

# December 2022 Newsletter

*“What has come into being in him [Jesus] was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

John 1:3b-5

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It seems that for years now I've been sorting and packing and unpacking. I don't recommend moving; seven months after our move, we're still not completely settled. Will we ever be? There has been some joy in the discovery of old things, though, in the midst of the chaos. One of the old things I discovered was a newsletter article that I wrote for the congregation I was serving back in January of 2009. It brought back such warm memories for me and I thought maybe I'd share the gist of it with you all this year. May the illustration bring you light, love, and enthusiasm for Emmanuel – God with us – in the days ahead. Read on...

For years Terry and I walked our dog Macaroni around the neighborhood next to the rec park in Gettysburg. It was



our after-dinner routine. Once Luke came along, we continued our tradition; alternately one of us would push the stroller and/or hold the leash, or, in inclement weather one of us stayed home with the baby. As Luke grew older he would declare as

dinner finished, “I walk dog!” and off we'd go together as a family to what we'd simply refer to as, “the neighborhood.” With little traffic, it was a perfect place to teach Luke about staying on the sidewalk, stopping to look for and wait for cars, and indeed, how to walk his dog so that *he* was walking the dog instead of the dog walking *him*.

On one particular jaunt to the neighborhood, however, we had a terrible time keeping Luke on the appointed sidewalk. During the just-passed Advent/Christmas season, he had developed a passion for what he referred to as, “pretty lights!” Driving down the street he would scream from the back seat of the car, “Hi, pretty lights! Hi, pretty lights!” often also calling the lighted reindeer either dogs or horses, and always absolutely reveling in the decorations. His joy was contagious, even overwhelming at times as I thought he'd never settle down for the night.

On this particular trip with the dog, Luke was car-seat-free and on the loose when he discovered “pretty lights!” and we spent the better part of an hour redirecting him from the yards of our neighbors. Upon approaching a house that was decorated, he’d toss Mac’s leash in the air, scream, “pretty lights!” and go running off toward the trees, bushes and porches of whosever house we were near. In fact, at one house, being quicker than my husband Terry, he even pulled a staked-in light fixture out of the ground near one driveway, absolutely thrilled with his find. I remember arguing with the two-year-old about his desire to keep it and take it home for his bedroom.

Pretty lights! Pretty lights! I imagine that the wise men were just as thrilled as Luke, if not more, upon the discovery of the King’s Star. The Star, after all, signified new light in the world and a new life for all who lived in the King’s kingdom. We are the people who live in that kingdom... and Christ our Lord is the King who has come to bring new light, and therefore new life, to the world.



Might we respond to his light as Luke responded to the pretty lights?! Run to him! Shout to him in exuberance for the gift he brings! Embrace the light that comes forth from his life - the life he shares with us into eternity. Grasp onto its rays; follow its brightness. The Lord is come; let us rejoice and be glad!



May Christ light your way this new year!

In his love,  
Pr. Susan

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Celebrate** with fellowship;

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

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

**Worship, Serve, Celebrate!**



**Drive Thru Holy Communion** distribution will be held Sunday, January 1 at 10:30am. Anyone wishing to participate should arrive at the back of church to receive the sacrament from your car.



**Bible Study** continues via Zoom every Monday at 6pm. (No meetings January 2 or 16) The Zoom meeting ID for these sessions is 899 2525 5140. Passcode is **Bible** Please join the conversation! We're discussing Joseph. If you have questions, or ideas for a specific study, please contact Pastor Susan or the Learning & Youth Committee. It's fun!

### COCKTAIL HOUR RETURNS

Back by popular demand – Cocktail Hour returns this January for community and connection as we weather the cold, dark days of winter. Plan to gather for conversation and prayer (no agenda) at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom on: Sunday, January 8th and Sunday, January 22nd. Watch your weekly emails for the Zoom link; let Pastor Susan know if you have any questions.

**The Church Office will be Closed** on Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year Holiday.

# MEN'S MINISTRY

A specific date for the January meeting has not yet been set. Our attendance at our meetings has been great as we typically get anywhere from 8 - 14 in

attendance at our Saturday morning breakfast meetings. We would like to see some new faces! Can we get even more attendees by holding an evening dinner meeting? We're open for suggestions. Our next meeting will focus on setting date for a group social event/outing and discussing a request by Pastor Susan for the Men's Ministry Group to prepare "Soup/Sandwich to Go" in conjunction with the Ash Wednesday "ASHES TO GO" event February 22. Watch for an email notice in next few days. See Bob King for more info or with suggestions.

**Parish Life Committee** will meet next on Thursday, January 5 at 7:00pm. Anyone interested in planning activities at Trinity is invited to attend. We are always looking for new ideas.

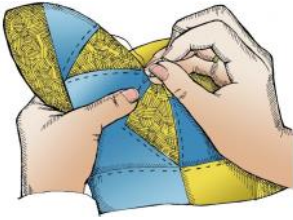
## **ANNOUNCEMENTS MOVED TO END OF WORSHIP**

Beginning January 1, 2023, the time for our community's announcements will move to the end of the worship service, prior to the Dismissal. This change allows us to focus on the primary reason for which we're gathered at worship – to worship; and, it allows us to leave worship with the announcements pertaining to our activities and events fresh in our minds as we go out into the world. Please provide any feedback regarding the change to Worship & Music.

