



Monthly Monitor

January 2025

Coming Alive in 2025

2024 was in many ways a spiritually significant year here at Trinity Monitor. Challenges, heartache, joy and jubilation marked the course of last year here at our church and school. From the loss of loved ones in our midst who were called home to be with the Lord to the significant growth of our congregation through new school families, infant and adult baptisms, confirmations and transfers, we here at Trinity have experienced it all in the last twelve months. Through this journey of faith, the Lord has drawn us closer and blessed us with common purpose and direction as we continue to step forward. Through it all, one thing that is clearly understood by the Body of Christ at Trinity, Monitor is that we are here, at this time and in this place, to share the love and truth of Christ with others.

Yes, Jesus is the reason for the season, but He also emboldens and empowers us for service in each of the days ahead. And that is what we here at Trinity Monitor intend to do in 2025. We intend to serve the Lord. It starts in our homes and echoes down the halls of our school and through the pipes of our organ. It tolls with each

clack of our church bells as we ring in the beginning of worship. It is proclaimed from our pulpit and proliferated with the splashing of baptismal water at our font. Here, at Trinity Monitor, we serve the Lord.

And even though much has been done in this place in service to the Lord in the last 135 years, there are many new and unique ways for us to serve in the year ahead and our work here is certainly not done. Those that have gone before us in service here have been faithful and the Kingdom of the Lord has grown. It is our intention to continue forward in faithful service in the years to come. And see what the Lord has in store. Isaiah 43:19 says: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

May the New Year bring about new life and new growth in 2025 as we continue to serve the Lord in our homes, here at Trinity Monitor, and in our community.

As always, In Christ,
Pastor Seth Kaiser





Stewardship Corner

Time • Talent • Treasure

Opportunities Abound in the New Year

Each new day brings promise of a fresh start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there is something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we will accomplish great things.

God does not necessarily call us to do great things. However, He asks that we be trustworthy in small things. Jesus said, *“One who is faithful in very little is also faithful in much”* (Luke 16:10). To that end He gives us gifts, both small and big, to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesperson, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we have been given, not in having the greatest number.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compared to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God’s praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church. You may not be a wealthy corporate CEO, but you can use some of your funds to help those in need and to extend God’s kingdom.

That is why God gives us gifts and abilities so we may be equipped to serve others. *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”* (1 Peter 4:10). The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God’s glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One Who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

A New Start

The soloist began to sing a special song during the worship service. It was awful! She had somehow started on the wrong note, terribly out of tune with the accompanist. She abruptly stopped and announced she needed a new start. She then began anew with a beautiful addition to the morning worship. Had she tried to limp through the first try, people would have remembered the off-key solo. Instead, by her second start, the congregation was assisted in their worship of the Lord.

That is the way it is with our lives, too. Our first start in life, our birth, is awful because of sin. We are born with a sin condition that makes it impossible for us to please God no matter how hard we try. We are captive to disobedience of God and His Law, to “doing it our way” and the passions of sin. But unlike the soloist we cannot even recognize we are out of tune with God.

Then it is God Who comes to us by His Word to show us our sin. It is He Who offers us grace and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. It is He Who by His Holy Spirit gives us that new start through Baptism. Through Baptism, we are united to Christ. Because Christ died for our sins, we are baptized into the death of sin with Him, that we may be raised to new life with Him.

Now our lives can be pleasing to God, like the soloist’s second start. Not because of our work, but because of the power of God’s gracious gift to us, Holy Baptism.





Trinity Lutheran School

The Classroom Chronicles

January 2025



I pray you had a wonderful Christmas holiday filled with family and newly created memories. One thing I am noticing with age (besides aches and pains) is how very quickly time flies by. I once read that time is one thing you never get more of - and there really are no “do overs” . I don’t usually make New Years resolutions, but I think this year I need to work at seeing time as a “gift” and treat it accordingly. Another year is dawning with all the hope and promise of a future with our lord and savior. What a blessing! What a gift!



