



TRINITY TRIANGLE

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, LATROBE, PA
GROWING IN FAITH • REACHING OUT IN LOVE • MAKING DISCIPLES

VOL LXXVI

NUMBER: 12

MONTH: DECEMBER 2023

December Pastor's Corner

Merry Christmas!

Well, *almost*, anyway. We spend the month of December in anticipation of the birth of Jesus, watching as lights glow on houses and in windows in these darkest nights of the year. We also spend time paying attention to the needs and hopes of others around us. We work to create magic for the children in our lives. And as exhausting as this busy season is (what with its shopping and wrapping and cards and... well, the list goes on and on as you well know!), wouldn't it be amazing if we could capture this spirit and savor it all year long?

I don't think it's a far stretch for us to say that Trinity does just this! We do a pretty remarkable job of caring for the needs of others, from our Social Chit-Chat, Shepherd's Shop, Club FRED and our youth activities, our women's groups, purling and quilting, etc, we are continually engaging our community and our members. We rejoice at the recognition we'll receive this month as Trinity has (again!) been ranked among the "Simply the Best" of Westmoreland County!

As we look toward the year ahead, I pray you'll join us in our work as we prepare the way for Jesus. Help us to bring the precious light of God into the darkest corners of our world by sharing the love and hope of Christ with others. There are countless ways to "plug in" to the events and ministries here and sustain our common mission to be a growing community of disciples of Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of God's love with all.

With Christ's holy love,

Pastor Jess

Advent Morning Communion

We are excited to announce the **return of Morning Communion and Devotions during Advent**. Starting on **December 5th**, we will gather on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays** at 8:00am in the sanctuary or on the Livestream for this quiet and wonderful way to begin our day. The theme will flow from our Stewardship emphasis, **"I Love to Tell the Story"**, and will focus on the stories of different characters in the Nativity Story. Each service will last about 25 minutes to get you out the door to work or breakfast!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve— 10:00 am (4th week of Advent)

6:00 pm and 8:30 pm with Choir and Handbells

Christmas Eve Drive Thru Communion—7:15 pm between services

Christmas Day— 10:00 am service only

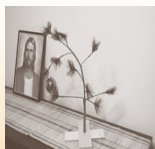
Drop-In for Cookies & Cocoa at the Felicis' House!

YOU are invited! Take a drive through Wimmerton to see the neighborhood Christmas lights and drop-in between 6:30-8:30PM on December 11th at the Felicis' house for cookies and cocoa. All are welcome to stop by and say hello for this event! The Felicis' address is: 111 Carlsbad Ct, Latrobe, PA. Please be mindful of parking in the cul-de-sac to make room for others who may stop by!

www.CreativeCertificates.com

Social Chit Chat Christmas Gathering

Come join us on December 11th for our **1st annual Christmas Gathering**. Bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies to share, while we reminisce of our old Christmas traditions. Like singing Christmas Carols and decorating a Charlie Brown Christmas Tree. We'll meet from 10:00am—12:00pm. Hope to see you there.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Get into the Christmas Spirit, even though it is Advent-by singing Christmas songs as we go caroling on **Sunday, December 17th** following the late worship service. We gather in Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and depart shortly thereafter. "Can't sing" you say? Come for the fun and fellowship and you can hum along! Please sign up on the Bulletin Board across from the Lounge today!





ELCA World Hunger

Offerings collected each week go a long way to bring hope to many in need. Thank you!
ELCA World Hunger Offerings YTD: \$7,963.50

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

(located in the front narthex or drop off in the office). In **December** we will be collecting **paper towels** for the Greater Latrobe Food Pantry.



