



TRINITY TRIANGLE

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

NUMBER: 12 & 1

MONTH: DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 2026

Pastors Corner

Happy New Year!

I don't wish you this sentiment just because this Triangle combines both December and January, I wish it to you because Advent marks the beginning of our Liturgical Calendar! The season of Advent does the new year for Jesus' Church and we kick things off with a season of Preparing. For many of us, these preparations include hanging lights outside and bringing a tree indoors... two slightly silly and seriously beautiful traditions. But in the church it means we hear stories about Jesus' return; we commit to preparing our hearts for not only Jesus' birth but also his coming again.

In this season of new beginnings, we here at Trinity are kicking off a new worship opportunity on Christmas Eve! We will add a **4pm service** with spoken liturgy and sung Christmas Carols to our schedule. While we're hoping this service will help accommodate more young families, ALL ages are welcome to attend! We will continue with our 6:00pm and 8:00pm services as usual with just one more fun twist. We will close our 8:00pm service with candlelight during the singing of Silent Night.

Pastor Jason and I stand in awe at the cusp of this new year with you. We have seen so much energy and joy bursting forth in this little corner of God's Kingdom we share here at Trinity. We are grateful to be your pastors and we are eager to see where the Holy Spirit leads us in the year ahead.

Love! Joy! Peace! Hope!
Pastor Jess

P.S. We truly do hope you'll join us at our Jingle & Mingle Open House on December 8, 6-8pm!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve—

4:00pm—Children's Service

6:00pm—with Choir and Handbells

8:00pm—with Choir and Handbells
and candle light

Christmas Day— 10:00 am

Holly Jolly

If you are interested in helping us host a cookie-icing station or our ornament crafting station (or both), please sign-up on the bulletin board across from the lounge starting Saturday, November 8th. We are also looking for sugar cookie bakers. The event will be on **Saturday, December 6 from 9am until 1pm.**

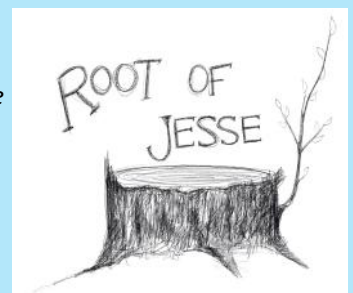
Midweek Advent Communion Services

This year as we gather for our Midweek Advent Communion services, our theme is "Jesse Tree."

The Jesse Tree is a meaningful Advent tradition that connects the stories of Jesus' ancestry with the celebration of Christmas, helping families reflect on God's plan for salvation.

We hope you will join us in person (or online) for these brief and holy moments together on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings at 8:00am beginning December 2nd.

"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots" ~ Isaiah 11:1



Christmas Caroling!

Bring a little joy and happiness to our people in nursing homes on Sunday, December 21st. A light lunch will be provided after the 10:45am service in Fellowship Hall and then we will go caroling after. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the lounge. If you are not joining us for lunch but want to carol, please meet no later than 12:30pm so we have time to get in our groups.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Join us in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 21st at 9:30am** for our annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant & Breakfast. Pancakes and sausage are on the menu. All are invited! Sign up across from the Lounge so that we prepare properly for breakfast!



ELCA World Hunger 2025

Offerings collected each week go a long way to bring hope to many in need. Thank you!
ELCA World Hunger Offerings YTD: \$9,265.00.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

(located in the front narthex or drop off in the office). In **December** we will be collecting **Kleenex/pet food and in January/February 2026 we will be collecting Toothpaste/Single pack adult or children's toothbrushes** for the Greater Latrobe Food Pantry.

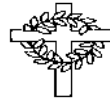
November Council Update

- Advent services with communion will be held at 8am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Changes to the Christmas Eve service schedule include a 4 p.m. service geared to children, but with no choir or handbells.
- The boiler work is complete, and we expect final funds to be disbursed soon.
- There was a motion passed from Finance to use the 2025 Lenten Folders distribution in the following order: \$500 to the Fire Department, \$700 to Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Pittsburgh, \$700 to Lutheran "Building for the Future" Campaign, and \$90 for Latrobe Mini-Gardens.
- Council approved voting membership for John Sproull.



OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROSITY AT CHRISTMAS

Consider sponsoring a child from **Trinity Northside**. By tradition, we receive Christmas "wish lists" from 15 youth. If you are willing to sponsor a child, please stop in the church office. The **wrapped gifts** will be **due in the church office by Wednesday, December 10th** and delivered to Trinity Northside on Sunday the 14th.



Deaths

Janice Maatta 10/2025



Marriages

Justin Hugo & Nicole Cramer 11/8/2025

Treasurer's Report for October 2025

Current Month			
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Income	58,344.39	48,648.00	9,696.39
Total Expenses	53,374.74	54,493.00	(1,118.26)
Cash Flow	4,969.65	(5,845.00)	10,814.65
Year to Date			
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Income	522,906.41	505,678.00	17,228.41
Total Expenses	564,421.05	596,079.00	(31,657.95)
Cash Flow	(41,514.64)	(90,401.00)	48,886.36

Note: Total income for October was \$9,696.36 better than planned. This includes Unified Giving that was \$9,966.00 better than planned. Year to date income is \$17,228.41 better than planned. Expenses for the month were \$1,118.26 less than planned. Year to date expenses are \$41,514.64 less than planned. The current deficit is \$41,514.64. Last year at this time, it was \$65,681.60. Thank you to everyone for their generous giving and keeping expenses less than budgeted.



JINGLE & MINGLE

December 8, 6-8:00 pm

Join the Felicis' Open House for hot cocoa and cookies as you tour the lights of Wimmerton!

111 CARLSBAD COURT LATROBE, PA



"JOURNEY THROUGH THE RAINFOREST'S VEIL"
by Jim Meehan

A new addition to the Trinity Art Collection was chosen by the congregation at all services during Reformation weekend. The photograph "Journey Through The Rainforests Veil" by Jim Meehan is now on display in the hall near the church office. The work depicts a tranquil landscape in Olympic National Park in Washington. Mr. Meehan said that he not only wanted to portray the beauty of the natural work; but also to show a path through the many journeys we take through our lives. The path leads under the tree arch toward a lighted area in the distances, an area that is beyond the beyond.

Hanging beside "Journey Through The Rainforests Veil" is a large painting "it's You I Like" by Rachel Kling. You probably know the song and you almost certainly recognize one of the men in the painting but do you know the story? Mrs. Kling here has chosen a scene from the May 9, 1969 episode of "Mister Rogers Neighborhood." At that time, public swimming pools were still segregated in many parts of the country. Mr. Rogers, in this simple act of kindness in offering cooling water on a hot day, quietly challenged that racism. According to an article in the Los Angeles Chronicles, "This moment remains one of the most powerful images in American television history." You may see this episode at <https://www.misterrogers.org/episodes/>. This conditions stated in the Fine Arts Guidelines.

Both works come to us from exhibits at the Latrobe Art Center and we are grateful for the Center's assistance in bringing them here.



"It's You I Like"
by Rachel Kling

Social Chit Chat



Come and enjoy some holiday cheer and goodies at our **Christmas Party on December 8th from 10am to noon.** We will also be blessed with Ernie SisteK and his accordion. Everyone is welcome!

Due to possible bad weather in February, we will be canceling for the month. Stay tuned in the February Triangle for information pertaining to March's Social Chit Chat.

Lights of Love!

Latrobe Area Hospital Aid Society will host their 38th annual lights of Love on December 9, 2025 at 7pm in the Robindale Auditorium.

CHRISTMAS BASKET TIME



Join us in sharing the joy of Christ this Christmas! Trinity's Christmas Basket program is collecting monetary donations to help provide food for families in need. Every contribution—big or small—is a blessing that helps fill hearts and homes with hope. **The Christmas Basket's will be packed on Friday, December 19th at 8am and distribution is on Saturday, December 20th at 8am from 9am—noon.** If you would like to help with this ministry please call the church office 724-

Christmas Eve Services

This year come join us for our first **4pm Christmas Eve Service.** This will be a shortened service geared toward wiggly littles and folks who cannot drive at night. We will also have our **6pm** and **8:00pm** worship. All services will include Holy Communion. Please note, there will **not** be a Drive-Thru Communion on Christmas Eve.

