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Trinity Messenger
December 2025 Issue 4

*Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia. Col. 3:15, 16*

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.

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 !

Happy Birthday

To the members of Holy Trinity who are 70 years and older and celebrating a birthday this month.

January Birthdays

4 Candy Snyder
7 John Fuehrer
13 Denise Shirker
15 Mary Brossman
20 Charlann Brubaker



SEND THEM A BIRTHDAY CARD OR CALL THEM WITH YOUR GREETING. WE PRAY GOD GRANTS THEM MANY MORE YEARS IN THEIR PILGRIMAGE.



Dear Holy Trinity,

We are so grateful to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for Supporting Milagro House. The gift of \$505.64 will directly support our mission to provide education, housing, and support services to women and their children who would otherwise be experiencing homelessness. Milagro House is Lancaster County's only residential program for mothers facing homelessness that places education at its core. Our program empowers women to find a way to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children, fostering lasting independence and transforming individual lives and families for generations to come. Thank you again for your generosity. We look forward to advancing this vital work with your continued partnership.

With Gratitude, Ashley Bievenbur, Director of Operations

I would like to thank council and the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. It's been a privilege and pleasure to be at Holy Trinity for nearly a year. Thank you!

Debbie Fortna



ELEVATOR RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

In keeping with the promise made previously, as chairman of the Stewardship Committee, I am pleased to inform you as to the contributions received to date.

In October 2025, the donations totaled \$11,063.94. The Treasurer's Report for November 2025 indicated a total of \$6,717.00. Therefore, the total to date amounts to \$17,735.94

We have started with a very positive indication of what can be done to meet the challenge. Let us continue on

the same path for the future. Thank you for your support.

I will provide another report in the February 2026 Trinity Messenger.

Norman A. Wangman

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 January 4. 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://holytrinitylutheranchurchephuratapa.sermon.net/main>



Celebration Choir Schedule

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir Schedule:

Wednesday, December 24- Christmas Eve Service 7PM

Next rehearsal is Wednesday January 7 at 6:30PM

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 NEW BIBLE STUDY

A New Bible study focusing on the Acts of the Apostles will begin on Tuesday, January 6. The class will meet in the church conference room at 11:00 AM. There is a participant’s book for the class that can be ordered through Amazon. The book is entitled *Acts: Catching Up With The Spirit*, authored by Matthew L. Skinner. If you have any questions please direct them to Pastor Mark. We look forward to having you as part of the study and learning more about the early activities of the Jesus’ followers.

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:

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>

December 28- January 1 Calendar

28	DEC, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pr. Mark vacation (Day 4/8)● CHRISTMAS 1● 9am Worship● 10am Coffee Hour After Worship● 10:15am Adult Forum
29	DEC, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pr. Mark vacation (Day 5/8)● 6pm Celebrate recov.● 6:30pm Yoga
30	DEC, TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pr. Mark vacation (Day 6/8)● 9am Coffee Klatch● 6pm Pickleball
31	DEC, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pr. Mark vacation (Day 7/8)● NEW YEARS EVE● 12pm Church office closes
1	JAN, THU	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pr. Mark vacation (Day 8/8)● Church office closed● NEW YEARS DAY

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

December 28th Servers:**Council Team:** Norm Wangman, Ed Quirke**Assisting Minister:** John Fuehrer**Lector:** John Fuehrer**Acolytes:** Patrice Mull, Judy Williams,
Lillian Doughty**Ushers:** Candy Snyder, Mark Mull,
Whip Zimmerman**Altar Guild:** Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart**Linens:** Patricia Fassnacht**Flowers:** Judy Wechter**AV:** Bob Eberly**Office Hours December 29- January 2, 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: officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org**

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