

# January 2024 Newsletter

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>**Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."** <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."  
John 1:43-51

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Inviting others to church is incredibly hard. One study I learned of in seminary, so old that I can't remember who published it, said that the average Lutheran in the U.S. invites someone to church every 23.5 years. Inviting others to a relationship with Christ is even more difficult—we Lutherans just don't talk that way!

We may, in fact, live our whole lives without sharing with anyone the importance of our faith and/or faith practices. In these days of heated debate about EVERYTHING in our lives from sports teams to political parties to which kind of potpie is "real," religious talk is especially avoided. Nobody is interested in more conflict.

That's what makes this scripture passage absolutely sing with good news! Jesus has gone to Galilee; he's gathering disciples; two of John the Baptizer's disciples have left John to follow Jesus; Andrew, one of them, has called his brother Peter to join in. The next day Jesus calls on Phillip. And then we come upon the first skeptic in the story—

Nathanael. You can almost hear him snort, “Ha! You’ve gotta be kidding me. Can anything good come out of...”

East Berlin? Bermudian? Trinity? I mean, come on. Why follow you to one of those places? Small town. Small school district. Little church. That’s the way the narrative goes if you follow the arc of Nathanael’s dialogue. If we put ourselves into the story and think about the conversations we’ve maybe had already, don’t we hear their doubts ring like his?

Church is boring. There’s nothing there for me. I don’t get anything out of it. It’s too long for the kids. Sunday is our only day as a family. It’s too early. Or, a deeper and incredibly realistic reality: the church and/or the people in it have hurt me too badly. Sadly, religion, or at least its institutions, is avoided because of a whole host of valid reasons. Combined with that potential conflict I mentioned, who’d want to invite anyone more than once in a 1/4 century? We’re happy with “I don’t come,” on one side and “I don’t ask,” on the other.

But, Jesus invites Nathanael despite his reluctance. Jesus sees and knows him outside of his skepticism, doubt, and inclination to keep doing whatever he’s been doing instead of this new thing. Jesus sees us in the very same way, under our own fig trees with our own reluctance to get involved. Our faith is not about all our reasons to put it aside, or our fears, or our hurts. Our faith isn’t even about church. It’s about Jesus and Jesus alone.

I pray every day that you find Christ at Trinity when we gather. And, I pray that your experience of the Lord outside the building is reason for you to say, “Come and see.” This season, maybe this whole year, we’ll be focusing on how we can invite others to life with Christ. It’s not about our membership or congregational traditions. It’s about being first known by, and then knowing the Lord. Jesus sees and loves us all—it’s an experience that transcends all our preconceived notions. Let us be surprised by Christ, and invite others to be surprised too!

Much love,  
Pastor 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!**



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## **Bible Study Continues in January: Half Truths**



Join us for Bible Study on Monday evenings at 6pm! We'll be using the resource: "Half Truths," by Adam Hamilton. It's available on Amazon, or from any of your favorite book

sellers. If you need help obtaining a copy, please let Pastor Susan or Jen know and we'll hook you up.

January 1—No Bible Study

January 8—Everything Happens for a Reason

January 15—No Bible Study; MLK Day Observation

January 22—God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

January 29—God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle

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, January 7 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, January 18 at**



**10:00am** in the chapel. Sometimes our lives involve the work of caring for others in ways that take a toll on us. This group joins together people who are currently caring for someone, have in the past, or expect to be doing so. This is not a therapy group, but a place to gather where you're not alone in what you're going through. Please see Pastor Susan with questions or with suggestions for topics, speakers, etc. No registration necessary.

**2024 Directory Updates:** If you would like to be included in our directory, or have any changes to the current directory, including phone numbers, email addresses or physical addresses, please notify the church office by January 5. They will be printed and available later in January with the 2023 Giving Statements.

