

# TRINITY TIDINGS



132 E. Main St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-766-2662

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Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;  
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.  
Palm 96:12 NIV

I love the beauty of Autumn.

The air takes on a welcome freshness and the colors of red and gold and orange stand out in beautiful contrast to the green pines. Day by day the trees let go of their leaves. They flutter gently to the ground and crunch when you walk on them. If you stop long enough to listen, you can hear each leaf falling as it adds its own unique color to the landscape.

The colors are particularly radiant this year. Psalm 96:12 expresses it well. The jubilation of creation. The trees are singing for joy. They are crying out; look how beautiful I am! My changing colors are spectacular! Don't miss it. The sun is lighting up the show. I am singing my praise to God. Stop and look and rejoice with me.

Today, as I sit out on my deck the sky seems bluer than it has ever been. Breathing deeply becomes easier, and I remember how God brings newness and change into our lives. Sometimes gently. Sometimes suddenly. And I am reminded of the goodness in finding balance in life -- work and play, family and friends, solitude and quiet reflection; to be grateful for God's beauty revealed in creation; to sit and notice and breathe it all in. To be renewed there.

As a church, we have just celebrated Reformation Sunday. Now we are moving toward the close of one church year and the beginning of another. Here the changing colors of worship call for our attention. The paraments and banners turn from green to red, to the festival white of All Saint's and Christ the King Sundays, and finally to the blue of Advent.

These changing colors of worship invite us to remember God's faithfulness --the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the constant breath of Spirit that blows in and through us. Listen and watch! How is God's Spirit renewing and changing you these days?

In Christ,  
Pastor Karen



**November 2024**



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



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## Music Notes

*All who hunger, gather gladly;  
 holy manna is our bread.  
 Come from wilderness and wand'ring.  
 Here in truth we will be fed.*  
 ELW #461, v. 1

The farm is now at rest, and crops that flourished there all season are securely tucked away on shelves and in freezers, awaiting occasions like Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas Day brunch and other “*family-and-friends-around-the-table*” festivities that mark these remaining months of 2024.

But not everyone has get-togethers around meals, for the holidays *OR* even on an ordinary day.

This past summer, Trinity offered “*Lunch on the Lawn*” on ten different Thursdays. Volunteers donated a simple, tasty meal each time, and Trinity folks and a few of our neighbors on/near Main Street would gather at noon for food and fellowship.

It was an easy gesture of hospitality. We would have been eating lunch on our own anyway...let's eat together! And meeting in the yard, with the church as our backdrop, was another opportunity to be good neighbors.

As the weeks unfolded, camaraderie grew among our group. We came to expect each other on Thursdays. And if someone was absent, we knew they'd be welcomed the following week with, “*We missed you last time!*”

We chatted about the weather, music, pets, our favorite sports teams, and, of course, ideas for the next menu. But there were also, occasionally, quieter conversations where folks shared their disappointments and struggles. And we empathized with and encouraged each other.

In his book, “*Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*,” author Michael Frost points out that “*the one thing that Jesus actually told us to do every time we meet together was to eat.*”

He quotes Jesus's words of institution as presented in Luke 22:19 and continues:

*“The table ought to be the primary symbol of the Christian gathering. It represents hospitality, inclusivity, generosity, and grace. The table is the great equalizer in relationships. When we eat together, we discover the inherent humanity of all people. We share stories. And hopes. And fears. And disappointments. People open up to each other. And we ourselves can open up to share the same things - including our faith in Jesus.”*

“*Lunch on the Lawn*” is over for this season and I've returned to eating at noon back at my desk or in my car (or not at all, as Thursdays can be busy). I've also reflected on how the simple act of those lunches cultivated profound moments of blessing and belonging for all of us.