Trinity's Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Please keep the names of these beloved members, family, and friends of Trinity in your personal prayers throughout this month:

Abigail Glagola	Susan Bender	Johannah Frenchik	David Ghrist
Aletha Young	Brenda Rohde	Jess & Brenda Shearer	Sandy Gaul
Anne Brumfield	Gary Rolfe	Michael Voytens	Nicole Buzzard
Bill Robb	Grace Patterson	Ted Massa	Shirley Kohan
Sue Wintermeyer	Callie Majorsky	Todd Hudson	John Carlson
Dave Shaffer	Helen McCordy	Marilyn Kondrich	Patty Timpone
Marie Miller	Annalisa Overstreet	Mark Lawry	David Colaianne
David Meholic	Jackie Adams	Eleanor Kossack	Pastor Leedahl and David Shank
Caroline Kondrich	Janet Houser	Heather Wirick	Linda Taylor
Darlene Schultz	Larry Findish	Bridget Shirey-Horman	Chad Amond
Vicky Methot	Audrey & David Caldwell	Patricia Hall	

Do you have an update for this list? Please call (724-537-4450) or email (Office@trinitylatrobe.com) the office to let us know.



Cookie Donations

Trinity is collecting **60 dozen cookies** for various needs throughout the holidays (including but not limited to our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group, the Community Christmas Dinner, and gifting to our homebound). If you'd like to contribute, please contact the office or sign up across from the lounge.

GREATER LATROBE MINISTERIUM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Greater Latrobe Ministerium is planning the **Community Christmas Dinner set for Saturday, December 27th at 2:00pm.** The event will be at the Saint Vincent Grove retreat center located at 320 Monastery Drive, Latrobe. Transportation is available. **The meal is free, but you must have a ticket.** Tickets are available in the church office, Monday through Friday, 8:00am until 4:00pm.



Committee Chairs/Council Retreat

Committee Chairs (or representatives) and Council members will meet together on January 17th for a Retreat to help build Trinity's 2026 programmatic calendar and to discuss how we can more efficiently communicate what is going on around here—and, boy, is there a lot going on! Please save the date to join us and watch Trinity News for more details.

Save the Date!!!

What is Your Legacy???

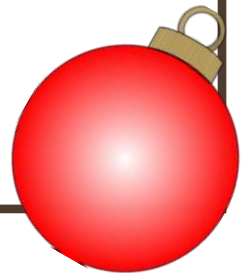
Who: YOU are invited to a **Legacy Workshop & Presentation**

What: Enjoy a luncheon and brief presentation by Ryan Ebner, a gift planner with the ELCA, regarding estate planning, provided at NO COST to individuals

When: January 25, 2026, after the 10:45am service

Where: Fellowship Hall
Childcare will be provided

Why: To help you plan YOUR legacy



Club FRED (Food, Recreation, Education, Discussion) After School Program

Club FRED is up and running! We currently have 18 students coming each week. **We are in need of additional help!** This "help" would be in the form of extra hands on deck. We need to have two adults with each group of students at all times. When one of the adults can not be available, we are rather short staffed and need to make some last minute schedule changes. It would be great if we had some extra hands! Club FRED begins at 3:45 each Thursday, and ends after dinner at 6:15. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Kathy Ferlin at 724-875-8301 or ferlin.kathy@gmail.com. Clearances are required and links can be found at Trinitylatrobe.com/clearances.

Do You Use a QCD for your RMD?

Would you like to reduce your taxes?

If you have a Traditional or Rollover IRA and are at least 70½ you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (a "QCD") to Trinity or other qualifying charities and not pay Federal Income Tax on the withdrawal. If you are at least 73, this withdrawal counts toward satisfying your Required Minimum Distribution ("RMD"). There are limits, but they will not impact most people.

Changes to the tax code in 2018 and 2025 significantly increased Standard Deductions, allowing fewer people to take advantage of Itemized Deductions on their Federal taxes. If you have to take RMDs, using QCDs for your charitable giving allows you to receive a tax benefit from your charitable giving.

