

# February 2022 Newsletter

<sup>5</sup>***Come and see*** what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals. -Psalm 66:5

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

How are you doing? Really. It's been nearly two years since the beginning of the pandemic. It's a dark and cold winter, not without precipitation issues. The world is full of unrest and we're constantly praying for peace. We've recently known loss in our families and community. We and bunches of our loved ones are managing health concerns. Our nation is still incredibly divided in many fashions. There are real reasons to not be ok right now.

It's ok to not be ok. So much of our time is spent pretending that all is well. We're dying on the inside and yet we just go on and do all things expected of us, including pasting a smile on our faces when it's not genuine. It's ok to stop pretending. It's ok to be angry, sad, discouraged, dismayed, and even depressed. Be real. God expects nothing less. God invites our truth. It's ok to be yourself.

There are six different places in scripture, in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, where we hear the phrase highlighted above, "Come and see..." It's important that we begin to look at these places because, as the psalmist above invites us, we need to see what God has done. We need to see God's awesome deeds among us mortals. We need this invitation to witness God with us.

In these uncertain times it's difficult to see the awesome ways God breaks into the world with gifts of peace, joy, hope, certainty, and light – all the opposites of what we may genuinely be feeling. But we are not alone down here on the ground with our woes and worries. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, and we walk as People of Light. When we bring our genuine needs to God, God hears and answers with the promise that in all our challenges, we are not alone, and we are not abandoned. Light shines on us. Even in great darkness, just a

match makes all the difference.

I encourage you to give yourself the gift of time and intention to look for God's light around you. You deserve a moment to pause with the Lord. If you've wandered away from a relationship with God, come and see what he's up to – through prayer, scripture, fellowship, worship, service... If you're having a hard time alone, contact a fellow disciple and encourage one another to come and see the Lord's work in one another's lives. If you're cruising through today feeling strong, please invite a neighbor to come and see where in your hope lies.

We need each other and this invitation because we're not all ok. We mortals need God's awesome deeds. Let's invite each other to come and see when they occur. And may God bless you with some very mighty deeds indeed!

In His Love,  
Pr. Susan



**Drive-Thru Holy Communion distribution** will be held Sunday, February 6 at 10:30am. Anyone wishing to participate should arrive at the back of church to receive the sacrament from your car.

We pray for our homebound members and for those battling injury or long-term illness, *especially: Freda Manzullo, Christine Sheads, Mark Deputy, Theresa McGee, Kim Smith, Logan Siekerman, Pr. Terry McCarthy and Pixie Henry.* If you know of any members needing pastoral care, please contact the church office. **\*\*Please notify the church as soon as possible if someone you know is hospitalized.\***



**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** will gather on Zoom Mondays at 6:00pm. The Zoom link is: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81367400665?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81367400665?pwd=M0xNRFRkRk94NXItaEFtGclplQ2F0dz09)

[pwd=M0xNRFRkRk94NXItaEFtGclplQ2F0dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81367400665?pwd=M0xNRFRkRk94NXItaEFtGclplQ2F0dz09)

Meeting ID: **813 6740 0665**

Passcode: **Bible**

We'll continue to use Zoom for gathering throughout the darker evenings through the

winter. Anyone who would like to join who doesn't Zoom is still welcome to join Pr. Susan at the church to Zoom with her—just let her know so she's sure to be at the church. **Bible Study will be cancelled for Monday, February 14th. Happy Valentine's Day!**



**Zoom Movie Night, Sunday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.** Pastor Susan will host a bible story themed Movie Night on Zoom where we'll learn more about Noah and his family. Pick up your popcorn at church on that Sunday morning!

**Movie License Available at Trinity** The church has purchased an annual movie license through CVLI (Christian Video Licensing International) which allows the congregation to gather and view movies together legally within licensing guidelines. The list of available movies is extensive and there are only a few rules: we cannot profit from admission, and no specific titles may be publicized. Any congregational group wishing to host a video night for their group, or for the whole congregation, please contact the office for more information.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO LIGHT EPIPHANY STAR CANDLES**

This year we'll be celebrating the Season of Light by lighting a candle for each of the weeks in the Sundays After Epiphany between the festival Sundays: Baptism of Our Lord and Transfiguration. January 16-February 20 we'll mark each week by inviting individuals and families to volunteer to light a candle near the Epiphany Star (Thanks to Becky Rinehart and Judy Burgard for lighting the first two candles and sharing their stories of light) There are all sorts of ways God brings light and life to us! Some ideas of what to share are: something that brought joy to you or someone near you, seeing someone help someone else, receiving an unexpected blessing, going through a tough time but knowing God's peace, something that made you laugh, a glorious sunrise/set, and lots of other things. If you would like to do this, but don't know what to say, talk with Pastor Susan and she'll help. You can also light the candle and she'll tell your story on your behalf. If you'd like to sign up for one of the Sundays in February, please let Pastor Susan know. Thanks for helping to enhance our worship!



**HYBRID CHURCH ACADEMY** A group of folks from Trinity have been attending The Hybrid Church Academy, an ELCA and Lower Susquehanna Synod cohort exploring what it means to be a missional, evangelical, and outreach-based congregation both on the ground in person and online. The pandemic has shown us that technology is a wonderful gathering and ministry tool and we're exploring the best ways to use it to create and maintain community both during the continuing public health crisis and after it's over. It's not too late to join in the conversation! If you would like to join in, please be in touch with Pastor Susan. Gatherings are once per month, on Saturday morning, from 9-11 a.m. via Zoom. February's gathering is on Saturday, the 26th. If you don't Zoom but would like to join, please let Pastor Susan know; we can Zoom together from the church.

