

TRINITY TIDINGS



132 E. Main St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-766-2662

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Each year, the themes of Advent move us from darkness to light with the traditional words hope, peace, joy, and love. It seems I always long for a bit more of each of these.

The good news of the gospel is that God provides all that we truly need in the person of Jesus Christ.

No matter what seems dark in our lives, the light is just over the horizon. The hope of Christ with us is coming and is already with us. Thanks be to God.

May this poem encourage you this day and into 2025.

We Live by Hope*

Hope is not anticipation of a certain outcome,
but trusting goodness.

The root and center of all things
is an abiding goodness, powerful and eternal.

Despite all danger and evil, all fear and hurt,
that goodness, that grace, endures.

We trust it.
And that is our hope.

Hope has survived war and tyranny.
It has also at times prevented them.

Trust that love, more powerful than fear,
that grace, which never forsakes us.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness cannot overcome it.

This trust is not wishing. It's knowing.
This is hope.

May the light of Christ bring you hope, peace, joy, and love this day
and always,
Pastor Karen Durbin

*(By Steve Garness Holmes From "Unfolding Light" www.unfoldinglight.net)

December 2024



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



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Music Notes

*"In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace."*
~ Luke 1:78-79

Waiting

One of the hymns we'll sing in Advent goes: "...
*Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in
your promise. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus
brings peace.*" (ACS 905, v. 1) *Waiting always
sounds so much easier on paper or in a song
than in actual practice, whether what we're
waiting for is as big-picture as justice and
peace or as small-scale as moments in line, in
traffic, in meetings, or on hold, all while
navigating everyday life.*

Recently, our family experienced waiting when
"Puppy-Who-Needed-a-Home-and-Came-to-
Live-at-Our-House" returned from the vet
adorned in a plastic cone...that needed to
remain securely around his neck for 10 to 14
days! Eventually, he upgraded to an inflatable
donut ring (pictured) and managed through
the required time frame. And yes, we humans
survived in caring for him, too.

Waiting can be arduous, even when the
anticipated outcome is known: a date on the
calendar or a generational promise by God to
reconcile God's people and creation. Pastor,
author and hymn writer Herbert Brokering, in his
book **Dog Psalms**, offers an encouraging,
poignant, whimsical take on waiting, first from
the view of "dog" and then an accompanying
human version. Here are excerpts from his
essay: *"I Wait."*

I AM DOG. *I am patient.*

*I can be taught to wait. I do not prefer to wait
in a long line; I want to be the only dog
waiting... When I know you love me, I live for you
with every breath...I wait for you sometimes
while singing, sometimes while whimpering,
howling, wanting with my whole heart. I will wait
without end, knowing I am wanted. I am dog,
willing, patient. Waiting prepares me for your
presence.*

GOD,

You have given me the gift of waiting...I wait for
seasons; they go. I wait for another; it comes. I
wait for days to dawn, nights to darken, seeds
to break open, fruit to fall. As I wait, I learn the
gift of patience and the joy of surprise. While I
wait, I find myself in your presence. I wait for
you; and in waiting, I see you are here, waiting.

- Melissa Jacoby, Minister of Music



December Worship

Advent is Coming!

Believe it or not, the season of Advent is right around the corner. Advent 1 is on Sunday, December 1st. This year, we are once again using resources from BarnGeese worship for our liturgies.

This year's theme, "More than Words," will help us dive into the lectionary lessons to explore how the traditional Advent words, Hope, Peace, Joy, and love, invite us, challenge us, and prepare us for Jesus' arrival, drawing us closer to God who is even now drawing closer to us.

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



Christmas Eve



Candlelight worship will be held on **December 24, 8:30 pm**. Bring along your family and friends as we usher in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Lessons and Carols

will be held on Sunday, December 29, at 9 am. Please note that there is one worship service this Sunday.



ADVENT

Midweek Advent time of worship
will be held
December 4, 11, and 18
in the sanctuary at 7 pm.

December Fellowship Events

December 15 - CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING EVENT!

Join us 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 Patsy 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 posted on the bulletin board inside the west end door. There is no charge for this event, but donations are welcome. Consider making a card for our homebound folks!



Please Note:

The church office will be closed for Thanksgiving Day, November 28, and for the Christmas holiday from December 24 thru January 2.

Pastor will be away on Study leave in Turkey and Greece, December 31 – January 17. The Rev. Martha Boyd will be available for pastoral emergencies.

The Rev. Elaine Dent will our supply pastor on January 5th and January 12th.

The Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann will be our supply pastor on January 19th.

December 22 - Annual Christmas Tea

Join us for our Annual Christmas Tea in Fellowship Hall, following 10:15 worship. If you can, bring some tea sandwiches or Christmas cookies to share.



THANK YOU!

to everyone who donated gift items for New Hope Ministries' Christmas Blessing Express. The gifts will be given to local families, who will be able to choose the items that most suit their family's needs. Your generosity will help many families in our community have a very blessed and merry Christmas!

REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

Color choices are red, white or marble, and the cost is \$12 per plant. **Deadline for orders is December 15.**

Contact the office for an order form or pick one up at the church!

Christian Education Opportunities

Snax n Study for November and December:

Each Sunday, "Snax" begin at 8:45 am followed by a time of study at 9 am. This year, Season 4 of The Chosen is back through Palm Sunday. Throughout the year, there will also be DVD studies by Dr Am Jill-Levine sprinkled in from – "The Difficult Words of Jesus" and "Signs and Wonders." Watch the bulletin board at the west entrance for the changing schedule for topics and snax.

Class will not be held on December 22 or 29.



