties of Chili, including Beer Chili, Pineapple Chili, Lo-Sodium Taco Chili, EX-TREME Chili, White Chicken Chili and 5 choices of mild or medium chilies. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids ages 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.

Dear Friends in Christ,

February may be a short month, but it's filled with meaningful learning and spiritual growth. Each week, we celebrate our identity as a Christ-centered school and the joy of belonging to a greater community of faith. Students also take part in acts of service, which remind us that love is more than a feeling—it's an action. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support. Together, we are shaping hearts for a lifetime of faith. It is time to start thinking about friends and family who you believe would be a great fit at Trinity and who would thrive in this place. Invite them to check us out by visiting our website or calling to set up a tour. God's love, Principal Johnson

Lenten Meals at Trinity

During the season of Lent, Trinity will once again gather around the table for fellowship and nourishment as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Lenten Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continue for five Wednesdays throughout Lent. Lunch will be served at 11:00 AM, following our 10:30 AM worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a simple meal and meaningful conversation with fellow members of our Trinity family.

Lenten Dinners will begin on Wednesday, February 25, and continue for four additional Wednesdays during Lent. Dinner will be served from 5:00 PM until just before the 6:30 PM worship service, providing a convenient and welcoming time to gather before evening worship.

We are however still looking for individuals or groups to help us prepare and serve the suppers. Please contact the office if you are able to make soup or sandwiches to help bring these meals together and to bring fellowship to our Lenten services.

We look forward to sharing these meals and this sacred season together. All are welcome!

THANK YOU - Trinity would like to express it's sincere thank you to Mike Grunenwald from The Beacon and Jerome and Janice Oelke for donating much of our Communion Wine in 2025. We would also like to thank Diane & Lee Pfaff for their donation of a case of communion wine in loving memory of Linnus Schlag. It is very appreciated.

Dorcas Card Nook

A wide selection of cards are available at the Dorcas Card Nook located downstairs in the Trinity Fellowship Hall. Cards are \$6.00 per box or \$.75 each card.

Mark Your Calendars-

BOW THE KNEE, a dramatic musical for Easter will be presented here at Trinity Merrill on Saturday, March 21st at 7 PM and Sunday, March 22nd at 2:30pm. Plan to come see and hear what it must have been like to be in Jerusalem with Jesus during his life, death, and resurrection. Everyone is welcome!



Dear Trinity Families, Friends, and Supporters,



Trinity Merrill Lutheran School is excited to announce the creation of a new STEM-Innovation Lab—a hands-on learning environment where students will explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through creativity, experimentation, and problem-solving challenges.

This space will allow our students to design, build, code, invent, and discover in ways that spark curiosity and strengthen the skills they will use throughout their lives. To bring this vision to life, we are seeking donations of materials and equipment that will help stock and launch the space.

We are gratefully accepting items such as:

- Basic tools (screwdrivers, hammers, pliers)
- Craft and maker materials (cardboard, tape, markers, Q-tips, cotton balls, aluminum foil, recyclables like paper towel tubes, cottage cheese containers, cereal boxes)
- Electronics and robotics kits (Snap Circuits, LEGO robotics)
- Science supplies (magnifying glasses, tape measures, scales, flashlights)
- Building kits (LEGO, K'NEX, magnetic tiles, marble runs)
- Storage solutions (CLEAR plastic bins, rolling carts, organizers [all in working, clean condition])

A full wishlist is available upon request, and all donations—large or small—are deeply appreciated. Every contribution helps create a space where students can explore God's creation through hands-on learning and joyful discovery.

If you would like to donate materials, contribute financially, or learn more about the project, please contact, Principal Scott Johnson in the school office. Thank you for supporting Trinity's mission and helping us build a space where young minds can grow, imagine, and innovate. This project will be developed during the third quarter with some piloted classes and training to be ready for full use in the fourth quarter and beyond.

With Joy and Excitement, Principal Scott Johnson

Looking for a way to help or volunteer at church? Are you interested in being a part of something here at church....

We are actively searching for individuals to join our **Large Events Group**. It is a fun way to give back to your church and you are involved in planning the fun activities that are so appreciated by families and our community. Call the office if this sounds like something you'd enjoy being a part of.

We Love Trinity... Come See Why!!

God's Richest Blessings...