*All who hunger, sing together,  
 Jesus Christ is living bread.  
 Come from loneliness and longing.  
 Here in peace we have been fed.  
 Blest are those who from this table  
 live their days in gratitude.  
 Taste and see the grace eternal.  
 Taste and see that God is good.*  
 ELW #461, v. 3



## Christian Education Opportunities



### Snax n Study for November and December:

Each Sunday, "Snax" begin at 8:45 am followed by a study. Watch the bulletin board at the west entrance for the changing schedule for leaders, topics, and snax. Beginning in November, we will be looking at Season 4 of The Chosen.

### FIRST SUNDAY KIDS

A special Sunday for families of young children continues on the first Sunday of each month at 10:15 worship. Families are encouraged to sit together on the right side of the sanctuary at the front, so they are close to the double doors for their "special time" of Bible stories, songs, and crafts. Before the sermon, the children are invited to the front for a song and then are dismissed to the "family room." They may return before communion.



Note to other adults --- if possible, please leave the first 5 pews on the right hand side available for families with young children on these Sundays. Thanks

Each person who works with our children has up to date safe church clearances on file with church.

## Bible Study

Bible Study will meet on Thursday November 14 at 6:30 pm.



*I will instruct you and  
teach you in the way  
you should go;  
I will counsel you with  
my loving eye on you.  
Psalm 32:8*

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

continues the fourth Thursday of each month, 8 am at C.C.s Kitchen on Main Street, Mechanicsburg. However, please note, that there will be no Men's Breakfast in Nov and Dec.



## 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/>

Are you looking for a way that you can serve at Trinity Church? If you are, please consider signing up to help during the worship services. We can always use Greeters, Assisting Ministers and Lectors. If you feel you would like to help in one of these areas, please contact the church office or let Pastor Karen know!



## What's Coming Up!

### Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service

We are joining with other Lutheran Churches in Mechanicsburg, for a Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, November 24, at 6:30 pm. To enrich our worship, there will be the opportunity for anyone who wishes to join in a joint pick up choir. The choir will rehearse at 5:30pm that evening before worship. All are invited to stay following the service for a time of fellowship, tasty pies, and other refreshments.



### Congregational Meeting

November 17

to approve 2025 spending plan  
and new Council members.

Join us at 6 pm for desserts,  
followed by the meeting at 6:30!



### CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING EVENT!

Join us on December 15 after 10:15 worship to make Christmas Cards for the special people in your life. We will begin with a simple lunch and then make beautiful Christmas cards under the direction of Pasty Shaw and Amy Boya. The supplies will be supplied for you and no experience is needed. BUT --- we need to know that you are coming, or at least hope to be able to come so we can have enough materials for everyone. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board inside the west end door. There is no charge for this event, but donations are welcome.

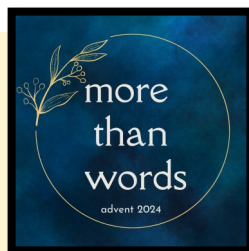


## Advent is Coming!

Believe it or not, the season of Advent is right around the corner. Advent 1 is on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. This year, we are once again using resources from BarnGeese worship for our liturgies. Together we will consider the various "comings" of Christ, including his coming as an infant in Bethlehem, how he will come in glory at the end of time, and how he comes to us daily.

This year's theme, "More Than Words," focuses on the familiar words of our traditional banners and Advent Wreath: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Of course, Advent is more than just four words, and so, each Sunday will begin and end with God's actions, God's divine characteristics, and the work of the Holy Spirit. It is God's work that will frame the words of hope, peace, joy, and love, and the ways we respond to God's work.

As in past years, home devotional materials will be available. More information is coming.





# Blessing of the Animals

Blessing of the Animals was held on our lawn on September 29 at 2 pm. It was a rainy day, but our spirits were not dampened! Melissa set up her pop up tents and we welcomed 7 dogs and around 17 adults.

We are getting ready to take your donations of pet food, toys, snacks, and blankets to Speranza Animal Rescue! Thank you to all who supported this event.





