

January/February 2025 Newsletter

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. *Isaiah 55:9*

Dear Fellow Disciples,

My great nephew, Beckett, or “Bucket” as I teasingly call him, wants to be grown-up. His two and a half year old little mind shows an incredible amount of maturity for his toddler age. He’s helpful, compassionate, friendly, and funny.

He teases and makes his own jokes, tries to take care of his baby sister (Hattie) when she fusses, and imitates all manner of grown-up activities from “making coffee” with his plastic kitchen tools to “fixing” the door with his toy screwdriver. Recently, he wanted, like his parents and their holiday guests, to drink from a Solo cup at their gathering.

His dad, Jeremy, sent me the photo, which I remarked to him was some brilliant parenting! The little man was satisfied and the grown-ups didn’t worry that the purple juice inside that sippy cup he’s actually drinking from would stain the carpet.

It seems to me that God sometimes does the same sort of parenting on our behalf, sometimes unbeknownst to us the same way Bucket didn’t seem to notice he was still drinking from a sippy cup, and sometimes with us kicking and screaming that the circumstance is not what we want. My family is experiencing this right now in the struggle with Terrys recovery and rehabilitation to home and back to active discipleship with us at Trinity. We’re in the kicking and screaming mode as one challenge after another causes us, and especially him, to remain frustrated. But, we trust.

As a people who just celebrated Christmas, we trust in the

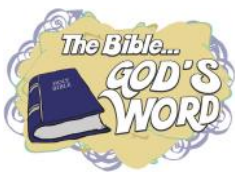


holy presence of Emmanuel, GOD WITH US.

Isaiah, who heralded the coming of the Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, in his chapter 9 reminds us in his chapter 55 that sometimes God's ways are not our ways but are higher in thought and better for us. As independent adults that's a hard reality to face—we are not always (most often not) in control and trusting is often (mostly always) miserable when we'd like our lives to be different.

When have you had to trust in the Lord to know and do the best for you even as you fight against it? Is it a trust you're called to exercise now? Or is it something that's happened in your past that allows you to help someone else now? God is with us, and we are with one another, in holy community. For that, we celebrate the gift of his nativity and the true presence of the light of Christ with us. Happy Epiphany!

Love, Pr. Susan



UPCOMING SUNDAY SCRIPTURE LESSONS

As we gather for worship on Sundays, our time together revolves around God's Holy Word, most usually a reading from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), a Psalm (ancient hymn), a reading from the Epistles (letters to early churches), and a Gospel reading (good news about Jesus). The upcoming scriptures are listed below to help you worship each Sunday morning.

1/12: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

1/19: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

1/26: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19; 1Corin.12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

2/2: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

2/9: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

2/16: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

2/23: Gen.45:3-11,15; Ps.37:1-11,39-40; 1Cor15:35-38,42-50; Luke 6:27-38

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

Our Vision: To fulfill our mission, we will:

Worship through liturgy, music, prayer, and Sacraments;

Teach God's Word and nurture spiritual growth;

Serve and provide for those in need;

Witness to others by sharing the Gospel;

Celebrate with fellowship;

Return with joy what God has given;

Be active in our community and the Church.

Worship, Serve, Celebrate!



Bible Study Plans for January & February



Bible Study, beginning January 13, will focus on the Sunday readings outside of the gospel lesson. See the previous page for the upcoming readings & join some or all of the conversations!

Zoom link opens at 5:30 for social time; study begins at 6:00. Ask Pastor Susan if you have questions.

The Zoom meeting ID for these sessions is 846 8748 3812. Passcode is **Bible**. The link is also in Monday's email. Newcomers are always welcome!

SAVE THE DATE Sunday, March 2 during the Sunday School Hour for a *Burning of the Palms* to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Drive Thru Holy Communion distribution will be held Sunday, February 2 at 10:30am. Anyone wishing to participate should arrive at the back of church to



receive the sacrament from your car. *If you are a regular online worshiper who would like to commune with the congregation, please contact Pastor Susan.*



Gingerbread House Workshop







January						
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2025 Calendars donated by Feiser’s Funeral Home are available throughout the church. Take home as many as you want! Share them with friends!

