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Trinity Messenger

January 2025 Issue 3

Alleluia. Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him. Alleluia. John 2:11

Stewardship Special Giving for January:

Mountaineers' Table

The Ephrata *Mountaineer's Table* is enrolling new families for the school year. The *Mountaineer's Table* is designed to help families stretch their grocery money, prepare low-cost meals for their families over the weekend, and have their children well-fed and ready to learn. Every Thursday, participating families receive a recipe and the ingredients to make the meal. Additional items including cereal, peanut butter, soups, and fresh fruits and vegetables are distributed. Helpful information is also included in the weekly packs, including "Smart Shopping Tips," "Clever Ways to Use Leftovers," and "Food to Always Have On Hand."



There is no cost to participate, but there are expectations: **Program participants will be expected to pick up their food every Thursday evening at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren located at 201 Crescent Avenue in Ephrata. Failure to do so will result in being removed from the program.**



"...the Christian life is a slow and quiet affair, more often like an early Sunday morning service in the middle of January than the buzzing excitement of a Christmas Eve Nativity Play. Any attempts to grasp it are generally futile, and any achievements or growth we come by are more frequently things that happen to us than things we bring about on our own. We think following Jesus consists in big, well-thought-out decisions, but the heart of it all is actually small, unplanned, pinprick feelings — ones that ask us to forgo our personal concerns to be with and for our neighbors in their times of need (and letting our neighbors do the same for us in ours)" (*And So That Was Christmas: What Does the Incarnation Mean Now?*, Joey Goodall, Mockingbird Ministries, 2025).

The further we move away from the sights and sounds of Christmas Eve, the further the impact of the Incarnation seems to move away from us.

The glorious sound of beautiful music, the excitement of the approaching Christmas Day hanging jubilantly in the air like the whirl of the heavenly host, and the smiles, laughter, and chatter of friends reconnecting and sharing good wishes have slowly but surely faded—put away with the decorations and all else that defined our holiday celebrations. The effects of the world-changing event we celebrated have not remained for some unknown reason, and the energy that filled and joyously overwhelmed and

defined our activities and intentions has waned. And, amid the letdown, we might wonder where it all went and blame ourselves for what we see as a faltering in our discipleship. Expecting our daily discipleship to be Christmas Eve is unrealistic and self-defeating, and I assure you, it is not God's expectation. I would suggest that God does not want it to be because, in many ways, our Christmas Eve celebrations become a fulfillment of what we want and need to make things meaningful for us when, in fact, God is calling us to something outside ourselves. What God is calling us to is not grandiose but rather is defined by simple gestures toward our neighbor that come from *small, unplanned, pinprick feelings* birthed in our hearts through God's incarnation and acted upon without forethought or reward.

The Incarnation invites us into a transformed life of subtle and consistent acts of love willingly shared with our neighbor as they are shared with us.

Pastor Mark

Unified Budget Monthly Financial Update

December Income	\$42,433.41
December Expenses	\$40,051.46
Income Year to Date	\$377,077.52
Expenses Year to Date	\$373,547.66

We concluded 2024 with a **surplus** of \$3,459.86 in our Unified Budget fund. We had anticipated a deficit for the year, but faithful giving enabled us to end the year in a positive financial position.

The \$3,459.86 will be transferred to our unrestricted reserves to help meet any deficit in future years.

Thank you for understanding our financial situation and for your 2024 contributions. We appreciate your continued financial support as we now begin this new year.



Donation Statements

The 2024 Donation Statements were emailed last week. For members without an email address, the statements have been printed and placed on a table in the gathering area. Contact the church office if you need a copy mailed to you.

POTLUCK DINNERS RESUME

The Fellowship Committee will host a potluck dinner on Friday, February 21, at 6:00 PM. Further information will be provided closer to the date. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.