**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!



**KNOTTY KNOTTERS:** The Knotty Knotters make and distribute quilts to those in need. The quilt tops are pieced, or sewn together. The Knotters meet in the social hall. All are welcome to join this worthwhile ministry! Upcoming meetings will be held from 2:00-4:00pm on January 11 & 25. The photos below are from this year's blanket blessing and the delivery to the Homeless Remembrance Project on December 21. For more information on this project, go to [www.MemorialBlanket.org](http://www.MemorialBlanket.org). 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.



We pray for our homebound members and for those battling injury or long-term illness. If you know of anyone needing pastoral care, please contact the church office. Please note the prayer list in your weekly bulletin, or contact the office for a copy, and join your voice with those already praying daily for these brothers and sisters. Need a simple prayer? **“Dear Lord, I lift before you Name and ask your blessing upon them, in the name of Christ, Amen.”**



**\*\*Please notify the church as soon as possible if someone you know is hospitalized.\***



Please consider attending the next meeting of the ***Mission in Motion Committee***. New attendees are welcome! We will meet on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 7:00pm in the chapel. We will be determining the priorities for this committee so we have a clear plan of where we want to dedicate our energy and our funds with the focus of loving and serving God and neighbors.

In the meantime, Bob King, Leon Leas, Earl Kauffman, and Jay Smith have donated work time to Servants, helping to refurbish a trailer in Abbottstown area for a single mother.

José, Yadira, and Christian continue to get encouragement and various support from members. José is becoming more financially independent. He is working two jobs and is gradually assuming responsibility for all expenses. Thank you to Church Council for allocating \$2,000 from the Endowment Fund to help defray the cost of a replacement car for José after hitting a deer. Yadira will begin a part time job in January as part of her educational program. These siblings are gradually fulfilling the goal of leading independent, productive lives.

Jay Smith took part in a volunteer mission in the Dominican Republic. This experience was certainly fulfilling the goal in our mission statement to serve and provide for those in need. (more information included on the next page)

If you have an idea for mission work at Trinity, please come to the meeting and share your thoughts or talk to Pastor Terry, Pastor Susan, or Dona Lerew about your idea. Thanks for your support!

### **2023 Stewardship**

God calls us to serve others through time, talents, and our possessions. All can serve in any number of ways. Chair a project, join one of our music ministries, become a worship assistant (Lector, Assisting Minister, Acolyte) join an usher team, serve as counter, work in committees, teach Sunday School are just a few. Be Active! The rewards far outweigh the effort!



Trinity member, Jay Smith, ventured on a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic November 21-25, 2022. Some of the photos are pictured here. Jay plans to provide a detailed explanation including many more photos & videos during the Sunday School hour in January/February. (more details to come). He would like to thank everyone for their donated items/suitcases for his trip.



## WELCA News

The Women of ELCA met and had their Christmas party on December 6 in the social hall. During the meeting, we planned projects in January. ***We will have a pie sale January 26 and 27.*** Apple and Shoo Fly pies will be made. Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to place your order!

Also, we are planning a Thrivent Action Team project to help our local SPCA! Chris Sheads will lead this giving project and will help the SPCA by providing items they need to run the shelter. Look for more information in January's weekly email announcements and bulletins.

After a delicious turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings, prepared and served by members of the Men's Ministry Group, the women assembled Christmas baking kits for the local Food Pantry families. Deb King led this project and used a Thrivent Action Team \$250 gift card to assemble the items. Each family received muffin and cupcake mixes, muffin pan, spatula, and frosting, all wrapped in a Christmas designed serving container. (See photos on next page)

We ended the party with a quick game of Christmas trivia and a free will offering for José and his family. We collected \$166, and gift cards from McDonald's, Chili's, and Rutter's! May their 1st Christmas in their new home be a wonderful one!

Our January meeting will be held January 3 at 7 PM in the social hall. We will work on preparing the things needed for the SPCA giving project. All women of Trinity are welcome to join us!





## Christmas Angel Tree

Dear generous Trinity Members: How can a "THANK YOU" ever say enough? Your big hearts and generous spirit overflowed once again this year when the Christmas Angel Tree gift tags were hung on the tree at the beginning of November!



Tonya Mincey, of Adams County Housing Authority asked if we could help their group this year and we said yes! This group was a little different from SCCAP in the past few years. We received first names and wish lists for six families consisting of fifteen children and only two of those parents asked for wishes. We also received three individual children's names and wishes who were being raised by grandparents. Their ages ranged from one to eighteen. Some of their wishes were baby dolls, Legos, Fisher Price Little People, books, art supplies for the young children, and room décor, soft blankets, makeup and jewelry for the teen age children. At the bottom of their tags, we listed their clothing sizes, if you wanted to shop for extra items to give them. And judging from the packages stacked in Trinity's Chapel, you did just that! Bless you and your eagerness to give!

Tonya also asked if we could help with twelve elderly clients in their group that just needed a little something to make their Christmas bright. These folks are part of their public housing program and will be delighted when they open their gifts! Simple wishes of small household appliances, blankets, robes, slippers, candles, and a gift basket of healthy snacks were on their tags!

