

# TRINITY TIDINGS

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**November 2023**

**W**hen I was a child, my mother loved to watch the daily soap opera, "The Days of our Lives." I could hear the opening from any place in the house where I was playing with toys or reading a book --- "like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives." There is truth in that statement. The ticking of the many clocks in my house is a reminder of the passing of time. A reminder that each moment, each day is precious. A reminder to treasure the gift.

The month of November is rich with time. It's not that there are more days or hours in November than any other month, but there are specific occasions during November that remind us that time itself is a precious gift.

Our church year is organized around God's time. We are in the final month of our church year, celebrating All-Saints Sunday, on November 5 and closing out the year on Christ the King Sunday, November 26. On All-Saints we will light candles and pray prayers to remember loved ones who are no longer with us. It can be a bittersweet remembering. A time to hold memories close, to let go of regrets, to anticipate when we will be together again. All-Saints reminds us to cherish and value the people who are still with us. To have those conversations with the living that we wished we would have had with those who have died. Many of you may be like me in this: I wish I could call my mom who was always my cheerleader and ask her about this thing or that, to talk to her over a cup of tea, and enjoy one more hug.

Time is a precious gift that can be easy to take for granted. The older I get, the more aware I am of how fragile life is, how fleeting time can be. It is important to breathe and cherish the gift of each moment of time, important to treasure the simple act of waking up each morning to a new day and thanking God for whatever it will hold. It is important to protect God's gift of Sabbath time, one in seven for renewal in worship, reflection, rest, and to nurture relationships.

I want to encourage each of us, as we close out this year, to be more mindful in each moment, to steward our time well, not rushing through it, but soaking in all the blessings and possibilities of each day with gratitude to God.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change"

(James 1:17 ESV).

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



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## Christian Education Opportunities

### Snax n Study:

Join us for the last sessions of "Acts: Catching up with the Spirit." Here is the schedule for November:

November 5 – Conversation on the Middle East Crisis

November 12 - Saints Around the Edges

November 19 – This Changes Everything



### Advent Study

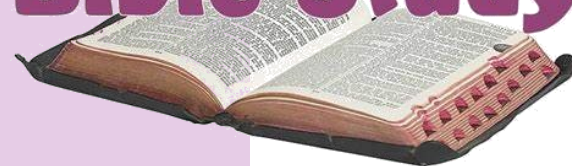
During Advent, we will be using another Adam Hamilton DVD study called, "The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem." Using historical information, archaeological findings, and personal reflections, Hamilton illustrates the birth of Jesus Christ, this most amazing moment in history. We will follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journeys with Christ.

Adam Hamilton is the senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area, cited as the most influential mainline church in America.

Weekly sessions include: Mary of Nazareth, Joseph of Bethlehem, Mary's Visit to Elizabeth, From Nazareth to Bethlehem, and The Manger.



## Bible Study



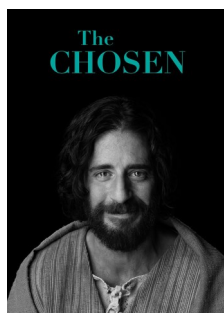
Bible Study will continue to meet in 2023 on most Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 8 pm, through the month of November. We are continuing in Matthew, focusing on the gospel lessons for the upcoming Sundays. Bring a friend and join us on these dates:

November 2 – All Saints Sunday - Matthew 5:1-12

November 9 – No Bible Study (gospel for Sunday is Matthew 25:1-13)

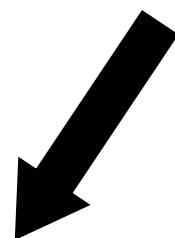
November 16 – Matthew 25:14-30

November 30 – Matthew 25:31-46



## 2024 – The Chosen, Returns!

We have had a number of requests to bring back "The Chosen" to Snax n Study! Make plans now to join us for Season 3 beginning in January.



## Advent Worship

### Out of Time - Advent at Trinity on Main

This Advent our worship will be focused on the theme "Out of Time." The texts of our Revised Common Lectionary are pre-occupied with time – *the day of the Lord, God's time versus our time, the mysterious schedule of the day and the hour*. The lectionary itself interacts with time in unpredictable ways -- the gospel lessons skip backward and forward over Jesus' life like someone trying to find the right track on a vinyl recording. One week, Jesus speaks of a day to come, the next week, John the Baptizer speaks of Jesus' coming.