To these (80+) Seniors with Birthdays in February

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Norma Hanke..... | February 1 |
| Bonnie Radtke..... | February 3 |
| Harlan Storm..... | February 4 |
| Donna Mielke..... | February 8 |
| Irvin Rice..... | February 9 |
| Nona Zortman..... | February 11 |
| Kenneth Schmidt..... | February 11 |
| Beverly Schulz..... | February 14 |
| William Kolar..... | February 14 |
| Roger Voelz..... | February 14 |
| Jim Heiser..... | February 18 |
| Vivian Albright..... | February 18 |
| Patsy Travis..... | February 20 |
| Dorothy Klade..... | February 21 |
| Sharon Roberts..... | February 24 |
| Gerald Baade..... | February 24 |
| Bernette Steffenhagen..... | February 26 |
| Donna Woller..... | February 28 |
| Daniel Frick..... | February 28 |
| Jean Smith..... | February 28 |
| Virginia Zastrow..... | February 29 |



And these Couples with Anniversaries

(50+ years) in February

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ken & Diane Kreager..... | 53 Years on February 3 |
| Richard & Michele Moyer..... | 60 years on February 12 |
| David & Susan Smith..... | 62 Years on February 15 |
| Joe & Marlene Thomaschefsky..... | 64 Years on February 17 |
| Kenneth & Nancy Raddatz..... | 58 Years on February 17 |
| Buzz & Marjorie Fehrmann..... | 52 Years on February 23 |
| Cliff & Renee Williams..... | 54 Years on February 26 |

TRINITY OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY

Open on Wednesday's and Friday's
from 2:00-4:00

January Volunteer Recognition

Thank You, Holiday Choir Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to all who share their time, talents, and voices as part of our Holiday Choir. Through your dedication, worship was enriched with beauty, reverence, and joy. A choir offers a special opportunity to use God-given gifts, to enhance the worship experience, and to strengthen the sense of community and unity within our congregation—and you do exactly that.

One of the greatest blessings of our choir is seeing generations serve together. It's not just the singing that makes a difference—it's the smiles, the closed eyes, and the personal worship that invites all of us to draw closer to God. Together, you reminded us what it means to be one body, praising the Lord with one voice.

As we look ahead, we invite others who love to sing to consider joining our Celebration Choir. Choir is a wonderful way to enjoy fellowship, grow in faith, and praise the Lord together. We meet once a week for practice and sing during worship services mostly during holidays; dates and times will be determined.

Thank you again to our Holiday Choir volunteers—you truly help lead us in joyful praise!

Radio Broadcasts are so important to our

ministry here at Trinity. Thank you to the following for sponsoring a broadcast so we can reach our homebound listeners.

January 4- In loving memory of Deanna Koebe by husband James Koebe.

January 11- In celebration of blessings received in 2025, by Daryl & Debbie Merkel

January 18- in honor of those who have served and who are currently serving in the armed forces, by Buzz & Marge Fehrmann.

January 25- In loving memory of Charles Utecht by John & Debbie Matuszak.

Thank you to those who helped to beautify our church with altar flowers in January

January 11 - In loving memory James Kelly by wife Marge Kelly.

January 18 -In loving memory of Jack Kleinschmit, beloved husband, dad and Bapa by the Kleinschmidt and Severt Families.

January 25 In loving memory of the birthday of Kolton Gregory Norman by Adam and Manda Norman.

Reserve your 2026 Radio Broadcast -

Broadcasts are often sponsored in memory of a loved one but it's also a great way to celebrate a special occasion in your life. Broadcasts are \$190. Stop in or call the office to reserve your date.

Altar Flowers

Whether you're watching in-person or watching online... We love to see our beautiful altar adorned with flowers. The flower chart is on the wall in the hall by the office...sign up to put flowers on the altar for a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Order fresh cut flowers or a plant from the florist or make something up yourself. (real flowers or plants only please). Be sure they're delivered to church on Friday before 4:00 so we can get them on the altar. Don't forget to call the church office to advise Robin of the occasion for the flowers the week before. Thank You.

Pastoral Acts...

Baptism:

January 10, 2026 Whitley Ryah Grenfell, daughter of Ryan Pankow and Amber Grenfell.

January 11, 2026 William Todd Pritzl, son of Adam & Casie Pritzl.

January 18, 2026 Grayson Thomas Beyer, son of Jayden & Kaitlyn Beyer.

