

HOLY TRINITY

Evangelical Lutheran Church

ECHOES NEWSLETTER

Parkview & Lycoming Avenue | Abington, Pennsylvania 19001 | Tel: 215.659.2642



December, 2024

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Maurice Y. Lee
Pastor

Staff

Mr. Thomas Hobson Williams,
M. Mus., Director of Music
Mrs. Deborah Mumford,
Office Administrator

Worship Services

Saturday at 5 p.m.
Sunday at 9 a.m. (also live-streamed)
Sunday Church School at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion

Saturday evening, Sunday morning
& Festival Days

***Deadline for submission of
material for the Echoes Newsletter
is 9 a.m. the 15th of each month.***

From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write, we haven't quite gotten to Christina Georgina Rossetti's "bleak mid-winter" yet —

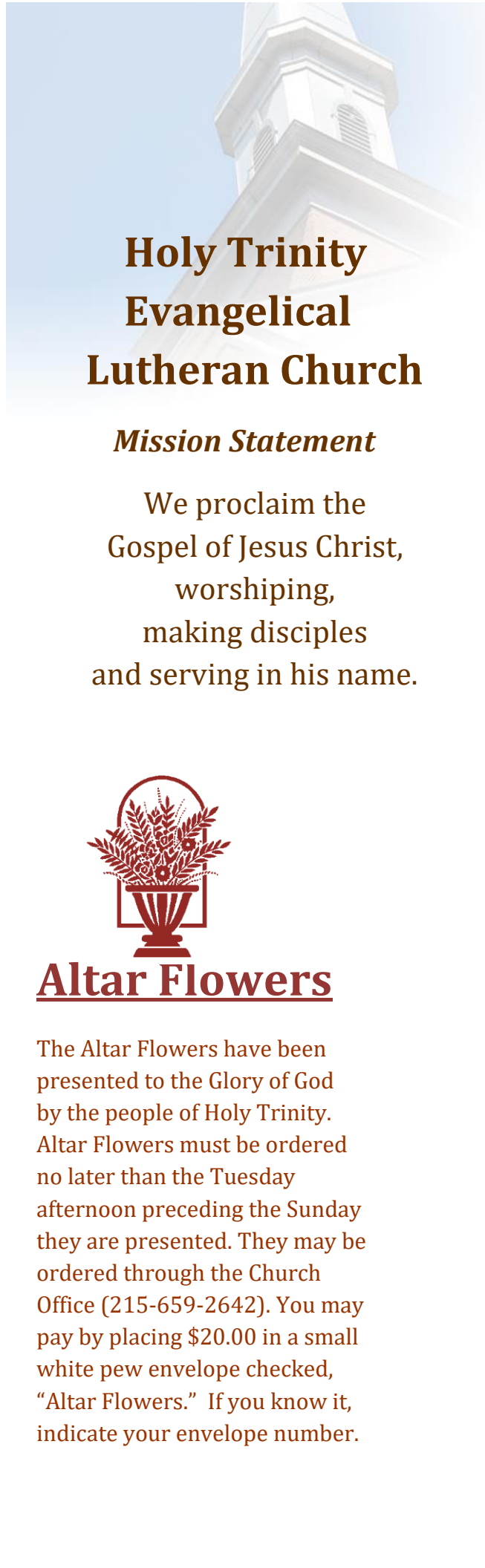
*In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago*

— but it's certainly true that, once again, these Northern Hemisphere days have been getting shorter and colder, both natural light and natural heat diminishing as they do every year.

In nature, light and heat go together, manifestations of the same phenomenon. In human affairs, they often seem to be opposed. The light of reason, inquiry, and understanding stands against — excludes and reviles — the heat of passion, intensity, and energy, and vice versa. We live in a time when those who are all-in on advocating for some cause (heat) feel obliged, not only to ignore, but actively to resist, the complexity and objectivity of the truth (light); and when those who imagine that indifferent rationality is the only way to connect with reality (light) feel suspicious of and superior to others who are enthusiastic about beauty, goodness, and love (heat).

Thus we get disputes, or better, shouting matches that "generate more heat than light"; and we get influencers and teachers who are "all head" and "no heart," or the other way around; and we get contemporary secular politics, which is either about igniting dangerously unthinking popular fervor or about cynically managing the desires and opinions of the masses.

Continued on pg. 2



Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

We proclaim the
Gospel of Jesus Christ,
worshiping,
making disciples
and serving in his name.



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers have been presented to the Glory of God by the people of Holy Trinity. Altar Flowers must be ordered no later than the Tuesday afternoon preceding the Sunday they are presented. They may be ordered through the Church Office (215-659-2642). You may pay by placing \$20.00 in a small white pew envelope checked, "Altar Flowers." If you know it, indicate your envelope number.

From the Pastor

Continued from page 1

Rossetti's poem, "A Christmas Carol" (1872), goes on:

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.*

In the God-man, Jesus Christ, we're confronted by the light that outshines every other — "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6) — and by the heat which touches and transforms everything — "our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). To know Jesus is not only to have the mind changed (the original meaning of the Greek word for "conversion") — "we take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5) — but also the heart aroused — "our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

Living by the faith, hope, and love given to us in Jesus Christ is both to contemplate the light of the truth about God's greatness — "in your light we see light" (Psalm 36:9) — and to feel the heat of zeal for God's glory — "zeal for your house has consumed me" (Psalm 69:9). Thus do we live as we were created for:

*What can I give him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give him, —
Give my heart.*

Looking forward to a new church year with you,
Pastor Maurice

In your light we see light...