### **NEW COVID-19 MEASURES APPROVED BY CHURCH COUNCIL**

At the January council meeting, in order to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the council voted to cease all congregational singing until further notice. We will review the positivity rates in our area on a regular basis and hope to feel comfortable returning to singing together soon. In the meantime, we invite everyone to follow along in their hearts and minds with the weekly cantor. We also recommend everyone wear masks while indoors. We pray continually for those affected by the virus, especially those who have lost loved ones, and we pray for an end to the disease's danger to human life. Thank you!



**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!

## **Electronic Giving**

Electronic Giving has been available at Trinity for many years. Vanco Financial Services is our agent for electronic payment processing. It is a safe, secure, and convenient way to support Trinity's mission and helps maintain a consistent revenue stream that "smooths out" the financial peaks and valleys. Electronic giving is completely flexible. You can make a one-time contribution, schedule your contributions on almost any schedule (one time, weekly, every two weeks, monthly) and allocate your contributions across any of Trinity's funds. Contributors can have funds automatically withdrawn from a checking or savings account or you can contribute by Credit Card. All costs for processing electronic transactions are paid by Trinity. The cost per transaction for automatic withdrawals is .80 per transaction regardless of the amount and credit card transactions are 3% of the contribution amount. You can make a contribution by going to our website [www.trinitylutheraneb.org](http://www.trinitylutheraneb.org) and on the "HOME" page click on the "Donate Today" button.

If you are not an established electronic contributor, click on "SIGN-UP" and follow the instructions to set up your account. There is also an option to scan a QR code from your phone which will take you to the same page on Trinity's website. If you have an account already established, simply log-in to complete and or make changes to your contribution. To make changes to your contribution simply delete your previous contribution and fund allocations and create a new contribution and fund allocations. With any questions, please contact Jen Guiher or Sue Clauser.



**KNOTTY KNOTTERS:** The Knotty Knotters make and distribute quilts to those in need. The quilt tops are pieced, or sewn together. The quilt sandwich, which includes the pieced top, batting in the center, and a bed sheet for the backing, is held together by tying knots through all three layers. The quilts measure 60"x80". The Knotters meet the second and fourth



Wednesday of every month from 2:00-4:00, in the church social hall. All are welcome to join this worthwhile ministry. Upcoming meetings will be held from 2:00-4:00pm on February 9 & February 23. If you can tie a knot, we hope that you will consider joining this group. The Knotters need many hands to work on this worthwhile project. If you have questions, contact Gay Weigand 717-476-8290.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER SERVICE** is held each Wednesday morning at 10AM in the Chapel. This service is streamed only to the congregation's private Trinity Lutheran EB Fellowship Group on Facebook. Because of the sensitive nature of the joys and concerns that may be freely lifted up in this prayer service, the worship will not be made publicly available but will only stream to this closed group. Should you wish to become a member of Trinity's Fellowship Group, search for it on Facebook and click "join." Members must be approved by the group administrators. Questions? Call Jen at 717-259-9125. Everyone is welcome to pray with us online or at the church.

**Zoom Cocktail Hour with Pastor Susan** is a great way to keep in touch with others during the cold winter evenings. There is no agenda. Just fun! Join us on zoom using the link sent in Monday's email or using the Meeting ID: 431 450 3914 Passcode: Cocktails. *We will meet:*

- *February 2 at 7:30pm (NOTE TIME)*
- *February 8 at 7:00pm*
- *February 17 at 7:00pm*
- *February 23 at 7:00pm.*



## WELCA News

The women of the ELCA met January 4 and started with this devotion: Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." We then prayed for our loving Lord to guide us this year to make a difference in this world, to show us any way we can be of service, helping in any way possible.

It seemed appropriate for our little group of God's disciples...we started

our 2022 with a warm bedding drive. New blankets, throws, quilts, sheet sets, pillows, etc. are still being collected to pass out in January and February at our Food Pantry. The families we serve are always happy and grateful to receive these needed items. A \$250 Thrivent gift card was used to help with our collecting, and we were able to purchase 16 full and queen size blankets and 4 flannel sheets sets! We added quilts made



by our Trinity Knotty Knotters, along with plush throws, which we had left over from another time, to fill two tables. Thank you, generous friends, for helping keep our local families warm this winter.

We were able to speak to Tonya Mincey, our contact from SCCAP. She shared stories of giving the families their Christmas gifts from our Angel Tree. She also sent photos via email. She relayed the families were overjoyed and emotional with their gifts. Thank you to everyone from Trinity who made this beautiful Christmas project a success!

The following day, I received a call from one of our Trinity members telling of a possible project that we can work on. Plastic bags can be cut into strips and woven into waterproof mats to be used by the homeless as a barrier from the ground. Details are being explored and may be a future project to work on. Another suggestion came in that there may something more durable and warmer than plastic bags. We will continue to work on this. Later that day, Pastor Susan received information from the ELCA about a Zoom meeting on churches helping our homeless population. Isn't it funny how God puts what we need in front of us! Didn't we pray for Him to guide us on our helping path? Let's see where this all leads us! Keep praying for His guidance!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, at 7PM, and we will do so on Zoom.



**WELCA will have a Pie Sale** March 3rd & 4th.

Please sign up for Lemon Sponge, Blueberry or Blueberry Crumb and indicate when you will pick up your order please. The pickup times are Thursday March 3 at 11am to 12 noon. On Friday March 4, pick up times are 11am to 12 noon & 5-6pm. Orders can also be placed by calling Judy Burgard 717-259-9507.



Due to increased cost of ingredients, we will charge \$10 per pie. Proceeds raised will be used for WELCA projects which help others in our community. Thank you for your support!



