



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Trinity Messenger December 2024 Issue 4

Alleluia. Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. Alleluia.
Luke 1:38

Unified Budget Monthly Financial Update

November Income	\$28,497.04
November Expenses	\$27,115.62
Income Year to Date	\$324,584.31
Expenses Year to Date	\$324,506.40

We reversed the slight deficit we had in Unified Budget at the end of October and concluded November with a positive fund balance of \$1,077.91.

Again, thank you for your financial support. Continued giving and end of year additional contributions should enable us to end the year in a very favorable financial situation.

December Congregation Council Meeting Report

At the December 12 meeting, the Congregation Council:

Elected as Officers for the coming year:

President	Lisa Garret
Vice President	John Weiss
Secretary	Bill Spitzer

Larry Hummer continues as treasurer until the end of 2025

- Approved the Property Committee recommendation to award a bid in the amount of \$11,235 to CJ Diiner & Sons to repair the roof and masonry at the rear of the church building and over the office area.
 - Approved Christmas gifts for the staff.
-

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.

Attention Thrivent Members

A reminder to Thrivent policyholders and investors

If you still have Thrivent Choice Dollars to “spend” this calendar year, you can designate those Choice Dollars to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We would appreciate it if you would check your Thrivent account to determine if you have Choice Dollars to direct, and then direct some or all to Holy Trinity. There is no cost to you or Holy Trinity and the congregation benefits from the contribution.

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.



Notes of **THANKS**

I want to convey my joy and gratitude to all who remembered my 98th birthday. Peace and happiness to each of you in the coming Holiday Season!

Kathryn Sweigart

Dear Friends, Thank you for your contribution of \$5,000 to Mennonite Disaster Service. Your gift was designated for 2024 Hurricanes. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, MDS volunteers are responding in western North Carolina to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene by clearing downed trees, regrading driveways, and mucking out homes. Beyond Hurricane Helene recovery, MDS volunteers will be active this winter in at least 17 other disaster recovery locations across the United States and Canada. Thank you for helping to make this possible.

Dear Neighborhood Friend, We thank you for your generous donation to our Neighborhood Santa Program, Your act of kindness is very much appreciated! We thank you for bringing joy and peace to those less fortunate. Many thanks for supporting and helping us grow this great cause! Well Wishes from Neighborhood Santa!! Kimberly and Friends

Thank you for your generous donation to The Lancaster Vet Center. Your continued support means the world to us and will help us provide additional services and activities for our veterans.

Thank you, Christopher Burchett

(for more thank you notes from The Lancaster Vet Center, see the card in the Gathering Area).

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.

Salem Lutheran Church of Ephrata invites you to an Open House on Sunday, December 15 between 6-8 pm. Join us for music, lovely decorations, and fellowship. Tour a historical sanctuary for an inspirational holiday experience.

[Salem Church Christmas Open House 2024](#)

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.

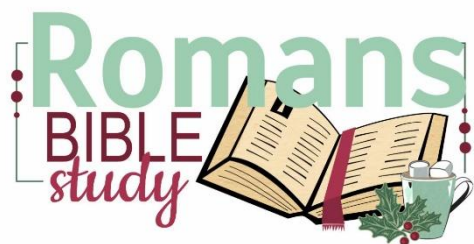
Sunday Church School Class schedule

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.

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 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!!



THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to TBA after the liturgy on January 8. 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!

December 22-28 Calendar

15 DEC, SUN

- Celebration Choir sings
- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:20am SCS
- 2pm Caroling

16 DEC, MON

- Hanging of the Greens
- 10am Women's Prayer Group
- 6:30pm Yoga

17 DEC, TUE

- 11am Bible Study
- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 6pm Pickleball
- 6:15pm Handbell Ensemble
- 7pm Bell Choir

18 DEC, WED

- 12pm Luther Lunch Ladies
- 6:30pm Celebration Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30pm Advent Evening Prayer

19 DEC, THU

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

21 DEC, SAT

- 7:30am Walking Group

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

December 22nd Servers:

Council Team: Bill Spitzer, Norm Wangman

Assisting Minister: Kathy Kuhns

Lector: Dan Doremus

Acolytes: Natalie Mull

Ushers: Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart, Sue Watts, Carl Rentschler

Altar Guild: Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett

Linens: Patrice Mull

Flowers: Heather Zimmerman



Office Hours December 23-27, 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

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	Church office closes at noon	Church office closes at noon
Wednesday	Church office closed	Church office closed
Thursday	Church office closed	Church office closed
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!