Psalm 36:9



Healing Prayer Ministry

Prayer cards are available in a basket on the Altar in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Fill out your prayer requests and members of the Healing Prayer Ministry will pray for your needs. If you leave your contact information a team member will contact you.



Women's Prayer Group

Holy Trinity's
Women's Prayer Group
meets once a month
at Rosemary Hinkle's
room over her garage.

All women are invited to join us
Contact Rosemary at
rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net

Remaining 2024 Schedule December 2

"All these with one accord were
devoting themselves to prayer,
together with the women and Mary the
mother of Jesus, and his brothers."
Acts 1:14

Prayer List



One of the beautiful aspects of Christian Fellowship is that we can share one another's concerns through prayer. Please pray for the following:

Please pray for the following individuals & their families: *(we cannot add last names or initials)* The families of the members Holy Trinity together with those they love, including:

Adam, Adriana, Al, Alan, Alexa, Alice, Allan, Allyson, Amanda, Amy, Andrew, Anita, Ann, Ashley, Audrey, Ayush, Barbara, Becky, Ben, Beryl, Billie, Blanche, Bob, Bruce, Caliq, Carly, Carmela, Carol, Charles, Charlie, Chris, Christine, Christopher, Cindy, Colin, Connor, Craig, Dallas, Dan, Daryl, Dave, David, Derek, Devin, Diana, Diane, Dianna, Dick, Duke, Ekaterina, Elizabeth, Emersyn, Emma, Eric, Erica, Ernie, Errol, Eugene, Flo, Gabe, Gavin, Gene, George, Grayson, Harrison, Heidi, Ilze, Jamie, Jeff, Jen, Jennifer, Jill, Jim, Joanne, John, Joy, Julia, Julie, Justin, Kamelia, Karen, Kathleen, Kathy, Kelly, Kevan, Kim, Kyle, Landon, Laura, Levi, Linda, Lisa, Logan, Lorraine, Lois, Maggie, Margie, Marilyn, Marina, Margot, Mary, Mary Kate, Mary Lou, Matthew, Megan, Melody, Meredith, Michael, Mike, Mikhael, Miley, Milt, Nancy, Natalie, Nick, Pastor Jeff, Pastor Roger, Paige, Paulette, Pete, Peter, Philip, Randy, Ray, Rick, Rodney, Roger, Rose, Rosemary, Roy, Sam, Sandra, Sandy, Sarah, Sharon, Shary, Sherri, Sherry, Shirley, Sigrid, Solomon, Stacy, Steph, Steve, Tammy, Teena, Tiffany, Tina, Todd, Tom, Tony, Tonya, Travis, Trevor, Trudy, Valentina, Vicki, Viktor, Vince, Virginia, Violet, Willow.

Please pray for the following families:

Alderfer, Blessington, Bradley, Britton, Bruger, Burton, Cannan, Carr, Casey, Cassady, Criaris, Custer, Edinger, Diener, Dobbins, Edythe, Forsythe, Frandsen-Cannan, Gall, Gregg, Gulden, Hamilton, Huddleston, Klass, Lacy, LaRocca, Lint, Lockhart, Marsella, Marzario, McShea, Miller, Novak, Pharye, Powell, Quici, Robbins, Schenck, Singley, Snaeder, Spalding, Staedtler, Steinhofner, Stokes, Tavella, Tolton, Ulan, Watkins, Weiss, Wildemore, Wright, Wyszomierski, York, Young.

Please pray for the following petitions:

That God would bless and protect all members of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for.
That God would guide each of us to grow in grace & that He would please send workers into the Harvest.
For all who are chronically ill and/or shut-in.
For all who struggle with addiction to drugs and alcohol.
For the sick and the grieving.
For all congregations of the NALC.
For all travelers and for the dying.
For the military and their families.
The unemployed, the underemployed & the uninsured, especially those in our own families.
All Caregivers, rescue workers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, EMTs,
For the members of the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, and for the Nifas Silk Congregation.
For our sister congregations: Nifas Silk in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and First Lutheran in Kirkland Illinois.
For all Christians who are being persecuted for the faith throughout the world.
For the victims of rains, wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes and for favorable weather and an abundance of crops.
For all in financial difficulty that they may be totally restored.
For those suffering from racial injustice, bigotry, and oppression in our nation and in the world.
For the people of Ukraine.
For peace in the world and shootings to stop in our cities.
For a peaceful political atmosphere.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE LIVE
ON YOUTUBE (THEHTLCONLINE)
OR OUR WEBSITE HOLYTRINITY.NET
JOIN US AT 9 AM.



THE 7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED.

Support Us

Please consider a gift of appreciated securities to Holy Trinity as you do your tax planning for this year. You may direct questions about how to do this to Alan Hinkle @ alanhinkle@comcast.net

Treasurer's Report

October 31, 2024 (For the Year 2024)

Current Fund Deficit ~ (\$25,607.02)

Full Treasurer's Report
available on request.

LUTHER QUOTES:

"The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth."

"This is what is meant by 'Thy king cometh.' You do not seek him, but he seeks you. You do not find him, he finds you."

"Through the Gospel this light is brought to us, not from a distance, nor do we need to go far to obtain it; it is very near us and shines in our hearts."

"The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid."

