

# February 2024 Newsletter

*<sup>27</sup>the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.” <sup>29</sup>His disciples said, “Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! <sup>30</sup>Now we know that you know all things and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe?*

—John 16:27-31

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In the 16th chapter of John’s gospel Jesus is busy with his long farewell to his disciples. Their feet have been washed and he’s about to pray for them (and us). By chapter 19 we’re actively heading toward the crucifixion. It’s a somber scene. And yet, Jesus tosses in some IRL (in real life) communication. You can almost hear his sarcasm, disbelief, affection and humor in his voice when the disciples exclaim that NOW Jesus is speaking plainly and NOW they believe. It’s like he says, “Really, guys? Not till NOW?”

We’re so much like the disciples in our own spiritual growth. After each leap toward more, better, stronger, mature faith we go, “NOW I get it!” Aren’t we like that, too, when we’ve learned something new about our faith, the Father, scripture, our congregation, each other? The lightbulb goes off and our confidence is bumped up a notch.

But, we don’t always live in confidence, especially about faith stuff, church stuff, and getting to know our neighbors in a somewhat angry society. So, I want to make the invitation, for all things Trinity at least, for you to ask questions. The goal is not just to learn the knowledge, but to bump up your confidence and begin to encourage us all to share our truths with one another. As Paul said to the Thessalonians, *“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” (1Thess 5:11)*

Please feel free to email, call, text, or drop a note in the offering plate with any questions you might have pertaining to our shared life of faith. I’ll try to answer each one, or find the answer, and publish the answers in upcoming bulletins, emails & newsletters.

There is no such thing as a dumb question. Chances are, if you’re asking it, so is someone else. So, having answers is a good option for everyone. Here are a few answers I’ve provided recently:

No, you don't have to be a member to become involved in ministries here. If you want to join, you don't have to stand up front and be stared at.

Holy Communion Class for anyone wanting to learn about the sacrament will occur some time this spring. Watch for details.

No, Jesus telling us to love our enemies doesn't mean to punch them with a smile on your face.

Narthex is a churchy word that means "lobby or gathering space outside the worship space."

We wear robes while leading worship to hide that we're from different socio-economic backgrounds, not to stand out as the holy people. My stole means I've been authorized to preside at Christ's Table & preach the Word.

When we say "catholic" in the creed it doesn't mean Roman Catholic Church; it means "universal," the original meaning of catholic. Pay attention to the small "c" and big "C."

Your offering is very important and appreciated, even if its smaller than you'd like; it funds all our ministries and expenses. Thank you!

On Sunday mornings it takes me about 20 minutes to get to church. On week/workday mornings with traffic and school buses it's twice as long.

I don't know what the Annex is either. Sometimes it refers to the Social Hall and sometimes to the addition where the elevator, restrooms and offices (and narthex!) are.

The best place to start reading the Bible is the gospel of Luke; he tells us Jesus' story in the most comprehensive way. If you're unfamiliar with the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) it's best to start in a children's bible and/or the Book of Genesis. Random snippets never make much sense & can be scary.

Yes, this is a great place to be to live a life of faith!

Bring on those questions!

Love,  
Pr. Susan

**Our Mission:** We are a family of Christian disciples committed to making Christ known while loving and serving God and neighbors.

**Our Vision:** To fulfill our mission, we will:

**Worship** through liturgy, music, prayer, and Sacraments;

**Teach** God's Word and nurture spiritual growth;

**Serve** and provide for those in need;

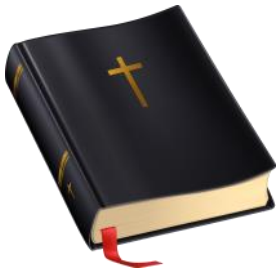
**Witness** to others by sharing the Gospel;

**Celebrate** with fellowship;

**Return** with joy what God has given;

**Be active** in our community and the Church.

**Worship, Serve, Celebrate!**



## **Bible Study for February: Half Truths finishes & Lenten Study Begins**

Join us for Bible Study on Monday evenings at 6pm! We're using "Half Truths," by Adam Hamilton, and will switch to the 2024 ELCA World Hunger resource for Lent on 2/26.

February 5—God said it; I believe it; that settles it.

February 12—Love the sinner, hate the sin.

February 19—NO BIBLE STUDY

February 26—(*Lenten study booklets will be available by Ash Wednesday*)

The Zoom meeting ID for these sessions is **864 8792 7782**.

If you need help logging in, text Pastor Susan at 717-778-5548, or give her a call.



**Drive Thru Holy Communion** distribution will be held Sunday, February 4 at 10:30am. Anyone wishing to participate should arrive at the back of church to receive the sacrament from your car.

Trinity's Caregivers' Group will meet **Thursday, February 22 at**



**10:00am** in the chapel. Everyone who has been, is, or will be caring for a loved one is welcome to attend. No registration necessary; see Pastor Susan for more information.



