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Trinity Messenger
December 2025 Issue 3

Alleluia. The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. Alleluia. Matt. 1:23

End of Year Contribution Deadline

Contributions to be recorded for 2025 must be placed in the offering by Sunday, December 28, or **received** in the church office by December 28. Online/electronic giving **posted** to our account by our vendor by December 31 will be included in 2025 giving statements.

Congregation Officers

The Congregation Council re-elected the following officers for 2026.

President-Lisa Garrett
Vice President-John Weiss
Secretary-Bill Spitzer
Treasurer-Larry Hummer

The Council voted to have Larry Hummer serve one additional year in 2026 as Treasurer while the Finance Committee seeks a new treasurer and decides how to handle the treasurer and financial secretary duties.

The Council welcomed Rob Gilbert as he begins serving a 3 year term. The Council thanked Christy Boos as she departs from the Council after serving six years, including three as Council president. The other Council members are: Kathrin Baltz, John Fuehrer, Barry Kreider, Ed Quirke, Elaine Sernoffsky, Norm Wangman, Heather Zimmerman, and Pastor Mark.

Treasurer's Report December, 2025

November Financial Report

Unified Budget Income	\$27,745.15
Unified Budget Expense	\$33,951.42

Year To Date:

Income	\$340,847.80
Expenses	\$334,911.42
Surplus	\$5,936.38

Elevator Fund Contributions: \$6,717.00 was contributed for elevator renovation in November

December Stewardship Focus: 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 "ABUNDANT COMMUNITY BUNDLE". The bundle will equip a whole community with the resources needed to build a stronger future. Included in the bundle is a goat, rooster, cow, three chicks, seeds and gardening tools, honeybees, three fruit-tree seedlings, farmer's field school and community garden- gifts that will enable neighbors to nourish themselves and their families and generate income. The seeds of hope you help you neighbors plant today will continue to grow for generations to come.

This is our challenge, and the need is great. The cost for this bundle is \$1,020.00 All the members of our Stewardship Committee feel this is an obtainable goal. Let us share our blessings with those in need.

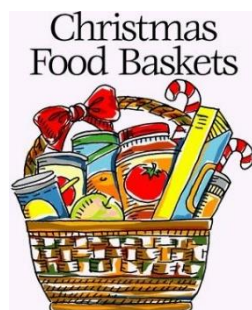
Women's Prayer Group will NOT be meeting on December 22nd or December 29th. We will resume regular schedule on January 5th. All women are invited and welcome to join us in the New Year !



ELEVATOR RESTORATION PROJECT

The Stewardship Committee at the November meeting after a long and informative discussion about the manner in which our congregation may support the Elevator Restoration Project, suggested that a monthly financial commitment be promoted. The monthly donation from the congregation should be at least \$1,800.00. This amount is well within the ability of the congregation to meet or exceed. Many options concerning each individual donation can be determined. The committee feels that each member has the ability to determine the amount that they will, through prayer commit to

this project. We feel that the generous spirit of our congregation will assure a more realistic period of time to reach our goal of \$200,000.00. The Stewardship Committee will continue to monitor the financial support of this project and keep the congregation informed as to our current status. There is a visual display in the gathering area of the nave which indicates the current totals of the donations.



Christmas Food Baskets

Due to the outpouring of community donations for Thanksgiving food and meals and the SNAP crisis, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting food items to make Christmas Food Baskets. We were given the names of 20 area families in need from Ephrata Area Social Services. We need your help! Using your donations, we will provide these families with a Christmas Dinner. Please bring in food items according to your last name.

A-D: apple juice or orange drink

E-H: canned peas or corn

I-L: canned sweet potatoes

M-P: seasoned stuffing

Q-S: instant potatoes or scallop potatoes

T-Z: jello snack packs (premade jello in containers) or package cookies or applesauce

We are also accepting donations of frozen 10-14 lb turkeys and 5 to 8 lb chicken roasters. Contact the church office or Rob Gilbert if you can donate a turkey or chicken no later than December 7th. Monetary donations to purchase items will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the church and placed in the box in the Gathering Area.

Note the Neighborhood Santa Program we have participated in the last several years will not be held this year. In place of that we ask you to bring in extra food items or you can purchase a gift for the family (e.g. gift card or other family type gift).

Our community needs our support more than ever. Please let us not disappoint those in need. If you have any questions, please call Rob Gilbert at 717-721-3822.

There will be no **Friday night dinner** for the month of January, we will resume our dinners Friday February 6th, 2026! Thank you to all who have participated in this wonderful fellowship!! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!!!

Blessings,

Kathrin B & the fellowship committee.



Welcome to Holy Trinity Sunday School on the Move!

Please join us for Sunday School the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month, the next one being December 21st. Children will proceed downstairs after the Children's Sermon. For those not attending church, please meet us at 9:20 in the Cafe area. All are

welcome for our Journey with Jesus!! ❤️ .

