

# TRINITY TIDINGS

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December 2022/January 2023

## How Can I help?

There is a TV drama that David and I follow. It's called, "New Amsterdam." This show is about America's oldest public hospital and their new medical director, Dr. Max Goodwin. Dr. Max is always searching for creative ways to reach out to folks who have trouble getting the medical care they need. During the first episode, Dr. Max came to the staff with the words, "How can I Help"? He wasn't just telling them what to do and asking them to do more with fewer resources but wanted to be part of the solution. He wanted to hear their needs and ideas so that he could work side by side with them. He kept asking, "How can I help"? and then rolled up his sleeves to help get the work done.

Last spring, as we were looking toward significant staff transitions, I asked for your patience with us as your church staff, and invited you to ask me, "How can I help"? Many of you answered that request and are getting involved in new and familiar ways – including in reaching out beyond our doors and in welcoming new folks who are coming.

As you are becoming more involved in the life of our congregation, there is also a growing balance between our inward and outward ministries. I rejoice with you as you discover a more healthy balance in your spiritual life through regular attendance and involvement in corporate worship, music, Bible study, Snax n Study and outreach ministries.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your faithfulness and for answering the question: "How can I help"?

*Pastor Karen Durbin*



TRINITY  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ON MAIN  
"Sharing God's Love"™



"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..."

Romans 4:4-8



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## Music Notes



### Navigating Our Traditions of Beautiful Advent Music in Worship

*(When the Christmas Tunes Have Already Started)*

One of my college music professors posts something humorous or musical (or both) on Facebook almost every day. For November 1, he chose that meme where Disney's animated Fairy Godmother is looking up at Cinderella, with the caption: "*And when the clock strikes midnight, Halloween will end...then BAM!... Christmas carols everywhere.*" Of course, this garnered many responses among us, his musician friends and former students. And yes, I responded, too; I clicked the "Haha" button and then I just *HAD* to add a comment:

"Except in church. First, the ADVENT music."

It seems that each year in our culture, Christmas \*arrives\* earlier and earlier. Sirius XM Radio rolls out those holiday music channels on November 5. As early as September, you can shop simultaneously for fall lawn care supplies AND life-size inflatable Christmas displays for the front yard, all in one stop at your local home improvement store, just in different aisles (you can't miss them!). And have I mentioned the constant barrage of Black Friday ads and tv commercials? The list could go on and on because we all experience it.

As the church, though, we mark these four weeks of Advent (beginning November 27) as a time of expectant waiting for Christ's coming into the world. The scripture texts, liturgies, hymns, music and messages of this season point us to hope, light, and peace - quite countercultural to the frenzied pace of holiday chaos beyond our sanctuary walls. And yet, precisely "on brand" because Jesus, the Light of the World, arrived by most humble means to recalibrate our sense of greatest and least, to bring deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives and to turn "... *swords into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks... Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!*" (Isaiah 2: 4-5).

May your journey in upcoming Advent days be accompanied by these sounds of the

season: the longing, hauntingly beautiful tunes and words of centuries old antiphons like "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*" or Charles Wesley's "*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*" (1744) along with numerous others from our hymnal that we will sing, raising our voices together in anticipation of the promised Messiah.



### A Singing Communion in Advent

Want to hear how Lutherans around the world await the coming of Jesus during Advent? Lutheran World Federation (of which Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a member) marks the 28-day calendar of Advent by sharing performances of hymns from member churches. "... *the hymns have shown us how we share our tradition of 'expectant waiting' for Christ's coming into the world. This witness of 'expectant waiting' brings us together as a communion built on God's promises.*" ~ Rev. Anne Burghardt, LWF General Secretary.

- You can learn more here: <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/singing-communion-advent-2022>
- You can also listen to previous years' performances as archived on LWF's YouTube Channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2-8BkDxwJ-SWm1RhKcHz2CIGMWLRtPlU>



### Ringin', Singin' and Worshipping!

Handbell ringers and singers rehearse on Wednesday evenings (6:15 bells; 7:15 choir) to prepare anthems, hymns and liturgy music for Sunday worship. In addition, take note of special music performances planned on Saturday, December 24 (8:15 p.m.) prior to the start of the Christmas Eve worship service (8:30 p.m.). Thank you to ALL of our Trinity musicians who prepare and participate so faithfully through each season of the church year!