*Shut-in Visitation*

**Adopt Homebound Disciples:** In this ministry, you're invited to adopt someone in our community who is no longer able to regularly attend worship or participate in activities due to age or illness. You'll have the chance to visit your adoptee every other month (or more often), to remember them on special days, and to simply let them know that they are still part of our faith family. Just call Judy Burgard (see Trinity's directory) or see the sign up form on the bulletin board downstairs by the elevator if you're interested. ***Thanks so much to all who have remembered the homebound the past years. They really appreciate it.***

**PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS** should be directed to the church office or directly to Pastor Susan or Judy Burgard, our visitation coordinator (see above). We don't know when someone has had a crisis, a health concern, or other reason for care. Please share concerns so that we may love one another well. Thank you!

**Mission-in-Motion Mission Trip:** Plans are being made for a mission trip to Guatemala through Tree 4 Hope in January 2025 to volunteer at the school for girls. If you are interested in knowing more and possibly going on the trip, please see Pastor Terry for details.

### **SYNOD VOTING MEMBERS NEEDED**

The ELCA's Lower Susquehanna Synod meets in assembly May 31 & June 1. Since the ELCA and synod guide our church policies, it is important that we have representation. We are asked to send one male, one female, and optionally a youth and/or person of color or someone whose first language is not English. Please prayerfully consider your involvement. We need you! If you are interested, please See Pastor Susan. (synod = local region of the national church)

## **WELCA News**

When we met in January, our Women of the ELCA brought their nativity sets or pictures of their nativity sets to share with each other. It was fascinating to hear the stories of each of them, where they originated, and how long they were owned by each of the women. These treasures included two made by our late Trinity member Dottie Mae Eisenhart! The nativity set displayed at the front of our sanctuary was also made by Dottie Mae! Several of the sets were from the Holy Land, received as gifts, and loved by each family. We learned that there are 28 verses in The Bible that mention the Nativity of Jesus. And eight hundred years ago, the first live recreation of the nativity was assembled by St. Francis of Assisi in Greccio, Italy. His hope was to make the story relatable to those who viewed it.

Our annual January Pie Sale of Shoo Fly and Cherry pies had orders of 122 pies. Due to winter weather on Friday, we baked all the pies on Thursday. Thank You everyone who purchased pies and were flexible in picking up their pies as we had to change the schedule on Wednesday. Thank you to all of our generous volunteers who made this project go smoothly! The kitchen and social hall were as busy as a beehive on Thursday to complete this monumental task. Donations were received from Thrivent in the form of an Action Team \$250 gift card to purchase ingredients and pie plates! We must also thank the Sharrer family for the flour donation and Charlie Hoffman for the cherry pie fill donation! Your kindness is so appreciated!

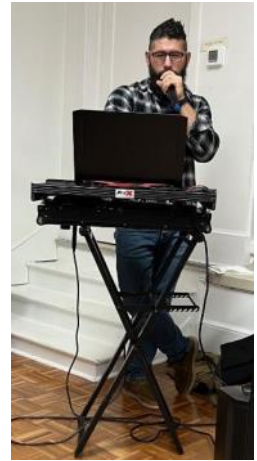
We will be providing the luncheon following the funeral service for Nancy McCully on January 23. Nancy has only just begun attending Trinity with her husband Don and daughter Katie. She had been eager to begin volunteering and sharing her talents with us before her unexpected passing. We will be honored to remember her with this meal.

WELCA will not meet in February and will resume meeting March 5 at 7 PM in Trinity's social hall. All women are invited to attend & become involved. Upcoming in March, we will host the Lenten Luncheon on March 20, serving soup and sandwiches.

# Trivia Night

Trivia Night was a HUGE success! Special Thank you to the Parish Life Committee for organizing this fun event.





On January 21 we held a wonderful Trivia Night with DJ, Anton-"Then We Danced" DJ company. Thanks to all who helped make it possible. We had good pizza from Rocco's Pizza plus desserts and salad from our church family.

You are cordially invited to attend  
a top-secret mystery party...



*Hosted By: Parish Life Committee*

*Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024*

*Time: 5:30p.m.*

*Location: Trinity Lutheran Church  
Social Hall*

*Cost: \$ 20.00 per person*

*RSVP by February 9, 2024 to the church office*

*(717) 259-9125*

**Right of Refusal Waiver for Photos & Videos** – To insure the safety of participants, Trinity Lutheran has adopted a policy for the use of videos and photos from various services, events and programs here at the church. If you wish that the image of you and your child(ren) NOT BE USED in the media that we publish, please fill out a “Right of Refusal” waiver form found in the office or by emailing Jen at [secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylutheraneb.org). Forms will be valid for a calendar year (until Dec 31). If you have questions, please call the church office.