Our hope is that each of these clients feel the love from Jesus and from your beautiful hearts as they open their gifts this Christmas! Thank you again for helping making Christmas wonderful for so



many of our Adams County neighbors! PS Tonya Mincey is pictured in the center of the group loading her van! Her heart is huge and each of her clients are special to her! Her words: "You always go above and beyond, with the excellence of God! May all your holidays be filled with LOVE & JOY! Thank you!"

# WELCA's Christmas Party



# Decorating for Christmas!



# Ministry Pages

## Sharing Shelf Update



The Sharing Shelf is available 24/7 on Trinity's back porch. Donations of non-perishable goods are welcomed. We will attempt to keep the shelf stocked but due depleting inventory it may not be available every day. Inventory may also be limited due to freezing weather conditions. To contribute to this ministry, simply mark your offering "Sharing Shelf." Thank you for supporting this valuable community ministry!

**Ruth's Harvest Collection** packs 88 bags for the Bermudian Springs Schools. Our next packing is January 17 at 12:45pm at St. John's in Abbottstown. Items that are in short supply include tuna & chicken salad kits, individual cereals, soup, fruit cups & raisins. Donations can be left in the bin in the Narthex.

**Food Pantry:** New Hope Ministries is bringing the mobile pantry from 4:00-6:00pm on Wednesday, January 4. The guests will be able to shop for their needs. **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.



**Laundry Love Ministry** will be held Tuesday, January 10 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. **Continuing in 2023 we'll have a Noisy Offering the first Sunday of each month 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 (carefully labeled) may also be offered in the Offering Plate.**



**THANK YOU EVERYONE** who participated in our Reverse Advent Calendar and giving toward the Sharing Shelf inventory! At the time of this printing, the cupboard is full! YAY! This ministry is heavily used by our neighbors. Thank you for helping to keep bellies full on these cold days.

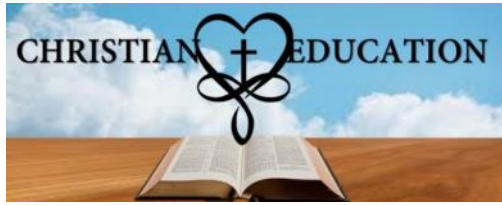
***THE WELLNESS GROUP invites you to  
FIRST PLACE FOR HEALTH***

***Most of us want to be healthy. Are you willing to "do" healthy? Here is a chance to improve your physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health.***

***This group will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, January 24th. At the initial meeting you will hear about the program and be invited to join the group. Cost for the program is \$20 to pay for the Bible Study books used throughout the program.***

***To register, or for more information, contact Trinity Lutheran Church in East Berlin, PA. (717)259-9125, or email Mary Ann Vance at [mavance@comcast.net](mailto:mavance@comcast.net).***





Our Christian Education for all ages continues each Sunday at 10:30am. The Teen Time class will continue their studies of *"The Weirdest Stories in the Bible."* The teen class enjoys breakfast items each week as we meet. Bring a friend!



### ***Are you happy?***

The Adult Sunday School Class is studying happiness this year. What is happiness? What makes you happy? Is happiness a goal for life? Do we Christians have a happiness that is different than those without faith? How can we use our faith to improve our feeling of well-being? Please join us Sunday mornings following the worship service. Adult Sunday School meets in the Chapel.

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## **WEDNESDAYS FELLOWSHIP & FAITH**

You're invited to gather each **Wednesday morning @ 10AM in the Chapel** for a mid-week spoken **Morning Prayer** service. Or, worship online through the Trinity Lutheran EB Fellowship Group on Facebook. Everyone is invited to participate in person or online. Also, those who wish to join for breakfast will gather between **8:15-8:30 at Graybill's Restaurant for breakfast**, Dutch treat.

**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. Additional volunteers who have not signed up are asked to contact the secretary to register. The service is available via video downstairs during the break.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO LIGHT THE EPIPHANY CANDLES

We'll again be celebrating the Season of Light by lighting a candle for each of the weeks in the Sundays After Epiphany from the festival Sundays "Baptism of Our Lord" through the "Transfiguration of Our Lord." January 8-February 19 we'll mark each week by inviting individuals and/or families to light a candle near the Epiphany Star (Thanks to Bob King for its creation.) and asking them to share how they've seen God's light shine in the world around them. 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 between January 8th and February 19th, please let Jen or Pastor Susan know. Thanks for helping to enhance our worship! (Pictured below are some of last year's participants)



## “FOR ALL THE SAINTS” WOMEN’S RETREAT

IN HANOVER JANUARY 28

Hey ladies, we’ve been invited to St. Paul (Broadway) Lutheran Church, Hanover from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> for a day of learning, worship, and fellowship. From biblical to medieval to modern day saints, we’ll discover our own “sainthood.” Deacon Jan Davis leads the retreat and will share some of her own stories and pictures from her recent trip to Rome. The day will include Bible Study (bring yours), a craft, worship, and a lasagna lunch. Please bring a dessert to share if you’re able. Registration is \$15 per person, registration deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Susan plans to attend and has registration forms if you’re interested. She has attended Deacon Jan’s retreats in the past – they’re GREAT!