January 24, 2026 Theodore Patrick Dengel, son of Dustin and Hannah Dengel.

Death / Funeral:

Linnus Schlag - d/o/d Decemeber 16, 2025
Funeral January 7, 2026

Doris Arseneau - d/o/d December 31, 2025
Funeral January 8, 2026

Melody Pfingsten - d/o/d December 31, 2025
Funeral January 17, 2026

Donna Block - d/o/d January 9, 2026
Funeral January 16, 2026



Community and Trinity Happenings!

Griefshare at Trinity

Griefshare begins Feb. 23, 2026 from 6:00-7:30 PM and meets weekly both online (Zoom) and in person for 13 weeks. Whether it has been recent or many years since the loss of your friend, spouse, parent, sibling or child, all are welcome! (church membership not required) Registration is available at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/275994>, and includes a participant guide, (if you haven't attended previously) and access to videos and other content useful in the journey from mourning to joy. Joy may seem out of reach when learning to live without our loved ones, yet the support of others and focusing on God's word makes room for the seeming impossible process of healing. Join us and learn more at www.Griefshare.org. Grief is difficult. Share your burdens and grow through your unique healing this spring online and in person through Griefshare at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. Questions? Call Manda Norman (715)351-1399



Our 2026 Offering envelopes are here and can be found in the basement Fellowship Hall. If you cannot find yours, stop in the office and we will be sure to get you some. Offering envelopes are made for members age Grade 3 and older. (unless you give electronically.) Thank You!

Do you or someone you know need a visit from the Pastor?

Please reach out to Robin in the church office so she can schedule you for a visit from one of our pastors. Maybe your homebound, sick or just need to speak to the pastor. Our pastors, and our church family loves you and wants you to know we are here for you. Call the church office at 715-536-5482 if you need a visit.

Secret Prayer Support is Returning this Lent!

You are invited to sign up for the Secret Prayer Support Partners Program which provides you with the opportunity to pray for another worshipper here at Trinity throughout the Lenten season. The person you are praying for will, in return, be praying for someone else. You may sign up at our table in the lobby on Sun., Feb. 8, and then on Sun., Feb. 15, you will draw the name of the person you will be praying for. This is a great opportunity to pray daily or often to bless the life of the person whose name you draw. It's your gift to them! Keep the name you draw a secret until Easter time; then mail that person a signed Easter card! See you at our sign-up table! This activity is sponsored by the Prayer Team.

Thank you to the Thrivent members who have chosen to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to Trinity School. The bulk of these gifts are utilized for the Trinity Tuition Assistance Program which helps families who may not be able to afford tuition. Your gift is a blessing to many! Thank you to the Thrivent members who have applied for a Thrivent Action Team to assist with projects and activities at Trinity Lutheran School. Your volunteering is a great model of kindness and shows others how much you care. It is a new calendar year. If you would like to learn more about how you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team contact Principal Johnson at the school office.

MEET OUR 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS



Dan Riste



Mike Milligan



Jerome Oelke



Jesse Severt



Beth Houle



Chris Grunenwald



Michelle Skic



Dan Schneider



Debbie Moellendorf

Thank you to all you have supported Trinity Lutheran School's new initiatives through your donations to the Lutheran Jr. Honor Association Scholarship Fund and your donations to Trinity's newly developed STEM Lab.

A list of items is available in the office, so you can start saving items at home to help stock our supplies for when classes participate in STEM challenges.