- Melissa Jacoby, Minister of Music

## A Message from the Worship & Music Ministry

During the congregational meeting on Sunday, November 27th, Pastor Durbin summarized the results of the online survey regarding weekly communion. Debra Hartman made the following motion: "The Worship and Music Ministry recommends that we institute weekly communion beginning next Sunday, December 4th." The motioned passed. We thank everyone who filled out the survey as well as those who showed up for the vote.

Sincerely,  
Debra Hartman, Worship and Music Chair

## Stewardship at Trinity - By Stacey Zeller

I am finishing up my second year on Council here at Trinity, and we've been working to get a proposed spending plan together for next year, so the idea of stewardship has been on my mind more than usual lately and, if I may speak on behalf of the other Council members, on their minds as well. Out of curiosity, I Googled the definition of the words "steward" and "stewardship," and, of course, found many suggestions. However, the one that really spoke to me was this: "being a caretaker of God's kingdom." Short and sweet!

Specifically, I'm thinking of our church here on Main Street and how we can be good caretakers of our beautiful building and property as well as the resources that we utilize here every day. I don't think it would be a surprise to anyone to know that the cost of maintaining our physical and programmatic presence has increased along with everything else of late! Please know that the church staff, the Stewardship ministry, and Council are doing everything possible to keep those costs and expenditures manageable.

However, we cannot do it alone! We need the help of everyone who walks into this building! Whenever you visit Trinity, whether for

worship or a meeting or a fellowship event, please help us to be the best stewards possible of our "kingdom" on Main:

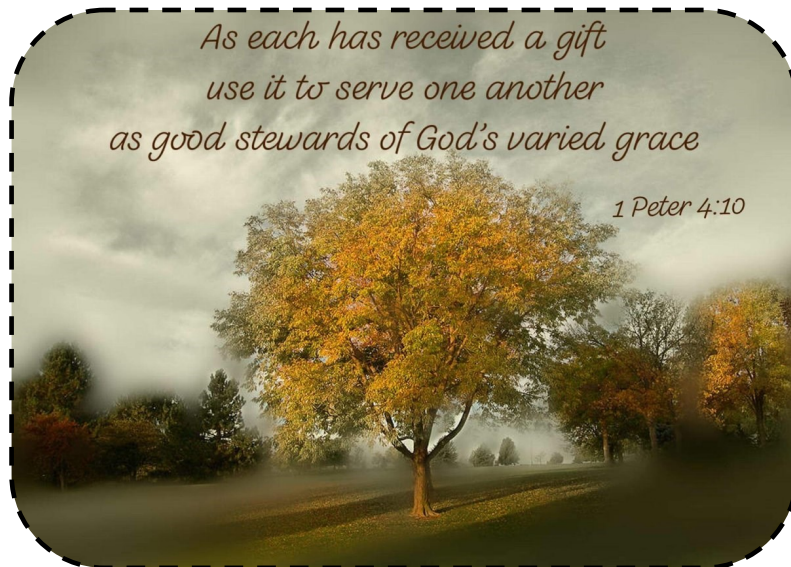
- Help to keep our electric bill lower by turning off lights in rooms that are not in use.
- Help to keep our water bill lower by making sure that faucets are completely shut off and commodes have stopped running *before* walking away.
- Help to maintain the efficiency of our heating and cooling system by closing interior doors (the various "zones" within the building are programmed to run differently based on usage).
- Help to protect our staff and property by ensuring that outside doors are not only locked and shut but that they have *fully latched*. Give 'em a good tug before you go!

And please, if and when you notice something in need of repair or attention, no matter how minor you think it might be, let the staff or the Property Committee know as soon as you can so that it can be addressed. Our building is aging, and the cost of utilities has risen at an unprecedented rate. We all need to work together to be the best stewards possible of our resources, both physical and financial. God has blessed us in SO many ways... we all need to do what we can to be good caretakers of these amazing gifts!