### **Men's Ministry:**

The Men's Group assisted the Lion's Club installing the Christmas Lanterns in East Berlin, November 18 and catered the WELCA banquet December 5. Thanks to all men assisting in those projects. Next Men's Ministry Breakfast meeting Saturday, January 11, 2024, 8:30 a.m. Watch your email for info relating to the upcoming meeting.

### **Storm Damage Repair Update**

On Tuesday, December 19, the new HVAC unit was installed over the Narthex. The roof under that area was inspected by Don Smith Roofing, December 27 and no damage to the roof area was found. Now that the roof area is watertight, we will proceed with the sanding and re-finishing of the warped Narthex hardwood floor scheduled for the week of January 15, and replace any damaged ceiling tile. Total cost of the September storm damage, which was covered by insurance, was just under \$12K. Please bear with us as we complete the remaining repairs. If everything goes as planned, there will be no disruption to worship services while the flooring is under repair. Narthex window areas that were used to gain access to the roof will be repainted during this time as well.

## WELCA News

Our December meeting & Christmas party, everyone enjoyed the wonderful meal prepared and served by the Men's Group. Entertainer Tom Shultz came joined us with a variety of music and audience participation fun! It was wonderful to laugh at ourselves! We had a free will offering to share with our young friends Jose, Yadira and Cristian, and were able to collect \$440 in cash and two \$30 gift cards. (see photos on the next page)

During our meeting, we donated \$500 to help with the Family Retreat expenses. We also reimbursed Karen Sheaffer \$250 for purchasing gifts for the Angel Tree names that remained on the tree after December 3.

Upcoming events include our January Pie Sale. We will be baking Shoo Fly and Cherry pies on January 18 and 19. The sign-up sheet is at the bulletin board.

St. Paul's on Broadway in Hanover invited the women of Trinity to their Women's Retreat called "Knitted in Love" on January 20. Sign up by January 14.

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7 PM at Trinity. All women of Trinity are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring your Nativity set to share with the others. Let's see how many different and unique sets we can share. We will also plan our 2024 projects and meeting ideas/speakers.

## Winter Coat Collection

Our neighbors in need needed our help. And Trinity members did not disappoint them! We received word from the Adams County Rescue Mission they were in dire need of winter coats for their community members. Thank you Trinity congregation!!! You are amazing! We were able to collect 76 coats, plus fleece sweatshirts, and hats and scarves!! The Rescue Mission sent one of their staff, whose name was ANGEL, to pick them up!!! Thank you again for your loving support of these neighbors in need.

# W E L C A Christmas Party







# Gingerbread House Workshop







Sunday, November 26, Trinity hosted their annual Gingerbread House Workshop. Thanks to Deb King and everyone who planned, setup, brought supplies and participated! It was a blast!



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GATHERING

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, January 15 at 2pm** in the church parlor. See Pat Bjonnes 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 WORSHIPPING ONLINE?



In the last 28 days, we had 397 video views, with 94 hours of watch time. We now have 176 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!



**KNIT TOGETHER IN LOVE** is the theme for our Women's Retreat in January at St. Paul's (Broadway) Lutheran Church, Hanover. All women are invited from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, 2024 for a day of learning, worship and fellowship. Our speaker will be Pat LaMarche from the Homeless Memorial Blanket Project. Deacon Jan Davis will lead us in Bible study (please bring your own Bible), a craft and worship. Please bring a dessert to share if you are able. Registration is \$15.00 and is due by Sunday, January 14. Family and friends are welcome!

**TRINITY WOMEN:** Please contact Jen in our office about registration for the event; we'll register as a group and go together! This event was lots of fun last year; Deacon Jan does a great job!

## THANK YOU!

From Pastor Susan and her family for all the prayers, gifts, food, transportation, cards, and care during my recent illness, birthday, and Christmas. Your love means so much to me and to all three of us. Thank you!

Love, P.S.



**Kids' Quarter Collection:** The next Tin-Cup Quarter Collections will be on Sunday, January 7 with a **NOISY OFFERING**. Please bring your quarters with you to worship that day. All the money we collect goes to Laundry Love.