**Souper Bowl Food Drive** is underway! A continued tradition of friendly competition with other local congregations for the trophy. We are collecting cans of soup, condiments, laundry detergent, other non-perishable food items as well as personal care items and cleaning supplies. *The greatest need currently is for laundry detergent, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies.* Check the bulletin board for a list of items needs and their point value. The pickup date is Sunday, February 20. There is a collection box in the Narthex for any items that you bring. See Anita Madsen if you would like to help!

## **Fall Festival Report**

Last September's Fall Festival resulted in an income of \$2,655. Those funds are typically re-distributed back to the community in various ways. The Committee recommended and has distributed these funds as follows: EBACC - \$250; EB Parks & Recreation - \$250; Trinity Sharing Shelf - \$250; Trinity Purchase of SMART TV and mobile cart for use by Faith Formation Classes and for watching Livestream of Services during "Cookie Break" - \$404, Contribution for travel expenses for our Deacon Intern. (In honor of Mary Lou Aims). The remaining \$801 are being held in reserve for possible technology upgrades and a potential "Sunday at Nawakwa". Thanks to all who helped make the Fall Festival a huge success!

**Donation in Honor and Memory of Mary Lou Aims** It is with gratitude the Fall Festival Committee has made a donation of \$250 to the United Lutheran Seminary Intern Travel Expense Fund in honor of Mary Lou Aims. As many of you know, Mary Lou completed her education to become a Deaconess but unfortunately was unable to realize her work and dream before passing from this earthly life to an eternal life with God. This fund supports our work with our current intern, Katharine Beckman.

## **Technology Upgrades**

**Church Windows Software Upgrade** On January 7, Trinity upgraded its Church Windows software which houses our membership, contribution, and financial software to a "cloud" version. This provides a more secure environment for Trinity's users, reduces our risk of data loss, allows access of all authorized users by any personal computer, and centralizes our data across a single platform. The data in the cloud is backed up daily and retained for a rolling 14 days. Jen will also perform a full back-up every week. Our data security and integrity has been a noted deficiency in our annual audit for the past several years; this system switch corrects that deficit. Thanks to all who made the switch possible.

**SMART TV** With the proceeds from the Fall Festival, a 55” Smart TV and rolling stand has been purchased for use at Trinity. This will be available for use by Faith Formation Classes and anyone in need of using this technology. This SMART TV will utilize the internet connection at Trinity which enables us to stream videos and watch our Worship Service Livestream when we resume “Kids’ Cookie Break.” The TV is available to anyone for use. Please reserve the equipment through the church office.

**New Website Update**



This past October Trinity began using a new website hosted by Faithlife that has a lot of new features. In the next several weeks, we will continue to add content and options to the website. While this is taking some time, please watch for more info over the next few weeks and also for an email invitation to join “Trinity” via the site. For those using SMART phones and tablets, you may also download the Faithlife App available from the APP Stores (Google and IOS).

These invites will be sent in small groups of 10 users at a time so that we can work through some of the new functionality manageably. Once you accept the invitation and create your login/password, you can opt to receive live feeds for events and other activities scheduled at Trinity. Please bear with us as we begin the roll-out of these new features. We’ll learn together! If you have questions, or want to help this process, please contact the church office.

## Year End Financial Report

The following exhibits show our financial position on December 31, 2021.

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021

Monday, January 3, 2022

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Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	
<b>Assets</b>			
1.100.100	<i>CHECKING ACCOUNT</i>		
1.101.101	CURRENT CHECKING ACCT.	21,255.36	Funds available for operating expenses
1.101.102	MEMORIAL CHECKING	26,954.81	\$3K designated(kitchen) balance unrestricted
1.101.103	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CHECKING	31,636.86	Contributions designated for Capital Proj.
1.101.104	YOUTH CHECKING	3,747.81	Funding available largely from Gruver Trust
1.101.105	ENDOWMENT HOLDING ACCOUNT	2,758.45	Available from last funding from Endowment.
1.101.106	RUTH'S HARVEST	7,396.84	
1.101.107	LAUNDRY LOVE	670.71	
1.101.108	SHARING SHELF	335.85	
1.101.109	MEN'S MINISTRY	404.66	
1.101.110	SPECIAL PROJECTS	2,655.00	Undisbursed Funds from Fall Festival
	<i>Total CHECKING ACCOUNT</i>	<i>\$97,816.35</i>	
	<b>CHECKING ACCT. BALANCE</b>	<b>\$97,816.35</b>	
1.102.103	CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT-SABBATICAL LEAVE	5,341.12	Funds set aside to for Pastoral Coverage
1.102.104	CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	75,181.47	
1.105.001	MISSION IN MOTION CHECKING	7,990.26	
1.105.005	MISSIONARY SUPPORT CHECKING	1,457.56	
1.105.009	W.E.L.C.A. CHECKING	905.36	
	<b>TOTAL - OTHER BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$90,875.77</b>	
1.103.001	LAND	45,000.00	
1.103.002	BUILDING	1,564,562.70	
1.103.003	FURNITURE, FIXTURES,	26,598.91	
	<b>OTHER ASSETS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,727,037.38</b>	
1.104.001	ENDOWMENT FUND	319,919.36	
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,144,773.09</b>	
<b>Fund Balance</b>			
3.100.100	GENERAL FUND BALANCE	10,621.10	
3.200.200	MISC. NON-BUDGET FUND BALANCE	25,853.99	
3.400.400	ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE	1,952.01	
3.500.500	RUTH'S HARVEST Balance	687.85	
3.999.999	Suspense Fund	2,105,658.14	
	<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$2,144,773.09</b>	
	<b>Total Short Term Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$2,144,773.09</b>	

