



**Trinity Messenger**  
December 2024 Issue 3

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*Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.*  
Matthew 11:10

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**Sunday School Instructors Needed**

Christian Education is an integral part of children's faith development, be it in a classroom or at home around the kitchen table, and it has been a staple in the lives of the Holy Trinity's children for generations. With this in mind, the Christian Education Team seeks individuals to share their gifts to help our children develop their faith and deepen their relationship with God and their Lord. The class of elementary-age and younger children meets two Sundays a month for 30 minutes after worship. The team hopes to have enough volunteers so that no one has to teach both Sundays in a month and, per our child protection policy and insurance, have two teachers and/or adults in the classroom while each session is being taught. If you are interested in helping to sustain the Sunday school program by sharing your gifts, please speak with Phyllis Doughty or Pastor Mark.

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**Attention Thrivent Members**

A reminder to Thrivent policyholders and investors

If you still have Thrivent Choice Dollars to "spend" this calendar year, you can designate those Choice Dollars to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We would appreciate it if you would check your Thrivent account to determine if you have Choice Dollars to direct, and then direct some or all to Holy Trinity. There is no cost to you or Holy Trinity and the congregation benefits from the contribution.

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**Stewardship Special Giving for December: ELCA GOOD GIFTS**

The ELCA Good Gifts is a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA. These gifts are real examples from projects currently ELCA sponsored. Each of these programs is a long-term partnership-based ministry that focuses on the needs identified by local congregations and global companion churches and their communities.

This year the Stewardship Committee has selected a specific gift. We have chosen "SAFE WATER ACCESS". One of the biggest challenges to overcome poverty is the lack of access to clean water. With a simple well, spring box, or other water point, as many as 500 families gain access to clean water. We are fortunate today in our homes to simply turn on a spigot.

This is our challenge and the need is great. The cost for this gift is \$2,500.00. All the members of our Stewardship Committee feel that this is an obtainable goal. Let us share our blessings with those in need.

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## End of Year Contribution Deadline

Contributions to be recorded for 2024 must be placed in the offering by Sunday, December 29, or **received** in the church office by December 29. Online/electronic giving **posted** to our account by our vendor by December 31 will be included in 2024 giving statements.

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**Holden Evening Prayer:  
Wednesdays during Advent at 7:30  
December 4, 11, 18**



**Caroling: Please join us on Sunday afternoon, December 22 to go caroling! We will meet in the Cafe at 2:00 PM.**

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## Christmas Eve Services

**4:00 PM:** Holy Communion with carols and candle lighting.

**Only the 4:00 PM service will be livestreamed.**

**7:00 PM:** Holy Communion with carols and candle lighting.

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## SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE!

There will be an opportunity for the congregation to celebrate with Donna Nace, her retirement. The celebration is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, January 18th. Details coming soon!

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Salem Lutheran Church of Ephrata invites you to an Open House on Sunday, December 15 between 6-8 pm. Join us for music, lovely decorations, and fellowship. Tour a historical sanctuary for an inspirational holiday experience.

[Salem Church Christmas Open House 2024](#)

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## Organist Search Committee Update

The organist search committee developed and submitted the job description for an organist to serve with the people of Holy Trinity to church music organizations and area music departments at colleges and universities and the Synod in mid-October. Currently, no interest has been shown in the position, so while the committee will actively continue to advertise for a candidate to fill the position, it is proactively arranging for area organists to help lead us in worship on Sundays in February and March. As we navigate an unfamiliar time in our life as a congregation, let us do so with a grace-filled appreciation for those who are faithfully working on behalf of our ministries and in the certainty that God is present amid the changes taking place in which we are each called to play a constructive part.

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## Sunday Church School Class schedule

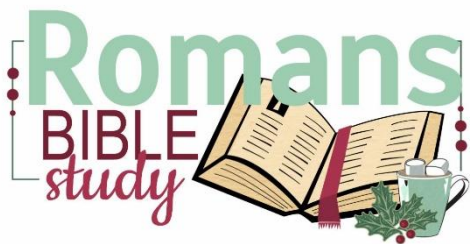
Parents have determined that holding Sunday Church School classes for their children every other week works best for their families. Children ages 3 and up will meet for class with Donna in her classroom on the following dates:

December 1 & 15

January 5 & 19

Classes begin at 10:20 AM.