# MEN'S ministry

The meeting January 13 had 14 men in attendance. We hope to see even more new faces at our next meeting, March 2. The following items were part of our business meeting agenda:

- Jim reported Christmas Lanterns will be taken down Saturday, Jan 20, weather permitting. Anyone that can help should be at the Lions shed in the E. B. Cemetery.
- Pastor has asked the Men's group to host soup and sandwiches "To Go" on Ash Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The group agreed to do so and Jay and Leon agreed to head up the event. Based on last year will prepare for 30 people.
- Discussion was held concerning a spring soup sale. It was decided to have a soup sale: Chicken Corn and Ham & Bean Soup on March 2. Advance order only. Orders can be placed beginning February 1. Details to follow.
- Future Meeting dates: March 2, May 11
- Terry Yearly offered to host a crab feed at Beach Bay Harbor May 11 dependent on the weather and availability of crabs in the bay.

## Finance

2023 General Fund reported total YTD income of \$219,346; Total expenses \$214,752; net surplus \$4,594. The good news is that we ended with a surplus; the bad news is we fell short of meeting our General Operating Budget by \$12,704 even after the receipt of a large anonymous corporate donation to the General Operating Fund. Additionally, 2023 General Fund income was \$6,213 less than 2022 income of \$225,559 (included Special Appeal \$22,046). Our 2024 budget is \$230,667, an increase of \$8,026 over the 2023 budget. Meeting the 2024 General Fund Budget requires monthly contributions of \$19,222. On December 31, 2023, cash on hand to fund General Operations is \$33,923.

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? Want to gather for fellowship and to pray over the shawls others make? Feel called to be on the shawl distribution team? Join us for the next gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the 2024 year on **Monday, February 12 at 2pm** in the church parlor. See Pat Bjonnes (see directory) for more information or with questions.



## WEDNESDAYS FELLOWSHIP & FAITH

You're welcome at the **Wednesday Morning Prayer** service @ **10AM in the Chapel**, or worship online through the Trinity Lutheran EB Fellowship Group on Facebook. A fellowship time will be held at **8:30 at Graybill's Diner, Abbottstown** for breakfast, Dutch treat.



## HAVE YOU BEEN WORSHIPING ONLINE?



In the last 28 days, we had 406 video views, with 82 hours of watch time. We now have 181 subscribers! Thank you to those worshipping from home (and away). If you're an online worshiper, please feel free to contact the church office with requests for connection, pastoral needs, and feedback about your online experience. We'd love to hear from you!



**MEN'S MINISTRY SOUP SALE**  
**CHICKEN CORN AND HAM & BEAN**  
**ADVANCE ORDERS ONLY!**  
**\$ 9/QUART**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024**

**Pick-up 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Watch for order form to be posted February 1.**

**Inclement Weather:** In case of bad weather, please go online and check WGAL 8 or ABC 27 for closings and delays. You can also check our page <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranEastBerlin/>

**Our Wednesday weather policy:** If Bermudian Springs School District has a two-hour delay or is closed there will be no morning gathering. Please watch for email, Facebook or web announcements for more information during those times; any online gatherings will be announced electronically.

**Good News & Brews** will be held the second Tuesday of each month at the Altland House in Abbottstown. Join with other local churches to enjoy conversation, food and refreshments. Next meeting is February 13 from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

**Quilts Update:** The quilts left from the Knotty Knotters and donated blankets were delivered to The Hanover Council of Churches for their homeless shelter. When they were contacted, they said they would be happy for any donations of blankets that we could give them. Thank you all for your help with providing these!



**Kids' Quarter Collection:** The next Tin-Cup Quarter Collections will be on Sunday, February 4 with a **NOISY OFFERING**.

*Please bring your quarters with you to worship that day.*

All the money we collect goes to  
**Laundry Love.**

# Ministry Pages



**THE SHARING SHELF update:** Please see Deb King (see directory) if you are interested in learning more about, or helping with the Sharing Shelf.

- ◆ Donations from our faith community and other local organizations (like New Hope Ministries in New Oxford) help us keep the shelf full of food for our neighbors in need. THANK YOU for all your giving to the shelf!
- ◆ This month we've seen more boxed, fresh, and bakery items used than canned goods.
- ◆ Please remember the Sharing Shelf when you do your shopping and keep in mind meals and snacks that don't require heating, other ingredients, or even utensils. Our homeless neighbors and hungry kids appreciate this!

*Get New Glasses Recently?* The East Berlin Lion's Club has a donation box for old eye glasses at Trinity located under the bulletin board near the elevator. Thanks in advance for thinking of others.



The next **Ruth's Harvest Collection Bag Packing** is **Wednesday, February 21 at 12:40pm** at the old fire-hall near St. John's in Abbottstown. Each month of this school year, we pack 105 bags of food for students at Bermudian Springs Elementary. The Ruth's Harvest Ministry continues because of the support and generosity of Trinity and five other area congregations. Thank you! **The most needed items right now are individual tuna/chicken salad packs, mac & cheese cups, non refrigerated milk, and cereal.** See Sandy Emig or contact the office to get involved!