## Event Highlights

### Community Meal

A community meal was held on the lawn at Trinity, on Sunday, October 6, at 5 pm. It was a beautiful afternoon, and most likely our most successful meal yet. Approximately 120 guests and helpers enjoyed and served a meal of chili and chicken corn soup prepared by St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Seven Mechanicsburg churches work together to offer these meals seasonally. Our next meal will be held at Buhrig's Gathering Place, February 16, 5 pm.





## Event Highlights

# Streets of Treats

Trinity Church had a great time participating in Mechanicsburg's Streets of Treats on Saturday, October 19. We had over 900 visitors come by! Here are a few pictures from that fun day. . .





Event Highlights, cont'd..

## Streets of Treats





## Youth News

### Confirmation

A new Confirmation Class has begun at Trinity. We are meeting on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9 am. Let Pastor Karen know if your young person is ready to deepen their faith and affirm the vows their parents made for them in baptism. It is not too late to get in on this new class.

### Youth Group

All Trinity Youth are invited to participate in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, Youth Ministries.

Director of Youth Ministry, Kellen Michalowski, has graciously invited our youth to be part of all the great stuff that is available. Koen Thomas has been an active participant since last year. Ask him if you want to know what the vibe is.

There are two age tracks:

- SPYG is open to all current middle and high school age youth (6th through 12 th grade).
- SPYG Jr. is our "junior" youth group, open to all current elementary school aged youth (kindergarten through 5th grade).

Check out highlights for the coming year, some of the big events, new things, and the flyer on the next two pages!

### Big Events:

- Mega-Retreat at Camp Nawakwa - Dec. 6th-8th
- Winterfest Sr. High Retreat at the Wyndham Resort, Lancaster - Jan. 3rd-5th
- Dinner Church Fundraiser - Jan. 11th
- Youth Sunday/Breakfast Church - April 27th
- SHYA (Sr. High & Young Adults) Retreat - May 16th-18th
- Confirmation Camp - June 15th-21st
- LutheranHANDS Mission Trip - July 13th-19th

### New Events:

- D&D&D - We have added a new type of "Flex Meeting" to our calendar this year. Inspired by the positive reception of our Dungeons & Dragons Storytelling meeting we had last year, we have incorporated D&D&D into our flex meeting rotation. We are calling it D&D&D - Dungeons & Dragons & Devotionals. It will be a few times throughout the year, on Tuesday evenings. We'll have a short devotional activity, followed by around 2 hours of D&D&D or a similar community-based game.
- Community Garden Project - We have several dates on the calendar where we are scheduled to help at the Community Garden at St. Pete's!






### Volunteer with us!

There are many volunteer opportunities available. Please give us a call, or visit our website to see how you can be a part of our ministry!

## We are SPYG, you are welcome here!



## Follow Us!

 @st.peteryg  
 St Pete's Mechanicsburg Youth Group  
 [stpetermechanicsburg.com/youth/](http://stpetermechanicsburg.com/youth/)

## About Us

Welcome To SPYG! SPYG stands for St. Pete's Youth Group. SPYG is all about shining the light and love of Christ on our youth, as well as giving them the tools and opportunities to shine light and love on the rest of the world! SPYG is not limited to only youth from the congregation, many youth from outside St Pete's join us regularly for SPYG meetings and events. Our youth are involved in a myriad of leadership and outreach roles both inside the congregation and in the community. SPYG is all about building relationships – with each other, and with Christ. Join us for an event where you will find fellowship, faith formation, and friends new & old!

SPYG is open to all current middle and high school age youth (6th through 12th grade).

SPYG Jr. is our "junior" youth group, open to all current elementary school aged youth (kindergarten through 5th grade).

For more information about SPYG, reach out to our Director of Youth Ministry, Kellen Michalowski, at [stpetericyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stpetericyouth@gmail.com)

Learn more about SPYG by scanning this QR Code with a smartphone!