Baptisms

Cheyenne Ava Horvath 11/19/2023

Deaths



Gloria Mitchell 11/7/2023
Helen Mullen 11/12/2023
Thomas Beard 11/13/2023
Carol Johnson 11/22/23
Howard Frye 11/23/23
Donald DeMine 11/23/23
John Hunter 11/26/23

Treasurer's Report for October 2023

Current Month

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	60,672.27	44,670.00	16,002.27
Total Expenses	54,113.51	50,272.00	3,841.51
Cash Flow	<u>6,558.76</u>	<u>(5,602.00)</u>	<u>12,160.76</u>
	<u>Year to Date</u>		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	465,282.22	410,235.00	55,047.22
Total Expenses	512,683.07	518,460.00	(5,776.93)
Cash Flow	<u>(47,400.85)</u>	<u>(108,225.00)</u>	<u>60,824.15</u>

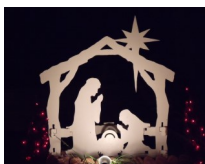
Please note:

- 1) Income includes \$11,155.00 per month taken from endowment interest.
- 2) Thanks to everyone for the continued financial support. So far this year the deficit has been reduced to \$47,400.85 from a budgeted one of \$108,225.00.
- 3) Average attendance 196

Usher's Schedule

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec 2, 2023	5:30	Linda McDowell	Donna Showalter
		David Rock	Ron Gess
Dec 3, 2023	8:15	Sandy Kisick	Herb Harris
		Keith Bronson Sr	Keith Bronson Jr
	10:45	Becky Tomlinson	Bill Stein
		Anna Hudec	Glenn Gold
Dec 9, 2023	5:30	Linda McDowell	Donna Showalter
		David Rock	Ron Gess
Dec 10, 2023	8:15	Sandy Kisick	Herb Harris
		Keith Bronson Sr	Keith Bronson Jr
	10:45	Matt Clever	Kelly Clever
		Tim Potter	Eli Clever
Dec 16, 2023	5:30	Kasha Loveridge	Don Loveridge
		Jay Elder	John Elder
Dec 17, 2023	8:15	Sandy Kisick	Melinda Terney
		Kathy Jones	Mark Jones
	10:45	Matt Clever	Kelly Clever
		Tim Potter	Eli Clever
Dec 23, 2023	5:30	Kasha Loveridge	Don Loveridge
		Jay Elder	John Elder
Dec 24, 2023	10:00am	Susan Vargo	Ann Hudec
		Glen Gold	
	6:00pm	Ann Hudec	Glen Gold
	8:30pm		
Dec 25, 2023	10:00	Sandy Kisick	Betty Brasile
		Susan Vargo	
Dec 30, 2023	5:30	Linda McDowell	Donna Showalter
		David Rock	Polly Yurek
Dec 31, 2023	8:15	Sandy Kisick	Melinda Terney
		Kathy Jones	Mark Jones
Dec 31, 2023	10:45	Mike Macey	Jill Macey
		Anna Hudec	Glenn Gold

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & BREAKFAST



Everyone is invited! Come and join us in Fellowship Hall for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17th at 9:30am. Breakfast will be served.

Club 456 Escape Room Event

Children in grades 4, 5, and 6 are invited to join the pastors for a **Christmas-themed Escape Room** event held at Trinity on Thursday, December 28 from 1:00-4:00 PM. We'll have snacks and a few activities as well. Parents are welcome to drop off or to stay and fellowship during this event. Sign-ups for helpers are limited and clearances for adult helpers are required. Permission slips are available on the youth bulletin board located directly across from the church office!

Youth Quake & ELCA Youth

Gathering

The priority deadlines might have passed, but **it isn't too late** to sign up to attend Youth Quake (Feb 9th—11th, 2024) and/or the ELCA Youth Gathering (July 16th—20th, 2024)! Check out the information on the Youth Bulletin Board across the hall from the office, or get in touch with Pastor Jess to get signed up! We would love all of our 6th-12th graders to attend Quake, and all of our 8th-12th graders to head to New Orleans with us for the Youth Gathering.

Christmas Basket

Update

We are please to announce that we are at our limit for distributing the Christmas Baskets.

Although we are still in need of donations to supply the food for the baskets.