The QCD must be made directly from your IRA to the charity. If you manage your own investments, many mutual fund companies make this process very easy, just contact them for information. If you use a financial advisor, they should be able to help you. If you need additional information, contact the church office, and we can put you in touch with the ELCA's Regional Gift Planner.

Even if you currently itemize your deductions, using a QCD might be a better choice depending on your individual tax situation. Depending on your income level, using QCDs can also potentially help you reduce taxes on your Social Security and reduce or avoid Medicare premium penalties. Therefore, you might be able to save on taxes three different ways by using QCDs!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA & HUNGER MEMORIALS



We invite you to adorn our Altar and Chancel or bring blessings to a hungry family.

I wish to purchase _____ flower(s) at \$11.00 each for a total of \$ _____

I wish to make a hunger donation of \$ _____

in memory of:

in honor of:

given by:

Please return to the church office with your donation by 4:00pm, Thursday, December 18th.

Youth Quake in Pittsburgh

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to **Youth Quake January 23rd-25th. Final deadline to sign-up is Thursday January 8th.** Cost is \$25 per student, but financial assistance is available.

Save the Date: Spaghetti Luncheon February 1, 2026

Following the 10:45am service, there will be a spaghetti Luncheon catered by Fuggenthaler's. The cost will be \$10/pp and kids under 6 will be \$7/pp. Tickets will be on sale January 3-18.

Church World Service Blanket Sunday!

January 18th is Church World Service Blanket Sunday! Help us wrap the world in warmth as we mark another year of contributing to this important min-



First Sunday Youth Event

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join Pastor Jess for dinner and fun on December 7th from 5pm—7pm.

Were you or your child baptized in 2025?

Join us for a **SOUP LUNCHEON** for families of the baptized in the year 2025!

**Sunday, January 11th at 12pm
to celebrate The Baptism of our Lord!**

Calling All Worship Assistants!


JOIN US on January 17th & 18th for the installation of Liturgical Deacons, Lectors, Ushers, Acolytes, and Musicians.



December

2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8:00 Advent Communion 9:30 Prayer Grp 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 7:00 Handbells	3 8:00 Advent Communion 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA 7:00 Choir	4 8:00 Advent Communion 10:00 Art Committee 1:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA	5 12:00 AA	6 9:00-1:00 Holly Jolly 9:30 Fellowship 5:30 Spoken Communion
7 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Men's Choir 5:00-7:00 Youth Group	8 10:00 Social Chit Chat Christmas Party 6:00-8:00 Jingle & Mingle @ the Felicis'	9 8:00 Advent Communion 9:30 Prayer Grp 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Finance 7:00 Handbells	10 Council Deadline 8:00 Advent Communion 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA 7:00 Choir	11 8:00 Advent Communion 1:00 Purls of Prayer Christmas 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA	12 12:00 AA	13 5:30 Spoken Communion
14 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Pageant Practice 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 CE/CYFM 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Choir Chimes 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	15 10:30 Barnes Place Communion 2:00 Loyal- hanna Communion	16 8:00 Advent Communion 9:30 Prayer Grp 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 10:30 GRG Prep 6:30 Council 7:00 Handbells	17 8:00 Advent Communion 8:00 Assemble Christmas Boxes 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA 5:00 Outreach 5:30 GRG Christmas Banquet 7:00 Choir	18 8:00 Advent Communion 3:50 Last Club FRED 7:30 AA	19 8:00 Pack Christmas Boxes 12:00 AA	20 9:00—12:00 Distribute Christmas Boxes 5:30 Spoken Communion
21 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Pageant & Breakfast 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Decorate For Christmas 12:00 Men's Choir 12:00 Christmas Caroling (Light Lunch provided)	22	23 9:30 Prayer Grp 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 7:00 Handbells	24 Christmas Eve Office closes @ noon 12:00 AA 4:00 Children's Service 6:00 Holy Communion 8:00 Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day 10:00 Holy Communion  MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26 Building/ Office Open 12:00 AA	27 2:00 GLMA Christmas Dinner @ St. Vincent Grove 5:30 Spoken Communion
28 8:15 Holy Communion 10:45 Holy Communion 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	29	30 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 12:00 Grades 4-6 Escape Room	31 Building & Office Closes @ noon	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Holiday Hours: The office will be open 8am-12pm on both Wednesday, December 24th and December 31st. The office will be closed both Christmas Day and New Year's Day. </div>		