## 2024-2025 Youth Ministry Calendar



St. Pete's Youth Group  
 St. Peter Lutheran Church  
 Mechanicsburg, PA



## September '24

- 15th - Kickoff Scavenger Hunt & Worship  
Ending at Camp Nawakwa
- 27th-29th - Alive Jr. High Synod Retreat  
at Camp Nawakwa

## October '24

- 6th - SPYG Jr. Meeting  
SPYG Meeting
- 15th - D&D&D Flex Meeting
- 20th - Mt. Gretna Hike & Youth Meeting  
at Palm, Palmyra
- 26th - Trunk-Or-Treat (SPYG Jr. Event)

## November '24

- 2nd - Community Garden Project
- 7th - Empowerment Project Flex Meeting  
at Chaka CrossFit
- 10th - SPYG Jr. Meeting  
SPYG Meeting

## December '24

- 6th-8th - Winter MEGA-Retreat  
at Camp Nawakwa
- 15th - Family Gingerbread Day  
SPYG Sr. High Meeting
- 17th - D&D&D Flex Meeting
- 22nd - SPYG Christmas Party



# 2024-2025 Youth Ministry Calendar



## January '25

- 2nd - Empowerment Project Flex Meeting  
at Chaka CrossFit
- 3rd-5th - Winterfest Sr. High Synod Retreat  
at Wyndham Resort, Lancaster
- 11th - Spaghetti Dinner Church Fundraiser
- 26th - SPYG Jr. Meeting  
SPYG Meeting

## February '25

- 7th-8th - Lock-in
- 18th - D&D&D Flex Meeting
- 23rd - SPYG Jr. Meeting  
SPYG Meeting

## March '25

- 9th - SPYG Jr. Meeting  
SPYG Meeting

## April '25

- 3rd - Empowerment Project Flex Meeting  
at Chaka CrossFit
- 13th - SPYG Meeting
- 19th - Faith Party (SPYG Jr. Event)
- 22nd - D&D&D Flex Meeting
- 2nd - Community Garden Project
- 27th - Youth Sunday Breakfast Church



## May '25

- 4th - LYF & SPYG Joint Meeting
- 10th - Wittel Farm Flex Meeting
- 16th-18th - Sr. High & Young Adults Retreat  
at Camp Nawakwa

## June '25

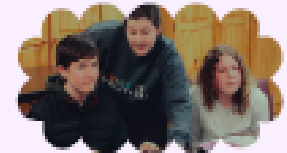
- 1st - SPYG Last Meeting
- 15th - 21st - Confirmation Camp

## July '25

- 13th-19th - LutheranHANDS Mission Trip
- 20th-26th - Synod LT Camp

## August '25

- 2nd - Wittel Farm & Picnic



**SPYG Meetings** are typically 5:30pm to 8:30pm. They are open to all current 6th-12th graders

**SPYG Jr. Meetings** are typically 12pm to 2pm and include lunch. They are open to all current K-5th graders

**Flex Meetings** are non-Sunday events that are open to all! Family members, friends, congregational members are all welcome!

Flex Meetings include the Growing Project/Hunger Ministry at **Wittel Farm**, practicing faith, fitness, and fellowship at **The Empowerment Project**, and **D&D&D-Dungeons & Dragons & Devotionals**, our roleplaying game based fellowship opportunities. No need to know anything about D&D to attend!

# 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, November 24.



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## Blessing Box Update

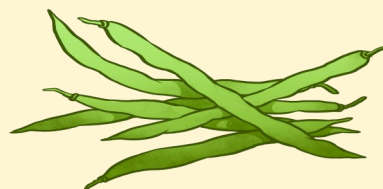
As we continue supporting our neighbors through our "Blessing Box Ministry" these are the items in short supply. Please place donations on the table outside of fellowship hall. Just a reminder to avoid glass containers due to the colder weather and the possibility of breakage.

A total of 2189 items have been donated so far in 2024.

### Items needed:

Cereal  
Canned Fruit  
Spaghetti and Spaghetti sauce  
Canned Soups and Ramen  
Noodle Soup  
Hormel Single serving meal  
Rice and Pasta Pouches  
Instant Mashed Potatoes  
Canned Yams and potatoes  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Meat  
Canned Beans (Baked, Kidney)

A total of **2189** items have been donated thus far in 2024. Thank you for your generous support.