### YTD Summary

Giving for Current operating expenses fell short of the budget by \$20,267. Our Synod Benevolence income exceeded the budget by \$2,454, so the amount sent to the Synod for 2021 was \$14,454. After adjusting for non-budgeted income of \$9,449, our deficit in Current income was \$10,818. As a result of reduced expenses resulting from limited activities during the pandemic, our YTD income vs. expenses reflected a deficit of \$2,758 (after adjusting for the non-budgeted income \$9,449). While the Balance Sheet reveals some sizable cash balances, funds available for operating expenses are \$21,255. All designated offerings can **only** be used for the designated purpose. Since our operating expenses are at budgeted levels, our income designated for Current must keep pace with the budgeted needs as we move forward in 2022. Please contact any member of Council or the Finance Committee with any questions.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Treasurer's Report as of December 2021 for GENERAL FUND (NEWSLETTER)

Sunday, January 2, 2022

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Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Monthly Budget	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)
<b>Income</b>						
CURRENT INCOME TOTAL	\$14,328.61	\$177,402.75	\$16,467.00	\$197,670.00	90	(\$20,267.25)
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$1,242.92	\$14,454.14	\$1,000.00	\$12,000.00	120	\$2,454.14
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$15,571.53</b>	<b>\$191,856.89</b>	<b>\$17,467.00</b>	<b>\$209,670.00</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>(\$17,813.11)</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$1,242.92	\$15,701.42	\$1,100.00	\$13,200.00	119	\$2,501.42
WORSHIP TOTAL	\$658.56	\$3,632.57	\$320.00	\$4,350.00	84	(\$717.43)
LEARNING AND YOUTH TOTAL	\$0.00	\$1,149.74	\$162.00	\$1,900.00	61	(\$750.26)
OTHER COMMITTEES TOTAL	\$65.56	\$2,146.18	\$332.00	\$4,050.00	53	(\$1,903.82)
SALARIES TOTAL	\$12,117.81	\$108,004.34	\$8,158.00	\$106,050.00	102	\$1,954.34
PASTOR'S BENEFITS	\$2,829.27	\$32,181.12	\$2,979.00	\$36,480.00	88	(\$4,298.88)
STAFF BENEFITS	\$375.36	\$3,171.25	\$241.00	\$3,140.00	101	\$31.25
TOTAL SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$15,322.24	\$143,356.71	\$11,378.00	\$145,670.00	98	(\$2,313.29)
OFFICE/ADMIN/CONF/ AUTO TOTAL	\$1,170.89	\$8,550.32	\$722.00	\$9,700.00	88	(\$1,149.68)
UTILITIES TOTAL	\$1,395.79	\$17,613.20	\$1,251.00	\$16,600.00	106	\$1,013.20
MAINTENANCE TOTAL	\$937.33	\$6,321.74	\$712.00	\$8,500.00	74	(\$2,178.26)
INSURANCE TOTAL	\$0.00	\$5,593.00	\$62.00	\$5,700.00	98	(\$107.00)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$20,793.29</b>	<b>\$204,064.88</b>	<b>\$16,039.00</b>	<b>\$209,670.00</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>(\$5,605.12)</b>
Difference	(\$5,221.76)	(\$12,207.99)	\$1,428.00	\$0.00		

Non- Budgeted income \$9449 net shortfall (\$10,818)

**Giving Summaries for 2021** will be mailed January 31. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

**Updated Church Directories** are available in the Narthex to pick up. If you prefer to have one mailed to you, please contact Jen in the church office.

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING TRINITY'S LIVESTREAM EFFORTS**

Participants in the Hybrid Church Academy, in consultation with Council have determined that one of our needs moving forward is to recruit at least one adult **and** one youth who will be willing to work with Andie Guiher to learn to create and publish our livestreamed worship services.

Andie has worked tirelessly without a Sunday off, and will go to college in two years. We need to give her a break, and also look toward the future. The volunteers will be trained to produce the quality livestream worship services we currently use.

Once we establish personnel who have the expertise to work in and continue this ministry, we'll begin a conversation about enhancing our equipment to improve the video/audio quality as well. If you can commit to serving in this capacity, as substitute and follow-up for Andie, please contact Pastor Susan or Bob King.

# Meet Our Seminary Intern

Greetings! My name is Katharine Beckman, a United Lutheran Seminary student on the track to become a deacon. I was born in Lakewood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, and raised with an older brother and a younger sister. My mother was the homemaker and my father the bread winner. I was baptized and confirmed in the Missouri Synod Lutheran church. I spent my working life earning a living in administration and human resources positions and now I'm retired.

When I was a child my father joined the foreign service, and as a result I was raised in Stockholm, Sweden and Mexico City, Mexico with home base being Chevy Chase, MD. My mother and father are both deceased. My brother and sister have families of their own. My nieces and nephews are now adults. I was engaged in my thirties, but never married. I receive support and encouragement from my siblings and my close friends. Over the years I have developed friendships with church members from different denominations, and as a result have acquired an ecumenical outlook.

I had given up on the reality of God's existence when I went to college. However, in the late 1970s I decided that I would believe in God's existence again if two conditions were met. One was if a Jewish person whom I would know personally would believe that Jesus was the Messiah, and the other was if an African American person would accept Jesus as Messiah, since he is usually pictured as white. I did not see how a god promoted by gentiles, who had historically persecuted Jewish people, could ever be accepted by a Jewish person. Nor did I see how an African American person, usually deprived of many of white society's advantages, could still be interested in following the same God professed by white Christians. With my limited knowledge of God's true nature, I considered these two conditions foolproof, convinced that I would see neither happening in my lifetime.

In early 1978, I learned that my sister's Jewish friend had come to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, which I found astounding. Unbeknownst to me, my sister's friend started praying in January 1979 that I would come back to the Lord. At the end of December that year I met an African-American woman at a party who challenged me to say the sinner's prayer. She offered to pray with me

and my life has not been the same since. Later, I heard from her that God had greatly blessed her as well, because she believed that she would never be able to speak about the Lord to a white person.