January

2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
No Line Dancing This Month				1	2 12:00 AA	3 5:30 Spoken Communion
4 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Undecorating the church 12:00 Men's Choir	5	6 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 7:00 Handbells	7 Council Deadline 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA 7:00 Choir	8 1:00 Purls of Prayer 3:45 Club FRED 6:00 BPW 7:30 AA	9 12:00 AA	10 5:30 Spoken Communion
11 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Choir Chimes 12:00 Baptism of our Lord Luncheon 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	12 NO Social Chit Chat	13 Epiphany 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Finance 7:00 Handbells	14 Triangle Deadline 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA 7:00 Choir	15 1:00 Purls of Prayer 3:45 Club FRED 5:30 Worship & Music 7:30 AA	16 12:00 AA	17 Installation Of Worship Assistants 9:00 Council/Committee Retreat 5:30 Spoken Communion
18 Installation Of Worship Assistants 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion	19 10:30 Barnes Place Communion 2:00 Loyal-hanna Communion	20 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 7:00 Handbells	21 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA 7:00 Choir	22 1:00 Purls of Prayer 3:45 Club FRED 7:30 AA	23 Mail Triangle 12:00 AA <div>Youth Quake</div>	24 5:30 Spoken Communion
25 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Choir Chimes 12:00 Legacy Workshop & Presentation 12:15 Drive Thru Communion <div>Youth Quake</div>	26	27 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 7:00 Handbells	28 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA 5:30 Outreach 7:00 Choir	29 1:00 Purls of Prayer 3:45 Club FRED 7:30 AA	30 12:00 AA	31 5:30 Spoken Communion

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LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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Email: office@trinitylatrobe.com
www.trinitylatrobe.com

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Latrobe, PA
Permit #73



Merry Christmas
to everyone at
Trinity
Dan CASKO



Sing joyfully
& blessings to
all!
Rebbie

Wishing you a
holy and joyful
Christmas XD
obi

But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid. I bring
you good news that will
cause great joy for all the
people.

~ Luke 2:10

Have a
Blessed
Holiday!
Barb

Have a
wonderful
Holiday
Patty Dorn

Christmas
Blessings
to All!
Tatne

He came down that we
might have LOVE! &
Merry Christmas, Trinity!
Love, Pastor Jess &
Pastor Jason

Merry Christmas



Christmas Time

F	U	J	C	M	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	I	B
B	G	F	L	O	R	T	B	J	D	Q	N	M	E	L
H	O	I	S	R	N	B	V	O	X	A	E	T	J	O
O	T	R	B	J	L	R	T	S	M	T	H	N	N	G
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T	N	N	E	C	A	G	H	F	P	C	I	U	C	D
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E	Q	G	G	N	I	G	N	I	S	G	A	L	L	A
G	U	P	Y	R	G	J	L	E	C	U	R	Q	D	O
N	R	R	A	B	K	L	J	T	O	B	P	E	D	U
A	A	U	O	Y	O	T	N	U	N	G	I	S	A	P
M	Q	U	A	R	H	M	P	A	G	U	I	M	W	P
C	A	E	S	A	R	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	F

ANGEL OF THE LORD

BETHLEHEM

BORN A SAVIOR

CAESAR AUGUSTUS

DECREE

FIRSTBORN SON

GLORY TO GOD

HEAVEN

JESUS

JOSEPH

MANGER

MARY

NAZARETH

ON EARTH PEACE

PRAISE

SINGING

SHEPHERD

SIGN UNTO YOU

SWADDLING CLOTHES

TAXED

Veteran's Day Lunch-



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH LATROBE

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

We are grateful for your service and bravery.



Pfc. Robert D. Smith
The late, Pfc. Robert D. Smith, a member of the United States Marine Corps, was killed in action on October 26, 1965, during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the 1st Marine Division, 3rd Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Battalion, and was serving as a Corporal. He was killed by enemy fire while on patrol. He was posthumously promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Silver Star Medal for his gallantry. He was buried at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