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## Bible Study

The weekly study of Paul's letter to the Romans will be on Tuesdays, at 11:00 AM. All are welcome to come and explore this relationship-defining epistle with much to teach us about God's grace and the depth of God's relationship with us through the gift of His Son. See you soon!

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## Sharing Upcoming Events and Information

Congregational committees and other ministries of Holy Trinity are invited and encouraged to share the details of upcoming happenings with the congregation and beyond via our recently updated Facebook page and our webpage. If you have anything that will be occurring between now and Christmas and needs sharing, please contact Theresa Mull ([theresakmull@gmail.com](mailto:theresakmull@gmail.com)), our Facebook page administrator, and Adam Doughty ([adamc.doughty@gmail.com](mailto:adamc.doughty@gmail.com) or 717-445-0007), our webpage administrator if you would like your group's activities shared. They are waiting to hear from you to help share your information with a broader audience.

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## Kirchenwald Winter Youth Retreat January 3-5, 2025

For youth in grades 3 through 9

Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games dependent on weather. Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat. Other indoor and outdoor activities

may be included, as the weather dictates. Cost for the retreat is \$170.

***A great Christmas gift for that grandchild who has everything and doubles as a gift for their parents, too!***

Register information is on-line at [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) or get a form from Lisa Garrett. Please register by **December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

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**HOLY TRINITY HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

**Please follow this link to the new page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563831542098&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

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### **Celebration Choir Schedule**

Wednesday, December 11 – 6:30 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15 – “First Song of Isaiah”

Wednesday, December 18 – 6:30 PM – Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 PM

Sing “While By My Sheep”

Please consider joining us and sharing your musical talents! All are welcome!!

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**Pickleball Update-Tuesday AM pickleball has officially moved to Tuesday nights. Open to any skill level. Court time is from 6pm to 8pm**



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THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to TBA after the liturgy on January 8. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us! Please call Cheryl Plummer at 625-3187 to reserve your place!

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## December 15-21 Calendar

15 DEC, SUN

- Celebration Choir sings
- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:20am SCS
- 2pm Caroling

16 DEC, MON

- Hanging of the Greens
- 10am Women's Prayer Group
- 6:30pm Yoga

17 DEC, TUE

- 11am Bible Study
- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 6pm Pickleball
- 6:15pm Handbell Ensemble
- 7pm Bell Choir

18 DEC, WED

- 12pm Luther Lunch Ladies
- 6:30pm Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Advent Evening Prayer

19 DEC, THU

- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 7pm Thursday Worship

21 DEC, SAT

- 7:30am Walking Group

### December 15th Servers:

**Council Team:** John Fuehrer, Ed Quirke

**Assisting Minister:** John Weiss

**Lector:** John Weiss

**Acolytes:** Anya Gilbert

**Ushers:** Allen Nace, Gary Nace, John Weiss,  
Adam Doughty

**Altar Guild:** Denise Shirker, Kelly Homan,  
Ann & Bob Snader

**Linens:** Brenda Wangman

**Flowers:** Dan Doremus



## Office Hours December 16-20, 2024

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

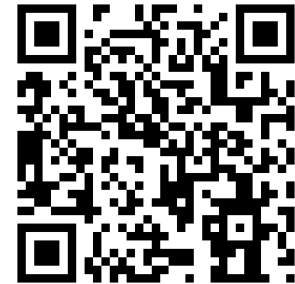
**Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831**

**Office email: [officeholytrinity@ephralutheran.org](mailto:officeholytrinity@ephralutheran.org)**

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	8:00 AM- 12:00 Noon	OFF

### Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinityephrata.org](http://www.holytrinityephrata.org)), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, or your Homes of Hope fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



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*Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!*

