



[Bulletin](#)
[Server Schedule](#)

[Online Service](#)

[Online Giving](#)

Trinity Messenger

December 2023 Issue 4

Alleluia. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Alleluia. Luke 2:10-11



Christmas Eve Services

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

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

BOTH the 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM services will be livestreamed.

End of Year Contributions

For contributions to be counted and recorded for the 2023 calendar year:

- Contributions that are mailed to the church office must be **received** by Saturday, December 30 (regardless of the check date).
- In-person contributions must be placed in the offering or in the office by Sunday, December 31.

December Council Meeting Report

At its December 14 meeting, the Congregation Council:

- Approved using \$2,000 of the 2023 Sweigart Foundation grant for 2024 Trini Mini expenses and \$3,000 for needed office computer server upgrades.

- Directed the Council President to contact the Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod to notify the Bishop of our pending financial crisis and openness to discuss possible solutions.
- Learned that the current commercial cleaning service has resigned as of the end of December. The Property Committee will use volunteer cleaning teams each week as it investigates other options.

Congregation Officers

Elected to serve as officers in 2024 are:

President: Christy Boos
 Vice-President: Lisa Garrett
 Secretary: Bill Spitzer
 Treasurer: Larry Hummer

Financial Update

As of November 30, the Unified Budget **deficit** is \$75,439.68 for the year to date. The deficit does **not** include the \$2,500 received for the Special Appeal in November. All Special Appeal contributions will be applied to offset the deficit at the end of the year. The Special Appeal for funds will continue to reduce the actual 2023 deficit and anticipated 2024 deficit.



Caroling: Please join us on Wednesday afternoon, December 27 to go caroling! We will meet in the Social Hall at 1:00 PM.



Stewardship Special Giving for December: ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The ELCA Good Gifts is a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. These gifts are real examples from projects currently supported through ELCA churchwide ministries, the ELCA Fund for Leaders, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, Disability Ministries and Lutheran Response. 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.

Your donation will be used where it is needed most. The ELCA is at work in nearly 80 countries around the world, including the United States. More than 85% of your donation directly supports these programs, with less than 15% used for administrative purposes.

The variety of items that may be provided ranges from different animals: cows, pigs, goats; to providing clean water for a family, to vaccinations, school supplies, seeds and gardening tools, to Sunday School start-up kits. The list goes on and on!

Please be as generous as you can! The need is GREAT!

Funeral Service for Burnell Henry

Through a celebration of the Resurrection we will remember the life of Burnell Henry at the Stradling Funeral Home, Ephrata, on Thursday, **December 28 at 10:00 AM**. He will be interred immediately following the service at Memory Gardens, Ephrata. Please continue to hold Burnell's family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Kirchenwald Winter Youth Retreat: January 5-7, 2024

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. 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!

Register information is on-line at www.LutheranCamping.org or get a form from Lisa Garrett. Please register by **December 15th**.



Notes of **THANKS**

I am grateful and thankful for the phone calls from Pastor Mark and Donna. I also like to thankful for the flowers and cards. Winnie

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all my friends at Trinity who remembered my birthday in November with cards and flowers. I know I am truly blessed with family and friends and good health.

Sincerely, Kathryn Sweigart

Dear Holy Trinity Church,

I am writing to thank you for the \$691.78 donation you made to Clare House. Each donation helps a mom start her success story. Clare House serves homeless women and children by providing a temporary home in a caring environment, life-skills programs, and aftercare support leading to self-sufficiency. We provide safety, housing, and supportive services that encourage financial stability and empowerment. Thank you for starting a success story.

With Gratitude, Amanda Lynn Richardson, Executive Director, Clare House

Trini-Mini students unwrap the layers of a Saran Wrap ball. The treats that fall out during their turn are theirs to keep.



Bible Study: *The Revelation to John*

You are invited to join Pastor Mark on Tuesday mornings, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, for a study of the book of *Revelation (The Revelation to John)*. The group will meet in the conference room next to the office. The class will run for six consecutive weeks. You are invited to bring your own Bible to take notes if you wish (yes, writing in your Bible is okay); however, Bibles will be available. You are also invited to bring lunch with you in case you want to hang out afterward for more discussion on any topic or to enjoy fellowship time.

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. Those who expressed interest in learning how to play Pickleball are invited to come to our December 10th and January 14th Game Day from 2PM to 4PM. Come and give it a try. See Ron Kerschner if you have questions.



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

BELL CHOIR Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

December 24-30 Calendar

Sunday, December 24	
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
10:15am	SCS
7:00pm	Christmas Eve Servs 4 & 7PM
Monday, December 25	
Christmas Day Church office closed	
Tuesday, December 26	
Church office closed	
Thursday, December 28	
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
Saturday, December 30	
7:30am	Walking Group

There will be NO Coffee Klatch on December 26.

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

December 24th Servers:

9am

Council: Bill Spitzer, John Fuehrer
Assisting Minister: John Weiss
Lector: Wendy Young
Acolyte: CH: Natalie Mull
Ushers: Peggy Dean, Ed Quirke
Altar Guild: Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart
Linens: Brenda Wangman
Deliver Flower: Heather Zimmerman



Christmas Eve: 4pm

Council: Ed Quirke, Kevin Gingrich
Assisting Minister: John Fuehrer
Lector: Norm Wangman
Acolyte: Natalie Mull +
Ushers: Ron & Carlene Kerschner, David Kerschner, Rob Gilbert
Altar Guild: Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett

Christmas Eve: 7pm

Council: Barry Kreider, Lisa Garrett
Assisting Minister: Kathy Kuhns
Lector: Gary Nace
Acolyte: Anya Gilbert +
Ushers: Dave Bowers, Bob & Ann Snader
Altar Guild: Denise Shirker, Kelly Homan, Ann & Bob Snader

Office Hours: December 25-29

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

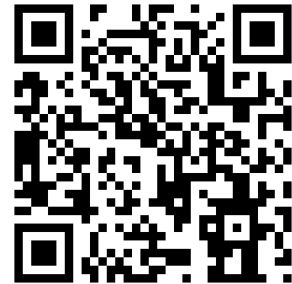
Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed
Tuesday	Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed
Wednesday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	8:00AM -12:00 noon	OFF
Friday	8:00AM -12:00 noon	OFF

Pastor Mark will be on vacation from December 28-31.

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!