**Laundry Love Ministry** will be held **Tuesday, February 13 from 5:00-6:30pm** at the White Dove Laundromat in East Berlin behind

Jim & Nena's Pizza. Laundry Love is getting busier each month. We have approximately 25 people making use of our laundry love. We need volunteers for the second Tuesday of each month from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. To sign up to help at the laundromat see the sheet on bulletin board by the elevator.



This ministry is always in need of quarters.

**February 4th's Noisy Offering** will collect quarters for this ministry, or you may drop them any time in the collection box in the narthex (upstairs lobby). Quarters or other monies (all carefully labeled) may also be offered in the Offering Plate. Thank you for your support of this important, loving, ministry.



**Food Pantry:** New Hope Ministries is bringing the mobile pantry from 4:00-6:00pm on Wednesday, February 7. **There will be requests for donations in the bulletins.** **REMINDER:** Volunteers are needed to serve as personal shopping assistants, set-up and tear-down, stockers and loading assistance. No need to sign-up in advance to help. Simply show up anytime after 3:00 p.m. on the day of the Food Pantry. Any questions, contact Anita Madsen.

**Fellowship Hour** is held the first Wednesday of every month from 3:00-4:00pm. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy some time playing games, talking, doing a puzzle, and having a time of prayer as needed. Light refreshments will be served.



# Worship Leader Schedule

| Date                    | Assisting Minister | Communion Helper | Lector    | Us        |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Feb 4                   | Alex S.            | Charlie H.       | Eddie S.  | Jim/Noel  |
| Feb 11                  | Becky R.           | Bob K.           | Sue C.    | Leon      |
| Feb 14<br>Ash Wednesday | Bob K.             | ----             | Sami K.   | Rick      |
| Feb 18                  | Jim K.             | Alex S.          | Sam H.    | Janet/M   |
| Feb 25                  | Bob K.             | Chris L.         | Noelle K. | Terry/Geo |

*Note: If you need to change the date you are scheduled to serve, please contact our*



**Trinity's Pie Helpers 2024** - Thank you so much for all your help. Thanks to everyone who bought pies. God Bless you all!! Those not pictured who helped are Mary Jacobs , Amanda Moore, Louise Boyer & Karen Ruth. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans helped with expenses for the pie sale as did Sharrer's Mill & Charlie Hoffman for pie filling.

# chedule—February 2024

| Leaders      | Altar Guild | Cantor(s)        | Acolyte   | Cookie Break |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Alle/Ruthann | Noelle K.   | Sue C.           | Addie R.  | Lisa M.      |
| /Jay/Sue     | Anita M.    | Dona L./Sami K.  | Koltyn H. | Jess W.      |
| /Anita       | Deb K.      |                  | ----      | ----         |
| Mac/Kathy    | Ruthann B.  | Mary J.          | Jack B.   | Jen M.       |
| erge/MaryAnn | Kathy K.    | Joss S./Karen S. | Brody M.  | Anita M.     |

*others on the list and arrange a swap. Please notify the church office of the change.*



**Trinity's 2024 Council Installation** service was held Sunday, January 14. Council Members pictured here (l-r) include Michael Sheads, Karen Sheaffer, Barb Kauffman, Sandy Emig, Leon Leas, Dona Lerew, Sue Clauser (treasurer), Bob King, and Joshlyn Sharrer.  
(Not pictured: Bob Aims, Mark Boyer, and Sherry Brown)

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Dates              | March 15--17 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)   |
| Where              | Zinn-Tozer Lodge, Camp Nawakwa, Ardentsville, PA<br>30 minutes from East Berlin. Carpooling available.  |
| Goals              | Fun, Fellowship, Great Food, Family activities plus R&R<br>Faithbuilding experiences, Games<br>Theme: God invites us to invite God's people   |
| Who                | Families and people of all ages (from 2 to 102)   |
| Night Stay Options | 2 night stay (Friday <u>and</u> Saturday, or<br>1 night stay (Friday <u>or</u> Saturday), or<br>0 night stay (Day Use) Friday, Saturday, and Sunday   |
| Beds               | 10 rooms, each with a flat double bed and 3 bunk style beds<br>Enough for 2 adults and 3 children<br>Shared bathrooms (Men's and Women's) with showers  |
| Day Use            | Come for the day activities (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)<br>Sleep in your bed at home each night  |
| Costs              | <b>Night Use</b><br>\$75 <u>per room</u> for the <b>first night</b> (2 adults, 3 children)<br>Second night free!!!<br>Includes room, activities and all 5 meals<br><b>Day Use</b><br>\$25 <u>per adult</u> for entire <b>weekend</b> (kids free)<br>Includes activities and all 5 meals |