December was filled with the anticipation of CHRISTmas and we had a lot of fun working our way through the month with some very special days. Our Preschoolers and Kindergarteners (the Cherubs) provided a delightful chapel service for us with very special songs that told the story of Christmas and then they shared that same message with our congregation in an Advent worship service. The students, and teachers, in first through eighth grade worked diligently to memorize their speaking parts, songs, and entire program for our annual Children’s Christmas Program. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate and bring family and friends to their special worship service. This is definitely a highlight of each school year and a most beloved tradition.



The Classroom Chronicles

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UNDERGROUND SPIRIT WEEK

Besides the hard work and preparation we had a bit of fun with an “Underground Spirit Week” for staff that the kids did not know about. We celebrated with *Back in Black* (all staff wore all black), *Anything but a Cup Day* (our coffee and water appeared in various vessels throughout the day - everything from vases to condiment bottles), *Socks & Sandals* (yes - it was cold, but we did it), *Tie Dye Day*, and *Flannel Friday*. We all enjoyed doing something special and I think the students got a kick out of trying to figure things out each day.



The week before break was school-wide Christmas Spirit Week planned by our Student Council. Each day was a special dress-up theme, we got to play some “Reindeer Games” for some fun and school fellowship, students had the opportunity to do their own Christmas shopping AND Santa & Mrs. Clause visited. You may wonder if there was any learning going on - and the answer is - OF COURSE. We are all good at working hard and playing hard too!



The Classroom Chronicles

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As we close out December with all the fun and excitement of CHRISTmas - we are already looking ahead to January and even the next school year. January will bring another professional development opportunity for our teaching staff, the second round of NWEA testing for our students and maybe even a snow day or two. Enrollment and re-enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is fast approaching and you can expect those materials to be distributed in February.

I am sure many, if not all of you are aware of the generous, anonymous donation we received just before Thanksgiving. All praise be to God for this amazing blessing. Our church and school leadership will be working to determine the best way to establish a student financial aide fund with the remaining money after our debts are paid in full. We are so thankful to God for providing this opportunity to not only clear our debt, but also provide a quality Christian education for those in our community as a whole. God is so good! We do ask for your continued prayers as these important decisions are made. Our focus must always be to remain good stewards of the gifts He provides so we can provide education in His name.

In HIS Service,
Mrs. Karen Friebe

Another Year is Dawning

by Frances R. Havergal, 1874

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness, in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast,
Another year of trusting, or quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above;
Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee.



Trinity's Treasures Christmas Shop was an absolute hit! The students had a blast, and the event was a roaring success. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all the wonderful members of Trinity Lutheran Church & School who generously donated their time and items to make this event so special. Your support made all the difference!



The PTO of Trinity truly outdid themselves in organizing the Christmas Shop for our students. A huge shout out to Alicia, Melissa, Alysha, and Kristen for their incredible dedication and hard work.

The middle school students and student council did a fantastic job assisting the younger students with shopping for the perfect gifts.

Announcements

BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

Happy New Year from Trinity's Athletic Booster Club! We want to thank EVERYONE who supported us throughout 2024. Our student Panther teams rely on YOU to fund our athletic program. Other schools in our league have needed to resort to some sort of 'Pay to Play' option, but we are so blessed with our army of volunteers here at Trinity! Watch for the recap of our year in the upcoming publication of Trinity's Annual Report and SAVE THE DATE for our 42nd Annual Weekend slated for August 22-24, 2025!



Our Worship on Wednesday Praise Service will resume on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:00pm. You are most welcome to join us for this time of worship and praise as we celebrate what the Lord has done for us!

WOW services will be available January and February, then we'll switch to our Lenten services on March 5th and resume WOW after Easter.

THANK YOU!

Dear Members of Trinity Congregation, I want to thank all of you for the kind words, hugs and gifts that were given to me last Sunday at the recognition of my retirement as Trinity's Adult Choir Director. Special thanks to Pastor Kaiser and the Stewardship Committee for organizing and hosting the wonderful reception last Sunday. I would also like to thank the choir members, both past and present, and Joy Feinauer, the choir's accompanist at worship services, who faithfully served their Lord by using their musical talents to enhance Trinity's worship. I am thankful that I was able to have a small part in Trinity's musical heritage for many years. May God continue to bless the many people who serve their Lord with joyfulness, singing, handbell playing and instrumental music as a part of Trinity's music groups and may these groups flourish and grow so that we can continue to praise God with the gift of music for many years to come.