It's an exciting time at Trinity, and we look forward to working together to enjoy everything that the upcoming year has in store for us!

*As each has received a gift  
use it to serve one another  
as good stewards of God's varied grace*

*1 Peter 4:10*





## *"Out of the Blue" - Advent at Trinity*

By the time you read this article, we will be well into the Advent season. The sanctuary and outdoor areas will be decorated, and we will have already begun lighting Advent candles in our journey to Christmas. Our Advent theme, "Out of the Blue" is helping us to wait with longing for the coming of the Christ Child. How will God surprise you with touches of grace in unexpected ways this year?

Spend some reflective time with these words from Barn Geese Worship:

For God, change can be small,  
evolutionary, atomic.  
A crumbled resistance,  
a slightly different direction,  
a fresh idea in the middle of the night. . .

God is urgently waiting to arrive,  
and we have been waiting too. . .  
Yet the holy One often arrives before we notice:  
in the place we did not expect,  
in the word we did not hear.

Do not be afraid,  
God's angels always say,  
right before God changes a life.  
God comes here to change this place.  
We are not afraid.

("Out of the Blue" Gathering Words © 2022 by  
Barn Geese Worship, revised)

## Advent Vespers

Take a pause in your busy week and join us for Midweek Advent Vespers, each Wednesday at noon in the sanctuary. Join us for this time of meditative worship with candle lighting, readings, singing, and prayer. We will be recording these services to post online for those who are not able to join us in person. Those who gather in person will not be filmed.

### Office Contact Info

Church & Staff Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs. 9 AM – 2 PM

(other hours as needed)

Phone: 717-766-2662

[trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/TLCMech](https://www.facebook.com/TLCMech)

<https://trinity-on-main.org/>

### Pastor Contact Info

Pastor Karen Durbin

Email: [pastorkjd@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkjd@gmail.com)

### Minister of Music Contact Info

Melissa Jacoby

Email: [trinitymburgmusic@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymburgmusic@gmail.com)

### Parish Administrator Contact Info

Debbie Schue

Email: [trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com](mailto:trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com)



## New Hope Ministries "Christmas Blessing Express" Gift Donation Drive:

Help our neighbors in need have a very merry Christmas! See flyer on page 6 for details...

## Trinity's Closet on Main & Blessing Box Ministry

by Alan Williamson

In early 2020 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg was looking for a way to reach out to help people in the Mechanicsburg Community.

A demographic analysis of the local area was done. It pinpointed some vital basic needs missing from the area (within a 15-minute walk from the church). This area was primarily populated by seniors and young adults. The data showed that transportation was not readily available for a large portion of these two groups. Adding to this problem was a very limited number of businesses that sold groceries or clothing.

Our discussions and deliberations led to the building of a Blessing Box in May 2020 and shortly thereafter the opening of our Clothing Closet.

The Blessing Box is located outside the church on the right side near the front sidewalk. The Blessing Box is checked and refilled as needed at least three times a week. Individuals have consumed thousands of food items and toiletry products each year since the inception of the Box. Food and personal care items are donated by members of the congregation. Other drop off times can be arranged by contacting the church office by phone (717) 766-2662 or by email (trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

The Clothing Closet opened in September 2020 and started with a modest number of customers that has since doubled in size to 37 in October 2022. The Clothing Closet is open on the second Saturday of each month (excluding January) from 9:00 until 11:00 AM. The clothes are sorted by size within men's and women's clothing. All items are neatly folded to make them look presentable and attractive.

We recently sought some constructive feedback to help improve the operation of our Closet. A separate clothing closet provider was invited to

observe and critique our operation. As soon as she walked into Fellowship Hall she said she felt like she was entering a "Clothes Boutique". She thoroughly liked what she saw and said she felt very comfortable coming into the room. When asked for suggestions of what we could do to improve she suggested we try and highlight one or two key clothing items each month. Accordingly, in November, we highlighted winter coats. They were quickly taken.

The number of individuals coming into the Closet has risen from an initial 20 in September 2020 to 37 in October 2022.