*Scholarships are available for retreat attendance if the cost is prohibitive for your family (Trinity membership not required for retreat or scholarship participation). See Pastor Susan with requests, which will remain confidential.*



| 2024<br>March | Friday (15th)     |                              | Saturday (16th)   |                              | Sunday (17th)              |        |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
|               | Kids              | Adults                       | Kids  | Adults                       | Kids                       | Adults |
| 7:00          |                   |                              | Breakfast in PJs<br>(Prayer at 9:50)  |                              | Breakfast in PJs           |        |
| 8:00          |                   |                              | Cleanup and Free Time   |                              | Free Time Cleanup and Pack |        |
| 9:00          |                   |                              | Learning Activities   | Programing                   | Worship Service            |        |
| 10:00         |                   |                              | Activities & Games  |                              | Cleanup and head home      |        |
| 11:00         |                   |                              | Prayer at 11:55<br>Lunch & Free Time  |                              |                            |        |
| 12:00         |                   |                              | Learning Activities   | Programing                   |                            |        |
| 1:00          |                   |                              | Activities & Games  |                              |                            |        |
| 2:00          |                   |                              | Prayer at 4:50<br>Dinner & Free Time  |                              |                            |        |
| 3:00          |                   |                              | Learning Activities   | Programing                   |                            |        |
| 4:00          |                   |                              | Activities & Games  |                              |                            |        |
| 5:00          |                   |                              | Arrive anytime after 5:00   |                              |                            |        |
| 6:00          |                   |                              | Campfire with Hot Dogs, S'mores,<br>Stories, Songs and Skits<br>Devotions at 8:30 |                              |                            |        |
| 7:00          |                   |                              | Devotions & Movie   |                              |                            |        |
| 8:00          | Devotions & Movie |                              |   |                              |                            |        |
| 9:00          | Bedtime?          | Social Time<br>Cards & Games | Bedtime?  | Social Time<br>Cards & Games |                            |        |
| 10:00         | Bedtime?          | Social Time<br>Cards & Games | Bedtime?  | Social Time<br>Cards & Games |                            |        |
| 11:00         | Bedtime?          | Social Time<br>Cards & Games | Bedtime?  | Social Time<br>Cards & Games |                            |        |

## YOU ARE INVITED!

Trinity's Retreat weekend at Camp Nawakwa is a chance for us all to get away together to share in fellowship, fun, worship, and faithful learning. Come for all or just part of the weekend. Our theme this year is **God's Radical Hospitality**—we're all invited to the Lord's grace, love, banquet, community, LIFE!

Folks who are newer to Trinity's community are especially invited to attend so that we can all get to know one another. Please see Pastor Susan or Mike Brown if you have any questions. Please come!

## Worship Schedule

(All Sunday services begin at 9am unless indicated otherwise)

- February 4—Epiphany 5
- February 11—Transfiguration of our Lord
- February 14—Ash Wednesday **10am** prayer service; **11-1** Ashes-to-Go with lunch provided, **7pm** traditional liturgy
- February 18—Lent 1
- February 25—Lent 2

### Midweek Morning Prayer Service

Every Wednesday at 10AM

**Drive-thru Holy Communion Distribution** will be held Sunday, February 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the rear of the church near the disability parking.

### NOTES:

- The following elements are available during Communion: wheat bread, wine, grape juice, gluten-free wafers, pre-blessed sealed wheat wafer and grape juice packages
- At any time during Holy Communion you may step out of line to spend time at the chancel rail as you desire. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the distributors will come to you.
- *Anyone interested in serving as a Lector, Assisting Minister, Communion Assistant, Usher, Hymn Leader, Acolyte or Altar Guild is asked to contact the church office.*

Do you have a voice remote with your smart TV or cable box? If you do, try saying, "**Trinity Lutheran Church, East Berlin, YouTube,**" with the remote's microphone button held in. Your remote lets you select the service you'd like to attend by watching. Please join us! Call the church office if you need help.

Notes  
From  
the  
Music Director



Happy February to all! Here we are enjoying sub-zero temperatures, snow and ice for 2024, certainly not like 2023. But it is warm and welcoming here with Trinity's church family.

The season of "light" is coming to an end with Lenten services beginning in February. The adult choir is practicing music for the season (February through March) and will be prepared to lead the congregation in worship.

We also look forward to the dedication of the antique Weaver pump organ on February 4 at 3:00pm. The pump organ was donated by Darlene and Richard Hoffman. This organ has been in Darlene's family for over 60 years! We thank them for their generosity! During the dedication "hymn sing" we will sing familiar hymns to this organ and think of all the many worshippers

who have enjoyed this lovely, surviving instrument. Please note the beautiful carving on the organ case and adorable organ "bench"! Hope to see you there.



