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Trinity Messenger
November 2024 Issue 4

*Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia. Mark 11:9*

Have You Been Saved?

Unlike numerous people who have shared their experiences with me, I have never had the experience of someone approaching me and asking if I have been saved. Likewise, I have never asked anyone this question because it's not a standard tool in the Lutheran evangelist's tool belt. However, if I am honest, I eagerly await the day when I, too, will be approached and asked this question. It will be a moment of pure, anticipated joy to answer the asker in the affirmative and patiently share in detail, whether they are ready or not, the *Theology of the Cross* and the nature of God's redeeming love and unmerited grace.

Recently, while we were exploring the nature of Paul's understanding of grace, faith, and the law at the weekly Bible study, the words of this rather unbeneficial, judgment-laden question came to mind. This was in opposition to the grace-filled good news that Paul experienced and by which he was transformed through the gospels—the same good news typified by Jesus' message of God's universal love that is freely offered to us all without condition.

With a constructive and creative nudge from the Spirit, I wondered if tweaking our message to "Do you know you have been saved?!" would improve the effectiveness of the life-giving tools in our tool belts and clarify our understanding of God's grace—a necessary reminder for ourselves as well as for others. So, as we reconsider the evangelical nature of Jesus' mandate to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations," let us replace words of judgment and division with words that rightly affirm God's universal love, forgiveness, and acceptance for all His children in all nations. Let us proclaim confidently to others, "Do you know you have been saved?!" and experience the life-changing nature of God's truth, which is filled with words that possess the power to heal others and ourselves.

Saved daily by God's grace,
Pastor Mark

Unified Budget Monthly Financial Update

October Income	\$32,121.43
October Expenses	\$27,612.26
Income Year to Date	\$296,087.27
Expenses Year to Date	\$296,380.58

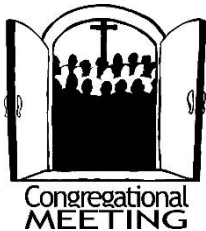
We ended October with a slight deficit (\$293.31). The October income was much greater than our expenses, which reduced the \$4,800 deficit at the end of September.

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.

October and November Congregation Council Meeting Report

At the October and November meetings, the Congregation Council:

- Approved a job description for the organist.
- Approved recommending to the congregation the sale of Trinity House to Ephrata Area Social Services for \$1.00.
- Approved recommending to the congregation the 2025 Ministry Support Plan prepared by the Finance Committee.
- Approved Kevin Gingrich and John Fuehrer serving as chairs for the task force to plan a retirement celebration and gift for Donna Nace.
- Approved recommending to the congregation the nominations of Barry Kreider and Norm Wangman for second terms and Heather Zimmerman and Elaine Sernoffsky for first terms on the Congregation Council.
- Approved recommending to the congregation the nominations of Adam Doughty and Peggy Dean as synod assembly voting members in 2025.
- Approved a recommendation of the Finance Committee to distribute some of the accrued interest in the Special Benevolence Fund to Lutheran Disaster Response (\$5,000) and Mennonite Disaster Services (\$5,000) for Hurricane Helene disaster assistance.
- Declined a request from MainSpring Ephrata to advertise our parking lot's weekly availability for public parking due to the other uses of the lot.
- Approved discussion at the November 24 forum the request to transition from all-volunteer cleaning crews to a partial paid cleaning service.



Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held **Sunday, December 1**, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

The agenda will include adoption a 2025 Ministry Support Plan (Budget) and the election of council members. Also, there will be 2 proposals presented for approval: (1) sale of Trinity House (the former Homes of Hope house) to Ephrata Area Social

Services, and (2) change the by-laws of the Mission Endowment Fund to allow accrued interest to be used, if needed, to offset Unified Budget deficits.

Congregational Meeting Forum

To prepare for the Annual Congregational Meeting, a forum will be held **Sunday, November 24**, following the worship service in the social hall. The proposed Ministry Support Plan along with a review of our present financial situation will be presented for discussion. Also, additional information will be given about the two proposals being presented for approval.

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!



THANKSGIVING
Community
MEAL

Cocalico-Ephrata Giving Thanks Community Dinner

FREE Meal on Thanksgiving Day. 11:00am - 3:00pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy a sit-down meal. **Take-out is not available.** Ephrata Business Center: 400 W Main St. Ephrata, PA

A few volunteers are still needed to help on Thanksgiving Day.