We receive clothing donations from members of the congregation and the community. We also work with other entities in the area by sharing our surplus items with them and they in turn share their surplus with us.

In doing so, we constantly eliminate unwanted clothing items and the need to store them.

The Blessing Box and Clothing Closet are two ways we support people in our community. The recently issued 2020 World Happiness Report said "communities that supported one another were happier and improved the quality of the community and the neighborhoods."

The Blessing Box and Clothing Closet will not only make us happier but also uplift the happiness of people in the Mechanicsburg area.



**FREE**

**Adult Clothing**

**Saturday, Dec. 10**

**9-11am**

Trinity's Closet on Main  
132 E. Main St.  
Mechanicsburg, PA

**Note: There will be no Clothing Closet in January. The next one is planned for Saturday, February 11.**

# Christmas Blessing Express

**Sponsored by New Hope Ministries**

Trinity Church is once again participating in Christmas Blessing Express, to help families struggling during Christmas.

**It's Easy!**

**1. Pick an Ornament  
from the tree inside  
the front door...**

**2. Shop for the  
corresponding gift  
item...**

**3. Bring the item to  
church and place it  
under the tree!**



**Deadline for bringing in unwrapped gifts is  
Sunday, December 4**



# Christmas Service Times:

- December 24 8:15 pm, Special Music  
8:30 pm, Christmas Eve Service  
with Communion
- December 25 9:00 am, Combined Worship  
with Communion
- January 1 9:00 am, Combined Worship  
with Communion

Please note that these services will not be recorded or available online.



132 East Main Street  
Mechanicsburg, PA  
717-766-2662  
[www.trinity-on-main.org](http://www.trinity-on-main.org)



The church office will be closed the week of December 26 and through New Year's Day, for the holidays. We will reopen on Monday, January 2.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYONE!**



# Snax n Study



Pastor Karen will be teaching in December on the season of Advent. The season of Advent is a time when God often breaks in on us with new surprises and touches us with renewing and restoring power. Join us as we consider what Advent offers us for our lives of faith and watch for what Christ will bring to us this year.

**Volunteers are needed to bring snax for our Snax n Study time! Sign up on the sheet that is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway if you are able to provide snax for a week. Thank you!**

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

is working through the gospel according to Matthew. This gospel is the one appointed in our 3-year lectionary for 2023, year A. Join us at 11 am through December 15. We will resume in 2023.

## UPCOMING SUNDAY EVENTS

December 4:	8:45 am, Snax n Study
December 11:	8:45 am, Snax n Study
December 25:	9 am, Combined worship with Communion
January 1:	9 am, Combined worship with Communion

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men will meet up for breakfast on Thursday, December 22 and January 26 at 9 am at CC's Kitchen, Mechanicsburg for some good food and conversation!



## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Jean Keefer!

You are invited to celebrate Jean's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with her and her family on Saturday afternoon, December 17. Please plan to stop by the church between 2 & 4 pm to wish her a happy birthday and enjoy some light refreshments!



## Thanks, Praise & Other Stuff!

**A huge THANK YOU to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, for their donation of 50+ boxes of cereal for Trinity's Blessing Box. We are so appreciative of your thoughtfulness and generosity!**



Members and friends of Trinity Lutheran Church, thank you! Together we managed to collect 272 cans of green beans during our Green Bean Collection for New Hope Ministries in November. Not only is that an awesome achievement, it is a perfect example of the kindness and caring of the people of this congregation. Thanks to your donations, those in need in our community will have a happier and more bountiful holiday season!