**Kids' Cookie Break** Kids in 6th grade and younger are invited to take a break after the reading of the Gospel to head down to the Social Hall for a snack and an activity. They will return to the sanctuary during the sharing of the peace.



### **Council Check-in: (by Dona Lerew)**

Thank you to Bob King who served as Council president for a good number of years! He has faithfully worked diligently to promote Trinity's mission statement in addition to paying special attention to the everyday workings of the church. The good news is, he will continue on Council, and the property and finance committees.

Council's new executive committee elected by Council at the December meeting consists of Dona Lerew as president, Joshlyn Sharer as vice president, Mark Boyer as secretary, and Sue Clauser as treasurer.

As the new president, I am committed to doing all I can to follow our mission statement of, "making Christ known while loving and serving God and neighbors." I am looking forward to working with a council and Pastor Susan committed to the same. In case you do not know much about me, here are some facts. I grew up in East Berlin and was baptized and confirmed at Trinity where I spent many years attending Sunday school and church services with my beloved grandmother and extended Lerew family. I moved from East Berlin during my college years and then spent over 40 years living in the Philadelphia area (Go Eagles!). It is in that area that I enjoyed a career in education as a teacher and administrator and was active in practicing the Lutheran faith in local churches. After retirement, I moved back in the area to be near family. This move also brought me back to Trinity! What a blessing!

### *Souper Bowl Food Collection!*

### *Time to FINALLY win the Souper Bowl Trophy!*

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** The end of football is near and so it our time to bring in items for the Souper Bowl of Caring contest! Keep bringing in Laundry Detergent, Condiments of all sorts, and Canned goods NOW. We'll build a whole wall for distribution with New Hope Ministries, LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS a whole bunch, and WIN THAT TROPHY! Let's Go, Trinity!





My siblings and I cannot thank you guys enough. Words cannot express how thankful and grateful we are for all the help that you have been providing for us. We wish you all a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. -José, Yadira, and Cristian

I hope you feel the heartfelt sentiments expressed in José's thank you. I was so touched by the generosity from WELCA to José and his siblings. Over \$400 was collected for them at the Christmas banquet! I asked José how best these funds can help at this time and he said he wanted a gift card to Walmart for food. These siblings have been learning and growing toward total independence. José has a better paying job and Yadira and Cristian work part time in the kitchen at Gettysburg College which means they are now no longer dependent on food stamps. However, Gettysburg College closes for 6 weeks for winter break so Yadira and Cristian will not be able to chip in for food for about a month. This generous gift from WELCA comes at the perfect time! Your continued concern for these three beautiful souls serves as an example to them about how important it is to care for one another. They truly are striving to be good, caring people.

And, WELCA didn't stop there. They also made cookie baking kits for the food pantry guests and Christmas stockings for the shut ins! What a superb example WELCA shows of sharing Christ's love!! The love and care from Trinity never ceases to amaze me. - Dona Lerew



# Ministry Pages



**THE SHARING SHELF update:** Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

Please remember our neighbors when you do your grocery shopping, especially children and our homeless neighbors. We have met some of the kids who seek nourishment (and treats!) from the shelf.

Especially helpful for our neighbors without permanent homes are ready-made meals that they can eat in their cars. (Please include plasticware and/or hand-wipes.) You may bring your contributions to the church any time the office is open, or make a financial contribution marked "Sharing Shelf" in the offering plate. For questions, or to get involved, see Deb King. Thank you for loving our neighbors!



**Donate Eye Glasses:** The East Berlin Lion's Club has a donation box for old eye glasses located under the bulletin board near the Annex. Bring in your glasses that you no longer need and drop them in the box!