**Keep in your prayers
the following
individuals serving
in the armed forces:**

Christopher Biehl
Michael Boerner
Connor Gowton
Eric Henderson
C.J. Hess
Nathan Quinlan
Vikas Shah
Jonathan Skilton, MD
Jeremy Zar
AJ Hersch

**Please remember your
Church in your will.**



Congratulations on your First Communion
to

David Mutashobya

&

Travis Wyszomierski

Sunday, December 1, 2024



To Kenneth, Kraig, Karen, Bob and Kelly
on the death of

Joan Klass, November 27, 2024

Beloved mother & grandmother

Congratulations to Megan & Dan Diener
on the birth of their son,

Nicholas Daniel Diener

November 28, 2024

6 lb., 10 oz. 20" long



And congratulations to
very proud grandpa Phil Diener!



NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you to all who brought their arts and crafts and baked goods to the Craft Fair on Saturday, November 23. And thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Parish Relief Fund with donations!

If you missed the opportunity to bring your art or to shop, please prepare to come next year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving!

See you then!



The results are in and we are so grateful for the outpouring of support! Not only were we able to secure our anonymous donor's generous gift but in total **we raised \$1,275** for our turkey drive enabling us **to purchase 115 turkey breasts and 11 whole turkeys** for the **139 guests** we served in the last three weeks.

The Craft Fair/Bake Sale was a big hit with a total of **\$1, 582 raised!** Endless thanks to our crafters and bakers for their time, talents and energy! And to all those who came out to buy the marvelous crafts and tasty baked goods!

We are humbled and thankful for your continuing support and prayers.

~ Your Bread of Heaven Committee

Thank You to ALL Who Participated in Holy Trinity's Operation Christmas Child

You enabled us to send **408 well-packed shoeboxes** that will travel to continent and island nations around the world where eager children will experience in a tangible way the love of Jesus through your generous gifts.

Thank You for packing individual boxes and/or participating in the church packing party.

WOW to those of you who contributed wow gifts...so many helpful, fun, and cute items to include.

A special thank you to our needleworkers, who knit and crocheted colorful hats and scarves: Joy Alderfer, Katie Beyer, Anne Dobbins, Lois Hamilton, Beth Lee, and Dot McGowan.

Between the needlework gifts and the wow gifts, our shoeboxes seemed better than ever this year. They felt full with quality school supplies, toiletries, toys, and accessories.

Remember, the giving does not stop with what is inside each box. Every child is invited to attend *The Greatest Journey* program for which they receive a Bible storybook used in their classes taught by teachers from churches with whom Samaritan's Purse has a solid relationship.

Still Needed: We are not quite finished this loving gospel project for 2024. Please consider making a monetary contribution to help defray the requested \$10 to help offset the cost of shipping our 240 boxes packed at our party.

And remember to follow your box! If you saved your label with a multi-digit code, you can go online in mid-January and find out to which countries your boxes are headed.





NOTES OF THANKS continued...



Dearest Pastor Lee and the beautiful, faithful people of Holy Trinity,

Imagine my surprise as someone came to our church doors at exactly the time and I just happened to be walking by those doors at the very same time; I was handed a stunning bouquet from your Altar, and before I could read your note and understand what had just transpired, your 'delivery angel' was gone. Truly, this was a 'God moment' in many ways!

That morning, I went to church feeling rather blue; I was focused on getting out of myself and the myriad memories of happier times.

So when I was handed your thoughtful, loving note and flowers, I truly was surprised and filled (immediately) with the joy of the Holy Spirit and our great HOPE in CHRIST. You all made sure that I was surrounded by His love and yours: my gratitude is overflowing!

Thank you and God bless you for always remembering our beloved Brewster. I pray you know how deeply touched I am by your continued thoughtfulness, love, and support. Our entire congregation (and Fr. Smith) are all thankful for you.

I pray for you all and send you profound love and gratitude always!

Pamela Hastings

CHURCH COUNCIL



Notes from Council:

We will be giving highlights from our last Council meeting each month in Echoes. Once the minutes are approved from the previous month, they will be available in the Narthex.

Council met on Wednesday, November 6th. We opened our meeting, as we do every month, with devotions.

- Jim Necker and Tom Weld joined the meeting at the beginning to show Council plans for the renovation of the bathrooms off Fellowship Hall. Council approved a motion to begin the process of obtaining bids. The plans and costs will be brought to Council and then to the congregation.

We discussed Council responsibilities as stated in our Constitution. We decided to have a Council retreat each year and give time during the retreat to talk about what is going well and not so well. We also are giving thought to how to get feedback from the congregation.

Highlights of the committee reports:

Bread of Heaven: The challenge was met for our turkey drive.

Digital Ministry is looking for digital images for the website. We are looking forward to having the updated site by Christmas.

Evangelism will be holding a Prayer Service on Saturday, November 16th. Prayer requests forms will be available for clients of Bread of Heaven. All are encouraged to reach out to others for their requests as well.

Family Ministry: Care packages will be going out within the next couple of weeks. Any requests or address changes should be sent to Deb via email. The committee is looking to re-establish the Healing Prayer ministry.

Property: Lighting replacement has been completed in Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, and the study.

Stewardship: Pledge cards will be collected during services on November 16th and 17th.

New business:

We are planning to re-establish the social group called 2nd Friday Nighters, open to anyone over the age of 18. They will meet each month to share food and fellowship.

Council will move December's meeting to Tuesday, December 3rd at 7 p.m. so we can review normal business and the budget. The move was due to Advent Vespers taking place on Wednesdays.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please talk to any Council member. If you are unsure who we are, our pictures are in the Narthex.