When I returned to church it was to a charismatic Episcopal church in Fairfax, Va. Later I joined All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Apart from singing in the All Saints choir, I was involved in two ministries: one was a healing and intercessory prayer ministry (HIP), and the other is the Order of St. Luke, an ecumenical healing prayer ministry that met at All Saints monthly.

From 2016-2017 I attended a Christian meditation group led by Pastor Derek Solberg at Emmanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Bethesda, Maryland. Among the texts we used in our discussions was *The Cloud of Unknowing* by an unknown 14th century English mystic.

I'm currently a member of St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, PA and looking forward to doing my internship at Trinity.



# Worship Assistant Schedule

Date	Assisting Minister	Communion Helper	
Feb 6	Chris Long	Ruthann Bowen	Don
Feb 13	Alex Sharrer	Jake Sharrer	Bo
Feb 20	Ruthann Bowen	Sue Clauser	Gre
Feb 27	Sue Clauser	Bob King	Bo

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



## Christmas Eve Children's Service



# Ushers for February 2022

Director	Ushers	Altar Guild
Ana Lerew	Rick & Anita Madsen	Kathy Kuhn
Bob Aims	Terry Yealy, Bob Aims	Ruthann Bowen
Beta Haley	Les & Maxine Herman	Anita Madsen
Bob King	Judy Burgard, Leon Leas	Deb King

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



**Silent Night** singing on Christmas Eve by candlelight.

# Ministry Pages



## Sharing Shelf Update

To better serve the needs of the community during the cold winter months, some changes to the operation of the Sharing Shelf were put in place January 26. All items will now be placed on the shelves outside the back entrance. Wheels have been added to the bookcase so that items in danger of freezing can be placed on this mobile shelf. The shelf will be rolled outside and available

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 12:00 noon – 4:00 weather permitting, and then rolled back inside. In the event of severe cold weather, hours may need to be shortened without notice to prevent freezing. Non freezable items will continue to be placed on the stationary wooden shelves and available 24/7.

For those restocking the shelves, all supplies for the Sharing Shelf have been relocated to the closets on the Annex Stage (right, rear wall) and appropriately marked. Items are arranged by category. Since these storage closets are shared by other Trinity Groups, please pay attention to the labels both on outside and inside the closets. Any questions? Contact Deb King.

**Food Pantry:** New Hope is bringing the mobile pantry from 4:00-6:00pm on Wednesday, February 2. (Note the new time). The guests will be able to shop for their needs. We need volunteers to help the guests with shopping and additional duties. Please consider helping if you feel comfortable doing so. If you have any questions, please contact Anita Madsen.



**Laundry Love Ministry** will be held Tuesday, February 8 from 5:30-6:30pm at the White Dove Laundromat in East Berlin behind Jim & Nena's Pizza. Guests will be provided with quarters and laundry soap to assist with their laundry needs. If you have questions or



would like to volunteer, please contact Judy Burgard (717) 259-9507. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We need two volunteers each month. **PLEASE bring in your quarters and drop them in the donation bin upstairs in the Narthex.**

**WELLNESS GROUP** – Trinity's Wellness Group will meet in February via Zoom. The date is to-be-determined. We hope you'll join us! If you have questions, please see Laura Ryder or Pastor Susan or call the church office. Watch email correspondence for the Zoom link closer to the date.



**Ruth's Harvest** is working hard this school year. On Tuesday, February 15 at 1:00pm we will pack 60 bags for Bermudian Springs Elementary School. If you are interested in helping please join us at St. John's in Abbottstown - packing takes place in the Abbottstown Firehouse next to the church parking lot. We will be getting things organized and start at 12:45pm. Packing will take approximately 30 minutes. ***Currently there is a great need for fruit cups, pop tarts, vegetable cups, breakfast bars, SpaghettiOs and individual milk boxes (unrefrigerated).***

**Adopt a Senior Member in Need** - We have senior members who



need our contact. Please consider signing up to "adopt" a member by calling, sending cards, and visiting as you are both able. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Judy Burgard or Dona Lerew. Thank you!

## Choice Dollars® Details



Eligible clients with memberships can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

### Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

Eligibility is determined monthly and reevaluated on an annual basis.

### Minimum and maximum Choice Dollars designations

Eligible clients will be designated a minimum of 25 Choice Dollars and a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars per eligibility period each year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

### Choice Dollars expiration date

Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year.

**The Mission-in-Motion ministry** here at Trinity would like to invite all of you to participate in our support of a community wide and ecumenical partnership to assist a possible refugee family from Afghanistan relocating in our area in the coming months. The type of and size of the family and exactly where they will be living is still to be determined. But we have an opportunity to help stock up their household with non-food household items. If you are able, please bring to the church in the coming weeks various paper goods or household cleaning supplies, detergents and similar items that one would need when setting up a household. Thanks as always for your generous help, and for your prayers for this and all our ministries. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Terry McCarthy or Dona Lerew.

**Right of Refusal Waiver for Photos & Videos** – To insure the safety of our parishioners, 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.

**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/>

**Snow!** The Property Team really needs volunteers for snow removal, mostly for shoveling and snow blowing. Please contact the church office if you are able and willing to help.



**DO YOU KNOW A HOMEOWNER WHO NEEDS HELP WITH A SIMPLE REMODEL OR AN UPGRADE TO MAKE THEIR PRIMARY RESIDENCE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE?**


- **Do they own their residence and live in York County?**
- **Do they live in Abbottstown Zip Code 17301?**
- **Are they in East Berlin Borough Zip Code 17316?**
- **Are they in Reading Township Zip Code 17316?**

Only above locations can be considered at this time.