~Karen Wire

# February Birthdays

2-4 Charlie Hoffman

2-5 Matthew McSherry

2-10 Michelle Boyer

2-12 Wanda Crackett

2-13 Bonnie Shue

2-14 Susan Smith

2-16 Christine Sheads

2-19 Karen Sheaffer

2-22 Bob King

2-23 Karen Wire

2-25 Holly Siekerman

2-26 Nick Storm

2-28 Andie Guiher

2-4 Sandy Emig

2-6 Karen Ruth

2-12 Sue Clauser

2-12 Courtney Fortuna

2-13 Steve Eaton

2-15 Clayton Moore

2-18 Steph Haley

2-20 Pixie Henry

2-23 Sam Haley

2-24 Kyla Nickey

2-26 Bradley Boyer

2-27 Brody Moore

2-28 Harrison Bowen



2-14 Rick & Anita Madsen ~ 37 Years

2-25 Nick & Laura Storm ~ 18 Years





The mid-week Lenten Worship Services will begin at 12:00noon each week in Lent. See the schedule below:

**February 21**—Zwingli UCC

**February 28**—Immaculate Heart of Mary

**March 6**—St. John's Lutheran Church

**March 13**—Immaculate Heart of Mary

**March 20**—Trinity Lutheran Church

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### Souper Bowl Items/Point Tally

Collect Money - \$1.00 = 1 point

Can/Box of non-perishable food items = 1 point

Box of cereal, personal care items (deodorant, shampoo, etc) Cleaning supplies – 1 Bottle/Box = 5 points

Laundry Detergent (1 bottle) = 10 points

The logo for "Souper Bowl of Caring" features a stylized bowl with a spoon, with the words "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" in a bold, colorful font. A small "SM" trademark symbol is to the right.

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

**BOXES OF CEREAL, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, HOUSEHOLD CLEANING SUPPLIES, TOILETRIES.**

**COLLECTING DONATIONS UNTIL**  
**FEBRUARY 18**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.



Present: Bob King, Pastor Susan, Mark Boyer, Joshlyn Sharrer, Dona Lerew, Karen Sheaffer, Leon Lease, Sue Clauser, Barb Kauffman, Michael Sheads, and Sandy Emig. Sherry Brown and Bob Aims were absent.

Dona called the meeting to order. Two additions were made to the agenda. 1) Additional individuals to have authority to purchase supplies, etc. 2) Additional authorized signatories for bank accounts.

**Secretary' Report and Correspondence:** The Secretary's Report was reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Pastor Susan and seconded by Bob. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Overall year ended in a surplus. However, it lagged as compared to last year.

**Ministry Reports**

**Worship & Music Committee:**

W&M Committee Agenda/Minutes 1/4/2024

1. Attending: Andie, Pastor Susan, Noelle, Karen, Dona, Becky
2. Next Meeting: Thurs, Feb 1, 2024 4PM .
3. Review of Worship Leader roles (expand for more kids involved)  
Lectors- Add? Charleigh, Carly, Koltyn, Addie, Grace,  
Altar Guild –Add? Ailey, Natily  
Hymn Leader – Tristan  
Bell Choir – Karen will check with participants on when to start, and what day. Keep watch for new worshippers to play leader roles.
4. Review worship improvements- consider ways to keep worship more engaging and focused, in-person and on-line
5. Review of previous services – to help in future planning.  
Advent – mid-week services: needs some pep. Lighter attendance. Maybe 6-8 attending from Trinity.  
Advent Sunday Services:  
Advent 4 Children's pageant. Children not there because it was Christmas Eve Day. Way too much singing. Suggest 1 verse of no more than 3-4 carols. Let's plan to do again next year Advent 4. Becky to Share with Learning and Youth.

Advent readings – Next time, make the readings better connected to lectionary. Pastor agrees, and is happy to redo them to better integrate with the Sunday theme.

Blue Christmas- not well advertised. Omitted from community advent information. About same attendance as last year. Perhaps do Advent 3 Sunday afternoon (12/15/24). New station ideas. Find ways to invite and include all, not just grieving.

Christmas Eve 7PM (127 attending)

Kids were amazing in leadership roles in the service!

Need more helpers for kids next year.

Let's continually keep kids involved in leadership roles.

Christmas Eve 10PM Full attendance (92)

Refreshment between services was such an important part. Thank you Parish Life. The space was made holy for gathering.

#### 6. Future Worship Planning

Transfiguration Feb 11th. Working with teens and Karen to put together a transfigured worship from teens. Practical tactile things. Sign language. Movement. Accessible.

Becky got engagement from Confirmation Class. They want to do the hymn SHINE, JESUS SHINE (refrain in ASL), with teens if interested. I will arrange for ASL interpreter to teach us ZOOM 1/21 or 1/28 at 11PM. (Conference camera). Also a poetic or dramatic reading of Luther paraphrase of the apostles creed. Becky may ask Violet and 2 others.

Karen will Play the piano for Transfiguration.

Camp Sunday (March 17) – Supply Pastor Biles. St. Patrick's Day readings.

#### 7. Endowment Responsibilities

In honor of benefactors, Ralph and Kathryn Eisenhart, altar flowers will be provided at least two Sundays each year." We plan a floral arrangement on cabinet (w/door – ask property where this went, along with offering plate), 2 Sunday's a year. All Saints Day. Transfiguration.

Also, the Worship and Music Committee all be responsible for putting potted plants on Memorial Day on the following family lots:

Alawiese A. and Amanda. D. Gruver

Elmer M. And Samantha B. Gruver

Paul and Ella Gruver Hennes.