Calling all Carolers....

SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN ADVENT!

To bring the joy and hope of Jesus this Advent season we'll be caroling indoors at a few retirement communities where some of our long-time members now live.



Please prayerfully consider joining us on one (or all) of the Sundays in Advent, **Dec. 1, 8, 15, & 22.**

We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m. for a light lunch, then carpool to the venues. We will be singing from 1 ~ 2 p.m.

Today, December 1st at Ann's Choice in Warminster

December 8th at Wesley Enhanced Living in Hatboro

December 15th at Gwynedd Estates in Ambler

December 22nd at Christ's Home in Warminster

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we know how many sandwiches to order.

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## Friendly Gingerbread House building Competition, Dec. 15

during the Sunday school hour.



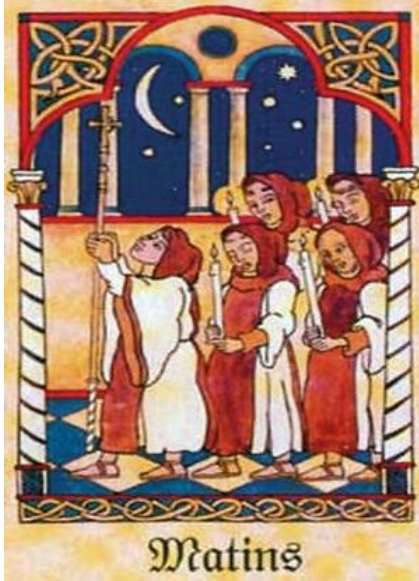
\*on December 22 we will gather for  
Cookies & Carols in Fellowship Hall \*





“Prayer belongs to the church and indeed is the chief bastion of the church” (Melanchthon). Sing to God’s glory, meditate on God’s word, and intercede for God’s people with Holy Trinity.

## ADVENT MORNING PRAYER



Matins services,  
**every weekday morning  
in December**  
(including December 25),

9:30-10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

## ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Vespers services, **Wednesdays in Advent**  
**December 4, 11, and 18**

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. – Musical recitals

Dec. 4: Thomas Hobson Williams, organ

Dec. 11: John and Grace Silva, organ

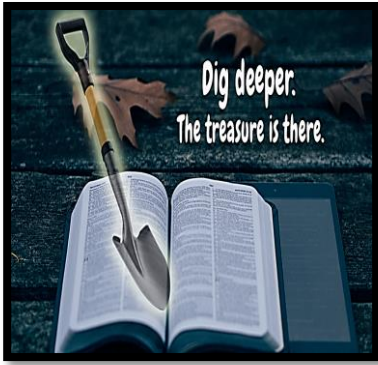
Dec. 18: Holy Trinity Chancel Choir

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Vespers

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Dinner + discussion (topic: hope)







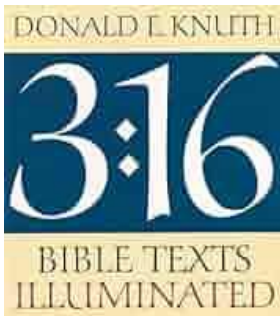
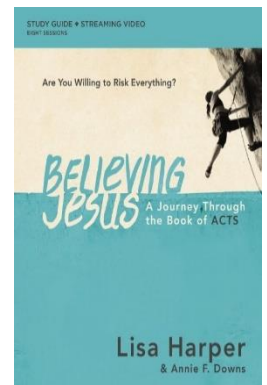
Here is an opportunity to delve deeper into each week's three Scripture readings with ***A Longer Look at the Lessons***.

This Bible Study based on the lectionary in our worship and provides information about the readings and their contexts. Questions and answers mine the riches of the Readings while encouraging class discussion and personal application by asking, "What does it mean for us?"

The class meets in **Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings** following the worship service each Sunday. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and Pastor Guenzel facilitates the discussion. All older teens and adults are welcome!

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Join Tom Schied next Sunday, December 1st in the study as he begins ***Believing Jesus: A Journey through the Book of Acts***. Bible teacher and author Lisa Harper retraces the steps of the apostles in the book of Acts, while throwing in a few of her own crazy adventures along the way. The disciples didn't have much of a road map after Jesus ascended to heaven, but God's grace and spirit filled in the gaps as they moved forward. It required their willingness to risk everything to establish a new community that would change the future world.



Thursday morning Meanderings with Pastor Maurice  
*3:16 Bible Texts Illuminated*,  
continuing **Thursday, December 12, at 10:00 a.m.**  
Bagels and such on the house of course!

Join us for stimulating discussions & lively conversations.

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The NALC Advent & Christmas Devotional can be downloaded here:  
**[thenalc.org/advent-christmas-devotional-2024/](https://thenalc.org/advent-christmas-devotional-2024/)**



Along with your choice of three beautiful colors  
prices that match 2019 costs! Thanks be to God!

## Poinsettia Order Form

**Deadline: Sunday, December 8, 2024**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Red Poinsettias (6 1/2" plant) @\$10.00 per plant

\$\_\_\_\_\_ White Poinsettias (6 1/2" plant) @\$10.00 per plant

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Ice Punch Poinsettias (6 1/2" plant) @\$10.00 per plant  
to see a picture visit [frysvillefarms.com](http://frysvillefarms.com)

\*Plants **must** be taken home  
after the service on Christmas Eve.\*

Dedicate or memorialize as follows:

**To the glory of God and**

(with thanks for the life of ... / with gratitude for ... /)

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Your Name:

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Enclose your order with payment, checks payable to  
Holy Trinity and place in the offering plate.

