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Trinity Messenger

January 2024 Issue 4

Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Alleluia. Mark 1:15

Child Protection Policy Training

Our new church insurance policy requires that all persons of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, staff and volunteers alike, who presently have a background check on file or wish to volunteer during 2024 must attend an annual child protection training at which the congregational Child Protection Policy is reviewed. To assist you in fulfilling this requirement there will be a training for all those to whom this applies on **Sunday, February 25 during the Adult Forum**. There will be sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area, so please include your name so we can make sure there are enough materials available for everyone attending the training.

Stewardship Special Giving for January Mountaineer's Table

We are excited to be adding *Mountaineer's Table* to our list of organizations whose live-giving work we support as the people of God at Holy Trinity. *Mountaineer's Table* (a 501c3 organization), formerly known as the *Ephrata Power Packs Project*, is in its 10th year of serving families in the Ephrata Area School District (EASD). In 2022 alone, they distributed over 135,000 lbs. of food, feeding an average of 75 families a week, and are presently serving 110 families per week with numbers of those facing daily food insecurity rising. There is no cost to EASD families, who each Thursday arrive at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren to collect their nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and a recipe with the needed ingredients provided to prepare the meal. It is an all-volunteer organization, so all monies donated go directly to help the families get food on the table so that children are well fed and ready to learn.

Stephanie Weber, the director and visionary behind this organization, will be joining us in worship on Sunday, January 7 to further introduce us to the important work being done to assist our struggling neighbors. Please plan to be present at 9:00 AM worship to welcome her and learn more.

2023 Donation Statements

The 2023 Donation Statements were emailed to all members for whom we have email addresses. The statements are emailed one per household, to the primary email we have for that household. For those without email addresses, the printed statements are on the table in the Gathering Area. They will remain there through January 28. If you would like your printed statement mailed to you, please contact the church office.

End of Year Financial Report

A sincere thank you to the members who made a contribution to the Special Appeal conducted in November and December.

39 Giving Units gave a total of \$25,453 to the Special Appeal.

The Special Appeal contributions enabled us to reduce the 2023 Unified Budget deficit to \$50,551.51. Reserve funds were used to erase the deficit.

Though we had some additional costs for the year (i.e. the total cost to purchase heating oil) the 2023 deficit was less than anticipated because we spent \$24,500 **less** than budgeted on three line items. The major savings were:

- \$12,277 less for insurance because we switched carriers
- \$9,600 less for cleaning services (we did not have a cleaning service for a number of months)
- \$2,900 less for secretary salary due to the reduced hours

There were 108 giving units in 2023, one additional giving unit than in 2022.

Congregation Council Report

At the January 11 meeting, the Congregation Council:

- President Christy Boos reported that a letter has been sent to our Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop requesting guidance and assistance for the congregation as it plans the next steps due to the financial situation.
- Asked the Property Committee to make arrangements for increased use of the gymnasium, especially for pickleball use.
- Had a Zoom presentation from Partners for Sacred Spaces to explain how the organization could assist Holy Trinity planning for greater use of our building. The Council will make a decision about contracting with the organization at a future meeting.
- Planned an adult forum for Sunday, February 25, for all volunteers and staff working with children and other members who are interested in learning about the congregation's Child Protection Policy. This is a required forum by the Protection Policy the Council adopted in conjunction with our insurance provider.
- Planned an adult forum for Sunday, April 14, to present and discuss the plan the Council will bring to the April 28 congregational meeting for the next steps for the future of Holy Trinity.
- Approved a request from the Property Committee that the former cleaning service (which resigned in December because of scheduling conflicts) be retained to clean on an "as available" basis. The cleaning service contacted Holy Trinity and requested this arrangement. Volunteer teams will continue to clean the weeks the cleaning service is unavailable. The day of the week may vary for the provider to clean.

Come "Getty" some spaghetti !!

Fellowship is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 16th at 6:00.

Just food and fellowship. All are welcome! Sign up sheets for attendance and donation of foods will be in the gathering area. Come feed your soul and your stomach. Questions or concerns, please see Kathy Kuhns.



Ladies and Gentlemen of Holy Trinity,
 Come and join us on Monday evenings at 630 PM in the Gathering Place for Yoga. If you have been feeling tired and achy from everyday life, Hatha Yoga may be for you. Hatha Yoga is gentle stretching and movements that ease the tension of the muscles that cause the achiness in your body. Our certified instructor is Amy Kulp. Amy has over 20 years of experience and has been leading our practice for over 10 years here at church. Currently, we have at least 10 members that practice routinely. Five are members of Holy Trinity. There is a modest fee of \$10 per class and at Christmas time we collect for "Fishes & Loaves" to support Holy Trinity's community outreach program. Currently, we only have ladies in our group but extend a welcome to any gentleman who would like to join us. Yes, men, yoga can help you too! So, if you would like to try something new or return to practice, bring a yoga mat, blocks, blanket, and water. If you do not have any of these, we do have items that you can borrow till you get your own. I suggest you wear comfortable clothes. If you have any questions or plan to come, call, text, or email: Deb Martin at 717-466-0885.

In case of inclement weather, we do send out emails or text messages to notify you of cancellations.



THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH Will be going to Caruso's Restaurant after the liturgy on March 10. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us!



Notes of **THANKS**

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I would like to thank the members of our congregation for their generous responses to the following Special Stewardship appeals for 2023.

November Appeal-Lancaster Veteran Outreach-\$895.61

December ELCA Good Gifts Program-\$814.54

Hopefully, your generosity will continue during the year of 2024 for each month that we have selected for our Stewardship Special Appeal program.

Norman Wangman, Chairman Stewardship Committee

Pickleball update

Beginning January 2nd, our Pickleball Court will be available every Tuesday from 8AM to 10AM. Additional days and times will be determined upon interest of court times once we begin this new activity. All experienced players come and join us. Come and give it a try. See Ron Kerschner if you have questions.





Celebration Choir Schedule for January

- *Wednesday, January 17 - 7:15 PM - Celebration Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary
- *Sunday, January 21 - sing "Arise, Shine" - meet at 8:30 AM in the sanctuary to rehearse before the service

Senior Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:45 PM! All are welcome!!!

BELL CHOIR Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.



January 21-27 Calendar

Sunday, January 21	
8:30am	Celebration Choir
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
10:15am	SCS
Monday, January 22	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
Tuesday, January 23	
8:00am	Pickleball
3:30pm	Trini Mini
6:00pm	God on Tap
7:00pm	Bell Choir
Wednesday, January 24	
6:45pm	Senior Choir
7:00pm	Historical Society
Thursday, January 25	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
Saturday, January 27	
7:30am	Walking Group

Revelation Bible Study

We will resume the Revelation Bible study on Tuesday, January 23 at 11:00 AM and will conclude by 12:15 PM. We will likely conclude the study that morning.

Friday Night Dinners

Friday night dinners for 2024 will begin on February 2, 2024 and every first Friday of the month thereafter. A sign up sheet will be available in the gathering area. Thank you to all whom participate in this ongoing Fellowship. All are welcome!!!!

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

January 21st Servers:

Council Team: Lisa Garrett, John Fuehrer

Assisting Minister: Kathy Kuhns

Lector: Gary Nace

Acolytes: CH Anya Gilbert

Ushers: Tom & Kitty Dickersheid

Altar Guild: Barb & Steve Sweigart,
Andy Sweigart

Linens: Brenda Wangman

Flowers: Heather Zimmerman



Office Hours: January 22-26, 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

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	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	8:00AM -12:00 noon	OFF

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 Homes of Hope fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!