2025 Giving Envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please take your envelopes when you are here on Sunday.

Mission in Motion is focusing on the implementation of the summer food program, “**Good Food For You.**” This program will provide bags of nonperishable food to children in need during the summer. We will work in cooperation with St. John’s in Abbottstown and the Ruth’s Harvest program. More information will be coming with ways that you can help.

Good News & Brews is held the second Tuesday of each month at the Altland House in Abbottstown. Join with other local disciples to enjoy conversation, food and refreshments. Next meetings are January 14 & February 11 from 6:30pm-8:00pm. **EVERYONE IS INVITED!**



TRINITY'S GAME DAY! JOIN US JANUARY 19, 2025 FROM 2:00—4:00PM FOR A GAME DAY! GAME DAY IS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS. SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE SERVED. BRING BOARD GAMES, CARDS, OR ANY GAME YOU LIKE TO PLAY!



WELCA will be having a pie sale on January 23rd & 24th of Shoo-Fly & Cherry Crumb & Cherry 2-Crust. Sign up on the bulletin board or call Judy at 717-259-9507. Pick up will be 11:30 to 12:30 on Thursday & Friday & 5-6:00 on Friday. Pies will be \$12. Proceeds will go for repair of the Steeple on church.

Italian Themed Valentine's Party

Saturday, February 15th.

More information will be posted in the upcoming bulletins and weekly email announcements.



Dear Trinity Family,

I can't thank you all enough for your generosity throughout my birthday and the Christmas season! Your gifts are truly appreciated and I'll be continuing to enjoy them in the days ahead. Thanks to each of you, truly, for remembering me and making the celebrations so meaningful!

Thank you all, especially, for your support of me and my family through both Terry's ongoing illness & recovery, and my niece's emergency health issues. You are all a true blessing to serve God alongside and your service to me and my family doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you!

Love, Pastor Susan



Please bring in your donations of non-perishable food (cans/boxes), personal care items, laundry detergent, and monetary donations. All Soup and non-perishable food items will be donated to New Hope Ministries. Single serving food items will go to Ruth's Harvest. All

donations will be distributed where they are needed most. The congregation with the highest point total will take home the trophy!
Congratulations to the 2024 winner, Trinity!!!!

Coffee Station: Trinity's coffee stations located in the narthex & the chapel are available for anyone to use. In addition to coffee, there is hot chocolate and occasionally, hot cider.

Directions for using the Keurigs are listed next to the cups. We are looking for sponsors to help purchase the cups/lids and k-cup pods that are used in the machines.

Please sign-up on the sheets by the coffee stations or simply bring in a donation. Thank you!



Jesus calls us to go and make disciples and Trinity's Discipleship Team is looking for individuals who would like to answer that call. Would you be willing to volunteer to help lead a Sunday School class or other event that pertains to faith? (The biggest need is for substitute teachers on a Sunday morning.) Would you be willing to work behind the scenes to research online Christian education resources that can be included on our church website? How would YOU like to grow in faith? Please let us know! Please reach out to Pastor Susan, Lisa Miller, or Joshlyn Sharrer for additional information. Thank you!

THANK YOU—TO ALL THE FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE THE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES AT TRINITY FESTIVE AND HOLLY! YOUR PRESENCE IS THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL.

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

We are in need of people to volunteer to take meals to friends coming home from the hospital. Contact Judy Burgard at 717-259-9507 or sign up on bulletin board near the elevator by the back door.



HAVE YOU BEEN WORSHIPING ONLINE?

In the month of December, we had 503 video views, with 112 hours of watch time. We now have 203 subscribers! We gained 6 new subscribers this holiday season. Thank you to those worshiping from home (and away). If you're an online worshiper, please feel free to contact the church office with requests for connection, pastoral needs, and feedback about your online experience. We'd love to hear from you!