We packed **240 shoeboxes** at our church Operation Christmas Child packing party on November 9. We are now asking you to consider helping us defray the suggested shipping cost of **\$10/box** (not the actual cost as Samaritan's Purse absorbs the remainder).



Please place whatever you feel led to give in an envelope and mark it "**OCC Shipping.**" You may place it in the offering or leave it in the office. Thank YOU!

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## Christ's Home Christmas Collection

Christ's  
Home

This year, the administrator at Christ's Home has determined that it is best to collect money, not gifts, for Christmas. So we will be collecting contributions for the children's gifts through **next Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.**

We acknowledge that this is a quick turnaround, but this will give time for the Christ's Home staff to purchase the gifts in time for Christmas.

Please make checks out to "Holy Trinity"  
and mark in the memo line "Christ's Home Gifts".  
Thank you!





IN DECEMBER:  
Monday, Dec. 9 & 23  
7:00 PM  
in Bread of Heaven Café



A bi-weekly support group for those going through a time of grief and loss, at whatever stage you may be in.

Utilizing *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy* by Pastor Mark Vroegop to practice the prayer of lament beginning with prayer then moving to a time of private reflection with a worksheet, then a time of sharing & caring concluding with prayer.

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Don't forget to worship with your Holy Trinity family on Christmas Eve



# Mark Your CALENDAR



**For the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 26, 2025  
immediately following worship.**

At Annual Meeting this year, **Sunday, January 26, 2025** the first item of business will be the adoption of Rules of Procedure. This adoption of Rules of Procedure has always been done at the outset of every denominational or synodical convocation (LCA, ELCA, or NALC). This adoption needs only a simple majority and is done to make the meeting run smoothly. Among other things, The Rules of Procedure say that Holy Trinity's Annual Meeting will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, that all speeches will be limited to three minutes, and that anyone can present a resolution but that this resolution must be presented in writing to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 3:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately prior to Annual Meeting. At the time each resolution is presented to Annual Meeting, Reference and Counsel will advise the Annual Meeting as to whether or not the resolution should be adopted. Copies of these Rules of Procedure and Forms for Resolutions are available in the Narthex.

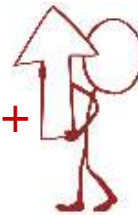


## To All Committee Chairpersons

If you haven't already, please submit your Annual Report to Deb in the office or email to [secretary@holytrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holytrinity.net)



**All youth 6th grade +**



**Sunday, December 15 3 - 5 PM**

Join us for trimming the Sanctuary Christmas trees, food & a fun secret Christmas gift exchange game!

Invite your friends ~ the more the merrier!





For the month of November we served **139 guests** with a total of **584 served**.  
With **28 new guests** for just three Thursdays in November.



### ***Bread of Heaven* Christmas Meal Collection: for Homemade Chili Dinner**

We will be putting together Christmas Bags  
for our guests at the *Bread of Heaven*  
Food Pantry for 3 Thursdays in December.



#### **Donations needed for these items:**

**Diced Tomatoes, Kidney Beans, Corn bread mix, potatoes au gratin,  
Chili Seasoning packets, canned diced tomatoes with chilies, cake mix,  
and money to purchase ground beef and peppers.**

*Thanks be to God for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit which inspires  
Holy Trinity's faithful disciples to provide so generously to those in need!*



***The Bread of Heaven*** Food Pantry would like to show a small taste  
of kindness and the wonder of Christmas to our guests by giving out  
homemade cookies. Precisely, we need **2,400 cookies**.

This large undertaking can be achieved with your help.

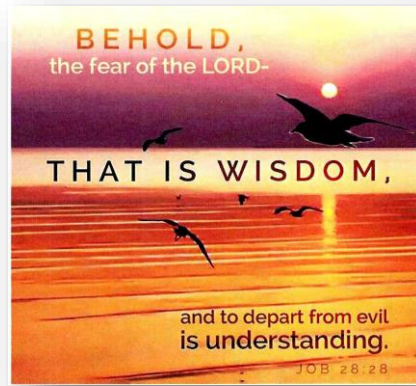
Please donate any kind of homemade cookies  
(please no peanut butter or nuts)

We will be collecting cookies **each Sunday of Advent**.

\*If you have any unused Christmas Cards that you would like  
to provide with your cookie donation along with a Christmas  
message that would be greatly appreciated!



# Lutheran Church Women's Circle Bible Study



## December Topic

Our study of Job is going to inform our study for Advent as we look at the scriptures of Christ's incarnation in terms of the suffering involved. In this world joy is not without sorrow, and love includes sacrifice (in fact, it is most beautifully seen in sacrifice). So while we usually look at Luke chapters 1 and 2 in joyful anticipation, we also do well to see the suffering involved and *how the Lord redeems suffering* in the birth of his Son. May our anticipation not shy away from bringing all our life, including suffering, to God in prayer and hope for his redemption!