In Advent, past and future collapse into God's present, and the lines blur between Jesus' first and second arrivals. This is chronologically disorienting in a way that seems intentional. God who created time and exists beyond it, is busy within, around, and beyond our human experience of time. God uses our experience of time to meet us, bless us, shape us, and call us into holy endings and new beginnings. God's infinite being and infinite patience cut through our fear as God enters human time to well with us: *Emmanuel, God-with-us*.

This Advent, we are planning additional time for you to settle in and make 2023 Advent a time of intentional spiritual renewal. Join us for Wednesday Vespers at 7 pm. Sunday Worship will include fresh liturgies, prayers, the lighting of Advent candles, and a special time for children. How will "God-with-us meet you?"

Join us for Sunday Worship at 8 and 10:15 am

- ◆ Snax n Study at 8:45 am
- ◆ Advent Vespers, Wednesdays, from 7 – 7:20 pm
- ◆ Longest Night Worship, December 21, 7 pm

Make sure to bring the kids to worship! The time of Advent can get crowded with lots of commercial offerings. It is easy to be overwhelmed or push aside the wonder of the birth of Jesus, and our children miss the whole reason for the season. We may get to Christmas and realize that we ran out of time for the most important reason that we celebrate – the birth of Jesus. It is his birthday after all!

And so, we are planning a special focus for children each Sunday morning in Advent. Families can order their own "at home clock" to follow along or make their own! Take-home activities will also be available to keep the conversation going. And children can light the Advent candles each week. Ask Pastor Karen for details.

Weekly devotional resources will be available to you online, or in hard copy to pick up at the church.



**Note:** We are grateful for the good work of our colleagues at "Barn Geese Worship" for continuing to create creative resources for churches.



### Longest Night Worship – December 21, 7 pm

This Longest Night Worship uses the Northern Hemisphere's lengthening darkness to hold space for those who struggle around the holidays. This year, we will use a reverse Tenebrae liturgy that begins with unlit candles on the Advent wreath that are lit throughout the service. Light will slowly seep into the worship time and space, flowing in and around song and scripture, prayer and lament. (These services are sometimes called Darkest Night or Blue Christmas.)



## Choir History

John Wise recently created this numbered graphic for a treasured photo that hangs in the Trinity choir room. Then, with help from JoAnn Rider Paulus, Linda Humes and Miriam Wise to identify these members, he built the roster of names (see opposite page). Just a few faces remain unidentified. If you recognize them, let John know (email [yyyjon@aol.com](mailto:yyyjon@aol.com)).



## Choir History, cont'd...

Choir picture names - Names correspond with the numbers in the picture on opposite page...

1. Irvin Boose
- 2.
3. Jane Douglas
4. Dr. Norman Keefer
5. Virginia Kutz
6. Elwood Straub
7. Twila Cook
8. Carl Straub
9. Viola Wilt
10. Lewis Cook
11. Arlene Sealover
12. George Uhler
13. Beverly DeVore
14. Charles McGregor
- 15.
16. Jesse Starzell
17. ? Wilt
18. Mrs. Asa Stephenson
19. Ava Zeigler (Lamason)
20. Mable Scott
21. Martha Rider
22. Rev. Robert Clark
23. Julie Guyer
24. Ann McDowell
25. Margee Landis
26. Bonnie Thrush
27. Suzanne Miller
28. JoAnn Rider (Paulus

29. Jack Wills
30. Philip Clark (pastor's son)
31. Barb Yost
32. Ginny Wills
33. Susan Stone
34. Bonnie Alleman
35. Dick Wills
36. Revere Williams
37. Jack Scott
- 38.
39. Polly Leitzel
40. Dick Landis
41. Ronald Eckerd
42. Janice Zeigler
43. Judy Trimble
44. Lorraine Simpson?
45. Cindy Alleman
46. Trudy Zeigler
47. Priscilla Clark
- 48.
49. Bobby Wills
50. Jayne Rider
51. Linda Williams
52. Nancy Trimble
53. Eric Stone?
- 54.
55. Tim Alleman?
56. Susan Rider (Pitcher)



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join our men on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday morning of each month at 8 am, at [C.C's Kitchen](#), 710 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA. David Durbin usually leads each month with some words of inspiration from scripture followed by lively discussion. All men are welcome!



