



TRINITY TRIANGLE

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

VOL LXXVI

NUMBER: 1

MONTH: JANUARY 2024

Pastor's Corner

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

Happy New Year!

It is an exciting time here at Trinity as we turn the calendar to the year 2024. I am still in awe of the response to our Stewardship Campaign – “I Love to Tell the Story” – both in engagement with the theme and in the pledge response. We are so grateful for your generosity and look forward to hearing your stories about Trinity and our shared ministry in the next couple of months.

We are welcoming new council members who will join with continuing council members and our committee members at our Council Retreat in a few weeks. We are looking to working together toward the common mission and vision we share at Trinity, and to plan ahead for the upcoming year of ministry.

Sometimes as we move into the month of January I find myself somewhat sad, because we begin to take down all the Christmas decorations and move on from the holidays. This year I don't feel that way, because there are so many wonderful things to look forward to in the coming months. God has blessed our congregation with a renewed sense of vision and purpose, and good things are coming in 2024. If you have been reading these columns over the past few months, but you haven't joined us at church – this is your invitation to come and see, and get involved! You won't regret it.

In Christ

Pastor Jason

Christmas Baskets Volunteers

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and donors who contributed to the success of our Christmas Basket ministry. **Your generosity and dedication have not only filled baskets with goods but also brought joy and hope to 116 families (and over 200 people) in our community.** This remarkable effort exemplifies the true spirit of giving and community solidarity. We are deeply grateful for your support and wish everyone a Merry Christmas filled with love and warmth.

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.

Social Chit Chat

No Social Chit Chat for January, we will see you in February

New Doors for the Sanctuary

In December, the new doors were installed to the sanctuary. They are located on the Weldon Street side of the church.





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: \$1209.44

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

(located in the front narthex or drop off in the office). In

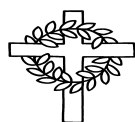
January we will be collecting **Toothbrushes/Toothpaste** for the Greater Latrobe Food Pantry.



Baptisms

Maevyn Flack 12/3/2023

Izabella Rose Watkins 12/24/2023



Deaths

Barbara Herrod 12/2/2023

Barry Hood 12/9/2023

Dora Kelly 12/15/202

George Pavlik Jr. 12/25/2023

Treasurer's Report for November 2023

Current Month

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	43,067.44	39,230.00	3,837.44
Total Expenses	47,711.15	67,282.00	(19,570.85)
Cash Flow	<u>(4,643.71)</u>	<u>(28,052.00)</u>	<u>23,408.29</u>
		<u>Year to Date</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	508,349.66	449,465.00	58,884.66
Total Expenses	560,394.22	585,742.00	(25,347.78)
Cash Flow	<u>(52,044.56)</u>	<u>(136,277.00)</u>	<u>84,232.44</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 \$52,044.56 from a budgeted one of \$136,277.00.
- 3) Average attendance 216.

2024 FLOWER AND BROADCAST CHARTS

The new charts are on the bulletin board in the front Narthex of the church. If you would like to honor or memorialize a special person or event by sponsoring altar flowers or the radio broadcast on a specific date, you may sign up there or contact the church office to inquire about available dates.

724-537-4450 or office@trinitylatrobe.com

SAVE YOUR POP TABS AND CANS

The **tabs** are collected in the church office for the **Ronald McDonald House**. You can take your **aluminum cans** and scrap aluminum to **Stanko Products, Inc.**, 278 Donohoe Road. Just mention Trinity's Youth and the money will be donated to them in your name. Money will benefit our youth mission trips.

INK CARTRIDGE & CELL PHONE

RECYCLING

Trinity is still collecting & recycling empty ink cartridges and old cell phones. Your donations benefit World Hunger and the environment. Drop them off at church or call the church office at 724-537-4450. Thank you!

A Special Thank You

Thank you to our Trinity family for all the love & support you gave during the loss of our husband/father recently. Pastor Jess & Pastor Jason were so wonderful, the members that volunteered their time for his beautiful service & Jane & the ladies that provided us such an amazing meal to celebrate his life. Daddy loved his amazing Trinity family & we all feel so blessed! God Bless all of you for your kindness & love!

Sincerely,

Louise Frye, Jennifer Clark & The Howard Frye family

2024 Trinity Congregational Council



Front Row: Cheryl Morgan, Pastor Jess Felici, Youth Representative: Claire Benning,
Pastor Jason Felici, 2024 Vice President: Linda Reed, Tiffany Varadi

Back Row: Youth Representative: Kaden Shannon, 2024 President: Lucinda Nicely, Donna Showalter, Darlene Hoffman,
2024 Secretary: Kathy Ferlin, Nick Gebhart, Joe Bruzda, 2024 Treasurer: Herb Harris, Dave Gebhart, Dana Shannon, Jarrett Nicely