Trinity Financial News & Happenings

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, MERRILL, WI

December 2025 PROFIT LOSS

| | Dec-25 | Dec-25 | Dec-25 | Dec-2025 | Dec-2025 | Dec-2025 | Dec-2025 | Dec-2025 | Jan-Dec. 2024 |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Ministry | Income | Expenses | Profit/Loss | YTD Income | YTD Expense | YTD P & L | YTD BUDGET | YTD VARIANCE | Prior P&L YTD |
| Church | \$ 169,996.81 | \$ 55,039.16 | \$ 114,957.65 | \$ 1,422,594.90 | \$ 735,395.95 | \$ 687,198.95 | \$ 463,286.03 | \$ 223,912.92 | \$ 624,347.41 |
| School | \$ 26,726.46 | \$ 89,357.75 | \$ (62,631.29) | \$ 726,820.81 | \$ 1,112,545.70 | \$ (385,724.89) | \$ (614,972.13) | \$ 229,247.24 | \$ (430,243.91) |
| Teacherage | \$ 750.00 | \$ - | \$ 750.00 | \$ 9,000.00 | \$ 3,351.42 | \$ 5,648.58 | \$ 7,175.73 | \$ (1,527.15) | \$ (16,282.26) |
| Child Care | \$ 58,037.33 | \$ 57,527.67 | \$ 509.66 | \$ 720,707.32 | \$ 744,040.01 | \$ (23,332.69) | \$ (47,820.09) | \$ 24,487.40 | \$ (220,162.11) |
| After School Care | \$ 1,014.00 | \$ 1,550.23 | \$ (536.23) | \$ 55,870.81 | \$ 43,020.17 | \$ 12,850.64 | \$ 5,797.50 | \$ 7,053.14 | \$ 15,209.88 |
| TOTALS | \$ 256,524.60 | \$ 203,474.81 | \$ 53,049.79 | \$ 2,934,993.84 | \$ 2,638,353.25 | \$ 296,640.59 | \$ (186,532.96) | \$ 483,173.55 | \$ (27,130.99) |

RIGHT NOW MEDIA

We are excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to RightNow Media—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has more than 20,000 videos. There's even a library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos. RightNow Media has a free App. that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. You should have already received an e-mail invitation for FREE access to RightNow Media. (If you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder.) Or Contact the Church office to receive an email invitation. ENJOY!

Is your group interested in hosting a Lenten Dinner?

DATES AVAILABLE:

February 25th
March 4th
March 11th
March 18th
March 25th

5:00 PM



Are You a Thrivent Member?

As a Thrivent member you may have Choice Dollars that can be directed to the organization of your choice. LEA is a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization. Directing Choice Dollars is easy! Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more OR call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Please take a moment to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars® to support the ongoing work of Trinity.

Memory Heart Tree

Show your love for departed loved-ones during the Month of February by writing their name on a heart and placing it on the Memory Tree in the narthex.

You may also help spread the Word of God by donating new or used Bibles or children's Bible story books and placing them under the Memory Tree. They will be given to the Homeless Shelter and the Little Libraries in Merrill. Any monetary donations will be used for Bibles as well.

Thank you - Trinity Dorcas



Seller Schedule

February 1

8:00 am - Janet & Emily Grunenwald
10:30 am - Randy & Kathy Pfantz
6:00 pm - Mark & Laurie Folz



February 8

8:00 am - Ed & Julie Cordova
10:30 am - Dennis & Jocelyn Weber
6:00 pm - Jeff & Cindy Artus

February 15

8:00 am - Fern Whiting & Jane Dehnel
10:30 am - Jennifer Rajek
6:00 pm - Al & Joy Hulke

February 22

8:00 am - Randy & Sharon Welch
10:30 am - Jim & Jean Wiseman
6:00 pm - Robin Tomajcik

March 1

8:00 am - Mary & Barb Sizer
10:30 am - Terry Swanson & Laurie Swope
6:00 pm - Dawn Ives

March 8

8:00 am - Joe and Marlene Thomaschefskey
10:30 am - Dennis & Jocelyn Weber
6:00 pm - Mark & Laurie Folz

March 15

8:00 am - Carol Holz & Donna Rhode
10:30 am - Robin Grenfell & Raena Grisa
6:00 pm - Jeff & Cindy Artus

March 22

8:00 am - Janet & Emily Grunenwald
10:30 am - Jean Ravn & Molly Schult
6:00 pm - Al & Joy Hulke

March 29

8:00 am - Ed & Julie Cordova
10:30 am - Randy & Kathy Pfantz
6:00 pm - Robin Tomajcik



If you are willing to help sell scrip during services....
Please call Grace Frick at 715-536-4985.

FEBRUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 Men's Club Chili Luncheon 8:00am Traditional Worship Service 9:15am -10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service 6:00pm Traditional Worship Service 7:00pm -9:00pm High School Youth 7:00pm -9:00pm Sr. High Youth Group | 2 1:00pm -3:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study | 3 9:30am Park Place Service 10:00am Stone Bridge Service 12:30pm Jenny Tower Bible Study 1:00pm -4:00pm Men's Club Card Party 1:15pm Jenny Tower Service 2:30pm -3:00pm Woodland Court Service 6:00pm -7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm -9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal | 4 9:00am -10:00am Prayer Warrior Ministry meets in Conference Room 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm -5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group 6:00pm Holiday Choir Practice Church Choir Room 6:30pm -8:00pm Public School Confirmation | 5 | 6 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry | 7 |
| 8 Secret Prayer Support Sign up Youth- Circuit Winter Retreat at Camp Forest Springs 8:00am Traditional Worship Service (IC) 9:15am -10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service (IC) 6:00pm Traditional Worship Service (IC) | 9 1:00pm -3:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study | 10 1:00pm -2:00pm Pastor G Bible Study 6:00pm -7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm -9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal | 11 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm -5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group 6:00pm Holiday Choir Practice Church Choir Room 6:30pm -8:00pm Public School Confirmation | 12 9:30am ELC Chapel Service at ELC | 13 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry | 14 |
| 15 Secret Prayer Support (draw names of secret Prayer Partners) 8:00am Traditional Worship Service 9:15am -10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service 6:00pm Traditional Worship Service 7:00pm -9:00pm High School Youth | 16 PRESIDENTS DAY 1:00pm -3:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study | 17 1:00pm -2:00pm Pastor G Bible Study 2:00pm -8:00pm Men's Club Meeting and Dinner 6:00pm Baptism Class 6:00pm -7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm -9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal | 18 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00am -10:00am Prayer Warrior Ministry meets in Conference Room 10:30am -11:30am Ash Wednesday Service (Traditional) (IC) 11:00am -12:00pm Lenten Lunch 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm -5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group 4:30pm -5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service (Contemporary) (IC) 5:00pm -6:00pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Holiday Choir Practice Church Choir Room 6:30pm -7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service (Traditional) (IC) 6:30pm -8:00pm Public School Confirmation | 19 2:00pm Pine Crest Service 6:30pm -8:30pm Dorcas Meeting | 20 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry | 21 7:30am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study "Living and Leading as a Man of God" |
| 22 8:00am Traditional Worship Service (IC) 9:15am -10:15am Ken Van De Zande Bible Study "The book of Ecclesiastes" 10:30am Contemporary Worship Service (IC) 6:00pm Traditional Worship Service (IC) | 23 1:00pm -3:00pm Quilters 6:00pm -7:30pm GRIEFSHARE 6:30pm Kleinschmidt Bible Study | 24 1:00pm -2:00pm Pastor G Bible Study 6:00pm -7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm -9:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal | 25 10:31am -11:00am Lenten Service 11:00am -12:00pm Lenten Lunch 1:00pm Diane Krueger Bible Study 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry 3:30pm -5:30pm Middle School (Gr. 6-8) Youth Group 5:00pm -6:30pm Lenten Supper 6:00pm Holiday Choir Practice Church Choir Room 6:30pm -7:00pm Lenten Service 6:30pm -8:00pm Public School Confirmation | 26 9:30am ELC Chapel Service at ELC 2:00pm Bell Tower Church Service | 27 2:00pm -4:00pm Food Pantry | 28 |



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107 N. State St., Merrill, WI
Phone: 715-536-5482
EMAIL: Admin@trinitymerrill.com

EDITOR / ADMIN. ASSISTANT:
Robin Grenfell

SENIOR PASTOR:
Rev. Scott A. Gustafson

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:
Rev. Jonathan Chapa

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Stephanie Chapa

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Jennifer Rajek

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR:
Scott Johnson

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & FINANCE BOOKKEEPER
Rebecca Renken

CHURCH WEBSITE:
www.trinitymerrill.com

Trinity Merrill Lutheran Church
107 North State Street
Merrill, Wisconsin 54452
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*The mission statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is:
“Courageously “Carrying Christ” to our congregation and community*

CUT AND SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH SOMEONE !


TRINITY MERRILL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
107 N. State Street,
Merrill, WI 54452
(715) 536-5482
www.trinitymerrill.com



Join us for our weekly services:

Services are in person at Church and also

on FACEBOOK at [Facebook.com/TrinityLutheranMerrill](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranMerrill)

8:00am Sunday Morning Traditional Service

10:30am Sunday Morning Contemporary Service

6:00pm Sunday Evening Traditional Service (in person only - not live streamed)

8:00 am Service can also be heard by radio on 730 AM & 96.3 FM at 10:30 am

(Communion is served in person at church the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month)