**Ruth's Harvest Collection** continues Wednesday, January 24 at 12:40pm at St. John's in Abbots-town. Each month of this school year, we will be packing 105 bags of food for students at Bermudian Springs Elementary. The Ruth's Harvest Ministry continues because of the support and generosity of Trinity's members and the members of five other area congregations. **The most needed items right now are individual tuna/chicken salad packs, microwave popcorn, non refrigerated milk and poptarts.**

**Laundry Love Ministry** will be held Tuesday, January 9 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. We're also in need of quarters.



**We will have a Noisy Offering Sunday January 7th to collect quarters for this ministry, or you may drop them any time in the collection box in the narthex. PLEASE bring in your quarters to support this important outreach ministry. Quarters or other monies (all carefully labeled) may also be offered in the Offering Plate.**

**Food Pantry:** New Hope Ministries is bringing the mobile pantry from 4:00-6:00pm on Wednesday, January 3. 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 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
Jan 7	Chris L.	Ruthann B.	Amber N.	Janet/M
Jan 14	Charlie H.	Luke M.	Eddie S.	Bob K./J
Jan 21	Mark B.	Becky R.	Dona L.	Jay/S
Jan 28	Violet C.	Sue C.	Mary J.	Rick/A

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



**Intergenerational Christmas Pageant** took place during worship on Sunday, December 24 at our 9am service. Special thanks to Lisa Miller for pulling it together. If you missed it, it's not too late to view it on [Trinity's YouTube page!](#)

# Schedule—January 2024

Leaders	Altar Guild	Cantor(s)	Acolyte	Cookie Break
Mac/Kathy	Kathy K.	Joss S./Karen S.	Konner H.	Anita M.
Deb/Sandy	Janet M.	Chris L.	Claire W.	Erin H.
ue/Terry	Sami K.	Barry B.	Tristan B.	Giovanna B.
hita/Mark	Deb K.	Becky R.	Grace W.	Laura R.

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



**Christmas Eve** worship service at 7:00pm was led by the kiddos!  
Check out Trinity's Facebook page for more photos.

# YOUTH Volunteer OPPORTUNITIES

WE NEED YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD THE SERVICES ON TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024. TALK TO PASTOR SUSAN OR BECKY RINEHART.

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**Adopt a Disciple in Need** - We have neighbors, often seniors, who need our company. Please consider signing up to “adopt” a disciple by calling, sending cards, and visiting as you are both able. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board near the elevator, first floor. If you have questions, please contact Judy Burgard or Dona Lerew. Thank you!



**Are you creative?** Would you like to use your talents and creativity to help us welcome guests who attend our weekly service? Then please consider signing up to make Visitor Gift Bags. A handout with additional details is available on the table in the upstairs lobby (Narthex). There is also a sign-up sheet on the table—if you’d like to help, please sign your name to cover a month of this calendar year. If you have any questions, please contact Ali Long. Thank you to all who help with this important ministry!







## The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

### Upcoming Events:

January 5-7—Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald

January 14—Chicken & Waffles at Nawakwa

January 14—Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald

Visit [www.lutherancamping.org](http://www.lutherancamping.org) to learn more and register.

**2024 Calendars** are available throughout the church courtesy of Feiser's Funeral Home. Take home a calendar or two!

# Trivia Night

**Trivia Night & Pizza!** On Sunday, January 21 from 5:00-7:00pm, there will be a fun night of trivia and pizza. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Contact Anita Madsen if you have questions.

**A Valentines' Murder Mystery** dinner party is coming on February 17 including a social hour and dinner. Look forward to joining us for this celebration!