WELCA News

Our December's meeting and Christmas party was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Men's Ministry for making & serving the meal. Instead of a gift exchange we asked for a free-will offering and collected over \$600 for Cristian to help him with a car and insurance! We prayed for him and were happy to help this young man with his "rite of passage" as he works hard and attends school.



Christmas Cookie Kits were given to the thirty Food Pantry families on Friday December 6. They were happy to receive them. A \$250 Thrivent Action Team gift card was used to make this project possible. Our hope was the families enjoyed baking Christmas cookies together for the holiday.



The Angel Tree gifts for Adams County Housing Authority families were sorted and picked up Dec. 10. This congregation is so generous & we pray these folks feel the love and prayers we sent with them. Tonya Mincey, our contact person, would love to come and share a thank you and message from these families to our congregation soon. We would love for this to happen!

We served soup, tea sandwiches, and other refreshments after the Blue Christmas service Sunday Dec 15. Thank you to those who made this possible.

January pie sale will be Shoo Fly and Cherry pies. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

We will meet again January 7 and we will plan for 2025. Please bring ideas and suggestions on where we can make a difference by helping others in our local area or wherever there is a need. We will not meet in February.

Christmas Angel Tree

A thank you doesn't seem to be enough....our wonderful congregation with huge hearts did it again!!! The Women of ELCA received names and three wishes for each of the 33 children from 12 families of our local Adams County Housing Authority. Our contact, Tonya Mincey shared brief information about these families to help us understand why this Angel Tree project is so important to help these children have a wonderful Christmas. And Trinity's disciples made it happen by taking angel tags from our tree and shopping for the child. After 3 Sunday's any remaining wishes were fulfilled using funds raised by our Missionary Support committee and a \$250 Thrivent Action Team gift card. A monetary donation given after the tree was empty was used to purchase items to make a cookie baking kit for each of the 12 families. The Chapel was soon filled with gifts, blessed by Pastor Susan, and were picked up December 10. So, THANK YOU! WELCA was once again overwhelmed by the generous response and we love you for supporting our Christmas Angel Tree project!



FILL MY CUP is the theme for the Women’s Retreat at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Hanover for January. All women are invited from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, 2025 for a day of learning, worship and fellowship. The speaker will be Eric Burns, proprietor of Merlin’s Coffee in Hanover. Be ready to taste test some coffees! Deacon Jan Davis will lead us in Bible study (please bring your own Bible), a craft and worship. Please bring a dessert to share if you are able. Registration is \$20.00 and is due by Sunday, January 12. Family and friends are welcome! We will have a “snow date” on Saturday, February 1. Please complete the registration form and send it to: Deacon Jan Davis, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1240 Broadway, Hanover, PA 17331.

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FILL MY CUP Women’s Retreat Registration, for Saturday, January 18, 2025.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please choose one: [] Meat Lasagna []Vegetable Lasagna

Please make your check payable to: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. Please return it to Deacon Jan Davis, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1240 Broadway, Hanover, PA 17331 by Sunday, January 12, 2025.

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PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY UPDATES

Join us for the next gatherings of the Prayer Shawl Ministry **Wednesday, January 8 & February 12 at 2pm** in the church parlor to learn more about this community ministry. We have given away 11 shawls in 2024. We are in need of more knitters and crocheters so that we can have shawls on hand to give out as needed. Please let Pat Bjonnes know if you would like to join our group. We meet only 1 time per month and the work can be done at home at your leisure. Everyone can join in!



WEDNESDAYS FELLOWSHIP & FAITH

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



Kids' Quarter Collection: The next Tin-Cup Quarter Collections will be on Sunday, February 2 with **NOISY OFFERINGS**.

Please bring your quarters with you to worship that day.