If the above applies, they can call Servants, Inc. directly to complete an application by phone at (717) 378-0336.

[www.servants.org](http://www.servants.org)

Facebook at ServantsInc.



# Worship Schedule

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

- Feb 2: Morning Prayer, 10:00am, Chapel
- Feb 6: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany; Children's Chime Choir
- Feb 9: Morning Prayer, 10:00am, Chapel
- Feb 13: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
- Feb 16: Morning Prayer, 10:00am, Chapel
- Feb 20: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
- Feb 23: Morning Prayer, 10:00am, Chapel
- Feb 27: Transfiguration of Our Lord
- Mar 2: Ash Wednesday (**10:00am Chapel, 11-1 Ashes to Go, 7:00pm Service**)

## NOTES:

- Please note the following elements are available during Communion: pre-blessed sealed wafer and grape juice packages, wheat wafers, gluten-free wafers, poured grape juice, poured wine.
- While Holy Communion distribution is a continuous flow, you are invited to step out of the line to spend time at the chancel rail as you desire.
- Anyone interested in serving as a Lector, Assisting Minister, Usher, Hymn Leader or Altar Guild is asked to contact the church office.
- Due to the COVID pandemic, we are not participating in congregational singing at this time and mask are recommended for anyone indoors regardless of vaccination status. The church council is continually reviewing infection data and creating policy to mitigate risk to those who worship here at Trinity.

# Notes



From  
the  
Music Director



February has arrived, the second month of 2022! It is a month of holidays it seems: Groundhog Day February 2, Valentines Day February 14, President's Day February 21. I also think it is a month of certain colors: brown of course—barren fields and gardens but also the beautiful whiteness of snow and the celebrated red of many cut out hearts that decorate windows and doors mid February. Daylight is gradually lasting longer and take note of buds on trees, they seem to be larger, swelling with anticipation to open when the correct temperature arrives in April.

During February our choirs would rehearse “light” and “star” songs but not this year. We will rest from singing and be revived again at the correct time in the future. We are very grateful for the singers who step forward with their talent and time to sing for us every week. Thank you all! You are very much appreciated!

-Karen Wire





# February Birthdays



2-4 Charlie Hoffman  
2-5 Matt McSherry  
2-10 Michelle Boyer  
2-12 Wanda Crackett  
2-13 Bonnie Shue  
2-14 Susan Smith  
2-16 Christine Sheads  
2-18 Stephanie Haley  
2-20 Pixie Henry  
2-23 Karen Wire  
2-24 Linda Green  
2-25 Holly Siekerman  
2-26 Bradley Boyer  
2-28 Harrison Bowen

2-4 Sandy Emig  
2-6 Karen Ruth  
2-12 Sue Clauser  
2-12 Courtney Fortuna  
2-13 Steve Eaton  
2-15 Clayton Moore  
2-17 Gay Weigand  
2-19 Karen Sheaffer  
2-22 Bob King  
2-23 Sam Haley  
2-24 Kyla Nickey  
2-26 Nick Storm  
2-27 Brody Moore  
2-28 Andie Guiher



2-10 Lorin Boger & John Kirk ~ 15 Years  
2-14 Rick & Anita Madsen ~ 35 Years  
2-25 Nick & Laura Storm ~ 16 Years



# Happy Anniversary!



*Rick and Anita Madsen* will celebrate 35 years of marriage on Valentine's day. They were married in 1987 in the chapel of Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Kinceloe officiating. They were blessed to blend their family with three children, Jason, Jessica and Heather and now have three wonderful grandchildren, Jacob, Paige and Tori. Rick's sister and brother in law, who were Anita's neighbors, introduced them and the wedding reception was held in their home.

They feel so blessed to have so many wonderful friends at Trinity. And they look forward to celebrating many more years of marriage together.



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# CHURCH COUNCIL

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2022

Present: Pastor Susan, Bob King, Dona Lerew, Jay Smith, Sue Clauser, Stephanie Haley, Lisa Miller, Mark Boyer, and joining via Zoom-Sherry Brown, and our new Seminary Student Intern Katherine Beckman Absent: Rick Madsen

Bob called the meeting to order and Pastor Susan used our Council Meeting Liturgy, reading from Psalm 36:7-10. Our agenda was reviewed with no additional items needed.

**Secretary's Report:** The December minutes were review and two corrections were made in Old Business. Instead of Dean Internship, it should read Deacon Internship. And reimbursement for mileage should read \$1500 not \$1300. Jay made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections, Lisa seconded the motion, all agreed and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was reviewed, and our current income vs expenses shows a deficit of around \$2800. We will discuss more in Old Business later in this meeting.

**Ministry Reports:**

Learning & Youth-Lisa report the committee met on January 5 and worked on the 2022 calendar of Faith Formation classes weekly events. The Nursery was given a donation of construction paper and they will be sorting on organizing the toys, removing any broken ones. Lisa family has items to donate to this classroom. Fall Fest money was used to purchase a Smart TV on a wheeled stand for use in all classrooms and for cookie breaks when they resume. To promoting involvement with all families some suggestions included- schedule intergenerational event/project/lesson during Sunday School lessons (follow schedule) as a whole, reinstate cookie break and the need for parent monitors, projects for shut-ins such as Valentine's Day cards/baskets (First whole group activity? Supplies due Feb 6, Assemble Feb 13, Teen Time deliver?), send letter home following each lesson, offer

coffee and doughnuts during Sunday School in the parlor, Easter Program & songs with practice Saturday before Easter followed by food and egg hunt- Joshlyn will reach out to k-6 families to see who want to participate in program, and using confirmands and teens as stage crew and set designers. Pastor Susan would like to get involved with all the classes, so suggestions included: having her do story reading at the beginning of the class and popping in whenever possible on other Sundays. Looking ahead to the fall 2022 schedule, define a start time of 10:30 AM. Assigning time for Karen Wire to meet with the classes for music practice. Covid 19-talked about where classes will meet, possibly in their original classrooms. An idea was to name each classroom, having the students decide what to name them. Another suggestion was to make our entrance more inviting and give directions to where people need to go. A Spring Fling is scheduled for April 24 at noon. The next meeting will be held February 3 at 6:30.

