



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Trinity Messenger
December 2024 Issue 5

*Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia. Col. 3:15,16*

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.

Happy Birthday

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

January Birthdays

4 Candy Snyder
7 John Fuehrer
15 Mary Brossman
20 Charlann Brubaker

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



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.



Notes of **THANKS**

Hello, yes, I know I am very late with this thank you note. In fact, you probably have no clue what I'm talking about. I'm referring to the Ephrata Project with LOVE, INC. I had a great group who trimmed shrubs, pressure washed, etc. So appreciated! Again, may thanks. Edith Schnupp

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.



Christmas Eve Services

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

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

Organist Search Committee Update

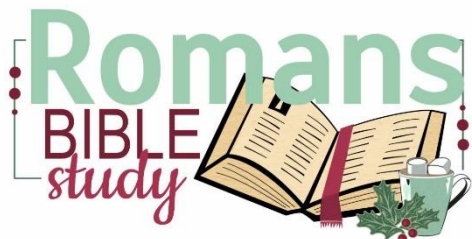
The organist search committee developed and submitted the job description for an organist to serve with the people of Holy Trinity to church music organizations and area music departments at colleges and universities and the Synod in mid-October. Currently, no interest has been shown in the position, 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:

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

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!!

December 29-January 4 Calendar

29 DEC, SUN

- Pastor Mark on vacation (Day 4/7)
- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship

30 DEC, MON

- Pastor Mark on vacation (Day 5/7)
- 6:30pm Yoga

31 DEC, TUE

- Pastor Mark on vacation (Day 6/7)
- 9am Coffee Klatch
- 12pm Church office closes at noon
- 6pm Pickleball

1 JAN, WED

- Pastor Mark on vacation (Day 7/7)
- Church office closed- New Year's Day

2 JAN, THU

- 7pm Property Committee
- 7pm Thursday Worship

3 JAN, FRI

- 6:30pm Friday Night Dinners

4 JAN, SAT

- 7:30am Walking Group

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

December 24th Servers 4PM:

Council Team: Lisa Garrett, Kevin Gingrich

Assisting Minister: John Fuehrer

Communion Asst: Ed Quirke

Lector: Gary Nace

Acolytes: Natalie Mull, Anya Gilbert, Ava Morgan

Ushers: Norm Wangman, Phyllis Doughty,
Winnie Gerlach

Altar Guild: Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart



December 24th Servers 7PM:

Council Team: Bill Spitzer, John Weiss

Assisting Minister: Kathy Kuhns
Communion Asst: Curtis Boos
Lector: Curtis Boos
Acolytes: Judy Williams, Natalie Mull, Anya Gilbert, Ava Morgan
Ushers: Denise Shirker, Trig Olson, Matt Shirker
Altar Guild: Denise Shirker, Kelly Homan, Ann & Bob Snader

December 29th Servers:
Council Team: John Weiss, Christy Boos
Assisting Minister: Kathy Kuhns
Lector: Ed Quirke
Acolytes: Ava Morgan, Barry Kreider
Ushers: Dave Bowers, Ann & Bob Snader, Tom & Kitty Dickersheid
Altar Guild: Brenda Wangman, Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett
Linens: Lori Spitzer
Flowers: Winnie Gerlach

Office Hours December 30- January 3, 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: officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org

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