Sincerely, Jan Pickelmann



Come take a peek at Valley Lutheran this January! Any and all interested families are invited to join us for a one-hour experience that showcases what VL is all about. Arrivals begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22. Please let us know you're coming and choose an arrival time that works best for you at www.vlhs.com/takeapeek. Please contact Amy Cooper, at acooper@vlhs.com with any questions.

Save the Date

8th Annual Wild Game Dinner & Auction



March 1, 2025

An Evening of Christian
Fun & Fellowship

Sponsored by
The Wild Game Dinner
Committee of Trinity Monitor



**TICKETS GO ON SALE
JANUARY 20, 2025**

\$100/PERSON

MENU INCLUDES:

Appetizers complete with
Hot Honey Duck Tenders

Full Buffet with
Elk Stroganoff and Noodles
Bison Brisket
Catfish with Lemon Capers &
Chicken Marsala w/ Wild Mushrooms

Layered Cake for Dessert

Unlimited Beverages
Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, Soda,
Beer, & Wine!

GREAT HALL BANQUET & CONVENTION CENTER

- Tickets will be on sale on our fundraising platform on Monday, January 20. We'll also be in the office on the 20th from 9am-12noon if you'd like to pay cash for your tickets. Watch the weekly bulletins for the link to our site.
- Donation Forms for the Auction will be available soon!

If you have any questions, please contact our Co-Chairs - Cortney Feinauer and Deadra Hurley

Chairman: Dave Friebe

Vice Chairman:

Treasurer: Jerry Rivet

Recording Secretary: Katie Wohlfeil

Financial Secretary: Amy Kundinger

Budget Committee

Chairman: Paul Reinsch

Vice Chairman: Jenna Kaiser

Secretary: Amy Kundinger



Elders	Ushers	Finance Committee	Stewardship	Trustees
Head Elder Paul Reinsch	Head Usher Brad Feinauer	Kim Boelter	Laurie Arnold	Open
Elders Dave Arnold Brian Berkobien Jason Gasta John Mrozinski Steve Rivet	Usher Captains Derek Young Dayna Leinberger Art Klawuhn Kevin Kundinger	Adam Hansen Kristi Feinauer Rob Samborn Katie Shaffer Ian Harris	Sandra Arnold Sandy Herzberger Linda Reinsch Terri Scheuerlein Maekong Koral-Knighton Janet Mrozinski	Open Open Open Open Open

Trinity Lutheran Church	Trinity Lutheran School	Board of Christian Education
Office: (989)662-6093	Office: (989)662-4891	Katie Wohlfeil Cortney Feinauer Kate Kaiser Jenna Kaiser Jamie-Jo Rytlewski Patsy Weiss
Pastor Seth Kaiser pastorkaiser@trinitymonitor.org	Principal Karen Friebe kfriebe@trinitymonitor.org	
Church Secretary Lisa Mrozinski churchsecretary@trinitymonitor.org	School Secretary Amy Samborn school@trinitymonitor.org	
Church Organist Joy Feinauer	School Custodian John Mrozinski	Sunday School Superintendent Melissa Messing
Church Pianist Deadra Hurley	Church Custodian Dan Behmlander	H.S. Youth Group Leader Kate Kaiser
		Stephen Ministry Supervisors Lugene McGuire (989)798-7896 Leandra Sendtko (989)450-9068

Teachers & Staff 2024-2025		
GSRP/ECH Director -Becca Setula	4th Grade -Sarah Earle	Hot Lunch -Yvonne Tennant
Preschool -Andrea Lewicki	5th Grade -Suzanne Tomashewsky	Extended Care -Ann Wegener
Kindergarten -Karrie Estes	6th Grade -Brendan Harrison	Extended Care -Dale Fish
1st Grade -Megan Gallagher	7th & 8th Grade -Judy Jean	Athletic Director -Karen Friebe
2nd Grade -Kelli Dent	Technology -John Mrozinski	Athletic Director -Nicole Marter
3rd Grade -Becky Houghteling		Athletic Director -Adam Wuerfel

“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.”