## History Corner

History Corner is what I hope will be a continuing contribution to the Tidings for people to enjoy little known facts about the history of our church. Please don't hesitate to provide feedback or a little bit of historical information you would like to see in the future.

- Mike Hartman

## History Corner

*Did you know...* Our church actually has three cornerstones? The first one is dated 1858 and is in the front west corner of the church. The second one is on the corner of the west end entrance dated 1989. The one recently discovered is above the dropdown ceiling just inside the west end entrance and is dated 1924. It was laid when construction of the back end of the church was begun.

## Partners for Sacred Place Conference

Pastor Karen, Stacey Zeller, Deb and I recently had an opportunity to attend a unique and engaging conference in Philadelphia. Partners for Sacred Places, a national, non-sectarian, non-profit organization sponsored the event. They are dedicated to the preservation, transition and increased community use of older religious properties.

Discussions centered on methodologies used to assess properties and assets, how to make better use of available spaces and resources, and how to increase the usage of those spaces by partnering with community organizations. As a side note, we learned that it is possible (and legal!) for churches to actually rent their spaces, as long as all profit/non-profit rules, regulations and tax codes are followed.

One of the basic premises of Partners for Sacred Places is that not only does a church have historic and architectural value as a landmark, but it also has public value and is important to the community because of its outreach programs and partnerships with local organizations.

Discussions were also held regarding the matching funds program that is offered. For a church that has a particular project that needs to be completed and will enhance service to the community but cannot be accomplished without assistance, this can be a valuable resource to help with that effort. Once accepted into the program, funds raised by the church will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. Unfortunately, any existing funds the church has prior to acceptance into the program cannot be used.

Overall, the conference was interesting and informative, with a lot of experience and ideas being shared among the other church representatives. However, additional research and conversations will be needed to determine if this program is a good fit for our church.

By Mike Hartman  
Council President

Celebrating



AT THE INTERSECTION  
OF HERITAGE, FAITH,  
& COMMUNITY

**Partners for Sacred Places**

## Funeral Planning & Senior Resources Event Recap

On Saturday, September 23, a group of approximately 25 Trinity members and community friends gathered for a day to discuss resources regarding aging at home or in the care of others, getting end-of-life legal documents in order, and outlining wishes for our, or a loved one's, funeral. Although none of these matters are particularly fun or easy to think and talk about, this day was carefully planned to be an open, comfortable dialogue about these inevitabilities of life, and I would venture to say that we all felt the benefit of participating.

We heard from Pastor Karen Durbin and Melissa Jacoby about what to expect when planning a funeral at Trinity (or most anywhere, really). Suggestions for scripture and music were provided, and Pastor supplied a worksheet that can be completed by an individual outlining their personal preferences for their own funeral so that it may be kept on file at Trinity for when the need arises. This can be such a gift to your family... when that time comes, not only will you have eliminated a number of decisions that they would have to make in a time of extraordinary grief, but your own wishes can be honored in just the way that you would like.

Karen Schmick, chair of our Fellowship Committee, coordinated the lunch for the day, giving us a "taste" of what a funeral luncheon might look like.

Matthew Thomsen, member and local family law attorney, spoke about wills, Powers of

Attorney, and estate planning, offering extremely helpful information about the important documents that we should all put into place while we are still able to make those decisions. I offered some samples and insights on obituaries and how gathering personal details and relevant history for your own obituary can be a gift to your family as well.

Finally, representatives from both Messiah Lifeways and Country Meadows came to share information about adult day care, in-home care, and residential care. There are many types of services available at our local facilities, and they were generous in sharing their expertise.

This was a day chock-full of important information, and I thank Pastor Karen, Melissa, Debbie Schue, and members of our Worship and Music Life Ministry for all the work they did to put this event together. Thanks, too, to all of the speakers and local retirement facility representatives who attended. There was a good bit of resource information provided that day... if you are interested in getting copies of anything, including the funeral planning worksheet for Trinity's file, please reach out to either Pastor Karen or Debbie Schue.

- Stacey Zeller

See pictures from the Funeral Planning & Sr. Resource Event on following page.

## SYNOD NEWS

The Lower Susquehanna Synod has an on-line newsletter that provides information about what is going on around the SYNOD! Just go to the LSS website: <http://www.lss-elca.org/>



## Pictures from Funeral Planning & Senior Resource Event, held on September 23 ...



Trinity's Funeral Palls



Matt Thomsen of Thomsen Family Law, discussing estate and will planning.