Pack Boxes: Friday, Dec 15 at 8:00am

Distribution: Saturday, Dec 16 at 8:00am



Election Results and Budget Vote

Congratulations to the newly elected council members to three year terms: Joe Bruzda, Darlene Hoffman, Jarrett Nicely, Dana Shannon; and a two year term: Tiffany Varadi. Elected youths: Claire Benning and Kaden Shannon.

Budget Adoption Result 144 yay—5 nay

Constitution Changes 142 yay—3 nay

Updates from the November 21, 2023 Council Meeting

- Treasurer's Report
 - * Trinity is grateful that our members continue to give above the budgeted amount. Generous giving continues to reduce the amount of our 2023 budget deficit.
- Ministry Report
 - * Pastors' Reports
 - ◇ There were seven funerals in October this year.
 - ◇ The pastors are trying to increase their visits to nursing homes for "urgent visits".
 - ◇ Confirmation weekend was very successful!
 - ◇ The lock-in was well attended even as it was rescheduled.
 - ◇ Church attendance continues to grow.
- Council members were updated on the work of:
 - * Personnel Committee
 - * Digital Ministry
 - * TLC House
 - * Stewardship Committee
 - * New council members to begin at the December 19th meeting:
Jarrett Nicely, Darlene Hoffman, Joe Bruzda, Dana Shannon, Tiffany Viradi, Claire Benning (youth), Kaden Shannon (youth).
Outgoing council members include Herb Harris, Mike Macey, Dana and Kaden Shannon. Their work and dedication to Trinity was noted and truly appreciated.
- Council members approved:
 - * Recommendations from the Finance Committee, Special Gifts Committee, and Congregational Meeting Minutes from November 2022.
 - * Motions from Finance Committee:
 - ◇ To renew our Mission Investment Fund CD of \$7000 for 5 years at 4.18%.
 - * Motions from Executive Committee
 - ◇ To accept the Digital Ministry Scope of Work for the year ending December 31, 2024 for Dana Shannon.
 - ◇ To accept the 2024 Scope of Work as a replacement for the one approved by council in April 2022.
 - ◇ To affirm that the Executive Committee will supervise the work on behalf of the council, Dana Shannon has agreed to abstain from serving as an officer in 2024.
 - * Motions from Personnel Committee
 - ◇ To approve the Child Protection Policy Handbook to be accepted as a separate form under CR13.04J23.

Congratulation to the 2023 Confirmation Class

Left to right: Pastor Jason, Kaden Shannon, Brady Kronenwetter, Nina Scalise, Claire Benning, Alexa Darazio and Pastor Jess



Art Work Painting Winner

Members of the congregation attending services November 11 and 12 were able to view the four works that were under consideration to be added to the Trinity Art Collection. They then voted for their choices. Receiving the highest number of votes was ***RIPPLE OF THE MOUNTAIN STREAM MEMORIES*** by Diana Williams. This peaceful painting of a young girl wading in a stream brought back memories for many of us and also let us see again the beauties of God's world through a child's eyes.



The second highest number of votes went to ***BEFORE SCHOOL*** by Alan Byrne. Two little girls from a rural community are painted in subdued tones in contrast to the first painting. We see them as children in a seemingly sad economic situation; however, they wait to go to school and the possibility for a better future. Hope is the defining symbol here. Through a contribution in memory of Corinne Bollinger, this work will also become part of the Trinity Art Collection.



Property Committee

Interested in beautifying your church? Consider joining The Property Committee, no experience necessary. All ideas are welcome. We will be meeting once a month starting January 2024. For details contact Walter Vargo at wjvargo@msn.com. Also check Trinity News for posted meeting day and time.

Thank you from the Waldron Family

We truly want to thank everyone who offered prayers and support during David's illness and passing. We are grateful to all who participated in his memorial service and made it so special, and to Jane and the cooking crew for the lovely luncheon.

Your support, caring thoughts, and actions were a great comfort to us.