All the money we collect goes to
Laundry Love

Worship Leader Schedule—3

Date	Assisting Minister	Communion Helper	Lector	Us
Jan 5	Melissa H.	Alex S.	Sami K.	Joyce/Geo
Jan 12	Chris L.	Violet C.	Amber N.	Leon/R
Jan 19	Charlie H.	Chris L.	Eddie S.	Janet/M
Jan 26	Alex S.	Mark B.	Dona L.	Bob/D
Feb 2	Becky R.	Jim K.	Violet C.	Jay/S
Feb 9	Jim K.	Melissa H.	Mary J.	Joyce/Noe
Feb 16	Bob K.	Ruthann B.	Jayne S.	Rick/A
Feb 23	Sue C.	Luke M.	Sam H.	Leon/Geo

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



Advent Candle Lighting

January/February 2025

Readers	Altar Guild	Cantor(s)	Acolyte	Cookie Break
George/MaryAnn	Anita M.	Barry B.	Jack B.	Anita M.
Rick/Anita	Ruthann B.	Sue C.	Brody M.	Laura R.
Mac/Kathy	Janet M.	Dona/Sami	Konner H.	Lisa M.
Deb/Sandy	Kathy K.	Joss/Karen	Addie R.	Jess W.
Joe/Terry	Sami & Jer K.	Mary J.	Claire W.	Jen M.
Debbie/Ruthann	Deb K.	Chris L.	Tristan B.	Anita M.
Anita/Mark	Noelle K.	Becky R.	Grace W.	Erin H.
George/MaryAnn	Anita M.	Barry B.	Koltyn H.	Giovanna B.

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



Christmas Eve at Trinity

Ministry Pages

THE SHARING SHELF

UPDATE:

Our sharing shelf continues to provide food for our community in need. With freezing temperatures, we may need to move the food inside.

Please consider donating items not subject

to cold temperatures such as food in pouches or boxes! Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!



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

Thank you for thinking of others.

Ruth's Harvest Packing will occur Wednesday, January 22 and February 19 at 12:30pm at St. John's in Abbottstown. This year we will be packing approximately 100 bags of food each month for students attending Bermudian Springs Elementary. Items needed this month are **snack-packs of goldfish or pretzels and individual milk boxes (any flavor)**. There is a bin in the Narthex for donations.

EB Laundry Love will be held **Tuesday, January 14 & February 11 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 this ministry. We need volunteers for the second Tuesday of each month from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. To sign up to help at the laundromat see the



sheet on bulletin board by the elevator. This ministry is always in need of quarters. **The Feb. 2nd Noisy Offering will collect quarters for this ministry, or you may drop them any time in the collection box in the narthex (upstairs lobby). Quarters or other monies (all carefully labeled) may also be offered in the Offering Plate.** Thank you for your support of this important, loving, ministry.



PLEASE NOTE: the Laundry Love Ministry has been expanded to twice per month! On the second Tuesday and third Wednesday each month (same location and time). Zwingli UCC, our partner in this ministry has decided to host the additional Wednesday of each month. Spread the word!

Food Pantry: New Hope Ministries is bringing the mobile pantry from 4:00-6:00pm on Wednesday, January 8 and February 5 (Note the change in date). **REMINDER:** Volunteers are needed to serve as personal shopping assistants, set-up and tear-down, stockers and loading assistants. No need to sign-up in advance to help. Simply show up anytime after 3:00 p.m. on the day of the Food Pantry. Any questions, contact Anita Madsen (see directory for contact info).

Fellowship Hour is held before the Food Pantry on 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.



To My Trinity Lutheran Church Family-

Thank you so much for all the cards, gifts, gift cards and holiday greetings this past season! I am grateful to have such a wonderful, supporting group to work with. Happy New Year!

~Jen Guiher, Secretary

Thank you to all who donated or helped with the Christmas bazaar table at EBACC. *~ Shelly Livingston & Ruthann Bowen*



Save the Date for the next Family Retreat – March 21, 22, 23 2025.