**Good News & Brews** will be held the second Tuesday of each month at the Altland House in Abbottstown. Join with other local churches to enjoy conversation, food and refreshments. Next meeting is January 10 from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023

The business session of the thirty-sixth Annual Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, under the theme “Created for Community,” will be held on **Friday, June 2, 2023, by Zoom and Saturday, June 3, 2023, in person at a location to be determined**. The location of the Saturday business meeting will be announced as soon as possible and no later than 30 days in advance of the assembly. **The Day of Edification will be held digitally on Saturday, May 20, 2023**. Trinity is in need of two volunteers to attend with Pastor Susan. Registration will open March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please consider participating in this important work on behalf of our congregation. If you have questions, please see Sherry Brown, Bob King, or Pastor Susan, who all participated last year. Thanks!







# WINTER Retreat

Trinity is bringing back the late winter retreat at Camp Nawakwa! This year's retreat will be March 3, 4, & 5 (Fri/Sat/Sun). Save the dates!

- The goal of the experience is to have fun and fellowship with our church family in a relaxed setting removed from our day-to-day life.
- This is a family centered event. We are looking to include all ages—especially the youth from pre-K to teens.
- Activities include games, entertainment, food, campfires and walks in the woods.
- Lodging is at Zinn-Tozer lodge at Camp Nawakwa, with a combination of private rooms for sleeping and bathrooms that include private showers. Also in the lodge is a large activity room, a kitchen, and a dining room. The building is located in a wooded area with lots of parking.
- Camp Nawakwa is about a 30-minute drive from East Berlin. Near Arendtsville, PA.
- More information to come.
- For questions contact Mike Brown.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
of Central Pennsylvania**

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

### Upcoming Events:

January 6-8—Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald

January 15—Chicken & Waffles at Camp Nawakwa

January 15—Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald

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

# Worship Leader Schedule

Date	Assisting Minister	Communion Helper	Lector	Us
Jan 1			Noelle K.	Jay/Su
Jan 8	Alex S.	Jake S.	Amber N.	Barb/E
Jan 15	Becky R.	Luke M.	Eddie S.	Jim/Noel
Jan 22	Chris L.	Ruthann B.	Louise H.	Rick/A
Jan 29	Charlie H.	Becky R.	Dona L.	Janet/M

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



**Silent Night, Holy Night**—Trinity held two services in the evening on Christmas Eve. The candlelight singing of Silent Night is a tradition at both services.

# chedule—January 2023

Members	Altar Guild	Cantor(s)	Acolyte	Cookie Break
...e/Bob A.	Noelle K.	Becky R.		
...arl/Leon	Janet M.	Joshlyn/Karen	Konner H.	Anita & Helper
...le/Ruthann	Kathy K.	Chris L.	Claire W.	Erin & Helper
...nita/Mark	Ruthann B.	Dona L.	Tristan B.	Giovanna & Nathan
...Mac/Kathy	Anita M.	Barry B.	Grace W.	Laura R. & Helper

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



**Decorating for Christmas**—Adults and youth gathered to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.



Each Sunday in Advent, we light the Advent candles. Thank you to everyone who took part in this tradition.



**CREATED  
TO BE**

The **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** and first ever **ELCA Young Adult Gathering** will be held **July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans**. The Youth Gathering is open to all high school students grades 8-12 and the Young Adult Gathering is open to those graduates ages 18-35. Trinity youth and young adults

have the opportunity to participate in the Gathering - check out the info on the ELCA website:

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and watch for more details as they come available. If you think you might be interested in attending, please let Pastor Susan know. We'll be working with other congregations from our synod to travel together and keep costs down as much as possible. It's a great experience!

*Merry Christmas 2022*



*Christmas Floral Arrangements for  
Our Homebound/Shut-ins*



**Adopt a Senior Member in Need** - We have senior members who need our company. 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 near the elevator, first floor. If you have questions, please contact Judy Burgard or Dona Lerew. Thank you!

## Finance Committee Meeting

November 29, 2022

Attendees: Kim McSherry, Sue Clauser, Bob King

**Special Appeal Update** – To date, the 2022 Special Appeal receipts total \$20,596 (93.6%) of the \$22K goal. As a result of this response, we are now meeting expenses on a 2022 YTD basis through November. The concern is that monthly regular giving has not increased. Unless that happens, we will be faced with a similar situation in 2023 where a special appeal will be needed to fund our ministries.

**Recording Hull Property Purchase on balance sheet** – We are certain the purchase of the Hull property in 2017 was never recorded on our balance sheet as a capital asset since the value of land on our balance sheet is only \$45K. Bob confirmed the cost of property and demolition can be capitalized. Sue will verify this was not previously done and if not, we will prepare a journal entry to record \$41,500 as an addition to “land”.

**Trinity Emergency Assistance Policy** – Since the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund has been eliminated a new policy for disbursements that were previously recorded as Pastor’s Discretionary Fund needs to be developed. The Finance team recommends the new policy to be titled **Trinity Emergency Assistance**. This new process will be funded from the Endowment Fund and subject to vetting through outside agencies such as but not limited to Adams County Rescue Mission, New Hope Ministries, Hanover Council of Churches, Lifepath Ministries, etc. Several ideas were discussed for management and process for disbursement but felt more input was needed from other Finance Committee Members and Pastor Susan. It is recommended the Emergency Assistance fund be capped at a level determined by both Finance Committee and the Endowment Committee. In the past we have normally committed \$1200 to Pastor’s Discretionary Fund from the ministry budget and \$12K annual funding for other benevolence requests from the Endowment Fund. Bob agreed to begin developing a framework for this policy as a basis to begin further development of the policy.