We had a good crowd for a rainy Saturday!



A delicious example of a typical funeral lunch, coordinated by Karen Schmick.

If you were unable to attend the event and would like access to some of the items that were covered that day, please visit our website: <https://wordpress.com/page/trinity-on-main.org/5532>



## New Tidings Feature

### Why do they do that?

A new feature of our monthly newsletter is "Why do they do that?" People may often wonder about our liturgy, the symbols in our sanctuary, or other random things about Trinity Ev Lutheran Church. This feature will attempt to answer some of your pressing questions.



Q: Why do we use different musical settings for the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise each season?

A: "Repetitive frameworks let us feel as if we're part of the story; creative twists on those frameworks keep us engaged."

~ Josh Langhoff

Our Lutheran liturgy is a repetitive framework of worship, comprised of prayer and repentance, word, sacrament and sending. But repetition without any variation could become tedious. Using different musical settings periodically through the year enlivens our attention to the framework of the story itself and, ultimately, to Christ, the center of this story and our worship.

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

Trinity Church will be collecting new, unwrapped gifts for children whose families are struggling during Christmas. More details coming soon. Watch for an announcement in an upcoming bulletin!



**JUST A REMINDER to turn your clocks back and get that extra hour of sleep before church on Sunday, November 5!!**



Where there  
is love  
there is  
**New HOPE**  
Ministries  
*Sharing Christ's love by meeting human needs*

**Need help?** If you know someone needs help with food or dealing with a financial crisis, please contact us. (717) 432-2087

**Wish list:** Please see website for specific needs by Center: [www.nhm-pa.org](http://www.nhm-pa.org)

**We could use your help!**

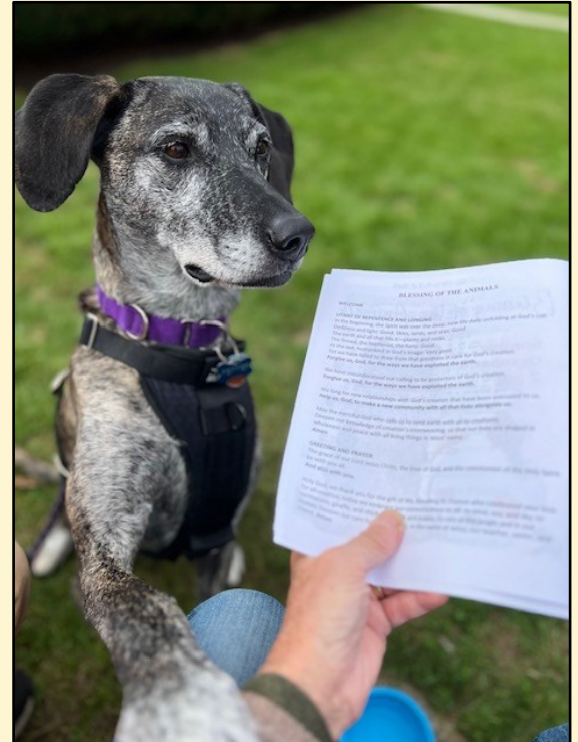
Please prayerfully consider volunteering time at New Hope Ministries! [www.nhm-pa.org](http://www.nhm-pa.org)



## October Event Highlights

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We met some cute furry friends at our Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 8! Many blessings to these pets who attended: Harley; Riley; Bella Durbin; Ben; Bella Montgomery, and Pepper. And also the people who brought them: Beverly and Denny; Pastor Karen and David; Maxine; Paula and Jim; and Robinette, Koen and Melissa. Here are some of our four-legged and two-legged friends....





## October Event Highlights, cont'd

### Community Dinner

We had a wonderful evening of fellowship and delicious food with our neighbors on Sunday, October 15 at our Community Dinner. Thank you to everyone who helped with setting up, cleaning up, and serving the meal!





## October Event Highlights, cont'd

More Community Dinner Photos . . .





## October Event Highlights, cont'd

### Mechanicsburg Streets of Treats

What a fun day this was, with tons of candy, and kids, pets and parents stopping by to say hello!





## Community Outreach

# FREE Adult Clothing

Saturday, Nov. 11  
9-11am



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

### Blessing Box

Thank you for your generosity during the "Food Drive". Because of your kindness our shelves are restock and many families will experience our love for our community.