Are you creative? Would you like to help us welcome guests who attend our weekly service? Then please consider helping us to make Guest 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 the church office.



Message from Maggie (Girl Scout Leader):

Thank you again for allowing Troop 80112 to use the church for our meetings. It is the perfect space for the girls to craft and play. We truly appreciate being able to meet in such an inviting and safe environment. Part of being a girl scout is serving others. The girls put together “holiday meals” in a pan that were placed on Trinity’s Sharing Shelf in December. Each kit contained a handmade Christmas card from the girls.



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for giving us the space to use for our meetings. Thank you for giving us a donation of one hundred dollars to use. Also for the extra gingerbread house materials. Thank you for all you do. We really appreciate it. Love Troop #80114, Sophia, Aubrey, Emma, Jorja, Steph

Worship Schedule

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

- January 12—Baptism of Our Lord
- January 19—Epiphany 2
- January 26—Epiphany 3
- February 2—Presentation of our Lord, Epiphany 4
- February 9—Epiphany 5
- February 16—Epiphany 6
- February 23—Epiphany 7

Midweek Morning Prayer Service

Every Wednesday at 10AM (chapel & Facebook Fellowship Group)

Drive-thru Holy Communion Distribution will be held Sunday, February 2 at 10:30 a.m. in the rear of the church near the disability parking.

NOTES:

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

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

Notes



From
the
Music Director



Thank you to everyone who helped during Christmas Handbells will begin rehearsing again on the 29th. Adult Chor rehearses every Sunday morning at 8:15am.

~ Karen



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

1-22 Eddie Sebright

1-25 Charleigh Biles

1-27 Kathy Atkinson

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

1-23 Stephen Hoak

1-26 Cindy St. Clair



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1-15 George & MaryAnn Vance ~ 50 Years

1-17 Cyril & Janet McMaster ~ 39 Years

1-23 Jim & Noelle Kline ~ 54 Years

1-30 Jack & Kay Hinkle ~ 54 Years



George and Mary Ann Vance met at a college dance the first week of Mary Ann's freshman year. They got married after graduation and lived in the Williamsport Pa area. Both were teachers. They are the proud parents of a son, Ryan and a daughter, Erin. They moved to Lake Meade in 2020 and are living and loving an active retirement life.
Happy 50th Anniversary!!

February Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2-4 Charlie Hoffman | 2-4 Sandy Emig |
| 2-5 Matthew McSherry | 2-6 Karen Ruth |
| 2-10 Michelle Boyer | 2-12 Sue Clauser |
| 2-12 Wanda Crackett | 2-12 Courtney Fortuna |
| 2-13 Bonnie Shue | 2-13 Steve Eaton |
| 2-14 Susan Smith | 2-15 Clayton Moore |
| 2-16 Christine Sheads | 2-18 Steph Haley |
| 2-19 Karen Sheaffer | 2-20 Pixie Henry |
| 2-22 Bob King | 2-23 Sam Haley |
| 2-23 Karen Wire | 2-24 Kyla Nickey |
| 2-25 Holly Siekerman | 2-26 Bradley Boyer |
| 2-26 Nick Storm | 2-27 Brody Moore |
| 2-28 Harrison Bowen | |



