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Trinity Messenger
December 2024 Issue 2

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia. Luke 3:4, 6

Congregational Meeting Summary

At the meeting December 1, the congregation:

- Approved selling the Homes of Hope House to Ephrata Area Social Services for \$1.00.
 - Approved the proposal to amend the Benevolence Endowment Fund to allow accrued interest to be used to reduce Unified Budget deficits by a vote of 52 (Yes) to 3 (No).
 - Elected Barry Kreider and Norm Wangman to 2nd terms of the Congregation Council.
 - Elected Elaine Sernoffsky and Heather Zimmerman to 1st terms on the Congregation Council.
 - Elected Peggy Dean and Adam Doughty as the congregation's voting members to the 2025 Synod Assembly.
 - Adopted as proposed the 2025 Ministry Support Plan of \$342,592.00.
-

Sunday School Instructors Needed

Christian Education is an integral part of children's faith development, be it in a classroom or at home around the kitchen table, and it has been a staple in the lives of the Holy Trinity's children for generations. With this in mind, the Christian Education Team seeks individuals to share their gifts to help our children develop their faith and deepen their relationship with God and their Lord. The class of elementary-age and younger children meets two Sundays a month for 30 minutes after worship. The team hopes to have enough volunteers so that no one has to teach both Sundays in a month and, per our child protection policy and insurance, have two teachers and/or adults in the classroom while each session is being taught. If you are interested in helping to sustain the Sunday school program by sharing your gifts, please speak with Phyllis Doughty or Pastor Mark.

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.

End of Year Contribution Deadline

Contributions to be recorded for 2024 must be placed in the offering by Sunday, December 29, or **received** in the church office by December 29. Online/electronic giving **posted** to our account by our vendor by December 31 will be included in 2024 giving statements.

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



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



Christmas Eve Services

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

Only the 4:00 PM service will be livestreamed.

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

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.

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 8th. 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 8th**. 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.

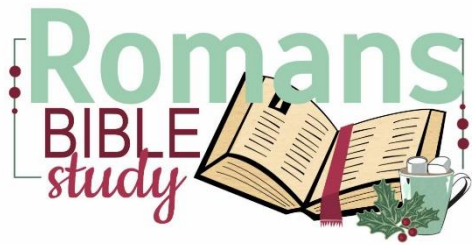
Sunday Church School Class schedule

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.





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!

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), our Facebook page administrator, and Adam Doughty (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.



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 or get a form from Lisa Garrett. Please register by **December 15th**.

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>



Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, December 11 – 6:30 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15 – “First Song of Isaiah”

Wednesday, December 18 – 6:30 PM – Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 PM

Sing “While By My Sheep”

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

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!

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 7th and 8th

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.



December 8-14 Calendar

8 DEC, SUN

- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:20am SCS
- 11am Lunch Bunch

9 DEC, MON

- 10am Women's Prayer Group
- 6:30pm Yoga

10 DEC, TUE

- 11am Bible Study
- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 6pm Pickleball
- 6:15pm Handbell Ensemble
- 7pm Bell Choir
- 7pm Finance Committee
- 8pm Executive Council

11 DEC, WED

- 7pm Celebration Choir rehearsal
- 7:30pm Advent Evening Prayer

12 DEC, THU

- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 7pm Thursday Worship
- 7:30pm Council Meeting

14 DEC, SAT

- 7:30am Walking Group

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

December 8th Servers:

Council Team: Kevin Gingrich, Kathrin Baltz

Assisting Minister: John Fuehrer

Lector: Mike Sernoffsky

Acolytes: Norm Wangman

Ushers: Peggy Dean, Ed Quirke

Altar Guild: Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart

Linens: Patricia Fassnacht

Flowers: Jo Hurst



Office Hours December 9-13, 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@ephratalutheran.org

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	OFF	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	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	8:00 AM- 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!