Food items needed are the following: Desserts & Large cans of corn

Donations may be taken to Ephrata Christian Fellowship from 10 to 8 the Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving. You may volunteer on those days for two hours to help set up.



**From Luther Acres: Please join us for our
HOLIDAY BAZAAR & PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Saturday, November 23 at

Luther Acres Towne Center 250 St. Luke Dr, Lititz, PA

Holiday Bazaar 8AM- 2PM.

Pancake Breakfast 8-10AM.

See flyers in Gathering Area for more details.

Stewardship Special Giving for November:

Lancaster VETERAN'S center

The Veteran Center located in the Greenfield Industrial Park in Lancaster began its programs for Veterans in 1979. The primary mission of the center is to provide quality readjustment service for veterans and their families to civilian life.

Since the month of November includes Veteran's Day, the Stewardship Committee decided to honor Veterans this month.

The center serves all veterans, those who have completed their service but also active-duty veterans. The team that staffs this center has a goal of providing whatever a veteran may need in their lives, including connecting them with services either with the VA or in our community. The help provided is geared to help the veteran readjust to their current situation. Some of the situations can be Post Traumatic Stress, Sexual Trauma, Bereavement, Drug and Alcohol, referral for VA benefits, referral for homeless veterans, or any other barrier to the veteran getting care. Some of these cannot be completed with government funds so donations are very welcome.

Christopher Burchett, Veteran Outreach Program Specialist will present a Temple Talk on November 3rd.

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.

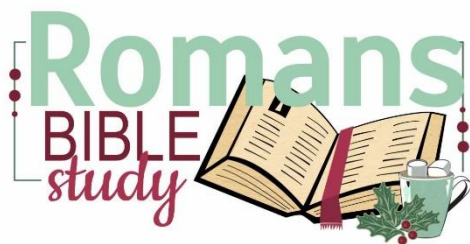
Sunday Church School Class schedule

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.

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 29th for this event, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.



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, November 27 – Thanksgiving Eve Service – 7:00 PM
Sing “We Gather Together”

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!!

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.



**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:



24	NOV, SUN	● All day	Budget Forum
		● 9 – 10am	Worship
		● 10 – 10:30am	Coffee Hour After Worship
		● 10:20 – 11:20am	SCS
25	NOV, MON	● 10 – 11am	Women's Prayer Group
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Yoga
26	NOV, TUE	● 9 – 11am	Coffee Klatch 167 E Main St, Ephrata, PA
		● 11am – 12pm	Bible Study
		● 3:30 – 5:30pm	Trini Mini
		● 6 – 8pm	Pickleball
		● 6:15 – 7:15pm	Handbell Ensemble
		● 7 – 8pm	Bell Choir
27	NOV, WED	● All day	Thanksgiving Eve service 7PM
		● 12 – 1pm	Church office closes at noon
		● 7 – 8pm	Celebration Choir sings
28	NOV, THU	● All day	Thanksgiving Day- Church office closed
29	NOV, FRI	● All day	Church office closed
30	NOV, SAT	● 7:30 – 8:30am	Walking Group

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

November 24th Servers:

Council Team: Norm Wangman, Bill Spitzer

Assisting Minister: Kathy Kuhns

Lector: Kathy Kuhns

Acolytes: CH: Ava Morgan, CR: Natalie Mull,

T: Patrice Mull, Judy Williams

Ushers: John Fueher, Candy Snyder, Mark Mull,
Whip Zimmerman

Altar Guild: Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart

Linens: Brenda Wangman

Flowers: Dan Doremus



November 27th Servers 7PM:

Council Team: Ed Quirke, Christy Boos

Assisting Minister: John Weiss

Lector: John Weiss

Acolytes: CR: Barry Kreider

T: Natalie Mull, Anya Gilbert

Ushers: Ron & Carlene Kerschner,
David Kerschner, Rob Gilbert

Altar Guild: Brenda Wangman,

Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett

Linens: Patrice Mull

Flowers: Heather Zimmerman

Office Hours November 25-29, 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	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	Office closes at noon	Office closes at noon
Thursday	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED
Friday	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED

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!