Dates	March 15--17 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
Where	Zinn-Tozer Lodge, Camp Nawakwa, Ardentsville, PA 30 minutes from East Berlin. Carpooling available.
Goals	Fun, Fellowship, Great Food, Family activities plus R&R Faithbuilding experiences, Games 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 or 1 night stay (Friday <u>or</u> Saturday) or 0 night stay (Day Use) Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Beds	10 rooms, each with a flat double bed and 3 bunk style beds Enough for 2 adults and 3 children Shared bathrooms (Men's and Women's) with showers
Day Use	Come for the day activities (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) Sleep in your bed at home each night
Costs	Night Use \$75 <u>per room</u> for the <b>weekend</b> (2 adults, 3 children) Includes room, activities and all 5 meals  Day Use \$25 <u>per adult</u> for entire <b>weekend</b> (kids free) 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 March	Friday (15th)		Saturday (16th)		Sunday (17th)			
	Kids	Adults	Kids	Adults	Kids	Adults		
7:00			Breakfast in PJs (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 Lunch & Free Time					
12:00			Learning Activities	Programing				
1:00			Activities & Games					
2:00			Prayer at 4:50 Dinner & Free Time					
3:00			Devotions & Movie					
4:00			Bedtime?	Social Time Cards & Games			Bedtime?	Social Time Cards & Games
5:00			Arrive anytime after 5:00					
6:00			Campfire with Hot Dogs, S'mores, Stories, Songs and Skits Devotions at 8:30					
7:00								
8:00								
9:00								
10:00								
11:00								

## 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 services begin at 9 am on Sunday unless indicated otherwise)

- January 7—Baptism of Our Lord
- January 14—Epiphany 2
- January 21—Epiphany 3
- January 28—Epiphany 4

### Midweek Morning Prayer Service

Every Wednesday at 10AM

**Drive-thru Holy Communion Distribution** will be held Sunday, January 7 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.



Blessed New Year, 2024, Greetings to our Trinity Church family. We all look forward to a healthy and rewarding 2024. I know it will be so!

December services celebrated the anticipation of the coming Christ child with beautiful decorations and the inclusion of family lighting our advent wreath; our adult choir singing special anthems and our hymn leaders singing with such confidence.

The Christmas pageant was delightful including children and adults as we sang our favorite Christmas carols. Thank you Lisa Miller for organizing this intergenerational event.

During the Christmas Eve family worship, our youth conducted themselves with great dignity and respect and reflected the great joy of anticipating the arrival of Jesus. Tristan Biles sang beautifully as hymn leader, even singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" in Latin and "Silent Night" in German, the carols' original language. Tristan, you blessed us all with your delightful voice. Keep up the good work! Trinity's other "secret" talent also shared a trumpet solo (thank you Luke McCarthy!) and a lively "angel" piano piece by Freda Manzullo. Thank you both! We need to share your talent in worship again!

Trinity Ringers and adult choir blessed the later service with lovely and heartfelt music that they have rehearsed many times. These talented singers are so very faithful in their weekly attendance.

January and February, Epiphany season, will bring more celebration during the season of light from so many talented singers, ringers and instrumentalists. The Liturgy from Of the Lands & Seasons is planned for January.

Thank you Trinity Church Family for the beautiful cards and gifts I received from so many friends. You are very generous and thoughtful, and very much appreciated. Blessings for this new year. I look forward to 2024. ~Karen Wire





# January Birthdays



1-2 Jason Warner

1-6 Jack Biles

1-11 Matt Nickey

1-12 MaryAnn Vance

1-13 Janae Hull

1-14 Darlene Resh

1-15 Jeff Erdman

1-15 Konner Hermansen

1-15 Andrew McSherry

1-15 Preston Warner

1-16 Kim Erdman

1-18 Mark Boyer

1-18 Janet McMaster

1-18 Joyce Wolf

1-22 Eddie Sebright

1-23 Stephen Hoak

1-25 Charleigh Biles

1-26 Cindy St. Clair

1-27 Kathy Atkinson



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**



1-15 George & MaryAnn Vance ~ 49 Years

1-17 Cyril & Janet McMaster ~ 38 Years

1-23 Jim & Noelle Kline ~ 53 Years

1-30 Jack & Kay Hinkle ~ 53 Years

*Thank  
you* ❤️

From Jen Guiher in the church office—I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful Christmas cards, delicious snacks, gift cards & goodies! My family and I appreciate our Trinity Church Family so much! We feel so much love from you! Happy New Year!