2-14 Rick & Anita Madsen ~ 38 Years

2-25 Nick & Laura Storm ~ 19 Years

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

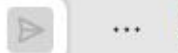
Trinity's Winter Retreat

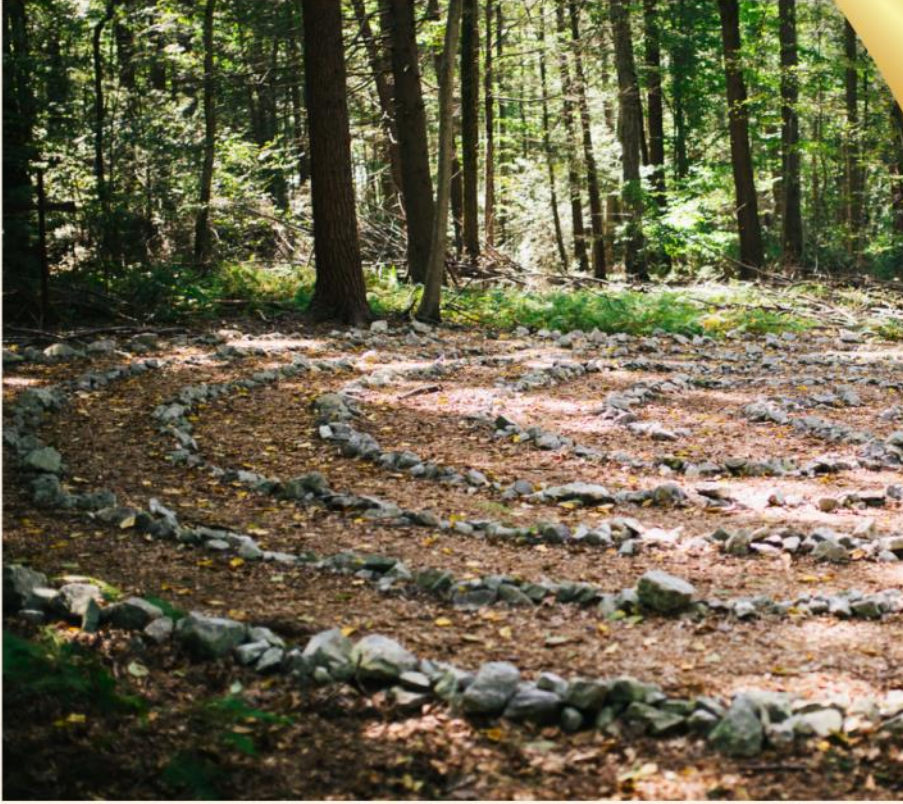


March 21-23, 2025



ick summary





TRINITY FAMILY RETR MARCH 21-23

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SHEPHERD
AND PREPARATIONS OF THE PA**

**INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLES OR FAMILIES INTERESTED, PLEASE
MILLER, OR JOSHLYN SHA**

More to come

REAT



**THE SEASON OF LIGHT (FEB 2)
FILMS (MAR 2).**

**REACH OUT TO PASTOR SUSAN, LISA
ARRER**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes November 19th - 7:00 p.m.

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

Dona called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda and the following was added under New Business:

- Community Singers using our church on December 1.
- Copier and copies

Secretary's Report was reviewed and the following corrections were made:

- Under Proposed Budget the 'motion made to increase Jen's compensation by \$600 to open door when needed and no one available' should instead be 'compensation when over time is necessary.'
- Under Important Dates newsletter deadline is November 15 and next council meeting is November 19.
- And Pastor Susan made the motion to adjourn the meeting, not Pastor Sherry.

Bob made a motion to approve the amended Secretary's Report, Barb seconded the motion, all were in agreement and the motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Bob Aims noted the General Operating Fund is in the black and our insurance bill will be paid this month. Bob King recommended that twice a year council will be given an additional detailed Fund Report.

Ministry Reports:

Discipleship:

Christian Education:

Christian Education met on November 11th to plan for the winter and spring of 2025. The curriculum for the Nursery through 6th grade classes for the remainder of the year has been determined. The Christian Education newsletter will be mailed out in a few weeks and will highlight everything that has been planned. A few dates to note that are included in the Christian Education newsletter:

- March 2nd- Burning of the Palms outside at 10:30 AM during the Sunday School hour and light food will be provided.
- April 20th- Children's Easter Program at 9:00 AM in the social hall.
- May 18th- Year End Sunday School Celebration.

Christian Education is looking for people who would like to volunteer to help lead a discipleship class. They are also looking for volunteers to research online Christian education resources that can be included on our church website.