Thank you,
Kathy Waldron and Family

Church Projects

- 1)-repaired ceiling leading into Sunday school rooms-plaster was falling off ceiling from previous leak.
- 2)-fixed double doors going into storage room in fellowship hall-doors wouldn't close properly and needed moulding and kick plates.
- 3)-repaired lights in headstart hallway
- 4)-repainted and put new wire on advent wreath



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & WORLD HUNGER MEMORIALS

The congregation is invited to share in the decorating of the Chancel for Christmas by ordering poinsettias and/or donating to world hunger. If you would like to memorialize or honor a loved one, fill out the order form below & return it along with payment (checks made out to Trinity Lutheran Church) by the **end of business day on December 11.**

_____ Poinsettia(s) @ \$9.00

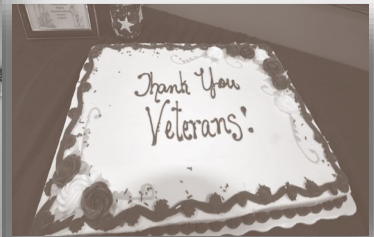
\$ _____ World Hunger

in memory of:

_____ in honor of:




_____ given by:

As We Celebrate Our Brave Men and Women of the Military on Veterans Day



December 2023

Merry Christmas

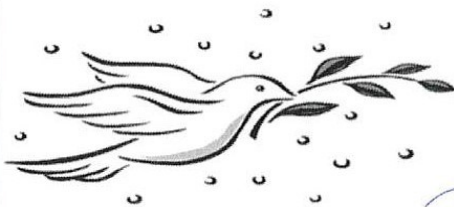
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00 AA mtg	2 9:00 Decorate for Advent Sanctuary, 10:00-3:00 Advent Family Craft & 'Cocoa' 5:30 Spoken Communion
3 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion	4	5 8:00 AM Communion 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:00 Executive 7:00 Handbells	6 8:00 AM Communion 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg 2:00 Holiday Support Group 7:15 Choir	7 8:00 AM Communion 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00 BPW 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	8 12:00 AA mtg	9 FH rented 5:30 Spoken Communion
10 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	11 10:00 Social Chit Chat Christmas Gathering 6:30-8:30 Drop in at the Felicis	12 8:00 AM Communion 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:00 Finance 7:00 Handbells	13 Council Deadline 8:00 AM Communion 9:00 WELCA Quilters 11:00 NCR 12:00 AA Mtg 2:00 Holiday Support Group 5:30 Outreach 6:00 GPRG 7:15 Choir	14 8:00 AM Communion 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED Dinner 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	15 8:00 Pack Christmas Baskets 12:00 AA mtg 1:30 Esther Circle (Christmas Party)	16 8:00 Christmas Basket Pickup 5:30 Spoken Communion
17 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Christmas Pageant 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Christmas Caroling Light Lunch	18 2:00 Loyalhanna Church Svc	19 8:00 AM Communion 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:30 Council 7:00 Handbells	20 Triangle Deadline 8:00 AM Communion 12:00 AA Mtg 2:00 Holiday Support Group 7:15 Choir	21 8:00 AM Communion 4:00 Club FRED 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	22 Office/ building closes at noon 12:00 AA mtg	23 5:30 Spoken Communion
24 10:00 Holy Communion (Advent 4) 6:00 Holy Communion 7:15 Drive Thru Communion 8:30 Holy Communion	25 10:00 Holy Communion 	26 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 7:00 Miriam Circle	27 12:00 AA Mtg	28 1:00-4:00 Club 456 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	29 Mail Triangle Office/ building closes at noon 12:00 AA mtg	30 5:30 Spoken Communion
31 8:15 Holy Communion 10:45 Holy Communion		Holiday Hours: The Office will be open 8am-12pm on both Friday, December 22nd and Friday, December 29th. The office will be closed both Christmas Day and New Year's Day.				

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
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Peace on Earth...



"And let the
peace of Christ
rule in your hearts."
Colossians 3:15

Kathy Houck
Pastor Jess
Love you, All!
Barb Miller
LOU
PATTY Demine
Walter Vance
P. r. Jason
Rebbie Marley
Dan Carbo