**2023 Budget** – A few Council Members routinely request information about expenditures for their respective committees. Part of this problem is the result of more and more items being paid by credit card which saves a lot of individual check requests/checks being issued but does not provide the actual vendor from which the goods and services

were procured. To avoid further delay in processing payments Bob agreed to develop a form that will detail all credit card charges by Committee and Vendor. The key is that if the item is not budgeted, we should not be spending unless it is some sort of emergency expense. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45. Next meeting date will be sometime after the first of the year.

**Financial Summary**

Trinity Lutheran Church					
2022 Actual Income and Expenses versus Budget					
Restated to Include Non-Budgeted "Current" and "Benevolence" Income					
	November	YTD November 2022		YTD Change	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Act. vs. Bdgt.	%
<b>Budgeted Income</b>					
Current	14,768	163,202	191,150	(27,948)	(14.6)
Benevolence	795	9,351	11,538	(2,187)	(19.0)
<b>Total Income (Budget)</b>	<b>15,563</b>	<b>172,553</b>	<b>202,688</b>	<b>(30,135)</b>	<b>(14.9)</b>
<b>Non Budgeted Current Income</b>					
Miscellaneous	50	4,579			
Evang/Outreach	55	1,296			
Initial, Flowers	27	602			
Gruver Trust - Current	118	633			
Special Appeal 2022	6,251	20,596			
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Current Income</b>	<b>6,501</b>	<b>27,706</b>			
<b>Non Budgeted Benevolence Income</b>					
World Hunger	25	377			
Other Benevolence	214	1,339			
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Benevolence Income</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>1,716</b>			
<b>Total Current and Benevolence Income</b>	<b>22,303</b>	<b>201,975</b>	<b>202,688</b>		
<b>Total Benevolence, Ministry and Operating Expenses</b>	<b>18,393</b>	<b>197,407</b>	<b>197,809</b>	<b>(402)</b>	<b>(0.2)</b>
<b>Operating Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>3,910</b>	<b>4,568</b>	<b>4,879</b>		
Cash Balance to meet Current Operating Expenses at 11/30/22		28,061			

Highlights:

- ⇒ As a result of giving to the 2022 Special Appeal, we are now meeting expenses and in fact have a small surplus \$4,568 at November 30.
- ⇒ **Regular Giving** is still not meeting budget requirements. Overall, our regular giving is falling short by 15%. (Refer to Budgeted Income section above)
- ⇒ Trinity will need to make up any shortfall to our Synod Benevolence Commitment which at present is \$2,187. This will reduce the reported surplus accordingly.
- ⇒ Ministry and operating expenses are below budget by \$4,879 through November.

### **2022 Special Appeal – Update**

Simply, the response has been marvelous! Through December 19 giving for this special appeal has totaled \$21,010 (95%) against the goal of \$22,000 with two weeks to go. THANK YOU!

### **2023 Trinity Council**

Council Members and elected officers for 2023 are: Bob King— President, Dona Lerew— Vice President, Sherry Brown—Secretary (declined), Sue Clauser—Treasurer, Jay Smith, Leon Leas, Bob Aims, Joshlyn Sharrer, Lisa Miller, Karen Sheaffer, Mark Boyer, Pastor Susan. Sherry was elected in absentia and has declined to accept the position because of anticipated absences due to 2023 travel plans. There is still one more seat still open pending acceptance by a write-in candidate.

### **Constitutional Review**

There are several areas of our current Constitution in need of review/change. A special Council Meeting will be held Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 – Noon in the Social Hall to specifically look at re-organizing our Ministry Committees (Chapter 13). There will be several other constitutional changes that are being recommended as well. We will be looking for 2 volunteers from the Congregation to assist in this process following the January 21 Council meeting. Anyone interested in participating in this process, please contact Pastor Susan or Bob King. Expect 2-3 meetings over the course of a couple months to complete the evaluation and develop recommended changes. These recommended changes will then be submitted to the Synod office for review and following their approval, will then be submitted to the congregation for vote at the Congregational Meeting.

### **Membership/Worship Attendee Update**

It's been quite some time since our last membership update. In the coming weeks look for a brief survey and request for information. Plans are to offer this both in written format and on-line. This will be an individually structured survey for all members and persons regularly participating in worship, faith formation and other events. We need your input and ideas.



## 2023 Budget

Trinity's 2023 budget approved at the November Congregational Meeting totals \$222,641. To meet our 2023 budget, giving for Current Ministry and Operating Expenses requires \$17,708 monthly (\$4,808 weekly) and for Synod Commitment \$667 monthly (\$154 weekly). We have many options for giving and the timing of those contributions may vary by giver. Based on our giving patterns in 2022 and the fact we needed to make a special appeal in October to cover our deficit (approximately 15%), we prayerfully ask each of you to consider how we can avoid a similar situation in 2023. Thank you for your continued support of Trinity and its multiple and varied ministries.

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**2023 Directory Updates:** If you have any changes to the directory, including phone numbers, email addresses, physical addresses etc., please notify the church office.

**2023 Calendars:** Special thank you to Feiser's Funeral Home for the donation of the 2023 calendars. Please take home a few for your family to use in the upcoming year. They are located in the Narthex and various locations throughout the building.