Worship & Music-Meeting Date: Thurs, Jan 6, 10 AM

1. We will support the sharing of "LIGHT STORIES" for Pastor's Epiphany project.
2. Undecorating for Christmas: Friday, Jan 7th 10AM
3. For midweek Lent events, we brainstormed with the most practical and effective ways to engage with congregation. We recommend doing a live ZOOM session, Wednesday evenings 7PM, where pastor will emphasize prayer and devotion. A live ZOOM may encourage more participation and sharing.
4. The committee recommends to council that in light of the increased COVID infection numbers, even in our midst, that we put increased protection protocols in place during in-person worship. We recommend that we discontinue congregational singing, as singing, even behind masks, increases the spread of aerosols. A cantor can continue to play a role, serving as a sung voice of the congregation for sung liturgy or other.
5. The committee also recommends that pastor verbally announce prior to service that mask wearing is encouraged.
6. No plans to change communion distribution at this time.
7. No plans to resume using acolytes for the time being.

Finance Accounting for Intern Travel Expenses -Funding from the various sources will be deposited/transferred to current and check will be issued to Seminary for \$750 and will be charged

against miscellaneous non-budget expenses. Special Projects Checking- The purpose of special projects checking account is to track funds generated for various projects that are not part of the general fund. All funds from special revenue generating projects will be deposited in this account. The chairperson of the specific project must submit the Special Projects worksheet to track income and expenses. Funds in the Special Projects account are designed to be given back to the community or designated for a specific purpose/cause. Congregational Letter – 2022 Budget- At Counsel's request a letter will be sent to the Congregation summarizing 2021 giving results and guidance for contribution strategies for meeting our 2022 budget. Information was prepared and provided to Pastor Susan who will prepare the letter and submit to Council at the January 13 meeting. The letter will be mailed following the Council meeting. 2021 Audit- Sue will provide the bank statements and all other documents required to commence the audit. The audit is planned to be started in February. Bob will contact members of the audit committee to set a date to begin. Audit Committee consists of Jack Crackett, Sally Leas and all members of the Finance Committee. Migration to Church Windows Web-The conversion to Church Windows Web was completed January 7, 2022. The entire process took about one hour with the assistance of Technical Support personnel from Church Windows. Membership, Contribution and Accounting Modules were migrated and validated by Bob King, Sue Clauser, and Jen Guiher. The system is now hosted in the "cloud" and automatically backed up every evening with those back-ups retained on a rolling 14-day basis. Jen will also perform a full back-up every Monday. A complete migration report will be signed off by the migration team and cutover documents have been retained for audit purposes. The system can be accessed for those persons with log-on credentials and authorization by remotely logging in to the cloud from any personal computer with internet access. Jen Guiher will serve as the System Administrator for Church Windows. Access to the System restricted to Church Secretary, Treasurer, Council President, and Pastor. Council President and Pastor will have inquiry capabilities only. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held in March on a date to be determined.

Parish Life-no report

Social Ministry-The Next Food Pantry will be held Wednesday, February 2 and the new time is 4-6 pm. The number of families served at the January Food Pantries are 39 for a total of 88 individuals assisted. Our Next Laundry Love date is Tuesday, February 8 from 5:30-6:30pm at the White Dove Laundromat. Please note that we are still collecting quarters! The change drop is located in the Narthex by the elevator. Please bring your quarters the next time you come and drop them in the coin collection bin. Ruth's Harvest Packing continues Tuesday, January 18 at 1:00pm at St. John's in Abbottstown.

WELCA-The women of WELCA met Jan 4 and we were able to chat via phone with Tonya Mincey from SCCAP of Gettysburg. She shared stories of meeting with the parents of the families we had in our Christmas Angel Tree. The parents were overwhelmed and delighted with the gifts we shared with their families. She shared a few photos of the children opening gifts also. We also set up the warm bedding items for the Food Pantry families. These items will be handed out in January and February, so we are still asking for new donations of warm bedding. We are asking for any ideas for giving projects that we can work on this year. Thrivent Action Team gift cards are available to help us complete projects!

Outreach-no report

Stewardship-no report

Evangelism-no report

Property-We held our property meeting December 23. After cleaning the church, we had a short meeting. Bob King, Mac McMaster, and Jay Smith were present. During the cleaning we did the following repairs.

- A. Replaced the detective water valve on the handicapped toilet in the men's room.
- B. Replaced the batteries in all the emergency exit signs throughout the church.
- C. Removed the water rings from all the toilets and the hallway water fountain.
- D. Replaced 4 florescent light bulbs in the elevator.
- E. Bob is working on a new cleaning schedule for 2022.
- F. Are going to continue doing snow removal in house.
- G. In the near future we will replace the damaged toilet seat on

the handicapped toilet in the lady's room.

The next meeting will be January 20 at 10am.

Mutual Ministry, Constitution-Governance-no report

Mission in Motion-The Mission-in-Motion ministry here at Trinity would like to invite all of you to participate in our support of a community wide and ecumenical partnership to assist a possible refugee family from Afghanistan relocating in our area in the coming months. The type of and size of the family and exactly where they will be living is still to be determined. But we have an opportunity to help stock up their household with non-food household items. If you are able, please bring to the church in the coming weeks various paper goods or household cleaning supplies, detergents and similar items that one would need when setting up a household. Thanks as always for your generous help, and for your prayers for this and all our ministries. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Terry McCarthy or Dona Lerew.