Fellowship Team (Parish Life):

We held a Parish Life meeting on Thursday, November 14th at 7:00. Here are the items we discussed.

1. Food pantry lunch on Friday, December 6. Food pantry is moved to Friday because New Hope is having an employee party. If anyone is available to help, please let Ruthie know. We also need donations of cookies/desserts.
2. Christmas Eve, December 24th. We will serve cookies and drinks between services. We will need donations of cookies.
3. Game activity - January 19th from 2:00 to 4:00 We plan to hold a game night on this day for kids and adults. We will serve drinks and snacks.
4. Burning of the ashes - March 2nd. The pastor will burn the palms for ashes for Ash Wednesday after the church service. We were asked to serve a light lunch of soup, sandwiches and desserts after this event.
5. Valentine event - We would like to hold a Valentine event in the social hall on either February 15th or 22nd. More details coming soon. We will hold another meeting in January before the game event.

Worship Life: Worship Team (Worship & Music):

W&M met on 11/13

1. Hope to close Worship & Discipleship Survey Dec 1st. Becky will share the results shortly after.
2. We are prepared for Janice Mills to be our first online lector for Sun, Nov 24.
3. We have positive response to our Prayground area for children during worship. Will continue but may need to make some location adjustments.
4. Friday 11/29 10AM – Advent setup.
5. Advent Liturgy planning underway.
6. Christmas tree will be setup Sunday Dec 8th after the church service. Mike will ask Adult Sunday School class to assist.
7. W&M committee to connect with Property Committee and Council about short and long range ideas for worship space improvements.

Administrative Ministries:

Property Meeting from 10/17/24 10:00am. Present: Earl, Leon, Mac, Bob, Jay

1. Fire suppression system passed the 2nd inspection
 2. Witmer's revised quote has arrived
 3. Removed 2nd door closure for repair
 4. 4' bulb replacement
 5. We did not receive the grant for the security system
- Next meeting 11/21 at 10:00am.

Constitution & Governance:

A scheduled meeting with Carla Christopher (Lower Susquehanna Synod) to discuss proposed changes specifically related to membership failed to materialize. We have contacted the Synod office to reschedule this important meeting. Work continues weekly on the remaining chapters with the hope of completing the first pass revisions of the entire Constitution by year end. Thanks to everyone on the committee for their unwavering dedication over the past several months as we work through this first phase of the project.

Outreach: Mission-in-Motion:

Mission in Motion is focusing on the implementation of the summer food program, "Good Food for You." This program will provide bags of nonperishable food to children in need during the summer. We will work in cooperation with St. John's in Abbottstown and the Ruth's Harvest program. More information will be coming with ways that you can help.

Men's Ministry:

Men's Ministry breakfast meeting Saturday November 23 at 7:00 a.m. with members of East Berlin Lions Club. Breakfast will be followed with a brief business meeting and then all who are willing and able will join the Lions Club to install Christmas Lanterns throughout East Berlin. The latter has been a joint project with E. B. Lions for the past 5 years. Upcoming Projects: WELCA Christmas Banquet (December 3); Christmas Lantern takedown (January date TBD). Potential upcoming projects Soup Sale (February?), Soup/Sandwich luncheon following "Burning of Palms (March 2).

Social Ministry:

The Next Food Pantry will be held Wednesday, December 4 from 4:00-6:00pm. A Fellowship Hour will be held at Trinity at 3PM prior to every Food Pantry. Our Next Laundry Love date is Tuesday, December 10 from 5:00-6:30pm at the White Dove Laundromat.

WELCA:

- At our meeting, WELCA donated the \$300 semi-annual amount for Trinity's

Food Pantry contribution. We also donated \$250 to Wreaths Across American to be held December 14 at noon at our cemetery.