### Christmas Angel Tree

It is with a full and grateful heart I write this to THANK all the people who supported the Christmas Angel Tree project this year. **YOU ARE AMAZING!!!!** The Adams County Housing Authority community is so grateful and feels so blessed with the generous out-pouring from all of you! The angel tree was filled with tags which included 19 children, 13 women, and 9 men. Some had one wish, most had three. You choose the angels, prayed for the recipient, shopped, and made Christmas wonderful for these neighbors!

Ruthann Bowen and I took the names that remained on the tree after three Sundays and shopped for them. Donations and funds raised by Missionary Support Committee during the year at their Yard Sale and Community Center Craft Show helped, as well as money from WELCA's pie sales and monthly collections. We all helped to make this project a success, enriching the lives of our community members by giving them a wonderful Christmas.

Tonya Mincey, our contact person, also thanks you, and wishes to come and speak to us at Trinity. She will share information of her God-filled work at Adams County Housing Authority.

THANK YOU again for your big hearts and generous giving to our Christmas Angel Tree project, Karen Sheaffer

. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Meeting Minutes  
December 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 - 7:00 p.m.



Present: Bob King, Pastor Susan, Jay Smith, Mark Boyer, Joshlyn Sharrer, Dona Lerew, Karen Sheaffer, Sherry Brown, Lisa Miller, Leon Lease, Bob Aims and Sue Clauser. New members Barb Kauffman and Michael Sheads were in attendance with Sandy Emig absent.

Bob called the meeting to order and the addition of setting a date for the Council Installation was added.

**Secretary' Report and Correspondence:** The Secretary's Report was reviewed. Motion to approve was made by Pastor Susan and seconded by Sherry. Motion passed. A thank you letter from New Hope Ministries was read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Expense reduction to date compensated for lower contributions. Forecasting an 8-10K shortfall if contributions don't increase.

**Ministry Reports**

**Worship & Music Committee:**

W&M Committee Agenda/Minutes 12/5/2023

1. Attending: Pastor, Karen, Dona, Andie, Noelle, Becky
2. Next Meeting: Wed, Jan 10, 1pm
3. Review of Worship Leader roles 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
  - a. All Saints Service – candle presentation worked. Candle setup. Dripless next time. Supplies are in choir room for now. Put in cabinet in stage. Different tables for next year (more levels). Reading of names was just fine. ~150 names. Need better tapers.

b. Sound system improving every week!

## 6. Future Worship Planning

a. Wednesday Advent lunches with area churches. No Advent 4 event. Advent 1 – St John (St. Nicholas day), Advent 2 – Imm Heart (St. Mary), Advent 3 – Blue Christmas 10AM invite others. Refreshments offered by WELCA.

b. Setup for Blue Christmas on Dec 18th – 2PM. Need some hymns.

c. Sundays Advent – wreath lightings. Individuals this year.

d. Advent 4 & Christmas Eve on same day. Short time for Christmas Eve setup. Learning & Youth will do pageant during worship. Appeal to members to stay and help setup. Dec 24 th 2 Eve services.

e. Epiphany is on Sunday, Dec 31. Rather than lessons and carols. Full blown Epiphany service. May still be lightly attended.

f. Epiphany candles. 6 Sundays in Epiphany. Keep candles – but skip the testimonials.

g. Blue Christmas on Dec 20 th . 10AM, in the chapel. Setup needed Monday Dec 18th 2pm. Bell choir needs to go upstairs.

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

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

a. Nov 6-9th is sound system implementation.

b. New ear microphones – new quote was very high. Cord wears out. When turn head, microphone cuts out. \$106/set. But new antenna splitter \$600, and a \$900 Levelere? Dona will get more information about this.

c. piano planning – we want Jay and Leon to move the chancel piano into the choir loft before Dec 12 (piano tuning).