-Winston Churchill

TRINITY TIMES

SCHOOL NEWS

THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, “HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED” WAS ON DECEMBER 15 AT 3PM. THERE IS ALSO A SECOND PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 8:30 AM. ON DECEMBER 18TH, STUDENT COUNCIL HOSTED GAMES FOR PRE K-2ND GRADE, AND GAMES FOR 3RD GRADE-8TH GRADE IN THE GYM AT 8:15-9:00. ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH, PTO IS HAVING A CHRISTMAS STORE IN THE GYM, CALLED THE TRINITY TREASURES CHRISTMAS SHOP. OUR 2ND QUARTER MISSION IS FOSTER FAMILIES NAVIGATION & RESOURCE CENTER, WHERE EACH CLASS IS COLLECTING TO DONATE TO FOSTER CARE.

By: Brycen



Christmas trivia

- * Who was the Angel that appeared to Mary?
- *Where was Jesus born?
- *Where did Mary place Jesus once he was born?
- *True or false: There were animals with Jesus while he was born.
- *What does Jesus’s other name “Immanuel” mean?

CHECK ON PAGE 3 FOR ANSWERS



MADE BY : OLIVIA AND BRYCEN

SPORTS AND WORLD NEWS

WORLD NEWS

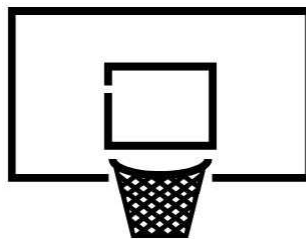
IN SYRIA THEIR PRESIDENT, BASHAR AL-ASSAD RAN AWAY. HE HAS CLUNG ONTO POWER BY USING VIOLENCE. THE PEOPLE ARE CELEBRATING THAT HE IS GONE, BUT THEY ARE ALSO SEARCHING FOR HIM BECAUSE THERE IS A CIVIL WAR GOING ON. HE IS A POWERFUL LEADER, AND HAS GOOD WAR STRATEGIES. HE RAN AWAY BECAUSE THEIR FRONT LINE WAS GETTING PUSHED BACK. THEY WERE SLOWLY LOSING LAND ALONG WITH PEOPLE. WHEN HE WAS THERE HE WAS UNLEASHING AIRSTRIKES ON TURKISH FORCES.

ON DECEMBER 6TH AN ARCHAEOLOGIST WAS DIGGING UNDER THE SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH IN HUNGARY, AND FOUND A COFFIN. IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE BURIAL PLACE OF THE ORIGINAL SANTA, WHO DIED IN THE 1100S. IN AROUND 1300 HE WAS MOVED SOMEWHERE IN SPAIN, WHERE HE REMAINS UNFOUND TO THIS DAY.



BASKETBALL SEASON

CURRENTLY THE PANTHERS B BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM IS AT A RECORD OF 3 AND 5, AND WE HAVE HAD A GREAT SEASON. WE PLAYED IN THE PEACE TOURNAMENT WHERE WE PLACED LAST BUT WE HAD GOOD GAMES. MAX'S FAVORITE MOMENT IS WHEN HE HIT A HALF COURT SHOT IN PRACTICE. JUDAH'S FAVORITE BASKETBALL MOMENT THIS YEAR IS WHEN WE HAD A COME BACK AGAINST FAITH. HARRY'S FAVORITE MOMENT IS WHEN HE HIT A BUZZER BEATER. CAMERON'S FAVORITE MOMENT IS WHEN HE HIT A SHOT FROM THE RED LINE.



**A Basketball Games (Times subject to change)
(boys play first/girls play second)**

- January 6 @ Calvary Baptist, Midland (GIRLS ONLY) 4:30 pm
- January 10 HOME vs. Immanuel BC/St. Paul Frankenlust 5:00 pm
- January 15 @ St. John Midland/Zion Auburn 4:30 pm
- January 17 @ St. Peter Hemlock 5:00 pm
- January 22 HOME vs. Faith BC 4:30
- January 24 @ Immanuel BC/St. Paul Frankenlust 5:00 pm
- January 31 HOME vs. St. John Midland/Zion Auburn 5:00 pm

SUPER BOWL CONTENDERS?