Love and Peace,

Holy Trinity Christian Ed

NOTICE: Holy Trinity's website is sometimes up, sometimes not. A new website is being pursued and will be up and running as soon as possible. If you are looking for the livestream connection it is here: Holy Trinity's services are now online at Sermons.net. Just copy and paste the link below into your browser. <https://holyltrinitylutheranchurchephrtapa.sermon.net/main>



Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, December 17 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00PM
Sing "Were You There On That Christmas Night? "

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

Special Music for Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is right around the corner, and your musical talents are needed to add that extra special feeling of the season to our Christmas Eve worship services. If you are interested in sharing your God-given talents, please speak with either Debbie Fortna or Deb Olson.

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir Schedule:

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17- 6:00 PM rehearsal

For Questions contact Debbie: 717-681-5985 Elegantkeys88@gmail.com



I am in the process of organizing the next disaster response trip, the 26th trip of the Lower Susquehanna Synod LDR Team. It will take place April 26 – May 2, 2026. It will be a return to the western North Carolina region devastated by Hurricane Helene last fall. There will be a trip planning meeting on Sunday, February 1st, at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Luther Acres, 250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz.

The second opportunity is an invitation to anyone interested in hearing about our most recent trip to North Carolina. Also on February 1st, our disaster response team will be gathering to tell our stories and show our pictures from the work we did and the experiences we had in North Carolina in November. The presentation will take place in the Community Room at 7:00 p.m. We thank everyone who supported our work and invite them to come and see what they helped make possible. If you have any questions, please let me know!

I hope you all have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas celebration.
Peace, Glenn Beard

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

The local branch of the Christ-centered support group, *Celebrate Recovery*, has begun meeting in the church social hall on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The group was meeting at City Gate but outgrew their space and reach out to Holy Trinity to see about finding room in our facility. *Celebrate Recovery* is a world-wide ministry that offers support to persons seeking “freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits” and is not limited to those recovering from addiction. It seeks to serve as well those persons struggling with various types of dependency and the pain and trauma associated with these. If you are interested in finding out more about this group and/or how it might be helpful to you, please check out their website at celebraterecovery.com. All are welcome!

Weekly Bible Study: Tuesdays at 11AM

Bible Study Book

The Bible study group will soon begin a new study on the Acts of the Apostles once our study of Romans is completed. To help facilitate this upcoming study, we will be reading and discussing Matthew Skinner’s book *Acts: Catching Up With The Spirit*. The book is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. If you would like to participate in the study or need assistance in ordering the book, please speak with Pastor Mark.

Limping With God

A few Sundays ago, Pastor Mark referenced a book he was reading that centered on the biblical story of Jacob's wrestling with God and how Jacob's story can teach us a great deal about our discipleship and our wrestling matches with loving God. The book is entitled *Limping with God: Jacob & The Old Testament Guide to Messy Discipleship* and is authored by Chad Bird. It is available at Amazon or 1517.org/shop.

Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open the first and third full weekend of every month for persons in need of clothing and other household goods. Entrance is accessible via the door off the lower parking lot. Hours are Saturday and Sunday noon – 2pm.



Winter Schedule:

Dec 20th and 21st

Jan 3rd and 4th

Jan 17th and 18th

Donations: Currently there is a need for men's pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children's clothing. All clothing in good shape is accepted. Due to space constraints, household items are no longer accepted. Donations may be dropped off directly at Bergstrasse when the Community Clothing Closet is open or in the box at the back of the narthex in Holy Trinity.

Volunteers: sort clothing, hang it and tag it by color to keep track of what is moving and what is not, and greet shoppers at the courtesy desk. Shoppers check in and specify how many people they are shopping for and what items are of particular interest. Volunteers are needed from 11:30 – 2:30 on Saturdays and Sundays. You do not need to be there the entire time to volunteer – whatever time you have available within those timeframes is fine.

If you have further questions, you may either stop by the next time the Closet is open and have a look around or call Pattie Martin at 717-344-1347.

Thank you so much for all the donations you have been giving!

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>

- 21 DEC, SUN
- ADVENT 4
 - 9am Worship
 - 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
 - 10:15am Adult Forum
-
- 22 DEC, MON
- 10am Women's prayer group
 - 6pm Celebrate recov.
 - 6:30pm Yoga
-
- 23 DEC, TUE
- 6pm Pickleball
-
- 24 DEC, WED
- CHRISTMAS EVE 4 & 7PM
 - 12pm Church office closes
 - 7pm Celebration Choir sings
-
- 25 DEC, THU
- Pr. Mark vacation (Day 1/8)
 - CHRISTMAS DAY
 - Church office closed
-
- 26 DEC, FRI
- Pr. Mark vacation (Day 2/8)
 - Church office closed

[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

December 21st Servers:

Council Team: Lisa Garrett, Heather Zimmerman

Assisting Minister: John Weiss

Lector: John Weiss

Acolytes: Dylan Lynn

Ushers: Curtis & Christy Boos, Bill & Lori Spitzer

Altar Guild: Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett, Charlann Brubaker

Linens: Patricia Fassnacht

Flowers: Heather Zimmerman

AV: John Fuehrer



Office Hours December 22-26, 2025

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

Office email: officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org

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

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.

Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website (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 Elevator Improvement fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!