## **Finance:**

Contributions to the General Operating Fund fell significantly short in November (\$2,267) resulting in a year-to-date deficit against

budgeted income to \$20,403. General Fund Income vs. Expenses for November resulted in a deficit for the month of \$1,315; and year-to-date surplus of \$27. Our expenses in December will be notably higher (projected \$22K) as utilities will rise sharply and insurance payments of approximately \$3K and the Sabbatical Leave contribution (\$750) will be made.

The conversion to Fund Accounting is going well. Few things to work through and clean-up but all in all the visibility through fund reporting and the ability to have a Treasurer's Report by fund is a welcomed and needed improvement. The payroll outsourcing to Paychex is proceeding as scheduled. All 2024 payroll will be handled through Paychex. While not yet booked to the general ledger, the first 2 months of our new investment structure with ACNB Trust Department has resulted in an interest and dividend net gain (after fees) of \$585. These entries along with any December interest and dividends will be booked before year-end. Next Finance

Committee meeting December 11 at 6:30.

### **Parish Life:**

Food pantry lunch for January 3rd - We need to supply lunch for this date also. We will let you know what menu we will have for this.

December 24th - we were asked to supply cookies for coffee hour after the morning service that day and then we also always have cookies for the Christmas eve services so if you are able to bring something that would be great. Anita will set up and get the drinks and coffee for all the services that day.

Parish Life meeting - We would like to schedule a meeting to make final plans for Trivia night on January 21st and to plan our murder mystery which is to be held on February 17th. Next Parish Life meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00.

Valentine murder mystery dinner on February 17th catered by Hughs meats.

Trivia night on January 21st with pizza, salad, and desserts.

Christmas hymn sing refreshments for either December 10th or 17th.

Christmas Eve refreshments for after the children's program and for the evening services.

Hanover conference – April 14, 2024. We were asked to provide refreshments for this event.

### **Social Ministry:**

**The Next Food Pantry** will be held Wednesday, January 3 from 4:00-6:00pm. A Fellowship Hour will be held at Trinity at 3PM prior to every Food Pantry. December's Food Pantry had 36 families for a total of 85 individuals. Abbottstown's Food Pantry had 23 families for a total of 53 individuals.

**Our Next Laundry Love** date is Tuesday, January 9 from 5:00-6:30pm at the White Dove Laundromat. Please note that we are still collecting quarters!

### **WELCA**

At our December meeting & Christmas party, everyone enjoyed the wonderful meal prepared and served by the Men's Group and entertainment by Tom Shultz. During our meeting, we donated \$500 to help with the Family Retreat expenses. We also reimbursed Karen \$250 for purchasing gifts for the Angel Tree names that remained on the tree after December 3.

We will be making Shoo Fly and either Cherry or Blueberry pies on January 18 and 19.

St. Paul's on Broadway in Hanover invited the women of Trinity to their Women's Retreat on January 20. Sign up by January 14.

Adams County Rescue Mission is in dire need of coats--any size, any gender! Donations brought to Trinity will be delivered to them.

### **Men's Ministry**

The Men's Group assisted the Lion's Club installing the Christmas Lanterns in East Berlin, November 18

and catered for the WELCA banquet December 5. Thanks to all men assisting in those projects. Next Men's

Ministry Breakfast meeting Saturday, January 11, 2024, 8:30 a.m.



## **Property:**

Meeting held November 16, 2023 Present: Bob, Earl, Leon, Les, Jay

Discussed replacing damaged ceiling tiles in Narthex before funeral services.

The repainting of the outside railing will have to wait till Spring.

The repairing of outside windowsills will wait till Spring.

Getting estimates to clean and repoint brick work on the Bell Tower and front of church.

Get a price on material to replace flooring in Nursery.

Approved to have "One Way Janitorial" to clean downstairs carpeting.

Still waiting for the replacement rooftop HVAC unit to arrive.