- We will provide the refreshments after the Blue Christmas Service on Dec 14.
- A Thrivent Action Team \$250 gift card was approved for our Angel Tree families' wishes and another was approved for Christmas Cookie Kits/Holiday Baking Kits for the Food Pantry families.
- Our next meeting & Christmas Party will be held December 3 at 5:30 in our social hall. The Men's Ministry will make the meal and a free will offering will help Cristian to purchase a car and car insurance. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
- The Angel Tree is located in the Narthex and ready for our congregation to help make these children's Christmas wonderful. We have 33 children's names this year and each child has three wishes. Gifts are due back at Trinity December 8 and should be placed in the Chapel.

Fall Festival 2024

An invitation for a follow-up meeting for October 23 was held October 23 during which the final financial report was provided. It is customary to return most of the proceeds back to the East Berlin community. Total funds available for distribution were \$3535.13. Based on recommendations received, disbursements totaling \$3200 were approved by those in attendance leaving a remaining balance of \$335.13.

Disciples Directory

Project is off and running but progress has been slower than expected in getting people to create their Church Connect account, submit their pictures, or schedule a time to have their photo taken. For those who have created their accounts on Church Connect, the reviews are positive. Connect users are logging in with increased frequency. Plans are to publish the hard copy directory by the end of January.

Pastor's Report: Worked from Hanover Hospital much of 1st week due to Terry's illness; led burial service for Harry Gross at EB Union Cemetery; distributed Drive-thru Holy Communion; prepared and led Pet Blessing service; participated in Prayer Shawl ministry; hosted Caregivers' Group; planned for Harvest Home worship with Karen Wire and W & M Team; serving as Hanover Conference Secretary, participated in and took notes at monthly gathering; made 6 homebound visits; continue to work with Constitution Revision Team to re-work Trinity's committee/ministry team structure and envision a church equipped for the future; beginning to plan for Advent, Blue Christmas, and Christmas Eve services; continue to work with local pastors re: area Thanksgiving service & Advent lunches (No Advent lunches this year); visited Trinity's

yard sale and ate too much; prepared for and celebrated Reformation Sunday with W & M and the Arbers who offered soft pretzels as our Holy Communion bread; engaging with a new family around some pastoral care issues; working with the Discipleship Team to think about a new way to reach out to families needing support in teaching and practicing our faith; began preparing with Dona and Jen for the Annual Meeting in November; planned for and helped prepare for the All Saints Sunday worship with W & M and other volunteers, many thanks to everyone who donated materials and orchestrated the setup for our worship that day! Continuing to teach Teen Time Sunday School using the Acts of the Apostles; they're very appreciative of the mobile cloth wall panels that allow them to create a more private classroom! Many thanks to everyone for all the support around Terry's illness and continuing recovery for all the prayers, cards, notes, meals, hugs, and especially to Mark Boyer and Rick Madsen for making Terry's presence at Senior Night at Biglerville possible for our family! Am registered to participate in required synodical training for Boundaries (all sorts), Racial Justice, and Diversity and Inclusion of the LBGTIA+ Community; continue to participate weekly in local pastors' bible study; continue to prepare for and lead our Zoom bible study; participating only tangentially in the Continuing Education, "Aging Grace-fully," that I've registered for – the first gathering conflicted with a medical appointment for Terry, but I got the book. Participated in Trick-or-Treat at Trinity on Halloween; what fun!

Old Business:

Disciples Directory: In process.

Masonry Work Estimates: Pending input from Worship & Music.

Funding from Endowment Holding Account: Motion was made by Pastor Susan and seconded by Bob to donate \$250 to the local Special Olympics in honor of Noah.

New Business:

New Council Members to join December Meeting.

Community Singers using our church on December 1.

Copier and copies: Discussion occurred regarding the number of bulletins available during service. Given the increased attendance, we have been running out and need to ensure we have enough copies. Discussion also occurred regarding the current copier and the need for a potential replacement.

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joshlyn seconded. All agreed and the motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm followed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Mark Boyer