## How Can I Help?

Are you looking for ideas for the new year? With more hands, we can do even more! You can help by:

- Putting together one or two seasonal bulletin board displays
- Working on one or two Lutheran World Relief or New Hope projects such as the Souper Bowl Challenge.
- Being one of our Snax n Study teachers
- Taking extra clothing from the clothing closet to Community Aid
- Writing articles for Tidings. Deadline is the 15th of each month, for the following month's publication.
- Visiting those who are unable to come to in-person worship
- Providing transportation to church, the grocery store, or doctor's appointments



*If you see any of these folks during December or January, be sure to wish them well on their birthday!*

Dec 1 Joshua Wagenheim  
Dec 3 Donald Miller  
Dec 8 Carol Pensyl  
Dec 14 Brett Lemanski  
Dec 15 Jean Keefer  
Dec 15 Bill Snoko  
Dec 20 Bob Anderson  
Dec 22 Emily Anderson  
Dec 25 Jim Weber  
Dec 29 Jordan Leiby  
Dec 30 Matthew Thomsen  
Dec 30 Nadine Ovack

Jan. 2 Richard Reisinger  
Jan. 5 Edna Votral  
Jan. 6 Jenna Lynch  
Jan. 6 Adam Schmick  
Jan. 6 Michael Bahlmann  
Jan. 9 Ron Eckerd  
Jan. 14 Harold Miller  
Jan. 18 Jim Smith  
Jan. 20 Gene Champagne  
Jan. 22 Miriam Wise  
Jan. 25 Tonya Miller  
Jan. 27 Cathy Lamason  
Jan. 27 Sarah Sabatini

Is your birthday missing? Please let us know so we can update our database!

## Blessing Box and New Hope

Blessing Box needs for December and January: canned meats, instant potatoes, rice, pasta/meat sauce. Please donate plastic jars for pasta sauce. Glass jars will break during the cold weather.

Many thanks to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg for collecting boxes of cereal for our blessings box! It is wonderful to have partners in ministry!

Many thanks to Ernie Ober for his service to the Blessing Box ministry. For many months, Ernie came to the church to count items of food you brought and divided them between New Hope and our blessing box.



## Churches Help Homeless Families Stay Together Through Family Promise HCR

Homelessness is hard enough, but families in the shelter system are also separated by gender at age 12. So, a mother and 12-year-old son wouldn't be together in a shelter, a single father and his adolescent daughter would not be together, and parents would be separate.

Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region keeps families together as they work through being unhoused. We accomplish this with the help of about 19 congregations, which house families overnight, serve as overnight hosts, and provide an evening meal for a week at a time. During the day, the families go to the Day Center, where they then go to work, school, or receive case management on things like budgeting, job searches, and soft skills.

We also help families who find themselves in danger of becoming homeless through our diversion program. When they see things falling apart, we can help them keep it together.

You can learn more about family promise at our website [www.familypromisehcr.org](http://www.familypromisehcr.org) or watch this short video to see how a church becomes a home [\(58\) Addy's Story - How Family Promise helped us through homelessness - YouTube](#)

Susan C. Ryder, Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region,  
Community Engagement Associate, 717-737-1100



# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11 am Bible Study	2	3
4 8 am Spoken Service Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship with Music	5	6	7 12 pm Advent Midweek Worship  6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 11 am Bible Study  7 pm Church Council	9 4 pm Set up for Trinity's Closet on Main	10 9-11 am Clothing Closet
11 8 am Spoken Service Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship with Music	12 1 pm New Hope Packing	13 NHM Christmas Party setup	14 10 am NHM Christmas Party 12 pm Advent Midweek Worship 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 11 am Bible Study	16	17 12 pm Birthday Celebration
18 8 am Spoken 8:45 am Snax n Study Service Worship 10:15 am Worship with Music	19	20	21 12 pm Advent Midweek Worship  6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24  8:30 pm Christmas Eve Service with Communion
25 9 am Combined Worship with Communion  <b>Merry Christmas!!</b>	26 Church office closed for holiday break	27	28	29	30	31



# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Combined Worship with Communion	2	3	4	5 11 am Bible Study	6	7
8 8 am Spoken Service Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship with Music	9	10 <b>Deadline for Tidings articles</b>	11	12 11 am Bible Study  7 pm Church Council	13	14
15 8 am Spoken Service Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship with Music	16	17	18	19 11 am Bible Study	20	21
22 8 am Spoken Service Worship 10:15 am Worship with Music	23	24	25	26 8 am Men's Breakfast  11 am Bible Study	27	28
29 8 am Spoken Service Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship with Music 11:30 am Semi- Annual Congregational Mtg	30	31				