## ★ DECEMBER CIRCLES ★

**Eve Circle** - Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the SS Peter and Andrew Study.  
Leader: Noreen Weld (215) 659-8089 [lajennyda@aol.com](mailto:lajennyda@aol.com)

**Hannah Circle** - Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Sons of Thunder Youth room.  
Contact: Deb Mumford (267) 210-1789 [Debssam@msn.com](mailto:Debssam@msn.com)

**Ruth Circle** - Sunday, December 8 at 11:45 a.m. in the SS Peter & Andrew Study.  
Leader: Katie Beyer (215) 572 - 6864 [kbeyer0403@gmail.com](mailto:kbeyer0403@gmail.com)

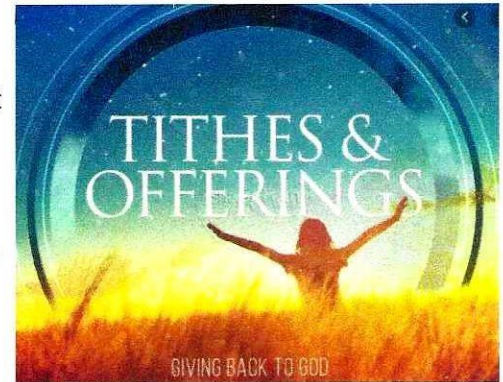
**Miriam Circle** - Monday, December 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the Study and Zoom  
Leader: Sandy Schmidt (215) 657-5065 [sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com)

## ***Women of Holy Trinity***

### **We Are Collecting Thank Offering**

Thank Offering is the money we set aside throughout our days when we are grateful to God for answered prayer, both in the concerning situations of daily living as well as in our joys that are the blessings we celebrate.

We will begin collecting Thank Offering in January. Your Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women's administrative board has determined to apply the offering to assist with any unmet Operation Christmas Child shipping costs for the 240 shoeboxes packed at our church packing party in November.



Earlier this fall, we began distributing small boxes specifically for you to keep in a special place and as you are led, place offerings in them. If you did not yet receive a box, please see Katie Beyer or Deb in the office.

**Please contribute your Thank Offering either at our January brunch on Saturday, January 25. or place it in the collection plate in an envelope c marked "LCW Thank Offering."**

*Psalm 50:23 "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God."*



## **Everyone Is Invited! To Brunch**

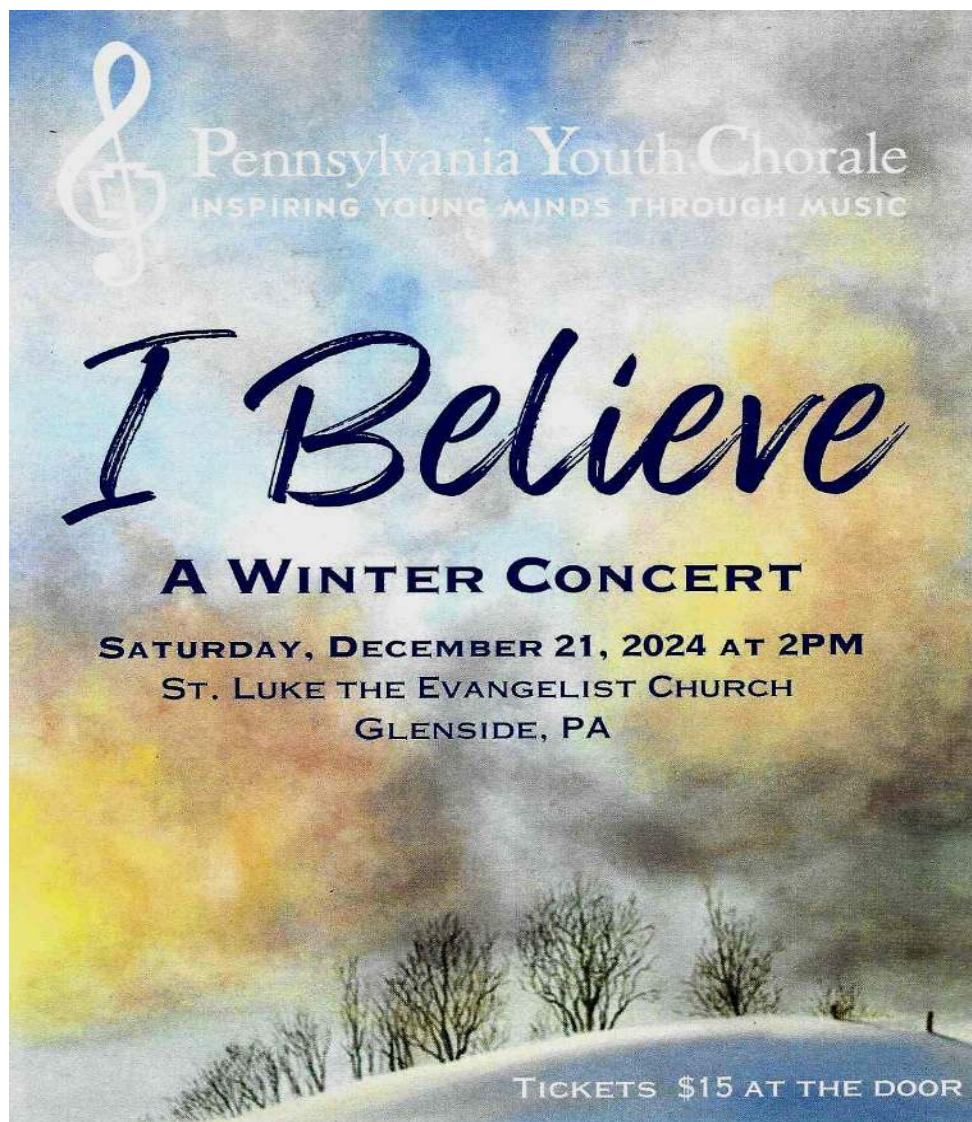
**Hosted by Holy Trinity's  
Lutheran Church Women**



*We hope you will join us on Saturday, January 25, 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall  
Guest Speaker Sandy Adcock Presents a Behind-the-Scenes Look  
at Bringing Christianity into Our Culture*

**Details to Follow in January Echoes**





Christmas greetings from  
your library staff!