A **HUGE thank you** to everyone who donated green beans in September/October for New Hope Ministries' Thanksgiving green bean collection. Together we collected 230 cans (267 lbs), beating last year's total and providing a healthy vegetable for many families in our area this Thanksgiving!



# FREE

## Adult Clothing

### Saturday, Nov. 9

### 9-11am



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

## Trinity's Clothing Closet

Our Bridging the Gap/Clothing Closet Ministry has been operating for 4 years and 2 months. During that time, we have served 1,333 visitors (80% Mechanicsburg neighbors, most who walk to the Clothing Closet and have become friends, and 20% drive). We have upcycled 10,695 items (90% adult clothing, 10% Do-Dads). All possible by you, by donating, volunteering, and praying. Even though less than a handful have come to a Sunday service, all know that once a month they have a place for some clothes, coffee and a small bag of food to go. They know they are loved. Thank you.

Winter will be here in a flash. We are collecting gently used, clean clothing for Men and Women, sizes Small to Extra Large and up. Most are looking for jeans, long sleeve shirts, coats/jackets, sneakers/shoes/boots. We are low on all sizes, but small/medium especially. Any donations will be happily received. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me at church or: [hzielonis@gmail.com](mailto:hzielonis@gmail.com) or give me a call: 717-648-0757.

Thank you everyone for all you do, I know we are making a difference to those around us.  
- Heather Zielonis.



## Birthdays, Etc.

# NOVEMBER

## Happy Birthday!

11/3	Bob Lamason
11/7	Deanna Walton
11/12	Robinette Butts
11/12	Anthony Moats
11/21	Joe Hafer
11/21	Aubrey Hartman
11/22	Tom Hocker
11/23	Eric 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!

## Church Council Highlights

- ♦ To all Committee Chairs: Updated information for the 2025 spending plan should be submitted to Harold Miller by September 22, 2024.
- ♦ Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on Reformation Sunday, October 27, for worship and a potluck lunch following the 10:15 am service! More details to come.
- ♦ Thank you, Alice Metka, for painting the Blessing Box!

# THANK YOU!

Thank you to our neighbor, Joe, across the street, for donating the beautiful plants that are now gracing the fellowship hall and various places in the church!

**Remember to Fall Back,  
Saturday, November 2  
at 2 am!**

## 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

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### Parish Administrator Contact Info

Debbie Schue

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

## TIDINGS DEADLINE:

**JUST A REMINDER** that the  
deadline for newsletter items is the 10th of  
each month for the following issue.  
**Have a good month!**



# NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> DST ends 8 am Spoken Worship <a href="#">8:45 am Snax n Study</a> <a href="#">9 am, Confirmation Class</a> 10:15 am Worship	<b>4</b> 7 pm, Pre-Election Time of Prayer	<b>5</b> Election Day	<b>6</b>  6:30 pm Bells Choir 7:15 pm Choir	<b>7</b>  7 pm Church Council	<b>8</b>  4 pm Set up for Trinity's Closet on Main	<b>9</b> <a href="#">9-11 am Clothing Closet</a>
<b>10</b> 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship	<b>11</b> Veterans' Day  <b>Church office closed</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1 pm, Staff Meeting  6:30 pm Bells Choir 7:15 pm Choir	<b>14</b>  <a href="#">7:15 Bible Study</a>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am, Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music <a href="#">6 pm, Congregat'l Meeting</a>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:30 pm Bells Choir 7:15 pm Choir	<b>21</b>  10 am, Conference Meeting at Trinity  6:30 pm, Worship & Music Mtg	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8 am Spoken Worship 10:15 am Worship with Music  <a href="#">6:30 pm, Joint Thanksgiving service at Trindle Springs</a>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  6:30 pm Bells Choir 7:15 pm Choir	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving Day  <b>Church office closed</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9 am, Hanging of the Greens