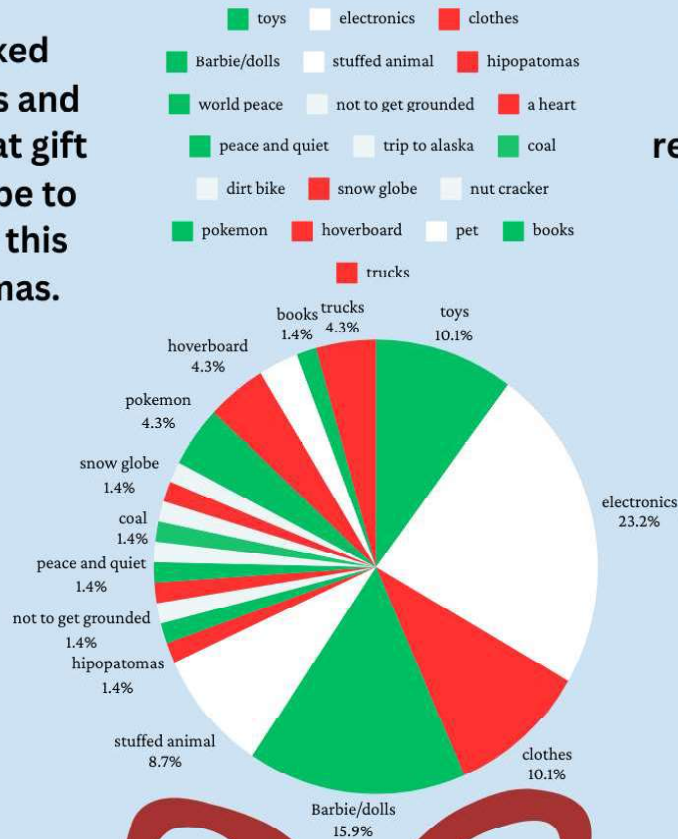
AS YOU MAY KNOW THE DETROIT LIONS ARE ON A ROLL. THEIR CURRENT RECORD IS 12-2 AFTER A DEVASTATING LOSS AGAINST THE BUFFALO BILLS. THE LIONS DO HAVE A GUARANTEED SPOT IN THE PLAYOFFS. THE DETROIT LIONS ARE ALSO VOTED THE FAVORITE TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL. AS WE WISH THEM THE BEST OF LUCK, LET'S GO LIONS!



FIELD TRIP AND SURVEY RESULTS PAGE 3

We asked students and staff what gift they hope to receive this Christmas.

Here are the results with their most popular answers.



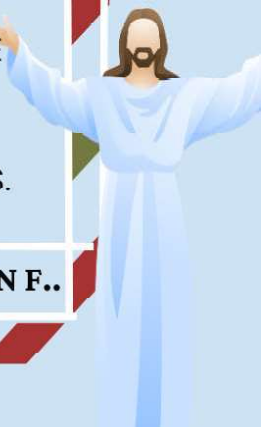
FIELD TRIPS

5TH & 6TH GRADE WENT ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL. IT WAS A FUN DAY, AND IT WAS ENJOYED. WE ASKED QUESTIONS ON WHAT THE STUDENTS' FAVORITE PARTS WERE AND THESE WERE THE ANSWERS. ONE PERSON SAID, "HOW FANCY THE CAPITOL IS." ANOTHER SAID, "SEEING THE LEGISLATIVE ROOMS AND LEARNING HOW THEY MAKE THE LAWS." THE LAST PERSON SAID, "SEEING WHAT WAS ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM AND THE DIFFERENT DECORATIONS."

PAGE BY: HARRISON R., ELIZA W., JOSHUA S. AND CAMERON F..