<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1472485>

The next time you shop on Amazon, please use the link above.

Or *instead of just typing Amazon.com, go to:*

*Smile.Amazon.com and select Trinity Lutheran Church from the list of charities.* Each time you shop on Amazon Smile, Trinity receives 0.5% of eligible purchases. It's the same great Amazon that you're used to, just with an added benefit! Contact the church office for details!



# Gingerbread House Workshop





## Intergenerational Christmas Pageant



Trinity's Intergenerational Christmas Pageant was held on Sunday, December 18 after worship. All were invited to participate. It was a great success! Special thanks to Lisa Miller for all of her planning and preparation. The video is still available to watch at [YouTube.com/@trinityeb](https://www.youtube.com/@trinityeb)

# Worship Schedule

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

- January 1—First Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany of Our Lord
- January 8—Baptism of Our Lord
- January 15—Epiphany 2
- January 22—Epiphany 3
- January 29—Epiphany 4



## NOTES:

- Please note the following elements are available during Communion: wheat bread, wine, grape juice, gluten-free wafers, pre-blessed sealed wheat wafer and grape juice packages
- 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, 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. Our YouTube page should come up and your remote can let you select the service you'd like to attend by watching. Slides on the video allow you to fully participate in the service, no bulletin needed! Call the church office if you need help.

# Notes



From  
the  
Music Director



A Blessed New Year has arrived—2023! We made it, all together! After such turmoil, fear, confusion, and uncertainty from March 2020 till 2023, I find it amazing we are looking at 2023. Jesus said “do not be afraid, I am with you always”; he speaks great truth.

I certainly cherish a routine each day. I find comfort in being able to do each day’s chores at home; selecting music for organ, piano and choir, and for the Sunday School children. This exercise really is comforting to me—dependable, predictable, stabilizing. Our beautiful and dedicated adult choir shows up each Sunday, attentive, ready to sing any challenging anthem. Our hymn leaders give their all in singing during worship for the congregation—in person and on live stream. Handbell ringers never give up; are intense with their rehearsals to create beautiful music. Thank you all musicians for bringing us to 2023 with your amazing gifts. We are indeed blessed!

-Karen Wire



# January Birthdays

1-2 Jason Warner

1-11 Matt Nickey

1-13 Janae Hull

1-15 Jeff Erdman

1-15 Andrew McSherry

1-16 Kim Erdman

1-18 Janet McMaster

1-21 Barbara Heim

1-23 Steve Hoak

1-16 Cindy St. Clair

1-6 Jack Biles

1-12 MaryAnn Vance

1-14 Darlene Resh

1-15 Konner Hermansen

1-15 Preston Warner

1-18 Mark Boyer

1-18 Joyce Wolf

1-22 Eddie Sebright

1-25 Charleigh Biles

1-27 Kathy Atkinson



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**

1-15 George & MaryAnn Vance ~ 48 Years

1-17 Cyril & Janet McMaster ~ 37 Years

1-23 Jim & Noelle Kline ~ 52 Years

1-30 Jack & Kay Hinkle ~ 52 Years

***THANK YOU*** from Pastor Susan and her family (Pr. Terry & Luke). December is always full of blessings—thank you all for the kind birthday and Christmas wishes, cards, and gifts. Your love and generosity is very much appreciated! May your blessing to us return to you double.





Thank you to everyone at Trinity who sent cards to my MOM Flo Jones at Genesis. She loved the cards and kept asking me, do these people know me. I explained that they were all very kind because she is part of our Trinity Church family. Mom is 93. She has Dementia and just fell two weeks ago and now has a broken shoulder, wrist and hip...God has blessed her because she is not in pain, however, because of the dementia she does not understand she is broken and keeps trying to get up and move about. It is a real challenge. I have asked God for her to have peace, no pain and to help her behave. Looking forward to a new year and that she is on her way to recovery. Please keep MOM in your prayers, and thank you all so very much, *Louise Haugh*

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### **THANK YOU!!!**

- ◇ To all those persons that participated in the “REVERSE ADVENT” event to benefit the Sharing Shelf. The response has been truly amazing!
  - ◇ To Lisa Miller for organizing and planning the Intergenerational fall activities (pumpkin painting and Christmas decorations)
  - ◇ To Deb King and all the others that helped make the Gingerbread House Workshop another huge success.
  - ◇ To Lisa Miller and Karen Wire for their work on the intergenerational Christmas Pageant. What a wonderful new tradition for Trinity!
- 

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!

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2022**



Present: Bob King, Sue Clauser, Dona Lerew, Stephanie Haley, Rick Madsen, Mark Boyer, Jay Smith, Bob Aims, Leon Leas, Joshlyn Sharrer, and Karen Sheaffer.

Absent: Pastor Susan McCarthy, Sherry Brown, and Lisa Miller

Bob opened the meeting by welcoming the three new members of council and thanking the outgoing members. The agenda was reviewed, and no changes were made,

### **Secretary's Report**

A review of the report found two mistakes. In the Property Report #3 it should read Emergency light, not mercury light. And in New Business, the end date of Faithlife's website should be June 30, 2023, not September 30, 2023. Dona made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Steph seconded the motion, all agreed, and motion carried. Thank you notes were received from Lutheran World Relief and Central PA Food Bank, for recent donations made to their organizations.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The report was reviewed, and it was suggested we give a verbal update of the Special Appeal each week.

