

JOURNEYS

The year is 1987. The place is Shovlain’s Drive Inn on South Locust. The event is a drive by Live Nativity Scene. The temperature is frigid! But Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men and angels all faithfully stand by for all who are in their toasty warm cars as they drive by the scene. Fast forward a couple of years and the event grows and is moved to Fonner Park. It now includes a soup supper faithfully cooked by our Methodist Men and the nativity is inside the big red barn. Brian Gallagher lends his voice to the narrative. Those viewing the scene now sit in the bleachers. It is a delightful community event. In 2019, around 500 attended this wonderful time to be together and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Then COVID hit, sadly the event was stopped. Joy of joys, now in 2025, the Live Nativity is being reinstated with the help of First Faith and a few sheep and a miniature donkey. Come join in the fellowship! Visit with Santa. Take your picture. Fill up your tummy with yummy soup and feel God’s loving gift to us as you view the nativity scene. (If you would like to be a part of the nativity, sign up soon.) The date—December 7. The time—soup served 5 to 6:30 in the Fonner Cafeteria with the Nativity taking place across the parking lot in the Big Red Barn between 5 and 7. Can’t wait to share this time with you!

Volunteer sign ups:



Actors:
signupgenius.com/go/20F054BA8A828ABFF2-60552386-2025

Other duties (cook, clean, set up, serve):
Look for the Sign up sheet with Rev. April in the office.



Speaking of Nativity, if you donate or pledge to the Sanctuary roof during December (deadline January 1st), you will receive a handcrafted Nativity to show your support. Thanks everyone that donated and is donating to the roof.

Want to write a Journeys article?
We’d love to read your story.
Call the church office at **(308) 382-1952**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
ADVENT CANDLE #1.....(ON SCREEN)
A: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God’s reign has come and is coming among us.
CALL TO WORSHIP.....(ON SCREEN)
L: Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.
P: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.
L: We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.
P: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.
L: We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God’s here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.
P: We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.
L: Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.
P: Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.
OPENING HYMN....
#196 “COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”
OPENING PRAYER.....(ON SCREEN)
God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.
OFFERTORY.....(ON SCREEN)
DOXOLOGY.....#94
PRAYER OF DEDICATION.....(ON SCREEN)
Ever-Watchful God, you call us to live not in fear, but in faithful anticipation. As we offer these gifts, we do so as people preparing our hearts, our hands, and our world for your coming reign. We confess that we often cling too tightly to our comforts and schedules, forgetting that your kingdom calls us to loosen our grip and lift our eyes. Awaken us, Lord, to the “someday” you are already shaping through our love, our justice, and our generosity. Let these offerings be signs of readiness, trust, and joy as we wait—and work—for your future to break into our present. In the name of the one who comes, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
CALL TO PRAYER.....(ON SCREEN)
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.....(ON SCREEN)
LORD’S PRAYER.....#895
HYMN OF PREPARATION....
#714 “I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED”
SCRIPTURE LESSON.....MATTHEW 24:36-44
SERMON.....“STAYED AWAKE”
APOSTLE CREED.....#881
CLOSING HYMN.....#202 “PEOPLE, LOOK EAST”
BENEDICTION

Assistive listening devices are available to anyone that needs it to experience our worship services to the fullest.



First Saturday of Advent
6 PM Traditional Worship
November 29th, 2025

SENIOR PASTOR...Rev. April Wegehaupt
(620) 212-6784
ASSOCIATE PASTOR.....Shella Choi
(816) 668-5769
NEW VISITORS/FOLLOW UP PASTOR
Carla Gunn
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY
Christina Landenberger
PASTORS EMERITUS.....Del Roper,
George Wheat
MINISTERS.....All Members
ORGANISTS:Kim Wilsey, Brenda Lambert
PIANISTS:Sharon Jensen, Joyce Victor
ADDRESS.....511 North Elm Street
Grand Island,NE 68801
PHONE.....(308)382-1952
EMAIL.....trinity@trinityumcgi.org
WEBSITE.....trinityumcgi.org
FACEBOOK/YOUTUBE.....@trinityumcgi
SATURDAY WORSHIP IN GOLLAHER CHAPEL
Traditional.....6 PM
SUNDAY WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY
Traditional or CrossPoint....9:30 AM

WELCOME ☆ CONNECT ☆ DISCOVER

We speak to God before the service,
God speaks to us during the service,
We Speak to each other after the service.

