



# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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## Trinity Messenger December 2024 Issue 1

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*Alleluia. Stand up and raise your heads- your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia. Luke 21:28*

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### **Congregational Meeting**

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 1, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary. The agenda includes a motion to sell Trinity House (Homes of Hope house) to Ephrata Area Social Services, a proposal to change the use of the Special Benevolence Fund to allow accrued interest to be used for Unified Budget deficits, election of council members and voting members to the synod assembly, and adoption of a 2025 Ministry Support Plan. The 2024 Bulletin of Reports, which includes the proposed Ministry Support Plan, is available in the gathering area or by contacting the church office.

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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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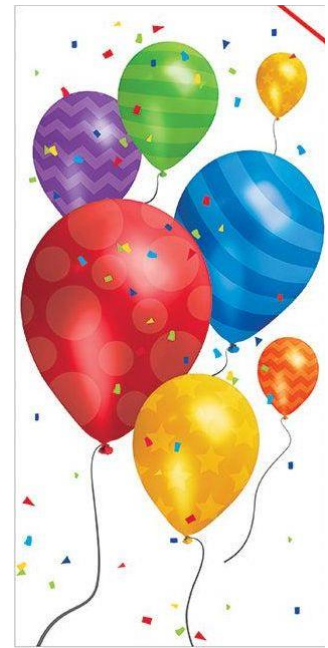
## Happy Birthday

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

### December

- 1 Larry Hummer
- 2 Jim Brodt
- 3 Doug Stick
- 11 Vicki Strock
- 13 Jacob Hinkle
- 13 Greg Paparo
- 23 Bruce Rettew
- 24 Thomas Dickersheid

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



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

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



### **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!

### **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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**Christmas Day Baskets**-There has been a change in our direction with our Thanksgiving Day Baskets. I reached out to EASS and they said they have received a lot of turkey donations and with several Thanksgiving Day community meals being served many are choosing to go there instead of preparing their own meals. EASS requested us to change to Christmas Day Baskets instead.



We will continue to collect food items until December 8<sup>th</sup>. In addition to requesting donations for turkeys, we will also seek donations for hams.

I have modified my original announcement:

Christmas will soon be upon us. This year, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting food items to make Christmas 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, scallop potatoes

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

We are also accepting donations of 10-14 lb turkeys and 3 to 6 lb boneless hams . Contact the church office or Rob Gilbert if you can donate a turkey or ham no later than **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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### **Sunday Church School Class schedule**

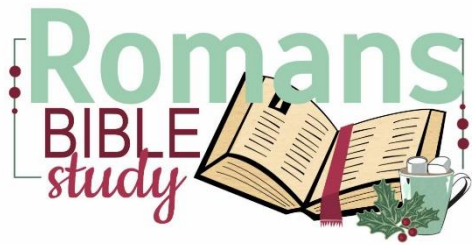
Parents have determined that holding Sunday Church School classes for their children every other week works best for their families. Children ages 3 and up will meet for class with Donna in her classroom on the following dates:

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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## **Advent Day Apart**

at The Wittel Farm



All are invited to a day of prayer and meditation in preparation of the birth of the Christ child.

### **Saturday, December 7, 2024 9am – 2pm**

We don't like to wait for anything, especially Christmas. With all its secular attraction, this holiday is often a focus on over-indulgence, and too often neglected is the best gift of all... one worth our waiting. You are invited to The Wittel Farm for a day apart from the busyness of life for prayer and contemplation as we journey toward the celebration of Christmas.

Casual, comfortable clothing will be appropriate. A \$15 registration fee covers program and luncheon costs. To register by November 29<sup>th</sup> for this event, visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.

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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”

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**



THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to The Cloister Diner after the liturgy on December 10. 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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**Help Wanted: Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet**

Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open the first 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 noon – 2pm and Sunday 11am – 1pm.

**Fall/Winter Schedule:**

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**



**Donations:** Currently there is a desperate need for men's pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children's clothing. All clothing in good shape is accepted as are household items like sheets, towels, etc. 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 meet at 6-7:30pm on the Friday before the Closet is open to sort donations and get them ready for the next day. When the Closet is open, volunteers are needed from 11:30 – 2:30 on Saturdays and 10:30 – 1:30 on Sundays. You do not need to be there the entire time to volunteer – whatever time you have available within those times 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.



**Christmas Poinsettias  
& Christmon Tree & Decorations**

POINSETTIAS CAN BE ORDERED BY RETURNING THIS FORM VIA MAIL, EMAIL, OR DROP OFF TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. **ORDERS WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN CHURCH THIS YEAR. DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 2.**



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettias (\$8.00 each) 6 ½ in. Pot

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF  
THE CHRISTMON TREE and Christmas tree decorations.**

\$5.00\_\_\_\$10.00\_\_\_\$15.00\_\_\_\$20.00\_\_\_

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:  
\_\_\_\_\_



## December 1-7 Calendar

1	DEC, SUN	● 9 – 10am	Worship
		● 10 – 10:30am	Coffee Hour After Worship
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Congregational meeting after worship
		● 10:20 – 11:20am	SCS
2	DEC, MON	● 10 – 11am	Women's Prayer Group
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Yoga
		● 7 – 8pm	Evangelism
3	DEC, TUE	● 11am – 12pm	Bible Study
		● 3:30 – 5:30pm	Trini Mini
		● 6 – 8pm	Pickleball
		● 6:15 – 7:15pm	Handbell Ensemble
		● 7 – 8pm	Bell Choir
		● 7 – 8pm	Fellowship Committee Meeting 167 E I
4	DEC, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Advent Evening Prayer
5	DEC, THU	● 3:30 – 5:30pm	Trini Mini
		● 7 – 8pm	Property Committee
		● 7 – 7:30pm	Thursday Worship
6	DEC, FRI	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Friday Night Dinners
7	DEC, SAT	● 7:30 – 8:30am	Walking Group

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

**December 1st Servers:**

**Council Team:** Barry Kreider, Lisa Garrett

**Assisting Minister:** Ed Quirke

**Lector:** Gary Nace

**Acolytes:** Ava Morgan

**Ushers:** Curtis & Christy Boos, Bill & Lori Spitzer

**Altar Guild:** Brenda Wangman,  
Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett

**Linens:** Lori Spitzer

**Flowers:** Winnie Gerlach



**Office Hours December 2-6, 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	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	OFF	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!*