### **Ministry Reports**

Learning & Youth-Bob reported the Christmas Pageant includes adult participation from their pews. Watch for rehearsal times.

#### **Worship & Music**

1. Attending: Pastor, Noelle, Karen S, Noah, Becky

2. Review of Worship Leader roles

a. Acolytes: New: Addie, Grace, Claire, Jack, Tristan, Koltyn & Conner  
Additional training for Brynn, Austin Kohler, Camdyn Storm, Ailie Chidester? Becky will follow-up.

b. Ushers – Becky will inform Jen that we will move to 3 person teams (from 4).

c. New role of greeters? Young people or older folk. (Approach some folks). Becky will try to put in place.

d. Lectors – Becky will ask Matt Nickey to be on rotation.

e. AM's – Becky will approach Kyla.

AM need to set to the table, clean the table. Becky will remind AMs.

f. Communion Distribution (put Luke in the rotation as helper)

g. Altar Guild. Need 2 new palls. Becky will look into it.

h. Choir

i. Bell Choir. Wed Blue Christmas – get chapel setup.

3. Short review of previous services

a. All Saints Good Feedback. Acolyte to remove Christ candle for easier lighting.

b. New advent liturgy – sounds okay. Keep on using it.



#### 4. Worship Planning

##### a. Advent.

- i. Noelle and Jim will look to getting Advent Banners hung this week.
- ii. Dec 4th – intergenerational Sunday school.
- iii. Dec 11th pageant rehearsal. During Sunday School will decorate tree. Tree lighting Dec 18th.
- iv. Dec 11th after rehearsal, outdoor decorating.

##### b. Christmas

- i. Get star installed on Dec 18th, after worship.
- ii. 7pm Christmas eve. Similar liturgy as last year. Assistance will be kids.

iii. 10:15 Christmas eve service. Similar liturgy as last year.

iv. Christmas Day – Lessons and Carols. Will have communion. Choir?

##### c. Epiphany – Jan 6th

i. Keep star in chancel.

ii. Epiphany candle lighting – story.

iii. Tree down Jan 8th – Jan 15th. (have down by 1/15) (by Adult SS class).

##### d. Ash Wednesday – Feb 22

i. Ashes to Go and lunches. Pastor will check with Men's Group.

ii. Evening Service with Ashes.

iii. 10AM prayers service will have imposition of Ashes.

#### 5. First of the Year.

a. Announcements during the end. Dismissal after. Start announcing the change on Dec 11th.

#### Finance

Special Appeal Update – To date, the 2022 Special Appeal receipts total \$20,596 (93.6%) of the \$22K goal. As a result of this response, we are now meeting expenses on a 2022 YTD basis through November. The concern is that monthly regular giving has not increased. Unless that happens, we will be faced with a similar situation in 2023 where a special appeal will be needed to fund our ministries.

Recording Hull Property Purchase on balance sheet – We are certain the purchase of the Hull property in 2017 was never recorded on our balance sheet as a capital asset since the value of land on our balance sheet is only \$45K. Bob confirmed the cost of property and demolition can be capitalized. Sue will verify this was not previously done and if not, we will prepare a journal entry to record \$41,500 as an addition to “land”.

Trinity Emergency Assistance Policy – Since the Pastor's Discretionary Fund has been eliminated a new policy for disbursements that were previously recorded as Pastor's Discretionary Fund needs to be developed. The Finance team recommends the new policy to be titled **Trinity Emergency Assistance**. This new process will be funded from the Endowment Fund and subject to vetting through outside agencies such as but not limited to Adams County Rescue Mission, New Hope Ministries, Hanover Council of Churches, Lifepath Ministries, etc. Several ideas were

discussed for management and process for disbursement but felt more input was needed from other Finance Committee Members and Pastor Susan. It is recommended the Emergency Assistance fund be capped at a level determined by both Finance Committee and the Endowment Committee. In the past we have normally committed \$1200 to Pastor's Discretionary Fund from the ministry budget and \$12K annual funding for other benevolence requests from the Endowment Fund. Bob agreed to begin developing a framework for this policy as a basis to begin further development of the policy.

2023 Budget – A few Council Members routinely request information about expenditures for their respective committees. Part of this problem is the result of more and more items being paid by credit card which saves a lot of individual check requests/checks being issued but does not provide the actual vendor from which the goods and services were procured. To avoid further delay in processing payments Bob agreed to develop a form that will detail all credit card charges by Committee and Vendor. The key is that if the item is not budgeted, we should not be spending unless it is some sort of emergency expense. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45. Next meeting date will be sometime after the first of the year.

#### Parish Life

This committee served lunch at the December food pantry and is taking care of lunch on December 11 for the church decorators. They will also provide cookies and drinks for the December 18 Christmas program.

- December 11th - We will provide lunch after the kids' Christmas program rehearsal and after the decorating of the outside of the church.
- December 18th - Kids Christmas program. We will ask the congregation for donations of cookies, and we will provide the drinks.
- December 24th - Christmas Eve refreshments between services. We will ask for cookie donations and provide the drinks.

Next meeting - Thursday, January 5th at 7:00.