We hope you'll make time to visit

May God bless you at Christmas and always,  
Linda K., Noreen, Sandy, Linda F.







We have openings left for two volunteers to join us in a four-hour shift at the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Baltimore Processing Center **Saturday, December 14th.** Please contact Rosemary Hinkle or Nancy Ischinger.

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Well, it's not too late.

Last week we filled out pledge cards and dropped them in the Jehoiada chest. Remember, a pledge card focuses on the spiritual concept of responding to God's generosity personally.

Sure, there's offering envelopes and other ways to show financial commitment (e.g., EFT through your bank, donations directly to the church, the Lutheran Church Women keep a Thanksgiving box that collects donations for whatever a person wants to specifically thank God for).



But a pledge card demonstrates through the grace of God, and in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings, that we pledge our gifts towards ministering to our community. Giving is a spiritual discipline and an aspect of our relationship with God.

Will the 'Pledge Card Police' come after me if I don't meet my pledge? No, of course not. The quarterly statement you receive will show your total contributions against your pledged amount. No one is going to call and demand you make up the difference. A pledge helps your dedication and recognition of God's generosity in your life.

Imagine our church having so much blessing from God that we can pour it out on our neighbors!

There are pledge cards in the Narthex for you to complete and drop into the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity!

## ~ Sarnelli House Needs ~

Men's & Women's coats & warm jackets  
Men's jeans esp. waist sizes 32, 34, 36

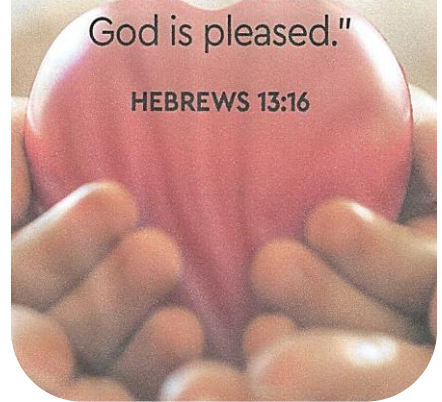
Women's jeans      Hoodies  
Gloves                Knit caps  
Blankets

**Underwear and socks are always in need.**

Bi-weekly trips are being made to Kensington.  
Leave your donations in the Narthex.

"And do not forget  
to do good and to  
share with others, for  
with such sacrifices  
God is pleased."

HEBREWS 13:16



## Coram Deo

Meeting once a month on the 2nd Monday of each month  
in the SS Peter & Andrew Study at 7:30 p.m.

All are invited to join - even if it's "just for one book".

Books we are reading for the monthly gatherings:

**December 9 - *Ice* by Ulla-Lena Lundberg**

January 13 - *North Woods* by Daniel Mason

February 10 - *The Inimitable Jeeves* by P.G. Wodehouse

March 10 - *When William Came* by Saki



## SINGLE SERVE OPPORTUNITY

**FRI., DEC. 27 12 - 4 PM**

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

**HELP MAKE OUR HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY  
A ROARING SUCCESS!**

The volunteer sign-up sheet is in the Narthex as well as a sign-up sheet  
for attendance. Bring your children & grandchildren for a fun afternoon!

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

***Happy  
Birthday***  
  
**JESUS  
PARTY**

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON!**

You're invited to take part in our Nativity Pageant  
and celebrate with us at our  
Happy Birthday Jesus party.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27**

**2 - 3:30 PM HTLC Fellowship Hall**

**Children 4 + up**

**RSVP by 12/15**

**Sign-up sheet in the Narthex  
or email [secretary@holytrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holytrinity.net)**



# EPIPHANY EVE

## Service of Lessons and Carols



with the choirs of  
**St. Mark's Reformed Episcopal Church**  
and  
**Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Sunday, January 5, 2025, 5:00 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2086 Parkview Avenue, Abington  
Dinner following the service  
RSVP by January 2 to [secretary@holytrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holytrinity.net) or 215-659-2642



## 2<sup>nd</sup> **FRIDAY NIGHT** *ers*

Historically a group for adults (18+)  
to get together for food, fellowship and fun!!

As the name implies, we will gather  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday night of each month.

**Our first event will be  
Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**



We will be having a **Chili Cook-Off** so dust off your best chili recipe.

We ask that you bring your chili in a crock pot ready to serve.

You will be assigned a number to put on your crock pot,  
please have that number on your crock pot prior to arriving.  
Also, please bring a notecard with the ingredients of your chili  
so anyone with an allergy can see what's inside.

If you don't want to make a chili, you can sign up to bring a chili side dish  
or dessert or just come to eat.

Please use the Sign-up Genius link below  
to sign up to make a chili or bring a chili side or dessert.