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

will resume on Wednesdays
in 2025, beginning
January 22, 2025,
at 7 pm.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

will not meet in December, but will resume on Thursday, January 23, 8 am at C.C.s family Restaurant on Main Street, Mechanicsburg.



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!

Event Highlights

Preserving Trinity's History

By Debra Hartman

On October 14, 2024, lifelong Trinity member and church historian, Cindy Alleman, Mike and I headed to Gettysburg Seminary to archive original historic documents relating to the foundation of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Two boxes of documents and ledgers dated from 1851 to 1931 have been scanned and preserved in the Seminary's Library Archives.

It was a cold and blustery day, but that did not deter us from visiting the Seminary's Museum to explore four levels of Civil War history which culminated with a recap by an excellent tour guide about the battle fought on June 30th to July 1st, 1863 before climbing up to the cupola to view General John Buford's vantage point of the battlefield that he monitored on those days.

To warm up, we had lunch at Garryowen Irish Pub for Shepherd's Pie, Fish and Chips, and beverages. After all, it was truly a cold and blustery day!



Community Outreach

Blessing Box Update

Thank you to all for your ongoing support for our "Blessing Box Ministry". Over the past weeks we have seen increased support from the community as they too are adding food items to the Blessing Box, throughout the week. Also, a reminder to avoid glass containers... on several occasions we have found broken containers of baby food on the pathway leading to the Box. This will help avoid the mess and need for clean-up but also the possibility of someone getting cut.

Thank you.

Items needed:

Peanut butter
Spaghetti & spaghetti sauce
Pasta & rice pouches
Canned soups & Ramen
noodle soup
Canned tomatoes
Canned pasta
Boxed stuffing
Instant mashed potatoes
Yams & potatoes
Canned vegetables, all types
Canned meats: chicken, Spam
Canned beans: baked, kidney
Hormel single serving meals



A total of **2730** items have been donated thus far in 2024. Thank you for your generous support.

Trinity's Clothing Closet

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, or wish to volunteer, please feel free to reach out to me at church or: hzielonis@gmail.com or give me a call: 717-648-0757.

- Heather Zielonis



Need help? If you or someone you know needs help with food or dealing with a financial crisis, please contact us.

(717) 432-2087 or
www.nhm-pa.org

 **FREE** 
Adult Clothing
Saturday, Dec. 14
9-11am



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



Birthdays, Etc.



12/1	Josh Wagenheim
12/3	Donald Miller
12/8	Carol Pensyl
12/14	Brett Lemanski
12/15	Bill Snoke
12/20	Bob Anderson
12/22	Emily Anderson
12/25	James Weber
12/29	Jordan Leiby
12/30	Nadine Ovack
12/30	Matt Thomsen



1/2	Cai Reisinger
1/5	Edna Votral
1/6	Michael Bahlmann
1/6	Jenna Lynch
1/6	Adam Schmick
1/9	Ron Eckerd
1/14	Harold Miller
1/18	Jim Smith
1/20	Gene Champagne
1/22	Miriam Wise
1/24	Tonya Miller
1/27	Cathy Lamason
1/27	Sarah Sabatini

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

Church Council Highlights

- The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17, with dessert beginning at 6:00 pm and the meeting beginning at 6:30 pm.
- The Hanging of the greens will take place at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 30! Many hands make light the work... please join us!
- **Opportunities for giving –**
 - Clothing Closet is in great need of fall and winter clothes, especially winter coats, and men's and women's clothing size small.
 - With the cooler weather upon us, please remember that non-perishable food donations for our Blessing Box should be in plastic containers, not glass. Be sure to check the monthly announcement sheets and Tidings for needed items.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Bill Snoke, who will be celebrating his **90th birthday** on December 15. Consider sending him a card to help him celebrate his special day! Bill's address is: 447 Sand Hill Rd, Apt 404, Hershey, PA 17033.

Office Contact Info

Church & Staff Office Hours

Mon. – Thurs. 9 AM –2 PM
(other hours as needed)

Phone: 717-766-2662

trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/TLCMech

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

Pastor Contact Info

Pastor Karen Durbin

Email: pastorkjd@gmail.com

Minister of Music Contact Info

Melissa Jacoby

Email: trinitymburgmusic@gmail.com

Parish Administrator Contact Info

Debbie Schue

Email: trinitymburgoffice@gmail.com

TIDINGS DEADLINE:

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

There will be no Tidings for the month of January.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday in Advent First Sunday Kids 8 am Spoken Worship 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am, Worship	2	3 9 am, NHM Senior Christmas Party	4 5:45 pm Bells & Choir 7 pm Advent Worship	5 7 pm Church Council	6	7
8 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study Class 10:15 am Worship	9	10	11 5:45 pm Bells & Choir 7 pm Advent Worship	12	13 4 pm Set up for Trinity's Closet on Main	14 9-11 am Clothing Closet
15 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Christmas Card Making Event	16	17	18 5:45 pm Bells & Choir 7 pm Advent Worship	19	20	21
22 8 am Spoken Worship 10:15 am Worship with Music 11:30 am Christmas Tea	23	24 <div>Church office closed - We will reopen on Monday, January 6...</div> 8:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day—	26	27	28
29 9 am Worship - Lessons & Carols	30 <div>Church office closed</div>	31 New Year's Eve				

JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Church office closed Pastor away on study leave	2	3	4
5 First Sunday Kids 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship Pastor away on study leave	6	7	8	9 7 pm Church Council	10	11
11 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 10:15 am Worship Pastor away on study leave	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am, Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music Pastor away on study leave	20 MLK Day	21	22 7 pm Bible Study	23 8 am Men's Breakfast	24	25
26 8 am Spoken Worship 10:15 am Worship with Music 11:30 am, Bridging the Gap Mtg	27	28	29 7 pm Bible Study	30	31	