8. Capital Improvements Scope – worship impact. Find ways to exploit new capabilities of sound system in worship.

Move Piano into Choir Loft- ask Bob for status. Let's test out how this would work, and position the choir.

Keep eyes and ears open to baby grand piano deals.

## **Finance:**

Finance Committee Meeting - January 8, 2024

Members present: Charlie Hoffman, Kim McSherry, Jay Smith, Sue Clauser, Dona Lerew, Bob King

There were two objectives for this meeting.

1) Review the year-end financial statements and discuss any changes that need to be made to provide financial transparency in a simple and concise manner.

2) Report from Sue on the Paychex payroll conversion. The first payroll will be done Thursday, January 11, 2024, under the new Paychex Payroll system.

Financial Review – Balance Sheet, General Fund Treasurer’s Report and All Funds Treasurer’s Reports were presented. The Balance Sheet is now properly structured according to the various funds established in October. Bob reported that it is critical to monthly reconcile fund balances against the related asset components. Bob has reconciled both the contributions from ChurchTrac (CT) and income postings in Church Windows (CW). The only difference between CT and CW income should be interest income, dividend income, and investment gain/loss which are not currently posted in CT as contributions. Bob agreed to continue to reconcile these monthly but recommended someone else get involved to understand and perform these important internal control reconciliations.

From a 2023 General Fund perspective total YTD income was \$219,346; Total expenses \$214,752; net surplus \$4,594. The good news is that we ended with a surplus; the bad news is we fell short of meeting our General Operating budget by \$12,704 and that was after the receipt of a large anonymous corporate donation to General Operating Fund. Additionally, 2023 General Fund income was \$6,213 less than 2022 of \$225,559. All in attendance expressed the need to pay attention to giving patterns in 2024. Our 2024 budget is \$230,667. An increase of \$8,026 over the 2023 budget. On December 31, 2023 we have \$33,923 available to fund general operations leaving little room for a shortfall. During our discussion it was recommended to create a new fund for Sabbatical Leave. This money (\$6,865.93) is currently in the General Fund, and we feel it is appropriate to set up a separate fund because these monies are held in reserve and will be used for salary and benefits if/when a Sabbatical Leave is approved. Sue will set up this fund and transfer the values from the General Fund to the Sabbatical Fund before the end of January. One other item to note is that the posting for interest/dividend income for December did not look like the allocation was correct. Further review will be made, and any corrections



needed will be performed before the end of January.

After 2 months using the new fund structure there are no significant challenges. Just some minor “learning curve” items to work through. As we move into 2024 and get past the Paychex payroll conversion, we will focus on re-organizing some reporting totals and subtotals in conjunction with the new funds.

The final item of the meeting was a discussion regarding In-Kind Donations and Qualified Charitable Distributions. There will be more information forthcoming in upcoming newsletters about these two ways of contributing which may offer tax advantages to the contributor. The key in both these scenarios is the contributor should consult their tax accountant and investment advisor for specific details on these options.

The meeting was adjourned without setting a date for a subsequent meeting in February. A date will be established before the end of January. Items on the 2024 radar: Contract Authorization Policy, Revision to Sabbatical Leave Policy, Records Retention and Records Storage Policies. Respectfully submitted, Bob King

### **Parish Life:**

The Parish Life committee met on Wednesday, January 10 at 2:00. In attendance was Deb King, Shelly Livingston, Ruthann Bowen, Wanda Crakett, Judy Burgard, Anita Madsen and Pastor Susan. The following was discussed:

1. Hymn sing and pump organ dedication on Sunday, February 4th. We will supply cookies and drinks.
2. Food pantry lunches - IHM will provide lunch for February 7th and Zwingli will provide lunch on March 6th.
3. Trivia night, January 21st from 5-7pm - plans were made for the meal of pizza, salad, drinks and desserts. Shelly will contact the host to confirm final plans with him. We decided to put a basket out for donations to cover the food and cost of the host.
4. - Murder Mystery, February 17th at 5:30. Shelly led us in discussion of the format and characters, and we decided on the menu for the meal which will be catered by Hughs meats. We also planned appetizers, drinks, place settings and decorations. The cost per person was decided to be \$20.00 to cover the meal and other expenses.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 1st at 2:00.

## **Social Ministry:**

**The Next Food Pantry** will be held Wednesday, February 7 from 4:00-6:00pm. A Fellowship Hour will be held at Trinity at 3PM prior to every Food Pantry.

**Our Next Laundry Love** date is Tuesday, February 13 from 5:00-6:30pm at the White Dove Laundromat.

## **WELCA**

At January's meeting we shared our Nativity sets with each other. We also planned our Pie Sale and have our volunteers/helpers ready to help make the pie dough and pies on January 18 & 19.

December's Cookie Kits for the Food Pantry families were well received- we had 30 kits made to share with our guests.

We will not have a meeting in February, so our next meeting will be March 5, at 7 PM at Trinity's social hall.

## **Men's Ministry**

The Men's Group met Saturday, January 13 with fourteen in attendance.