Volunteers For Service		
Greeters	Usher	Reader & Advent
Linda Clark, Pam Balderston	Margie Balderston	Bob & Joyce Meinecke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Wednesday Night Meals this week . . .
12/3/2025: Turkey Noodle Soup, Veggies w/Dip,
Cookies, Rolls



Way Seekers Book Study will begin . . .
a four-week Advent study Nov. 30. We will discuss the book, Voices of Advent, by Matthew Skinner. This book leads readers through many scripture passages, exploring how they shape our lives and our Christmas celebrations. We will consider the impact of Jesus' birth during a wide time span, from the faithful people and poets who anticipated the magnificence of the savior's birth to the angels and visionaries who praised God at the time of Jesus' birth, from John the Baptist, preparing the way for the Messiah as Jesus was about to begin his ministry, to Jesus promising to return to us in the future. Way Seekers meets each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. in Room C. Everyone is welcome to join us for this study. Books will be available in the church office. For more information, contact Bette Pore at 308-383-7299 or randbpore@gmail.



Volunteers needed December 2nd . . .
to assemble enchilada orders. Contact Rev. April. Thank you.



Get your order in for Poinsettias . . .
By December 16th! We are at that time of the year again to dedicate poinsettias. Thank you.



Baskets of Love . . .
Silent Auction is December 6th - 14th with bids ending at 11 AM. Baskets need to be dropped off the week prior, by Thursday December 4th. Proceeds go to the roof. Thank you.



Questions or comments?
Please contact the church during office hours. Thank you.



We Cordially Invite Everyone . . . in this congregation to become a member of this church, a working member. Call the church if you would like to talk it over with someone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loaves & Fishes Food Distribution . . .
December 13th, 2025 at College Park 3180 W Highway 34. Enter Tech Boulevard. Distribution is at **9:30 a.m.** until Food is gone. It is best to arrive between 9 am and 11 am. Do not arrive before 7:30 a.m. *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*



Hospital Visits & Prayer Chain . . .
If you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like to be visited or put on the prayer chain for prayer, please get in touch with the office. *Due to HIPAA security rules, Regional Medical Center cannot release the names of patients to the church.*



Advent . . .
Celebrate the coming of Christ all month long with our Advent kits! All materials are FREE and are available. Choose from these activities to make a custom Advent kit for your family:

- devotional book
- Advent calendar
- ornament craft
- star gazing party on December 14
- star diffraction glasses
- Bethlehem soup



Christmas Pageant Rehearsals . . .
are Sundays and Wednesdays. It is required to attend 4 plus rehearsals! Check the practice schedule with Christina.



Our 34th Live Nativity & Soup Supper . . .
is Sunday, December 7th from 5 - 7 PM at Fonner Park. This is free-will fundraiser for food pantries. Chili and chicken noodle soups end at 6:30 PM.



CALENDAR

November 30th - December 7th

Sunday
9:30 AM Blended Worship, Sanctuary
10:30 AM Fellowship Time, The Gathering Place
PreK - Elementary Sunday School, Nursery
Sharing Our Life Stories, Youth Room
Way Seekers Study, Room C

Monday
9:00 AM Enchilada Fundraiser Assembly, Miller Hall
4:30 PM Senior Wii Bowling, Youth Room

Tuesday
9:00 AM Enchilada Fundraiser Assembly, Miller Hall
10:00 AM Congregational Care Baskets, Parlor
Staff Meeting, The Gathering Place
1:00 PM Mathetes Study Group, Youth Room

Wednesday
5:30 PM Pick up Enchilada orders, Miller Hall
Wednesday Meals, Miller Hall
6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal, Bell Choir Room
6:45 PM Empowered Women, Youth Room
High School Youth Zone, Tower Room
Middle School Youth Zone, Rooms 1 & 2
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Zone Room
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday
6:45 AM Bible Study, Tommy's Restaurant
11:00 AM Lectio Divina, Zoom
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
1:30 PM UWF Christmas Tea, The Gathering Place
2:00 PM Coloring at the Chocolate Bar

Friday
9:30 AM Set Up Baskets of Love, The Gathering Place
1:00 PM Bulletin Folding, Parlor

Saturday Baskets of Love | Communion
5:00 PM Scripture Discussion, Parlor
6:00 PM Worship, Gollaher Chapel
7:00 PM Fellowship Time, The Gathering Place
Sunday Baskets of Love | Communion
9:30 AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary, Nursery
10:30 AM Fellowship Time, The Gathering Place
PreK - Elementary Sunday School, Nursery
Sharing Our Life Stories, Youth Room
Trinity Cup Distribution
Way Seekers Study, Room C
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Zone Room
5:00 PM 34th Live Nativity & Soup Supper, Fonner Park