**Pastor's Report** -Council reviewed Pastor Susan's projected February calendar. She had noted that she was able to visit most of our shut ins. Also, she reported that the Christmas Eve services went well, with good attendance. Synod events are moved to on-line only due to the Covid 19. She has begun working with our Seminary Student Intern, Katherine Beckman.

**Old Business** -Covid 19-concil discussed the recommendations from Worship & Music committee to council that in light of the increased COVID infection numbers, even in our midst, that we put increased protection protocols in place during in-person worship. We recommend that we discontinue congregational singing, as singing, even behind masks, increases the spread of aerosols. A cantor can continue to play a role, serving as a sung voice of the congregation for sung liturgy or other. The committee also recommends that pastor verbally announce prior to service that mask wearing is encouraged. Dona made a motion to follow these recommendations immediately, Sherry seconded, all agreed and the motion carried. Council will revisit this each month and monitor our current Covid situation.

Council Committee Assignments-the 2022 committee assignments are as follows:

Bob King-all committees as his duties as Council President as well as Finance

Stephanie Haley-Social Ministry  
Karen Sheaffer-Worship & Music  
Mark Boyer-Constitution  
Dona Lerew-Parish Life  
Lisa Miller-Learning & Youth  
Sherry Brown-Outreach  
Jay Smith-Property  
Rick Madsen-Stewardship  
Pastor Susan-Evangelism

Deacon Internship-Katherine was welcomed by council, and she spoke of being open to helping with all possibilities here at Trinity.

Website Update-Bob reported that work continues on our website. He would like to add council member's photos. Steph volunteered to work on a history of Trinity section to add to the site. Documents such as newsletters, bulletins, etc. should be included every month. Our Facebook pages and other social media can be linked there as well.

Open Council positions-calls will be made soon to those writers from our ballots. Bob and Dona will work on this.

Congregational Letter-Pastor Susan and Bob worked together on a letter to our congregation explaining our financial situation and how giving is broken down into different areas. The letter was reviewed, changes were made, and it will be rewritten and sent.

Hybrid Church Update-Pastor reported that these meetings continue, and recently social media was discussed. Dona had also attended that latest meeting and asked council about our equipment needs to make our Live Stream Ministry possible. Our Tech Committee will be restarted and begin work on deciding what to invest in to help make this happen.

**New Business:** Membership Review-a review of our membership and attendance was done 3 years ago and may need to be looked at again. Discussion followed and it was decided to table this until later this year due to attendance being lower due to Covid !9.

Constitution Review-several items in our constitution need updated and a review is needed. This will begin soon.

ELCA Annual Report-this paperwork arrived this week and will

be completed and submitted.

Sherry Brown made a motion to adjourn, Dona seconded, all agreed and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sheaffer

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH						
Treasurer's Report as of December 2021 for GENERAL FUND (NEWSLETTER)						
Sunday, January 2, 2022						Page 1 of 1
Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Monthly Budget	Budget YTD	% of Budget YTD	Over/Under YTD+(-)
<b>Income</b>						
CURRENT INCOME TOTAL	\$14,328.61	\$177,402.75	\$16,467.00	\$197,670.00	90	(\$20,267.25)
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$1,242.92	\$14,454.14	\$1,000.00	\$12,000.00	120	\$2,454.14
Total Income	\$15,571.53	\$191,856.89	\$17,467.00	\$209,670.00	92	(\$17,813.11)
<b>Expense</b>						
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$1,242.92	\$15,701.42	\$1,100.00	\$13,200.00	119	\$2,501.42
WORSHIP TOTAL	\$658.56	\$3,632.57	\$320.00	\$4,350.00	84	(\$717.43)
LEARNING AND YOUTH TOTAL	\$0.00	\$1,149.74	\$162.00	\$1,900.00	61	(\$750.26)
OTHER COMMITTEES TOTAL	\$65.56	\$2,146.18	\$332.00	\$4,050.00	53	(\$1,903.82)
SALARIES TOTAL	\$12,117.61	\$108,004.34	\$8,158.00	\$106,050.00	102	\$1,954.34
PASTOR'S BENEFITS	\$2,829.27	\$32,181.12	\$2,979.00	\$36,480.00	88	(\$4,298.88)
STAFF BENEFITS	\$375.36	\$3,171.25	\$241.00	\$3,140.00	101	\$31.25
TOTAL SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$15,322.24	\$143,356.71	\$11,378.00	\$145,670.00	98	(\$2,313.29)
OFFICE/ADMIN/CONF/ AUTO TOTAL	\$1,170.89	\$8,550.32	\$722.00	\$9,700.00	88	(\$1,149.68)
UTILITIES TOTAL	\$1,395.79	\$17,613.20	\$1,251.00	\$16,600.00	106	\$1,013.20
MAINTENANCE TOTAL	\$937.33	\$6,321.74	\$712.00	\$8,500.00	74	(\$2,178.26)
INSURANCE TOTAL	\$0.00	\$5,593.00	\$62.00	\$5,700.00	98	(\$107.00)
Total Expense	\$20,793.29	\$204,064.88	\$16,039.00	\$209,670.00	97	(\$5,605.12)
Difference	(\$5,221.76)	(\$12,207.99)	\$1,428.00	\$0.00		



If you know and believe God walked you safely thru January and opened your eyes to see February, let's Thank Him!

Thank you, God, for your blessings each day. Please guide us in February with Your love and care.

Amen