## **Evangelism:**

Trinity's Retreat is planned for March 15-17 at Camp Nawakwa, The purpose is for attendees to grow in faith while having fun and fellowship. This year's theme centers on "Radical Hospitality". Just as Jesus invited his disciples to join him and practiced radical hospitality, Jesus invites us, and invites us to invite others, to enter into a "radical" relationship with him. Activities begin Friday night with a campfire and end with a worship service Sunday morning. Pastor Susan will be at Nawakwa for the entire weekend. A supply pastor will take care of the worship service in East Berlin.

Costs for the supply pastor as well as the entire retreat will be paid for out of the retreat funds. No general funds will be used.

Scholarships/Camperships are available through Pastor Susan for whom cost may be a burden.

The details and design of the East Berlin worship service that Sunday will be determined by the Worship and Music committee.

Note: Trinity's annual retreat is not just a tradition or a fun activity. It is part of our mission to "make Christ known" by providing a format for strengthening the relationships of all of God's children as well as all of creation. Last year's theme "One Bread, One Body" emphasized that we are all part of the body of Christ (the church). This year's theme "Radical Hospitality" highlights the need to extend the love of Christ to our neighbors.

**Property:**

Meeting held December 21, 2023

Present: Bob, Leon, Mac, Jay

Rooftop done 12/20/23

Gary to have roof inspected for damage from the storm

Going to schedule hardwood floor repair and carpet cleaning in January

Bob to install 2 racks in music room

Inspect dishwasher for proper operation

Updated rental rates and contact for kitchen/social hall

Next Meeting 1/18/24 10:00am.

Gazebo Update: A variance has been filed with the borough to allow the installation of a gazebo in the grassy area beside the church as a memorial to Paula Lerew Wolf. The zoning committee has 60 days to hear the case. The 60-day window is until February 13. Hopefully, the variance will be granted, and plans can proceed.

**Pastor's Report:** Had plans for Thrivent representative Ann Seitz-Brown to lead workshop on retirement 12/3; no one signed up so she cancelled the workshop; she is available with other workshops if we are interested in the future.

Wrapped up fall season Bible Study on faith using characters in the Bible; many thanks to Gail Thieret Carroll for her leadership of the group; preparing to begin a study on 1/8/24 using Adam Hamilton's Half Truths book and DVD.

Continue to meet with local pastors for biblical text study nearly each week.

Participated in WELCA Christmas banquet; it was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun; many thanks to all who made it possible! Afterwards, Pastor Biles called me to remark on what a nice, joyful, and welcoming spirit Trinity has about its community right now.

Used a Sunday off on 12/10 as a vacation day; became ill and tested positive for covid 12/17, Dona Lerew did an excellent job leading the service in my absence; thank you to everyone for the flexibility. Many thanks for my wonderful cupcake birthday party that I "attended" virtually through receiving text pictures that morning! I certainly felt loved! Thanks to everyone who did setup and teardown for the Blue Christmas service, and to Pastor Terry for leading the service; again, the congregation's flexibility while I was sick is very much appreciated.

Made 5 home visits prior to getting sick. Have made many phone calls since getting sick, as well as sent a few cards; I hope to be fully well in the

new year and able to resume in-home visitation. Offered telephone and email pastoral care while at home quarantined with covid, some especially with Don McCully and family and some other new worshipers at Trinity; Nancy's funeral will be held at Trinity January 23<sup>rd</sup>; thanks to WELCA for their care for the family in extenuating circumstances.

Hosted Caregivers' Group 12/21, no one in attendance.

Planned and led Christmas Eve services with W&M and Karen Wire; many thanks to Karen for her wonderful musical gifts and gifts of leadership for our musical offerings. Many thanks to all the disciples, especially the very young ones, who showed leadership in the services for Christmas Eve; everyone did an outstanding job.

Many thanks to everyone for all the prayers, cards, texts, calls, food, and other gifts throughout my birthday, illness, and Christmas. Terry, Luke and I speak often about how truly blessed we are to be serving the Lord here at Trinity with all of you.

### **Old Business**

**Ministry Committee Re-org:** Meeting to be scheduled. Focusing on clearer communications and explanations of what each committee does.

### **New Business**

**Election of Treasurer:** Motion was made to nominate Sue Clauser by Mark and seconded by Joshlyn. Passed unanimously.

**Council Terms and Committee Liaisons:** Dona asked for each council member to list their top two choices of committees to serve as liaisons. She will make proposed assignments.

**Revised Facilities Use Agreement and New Fee Structure:** Being reviewed and cleaned up.

**Additional Individuals to Charge Church Expenses:** Motion to add Leon Lease, Bob King, and Earl Kauffman was made by Karen and seconded by Pastor Susan. Motion passed.

**Additional Signatures for Financial Accounts:** Additional signatures were added as to not limit operations on managing finances.

Motion to end the meeting was made by Pastor Susan and seconded by Karen. Motion passed. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 8:43 pm

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

Next Council Meeting – February 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Boyer**