#### Food Items in short supply:

Cereal  
Boxed Macaroni & Cheese  
Canned Chicken meat  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Potatoes  
Diced Tomatoes & Tomato Sauce  
Knorr Noodles/Rice Packets

### Clothing Closet

Trinity's Clothing Closet has phased out our spring and summer adult clothing and is looking for clean and gently used fall and winter adult clothing through the rest of the year and into 2024. We have no small men's or women's clothing currently. T-Shirts and jeans are welcome year round.



Many thanks to all who help with Trinity's Closet on Main. Please remember that all donations must be in closed bags and labeled with your name and phone numbers. Bags should not be left outside the church. At this time we need to restock our supplies. We are in particular need of smaller sizes of warm clothing. Thank you. Our next Clothing Closet will be held on Saturday, November 11.



### October Church Council Highlights:

- Clothing Closet is now accepting fall and winter items. We especially need men's and women's items in size small.
- Volunteers are needed on the Property Committee! Please see Mike Hartman if you are able to help.
- Mark your calendars for the semi-annual congregation meeting, Sunday, November 26, 2023. Dessert is offered at 6:00 pm, and the meeting begins at 6:30 pm.

A HUGE *Thank You!*

to everyone who donated food and personal care items for our Blessing Box and green beans for the New Hope Ministries Thanksgiving food drive. We received 533 items for the Blessing Box and 226 cans of green beans, thanks to your generosity! All of the items were blessed on Sunday, October 22 during worship and are headed out into the community for those in need, with much appreciation.





## Birthdays, Etc.



11/03 Bob Lamason  
 11/04 Susan Eckerd  
 11/07 Deanna Walton  
 11/12 Robinette Butts  
 11/12 Anthony Moats  
 11/21 Joseph Hafer  
 11/21 Aubrey Hartman  
 11/22 Tom Hocker  
 11/24 Jon Hartman  
 11/27 Rachel Wise  
 11/30 Cortney Thomsen

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



### TIDINGS DEADLINE:

**JUST A REMINDER** that the deadline for newsletter items is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue.  
Thank you!

### JUST A REMINDER:

Don't forget to check your mailboxes in the hallway outside the elevator each time you are at church !

The following notes and gift basket came in from Country Meadows following the Funeral Planning & Sr. Resources event held in September:

Pastor Karen and Staff,  
Thank you so much for inviting Country Meadows to be part of your seminar! We really enjoyed being a part of it! - Brittany Klinger

Thank you for all you do to bring the word of God to our community! - Angela Merkel



### 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)

# NOVEMBER

| Sun   | Mon | Tue                                     | Wed  | Thu                             | Fri  | Sat  |
|---|-----|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
|   |     |   | 1<br><br>6:15 pm Bell Choir<br>7:15 Choir  | 2<br><br>6:30 pm Bible Study    | 3  | 4  |
| 5<br>Daylight Savings<br>Time Ends<br>8 am Spoken<br>Worship<br>8:45 am Snax n<br>Study<br>10:15 am Worship                                       | 6   | 7<br>Election Day<br><br>1 pm Staff Mtg | 8<br><br>6:15 pm Bell Choir<br>7:15 Choir  | 9<br><br>7 pm Church<br>Council | 10<br><br>4 pm Set up for<br>Trinity's Closet on<br>Main | 11<br>Veterans' Day<br><a href="#">9-11 am Clothing<br/>Closet</a> |
| 12<br>8 am Spoken<br>Worship<br>8:45 am Snax n<br>Study<br>10:15 am Worship   | 13  | 14                                      | 15<br><br>6:15 pm Bell Choir<br>7:15 Choir | 16<br><br>6:30 pm Bible Study   | 17   | 18   |
| 19<br>8 am Spoken<br>Worship<br>8:45 am Snax n<br>Study<br>10:15 am Worship<br>with Music   | 20  | 21                                      | 22<br><br>6:15 pm Bell Choir<br>7:15 Choir | 23<br><br>Thanksgiving Day      | 24   | 25   |
| 26<br>8 am Spoken<br>Worship<br>9 am Confirmation<br>Class<br>10:15 am Worship<br>with Music<br><br>6 pm Semi-Annual<br>Congregational<br>Meeting | 27  | 28                                      | 29<br><br>6:15 pm Bell Choir<br>7:15 Choir | 30<br><br>6:30 pm Bible Study   |  |  |
|   |     |   |  |                                 |  |  |