**Trinity Lutheran School First Grade Overview**

**Religion:** One in Christ: Exploring God’s Word is a series of nine storybook/workbooks teaching the Bible stories from creation to the life of Jesus.  Students learn of God’s love and how to show that love in our lives for others. They memorize selected Bible verses twice a week, the Ten Commandments, The Lord’s Prayer, and the Apostles’ Creed.  Each Wednesday the students attend a school chapel service, and at least once a year they help lead the service. Prayer and sharing from God’s Word and intertwined throughout the day.

**Reading:** In first grade students continue to learn to read!  We use the Houghton Mifflin Series called, Journeys. First graders begin with reviewing the sounds learned in kindergarten, blending sounds to form words, building a sight word vocabulary, and work into sentences and meaning of words.  They do writing of their own and as a class group. Reading daily in silent reading and at story time is done daily. Our school also offers a program called Accelerated Reader where the students read and take comprehension quizzes to earn points.  This is done twice a week. We encourage daily reading at home and the use of the Pizza Hut Book It program.

**Phonics:** Phonics reinforces the sounds and letters for reading.  We use the Saxon Phonics program and Pathways for Reading.  Each day we review and build on the sounds already learned before learning new sounds.

**English:** Students apply grammar and writing skills to their daily work in writing and speaking.

**Spelling:** Pathways to Reading is a program that uses phonics to teach groups of words with similar sounds.  Spelling tests are done weekly along with daily work.

**Mathematics:** In Saxon Math we review daily to build a foundation of working with math concepts.  Students learn basic concepts of addition and subtraction. They develop problem solving skills as well as geometry, fractions, graphing, money, time, measurement, and two-digit addition and subtraction.  Skills are practiced daily with the use of many math manipulatives.

**Science:** The Nancy Larson curriculum includes life science, earth science, and health and safety.

**Social Studies:** The curriculum includes units related to sociology, history, economics, citizenship and geography.  They learn patriotic songs and pledges to the American and Christian flags.

**Art:** Lessons provide drawing, painting, texture, color, printing, and mosaics.

**Music:** Students have music instruction three times a week.  Music involves singing, playing instruments, dancing, and listening.  They learn many kinds of songs including songs and hymns to sing in chapel and in church.  Students perform at the nursing home, at churches, and our school Christmas program and Spring Musical.

**Physical Education:** Physical education provides opportunities to develop and grow in health, fitness, and motor skills.  They learn sportsmanship and team play.

**Computer:** Students show knowledge of basic computer skills, including keyboarding skills.

**Cultural Experiences:** Students go on several field trips that enhance social studies and science units.