Next Meeting 12/21/23 10:00am.

**Pastor's Report:** Participated in Fellowship Hour & Food Pantry; Worked with W&M for All Saints' Sunday set-up and planning; used vacation for Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for the Cavalcade of Bands 2024 Marching Band Championships & my kid's band WON their division!; continue to participate in Wednesday morning fellowship breakfast & prayer service; continue to meet with area pastors weekly Tuesday mornings for biblical text study; attended training for our new sound system with AV Solutions, staff, and W&M committee rep; blessed the final quilts made by Knotty Knotters on 11/12; attended 2024 Family Retreat planning meeting; participated in annual congregational meeting; went away on a bus trip Monday – Friday, 11/13-17 and came home with occipital cellulitis; missed November 19<sup>th</sup> due to sickness and sent in my "relief pitcher," Pastor Terry McCarthy, who was thrilled to lead worship while I wore an eye patch and rested; preached & led Barbara Heim funeral, 11/20; preached & presided at Louise Haugh funeral, 11/25; had to reschedule some visits due to illness and funerals, but made 6 home and/or hospital visits; working with Gail Carroll to lead Faith Bible study this fall, which is wrapping up on December 18<sup>th</sup>; facilitated Caregivers' Group with 6 in attendance; participated in Racial Justice training all day on 11/28; registered for upcoming continuing

education, an online course through Pathways Theological Education (through the UCC) on Faith Formation for all ages in the digital age, which doesn't begin until March 6, 2024.

### **Old Business**

**Ministry Committee Re-org:** Meeting to be scheduled. Target January to prepare for Synod Review.

**2024 Trinity Disciples** to be published in January.

### **New Business**

**Election of 2024 Officers:** The following ballot stood approved:

President: Dona Lerew

Vice President: Joshlyn Sharrer

Secretary: Mark Boyer

Treasurer: Sue Clauser

**Council Installation:** January 7<sup>th</sup> date was set.

Motion to end the meeting was made by Sherry and seconded by Bob Aims. Motion passed.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 7:43 pm

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

Newsletter Deadline – December 20

Next Council Meeting – January 18, 7:00 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mark Boyer**

## Finance

Contributions to the General Operating Fund fell significantly short in November (\$2,267) resulting in a year-to-date deficit against budgeted income to \$20,403. General Fund Income vs. Expenses for November resulted in a deficit for the month of \$1,315; and year-to-date surplus of \$27. Expenses in December will be notably higher (projected total \$22K) as utilities typically rise, insurance payments of approximately \$3K are due, the Sabbatical Leave contribution (\$750) will be made, and December 2023 has 3 payroll periods. Hopefully December contributions to General Operating fund will increase to avoid a significant cash drain.

Trinity Lutheran Church					
2023 Actual Income and Expenses versus Budget					
General Fund					
	November	YTD November 2023		YTD Change	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Act. vs. Bdgt.	%
<b>Budgeted Income</b>					
General (Accts 4.200.811,814)	14,087	174,743	194,393	(19,650)	(10.1)
Benevolence (Acct 4.200.821)	615	8,725	7,245	1,480	20.4
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>14,702</b>	<b>183,468</b>	<b>201,638</b>	<b>(18,170)</b>	<b>(9.0)</b>
<b>Non Budgeted Income</b>	<b>(305)</b>	<b>5,922</b>	-	<b>5,922</b>	
<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>14,397</b>	<b>189,390</b>	<b>201,638</b>	<b>(12,248)</b>	<b>(6.1)</b>
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>15,713</b>	<b>189,363</b>	<b>199,666</b>	<b>(10,303)</b>	<b>(5.2)</b>
<b>Operating Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,316)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1,972</b>	<b>(1,945)</b>	<b>(98.6)</b>
<b>Cash to meet General Operating Fund Expenses (Acct 1.101.101) November 30, 2023</b>				<b>29,702</b>	