[Holy Trinity: Chili Cook Off](#)



# December Worship Assistants Schedule



## December 1

|                       |                                |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Usher 5</b>        | <b>Lector- Sat Bruce Freer</b> | <b>Cantor Beth Lee</b>         |
| <b>Stream Gloria</b>  | <b>Sun Suzanne Brown</b>       | <b>Acolyte Allan Shikhvarg</b> |
| <b>Team Ischinger</b> | <b>Christophers Team # 3</b>   | <b>Crucifer Charlie Tolton</b> |

## December 8

|                       |                                 |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Usher 1</b>        | <b>Lector - Sat Bruce Freer</b> | <b>Cantor</b>                   |
| <b>Stream Charlie</b> | <b>Sun Matthew Gregg</b>        | <b>Acolyte Gloria Ischinger</b> |
| <b>Team Tolton</b>    | <b>Christophers Team # 4</b>    | <b>Crucifer Rob Ischinger</b>   |

## December 15

|                     |                                  |                                |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Usher 2</b>      | <b>Lector-Sat Karen McGovern</b> | <b>Cantor</b>                  |
| <b>Stream Frank</b> | <b>Sun Deb Mumford</b>           | <b>Acolyte Linda Borkowski</b> |
| <b>Team Ganther</b> | <b>Christophers Team # 1</b>     | <b>Crucifer Charlie Tolton</b> |

## December 22

|                       |                                    |                               |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Usher 3</b>        | <b>Lector - Sat Kathy Ingerson</b> | <b>Cantor</b>                 |
| <b>Stream Gloria</b>  | <b>Sun Jim Necker</b>              | <b>Acolyte Helen Haun</b>     |
| <b>Team Ischinger</b> | <b>Christophers Team # 2</b>       | <b>Crucifer Frank Ganther</b> |

## December 24

|                     |                              |                                   |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Usher 1</b>      | <b>Lector Charlie Tolton</b> | <b>Acolyte Janice Donnelly</b>    |
| <b>Torchbearers</b> | <b>Bookbearer</b>            | <b>Crucifer Benet Donnelly</b>    |
|                     |                              | <b>Stream Team Hannah Mumford</b> |

## December 29

|                       |                                    |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Usher 4</b>        | <b>Lector - Sat Karen McGovern</b> | <b>Cantor</b>                |
| <b>Stream Rob</b>     | <b>Sun Nancy Necker</b>            | <b>Acolyte Dave Tolton</b>   |
| <b>Team Ischinger</b> | <b>Christophers Team #3</b>        | <b>Crucifer Otis Bricker</b> |

If you cannot serve please contact someone on the list and find a replacement.

If you cannot find a replacement simply contact the office  
(215) 659-2642 or email Deb at [secretary@holyltrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holyltrinity.net)

Called to *Serve*



# DECEMBER 2024

| Sunday                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                   | Tuesday                                                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Thursday                                                                                                                       | Friday                                                                                                                    | Saturday                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 ADVENT 1</b><br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Sunday School<br>Pre-K thru Adult<br><br>11:30 Caroling<br><br>6:00 AA                      | <b>2</b><br><br>7:00 Women's<br>Prayer Group             | <b>3</b><br><br>7:00 Council                                                                                               | <b>4</b><br><br>6:00                                                                                                                          | <b>5</b><br>10:00 Bread of<br>Heaven<br><br>6:45 Handbell Choir<br>8:00 Chancel Choir                                          | <b>6</b><br><br>7:30 AA                                                                                                   | <b>7</b><br><br>5:00 Holy Communion<br><br>7:00 AA  |
| <b>8 ADVENT 2</b><br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Sunday School<br>Pre-K thru Adult<br>11:45 Ruth Circle<br><br>11:30 Caroling<br><br>6:00 AA | <b>9</b><br>12:30 Miriam Circle<br><br>7:00 Every Tear   | <b>10</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>11</b><br><br>6:00                                                                                                                         | <b>12</b><br>10:00 Bread of<br>Heaven<br>10:00 Meanderings<br><br>6:00 Eve Circle<br>6:45 Handbell Choir<br>8:00 Chancel Choir | <b>13</b><br><br>7:30 AA                                                                                                  | <b>14</b><br><br>5:00 Holy Communion<br><br>7:00 AA |
| <b>15 ADVENT 3</b><br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Gingerbread<br>house making<br><br>11:30 Caroling<br><br>6:00 AA                           | <b>16</b><br><br>7:00 Hannah<br>Circle<br>7:30 Coram Deo | <b>17</b><br><br>7:00 Evangelism                                                                                           | <b>18</b><br><br>6:00                                                                                                                        | <b>19</b><br>10:00 Bread of<br>Heaven<br>10:00 Meanderings<br><br>6:45 Handbell Choir                                          | <b>20</b><br><br>7:30 AA                                                                                                  | <b>21</b><br><br>5:00 Holy Communion<br><br>7:00 AA |
| <b>22 ADVENT 3</b><br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Gingerbread<br>house making<br><br>11:30 Caroling<br><br>6:00 AA                           | <b>23</b><br><br>7:00 Every Tear                         | <b>24</b><br><br>7:30<br>Holy Communion | <b>25</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><i>Merry Christmas</i><br>                                                                             | <b>26</b> 10:00 Bread of<br>Heaven<br>10:00 Meanderings                                                                        | <b>27</b> 2:00 ~ 3:30<br><br>7:30 AA | <b>28</b><br><br>5:00 Holy Communion<br><br>7:00 AA |
| <b>29 Christmas 1</b><br>9:00 Holy Communion                                                                                                  | <b>30</b>                                                | <b>31</b><br>                           |  <p>Join us for Advent Matins<br/>           Monday through Friday<br/>           9:30 - 10:00 a.m.<br/>           starting December 2</p> |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                           |                                                     |

## SPECIAL DATES:

**Advent Matins** - 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
 every weekday morning Dec. 2 - Dec. 24

**Advent Vespers** - 6:00 p.m.  
 December 4, 11 & 18



AND A