Updates from the December 19, 2023 Council Meeting

- Welcomed new council members: Jarrett Nicely, Darlene Hoffman, Joe Brudza, Dana Shannon, Tiffany Varadi, and youth members Claire Benning, Kaden Shannon
- Ministry Report
 - ◇ Pastors' Reports
 - Many incredible things have happened at Trinity during November:
Thanksgiving Dinner- all the helpers and diners
Attendance continues to increase
Trip to Chicago with two teens from Trinity for the Youth Leadership Summit
- Council members were updated on the work of: Personnel, TLC House, Evangelism, and Stewardship Committees.
- Election of new officers: President-Lucinda Nicely, Vice President-Linda Reed, Secretary- Kathy Ferlin, Treasurer- Herb Harris (new officers were installed).
- Council members approved:
 - ◇ Recommendations from the Executive Committee to approve the cost of a night's stay at Springhill Suites for Pastor Emeritus Jeffrey Schock and Pam January 27th as part of the weekend celebration of Pastor Schock's 40th anniversary in ministry. Pastor Schock will preach on the 27th-28th with a luncheon to follow on the 28th. Watch for details!!
 - ◇ Motions from Finance Committee:
 - To accept motion to rescind last month's motion to move the capital improvement money from the Trinity Renovation Fund. The doors have been installed and the bill has been paid.
 - To accept the motion to approve the changes to the Investment Policy, CR12.05.B18.
 - ◇ Motions from Executive Committee
 - To accept the motion to remove Kathy Ferlin as a check signer as her term as President has ended.
 - To accept the motion to make Lucinda Nicely, Linda Reed, Herb Harris, Pastor Jason Felici, Pastor Jess Felici as being able to sign checks on behalf of Trinity.



I Love to Tell the Story

The theme of the 2024 Stewardship campaign is I Love to Tell the Story. We heard brief stories of how Trinity has positively impacted our community. During Advent, we heard the stories of the Savior's birth and the salvation He brings. Now it is time to "Tell Our Stories"!

Trinity has a long history of wonderful stories from our past and our present. We hope to capture them in a new booklet that will immortalize who we are and our faith journeys. We hope to hear stories from our older folks about our rich history, stories about how God helped us with difficult times, and how Trinity led some of us on our faith journeys.

If you have a story to tell we would love to hear it and share with others. We talk about God's work, our hands, but we need to proclaim what he does for us! God is present in our lives and these testimonies serve to give us strength. Please watch for opportunities to share your story!!!

2023 Christmas Pageant



A Note of Thanks from the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Group

On behalf of the GRG group, we would like to extend heart-felt thanks for the love and generosity shown by the families of Trinity, Sacred Heart, and St Cecilia Churches. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide every family member with \$75 in Walmart gift cards, a beautiful handmade tree ornament for each family, and handmade crocheted lap robes for each adult, and a crocheted stocking filled with candy for each child. Don and Kasha Loveridge provided a fabulous dinner of baked ham, cheesy potatoes, green bean casserole, corn, and bread and butter. Our dessert, beautiful and delicious cakes, were donated by Sherri Slezak from Heart and Soul Bakery. The Latrobe Choral Cats provided our entertainment after dinner. It was a wonderful evening for all!

Some of the comments we heard sum it up nicely, "You make me want to cry with your thoughtfulness", "Your thoughtful gesture will definitely help to make Christmas extra special for our granddaughter", "Last night's Christmas celebration was wonderful". Your continued support of, and generosity to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren makes a tremendous difference in their lives!!!! Thank you so very much!

The GRG Planning Group



January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NO LINE DANCING IN JANUARY	1 Building/Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics NO Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:00 Executive NO Handbells	3 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg 7:15 Choir	4 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00 BPW 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	5 12:00 AA mtg	6 5:30 Spoken Communion
7 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion	8 NO Social Chit Chat	9 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 1:00 Stewardship 6:00 Finance NO Handbells	10 Council Deadline 9:00 WELCA Quilters 11:00 NCR 12:00 AA Mtg 5:30 Outreach 7:15 Choir	11 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	12 12:00 AA mtg	13 9:00 All Committee/ Council Day Retreat 5:30 Spoken Communion
14 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:30 CYFM 10:45 Holy Communion 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	15 2:00 Loyalhanna Church Svc	16 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 6:30 Council NO Handbells	17 Triangle Deadline 8:30 Special Gifts 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg 6:00 GRG At St. Cecelia's 7:15 Choir	18 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	19 12:00 AA mtg 1:30 Esther Circle	20 5:30 Spoken Communion
9 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion	22	23 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 7:00 Handbells	24 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg 7:15 Choir	25 1:00 Purls of Prayer 4:00 Club FRED 6:00 Young Marines 7:30 AA mtg	26 Mail Triangle 12:00 AA mtg	27 5:30 Spoken Communion (Pastor Schock visiting)
28 Pastor Schock Visiting 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 SCS 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Pot luck Luncheon 12:15 Drive Thru Communion	29	30 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 11:00 Pericope 7:00 Handbells	31 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg 7:15 Choir			

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
331 Weldon Street
Latrobe, PA 15650
Phone: (724) 537-4450
Email: office@trinitylatrobe.com
www.trinitylatrobe.com

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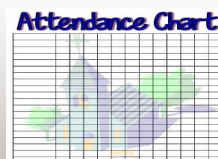
Special Offering Envelopes

Attention online or bank-draft givers! If you would like to receive a pack of "Special Offering" gift envelopes. Please call or email the office to request a pack! "Special Offering" envelopes cover collections for ministries and specific efforts outside of our regular budget like Youth, Christmas Baskets, Easter, H.E.L.P., and more!



Adult help needed

Do you have **1 hour on Sunday** morning during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30) to take attendance and count offering in the **Sunday School Office? 2-3 adults are needed** and training is available beginning January 2024.



A Celebration of Pastor Emeritus Schock's Forty Years of

Ordained Ministry

Please join us the weekend of January 27 and 28 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Rev. Jeffrey Schock's Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Pastor Emeritus Schock will be preaching at all three services that weekend, and a Potluck Luncheon will be held in his honor following the Sunday 10:45 AM service. Please RSVP for the luncheon and indicate what your family will bring on the bulletin board across from the lounge, the Trinity app, or the Events page of the website. We invite you to take this opportunity to greet Pr. Schock and Pam to celebrate this milestone and give thanks for his 32 years of ministry here at Trinity.