Answers to Trivia

1. Gabriel
2. Bethlehem
3. Manger
4. True
5. "God with us"

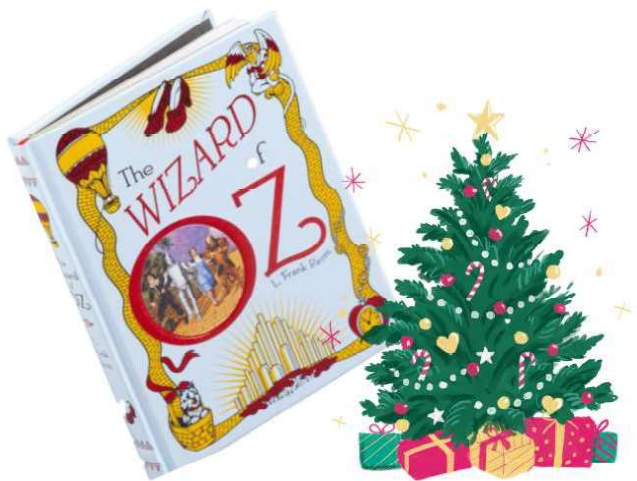




**Book review:
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz**

THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ IS THE BOOK THAT STARTED THE MOVIE; THE WIZARD OF OZ, THE WICKED BOOK SERIES, THE BROADWAY MUSICAL, AND THE NEW MOVIE THAT JUST CAME OUT LAST MONTH STARRING ARIANA GRANDE AND CYNTHIA ERIVO. I RECENTLY REREAD THIS BOOK AND I CAN PROUDLY SAY THAT THIS BOOK IS DEFINITELY A CLASSIC. IN CHAPTER 1 IT TELLS US ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL NAMED DOROTHY WHO LIVED IN THE MIDST OF THE GREAT KANSAS PRAIRIES WITH HER LITTLE DOG, TOTO, HER AUNT EM, AND UNCLE HENRY. DOROTHY HAS LIVED WITH HER AUNT AND UNCLE EVER SINCE SHE BECAME AN ORPHAN AND THEY ARE STILL AMAZED THAT SHE HAS ANYTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT ANYMORE. IN THIS WORLD WHENEVER SOMEONE LOSES HOPE OR BECOMES MISERABLE, THEY TURN GRAY. HER UNCLE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT JOY IS AFTER WORKING IN THE FIELDS FOR SO LONG, AND HER AUNT HAS GROWN OLD AND THE SUN AND WIND EVENTUALLY CHANGED HER. ONLY DOROTHY AND TOTO ARE NOT GRAY YET. IN THE DISTANCE, UNCLE HENRY HEARS A LOW WAIL OF WIND AND YELLS TO HIS WIFE AND NIECE TO GET TO THE CELLAR, BUT DOROTHY CANNOT FIND TOTO ANYWHERE. FINALLY SHE CAUGHT HIM AND THE HOUSE SHOOK SO HARD THAT DOROTHY LOST HER FOOTING AND FELL ONTO THE GROUND. WHILE THE HOUSE STILL SHOOK, DOROTHY AND TOTO MADE THEIR WAY INTO THE TRAP-DOOR AND WAITED FOR HOURS IN HER BED ASLEEP WHILE INSIDE THE CYCLONE.

WHEN THE HOUSE STOPPED SPINNING, DOROTHY WAS GREETED BY SHORT GNOME-LIKE CREATURES WHO CALLED THEMSELVES MUNCHKINS. THE MUNCHKINS THANK HER FOR KILLING THE “WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST” WHOM DOROTHY KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT. IN THE REST OF THIS BOOK YOU WILL READ ABOUT DOROTHY’S AMAZING JOURNEY BACK HOME TO KANSAS WITH THE HELP OF A SCARECROW, A TIN WOODMAN, A LION, A WIZARD, AND GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH OF THE NORTH. IF YOU LIKE MAGICAL CLASSICS WITH QUICK PACED CHAPTERS AND EVENTS THEN THIS BOOK IS FOR YOU. BY ELIZA W.



AS YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW, HUNTING SEASON IS HERE. IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS SHOT A DEER AND YOU SEND IT TO THE EMAIL AT THE END WE WILL PUT IT IN OUR NEXT ISSUE. STOMASHEWSKY @TRINITYMONITOR.ORG. THANK YOU! BY CAM F.

Calling all artists!
I am proud to announce that the Trinity Times will be hosting a drawing contest! We will be featuring a drawing or painting of a panther, drawn by one of our students each month in the newspaper. To have a chance of getting your piece in the paper, give it to your teacher and we'll pick one to be featured in the paper. Make sure to put your name and grade on the back! By Eliza W.