#### Social Ministry

The Next **Food Pantry** will be held Wednesday, January 4 from 4:00-6:00pm. A Fellowship Hour will be held at Trinity at 3PM prior to every Food Pantry. Please come for a time to be together for the sake of being together. Games, puzzles, coloring pages, beverages, and prayer opportunities will be available. No agenda. No fee. No registration needed. EVERYONE is welcome to participate.

Our Next **Laundry Love** date is Tuesday, December 13 from 5:00-6:30pm at the White Dove Laundromat. Please note that we are still collecting quarters!

#### Men's Ministry

- December 6 – Prepare and serve WELCA Annual Holiday Banquet.
- January/February specific dates TBD. Soup Sale, possible day trip to National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC; Jay also offered a to arrange a plant tour at his employer's manufacturing facility in Ohio. The latter would necessitate an overnight stay.

Since there are two projects scheduled each of the next two months the

next breakfast meeting will be held sometime after January 1.

**Mission-in-Motion:**

Furah, the refugee who was temporarily living in the Zwingli house, has moved to Hanover. When we learn about future ways to help, we will communicate these to the congregation.

José has been working hard to navigate adult life. He has applied for and been approved for SNAP and his siblings have been approved for medical assistance, He takes care of medical appointments for his siblings as well as serving as their school support. He started a second job in order to meet his present and future financial responsibilities. Unfortunately, he had some bad luck last weekend and hit a deer, demolishing his car. Thankfully, no one was hurt. But the car is probably not worth fixing as it is an older model car with high mileage, extensive damage, and the air bags deployed. The insurance policy does not cover damage to the car; it is only liability insurance. Therefore, another vehicle will probably have to be purchased or extensive repairs must be done, and José certainly does not have the funds available to pay for this right now. We still have funds that were collected to pay bills for this sibling family which may have to be reallocated for the purchase of a car, but more funds would certainly be helpful due to this unfortunate event. Please keep them in your prayers.

Mission in Motion is also working with Servants to rehabilitate a mobile home in Abbottstown on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Outreach: No Report.**

**Evangelism: No Report.**

**Property:** Jay reported their committee met and projects completed included the pew from the choir room was reupholstered and is being used in the area outside of the sanctuary. The floors upstairs were stripped and rewaxed. R. G. Miller will give us an estimate to installed new soffit on the outside of the social hall. They will also give an estimate to replace the front wooden doors and the social hall wooden doors. Nearly new office furniture was acquired at a bargain price and placed in both the Pastor's office and the main office, after the offices were painted and the carpets shampooed. Also, the HVAC and roof repair was completed by Donald Smith Roofing with the work being done at \$1,300.00 under the estimate! Their next meeting and cleaning will be December 22.

**Stewardship: No Report.**

**"Governance" Mutual Ministry/Constitution Committee:** The ELCA constitution changes are complete, and we will work on these in 2023.

**Pastor's Report**

**NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS-**Attended Hanover United Refugee Resettlement group on behalf of Mission in Motion; continue to host fellowship time and morning prayer on Wednesday mornings; participated in Bishop's Convocation in Camp Hill re: spiritual care; hosted Scary Stories from the Bible, a rescheduling from the prior month; made 4 home visits, 2 hospital visits, 2 extended care visits; participated in the annual congregational meeting; continue to participate with conference pastors for weekly text study and collaboration and monthly conference meeting; led blessing of the blankets made by Knotty Knotters; led blessing and sending of Jay Smith on mission trip; participated in Gingerbread House workshop; used a day of vacation time on 11/28; worked with Karen Wire and Worship & Music Committee to outline

plans for Advent and Christmas seasons; worked with Lisa Miller and Karen Wire to plan for intergenerational Christmas pageant.

### **Old Business**

Hybrid Church-the new laptop and camera have been purchased and are in use as of December 4.

Membership Update Form-Stephanie will continue working on this and will be finalized in 2023.

Unused/obsolete inventory-Bob had compiled a list of 26 items the property committee found through-out Trinity that are no longer in use and could be sold. Council discussed the list and decided what to do. Dona made a motion to go through with the sale of these items, with the proceeds to go into the General Fund. Mark seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Replace Website/Host-Faithlife will be discontinued. Bob is seeking a new site to use and asked for help.

### **New Business**

Election of 2023 Officers-council members made motions, all were seconded, and all were in agreement to elect the following: Treasurer-Sue Clauser with a motion from Jay and seconded by Leon. Secretary-Sherry Brown with a motion by Mark and seconded by Dona. Vice President-Dona Lerew with a motion by Jay and seconded by Leon. And President-Bob King with a motion by Jay and seconded by Joshlyn. Bob will serve for one year with planning for a successor for 2024.

Council Terms and Committee Assignments-Bob will email all members the committee list and we should let him know our choices.

Write-in Candidates-there were 2 adult write-in candidates for council members at our congregational meeting election. Discussion was held and it was decided that Bob will contact these candidates to ask if they would be willing to serve a three- year term starting in 2023.

Pastor's Housing Allowance-the amount set at \$11,000 for 2023.

### **Endowment Holding-Benevolence Opportunities**

Council discussed where we could donate, and Sue Clauser made a motion to donate \$2,000 to the Jose Project, Mark seconded the motion, all but one was in agreement, and the motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rick, seconded by Jay, with all in agreement, and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Sheaffer

*happy new year*