Notes of **THANKS**

Thank you and a Happy New Year! God Bless you all, Sincerely, Anna Marie Slovesko (Christmas Basket recipient)



Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, January 15 – 7:00 PM – Rehearsal
Sunday, January 19 – “Arise, Shine”

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

Dear Widows and Widowers,

Swamp Lutheran Church has an active widow and widower’s group. We would like to invite others from your congregation to join us. Our next luncheon will be the day before Valentine’s Day. This holiday can be a time for widows and widowers to reflect on love and loss. It can be a lonely time. So please come to be with new and old friends. Let’s shift our focus from the hearts and flowers and stand together on the truth and positivity of our Heavenly Father’s unending love and amazing grace. So, with that said, we’ve invited Pastor Scott Brubaker of Swamp Lutheran to be our guest and speak on “LOVE”.

What: Widow and Widowers Luncheon

When: Thursday February 13th 11:30 am

Where: Udder Choice Restaurant, Ephrata, PA

Turn right after entering. Private room on the right. (separate checks)

Guest: Pastor Scott Brubaker



For the February 13th luncheon Please RSVP to our church office at (717)-336-2849.

If you have a widow or widower friend, please bring them along, just RSVP for a count for the restaurant.

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.

ORGANIST SEARCH PROCESS

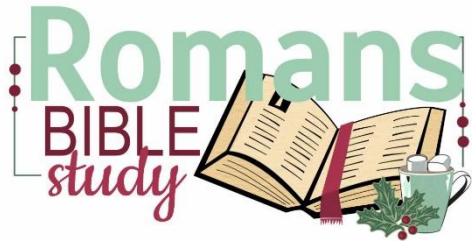
The Committee has received several resumes from possible organist candidates. These have been reviewed and discussed, and the committee has begun to schedule interviews. Please hold the committee in your prayers as they carry out interviews to find the candidate who will best fit in with the worship ministry of Holy Trinity.

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!

Bergstrasse Community Closet 2024 wrap up.

Since March 2024, we have helped almost 2,000 people in the area, not including the many school districts, nursing homes, and hurricane victims. We also have saved almost 6,000 articles of clothing from ending up in the landfill. A heartfelt thank you, to our hardworking volunteers! Each and every one of you are amazing. None of this would be possible without your input, ideas, and work. So many friendships have been formed, and so many connections made! We are excited for 2025! All are welcome here, no questions asked, no strings attached. There is plenty for everyone. We thank God, to always manage to bring to us what we need in donations, and the ability to provide this ministry to all who need it.



Thank you to all of our donors, and the many of you who support us in so many ways!

2025 Hours:

Jan 4&5, 18&19 from 12 to 2.

Feb: 1&2, 15&16 from 12 to 2.

March:1&2, 15&16 from 12 to 2.

Starting 2025, we have made both Saturday and Sundays, 12 to 2 so our volunteers can enjoy Bergstrasse Lutheran Church worship service on Sundays 10am.

Donations for the clothing closet may be left in the box in the narthex of Holy Trinity church. Please contact the Clothing Closet on Facebook if you are interested in volunteering.

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>

January 19-25 Calendar

19	JAN, SUN	● Celebration Choir
		● 9am Worship
		● 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
		● 10:20am SCS
20	JAN, MON	● 6:30pm Yoga
21	JAN, TUE	● 11am Bible Study
		● 3:30pm Trini Mini
		● 6pm Pickleball
23	JAN, THU	● 3:30pm Trini Mini
		● 7pm Thursday Worship
25	JAN, SAT	● 7:30am Walking Group

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

January 19th Servers:

Council Team: John Fuehrer, Ed Quirke

Assisting Minister: John Weiss

Lector: John Weiss

Acolytes: Anya Gilbert

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



Altar Guild: Denise Shirker, Kelly Homan,
Ann & Bob Snader
Linens: Brenda Wangman
Flowers: Dan Doremus

Office Hours January 20-24, 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	Church office Closed	Church office Closed
Tuesday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	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!

