

TRINITY TIDINGS



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For several weeks in January, David and I traveled with a group from United Lutheran Seminary for a study tour in Türkiye and Greece. The Rev Dr Mark Vitalis-Hoffman led the tour that took us in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul and Revelation. Our travel was physically challenging as we climbed up mountains and ancient ruins, rocky terrain, snow and ice, and slippery pathways. I am usually confident of my ability to do certain things, and because we did the same tour eight years ago, I expected to be fine this time. But I was wrong. I struggled throughout the tour with enough energy and the physical strength that I needed. Most of all, I discovered, firsthand, how much I needed to rely on the others in our group. Many times, when I was unsteady and my footsteps uncertain, an unexpected hand reached out to me. One time, as I was slipping on the icy rocks of the Acropolis in Athens and was certain that I would fall, the hand of one of our folks reached out and another extended a strong confident hand on my back.

We saw and experienced many amazing sights on our tour, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to travel and learn. But what will stick with me is the importance of watching out for others. This is, after all, how it is to be in the body of Christ. As we travel along the roads of life, we are gifts to one another, to extend a hand of support to soften a fall. And when things are particularly tough and uncertain to be a needed friend along the way. May we never forget that we are not intended to be alone, but need one another, especially in the hard times.

"Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:4-5

- Pastor Karen

February 2025



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



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Join Pastor Karen and David on February 23, 11:30 am, for a presentation on "In the Footsteps of Paul and Revelation."

If possible, bring along a lunch item to share.

Music Notes

*Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know, and live.*
~ "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"
(ELW 712, v. 4)

The Work of Christmas

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the people,
To make music in the heart.**

By Howard Thurman

Love in Living Deeds...All Year.

Christmas festivities at our house usually commence only well *after* the final songs, words, and music of Christmas Eve worship have resonated and dissipated. Over the years, we've come to appreciate "*the twelve days of Christmas*" and the afterglow following Christmas Eve night. (Also, as a church musician, sometimes I "*need*" that extra time because I didn't get everything done at home yet.) The gift of those days lingers on beyond the holidays, becoming cherished memories of the season.

Imagine how the lingering afterglow of Christmas might guide our words and deeds through *ALL* the days of 2025. In a meme I saw recently (pictured), theologian Howard Thurman refers to it as "*the work of Christmas*." Hymn writer Albert F. Bayly calls it "*love in living deeds to show*." (ELW 712)

May God's loving gift to us of Jesus, our Savior and Lord, move us in humble service toward our neighbor in this new year. *ALL year. Amen.*

- Melissa Jacoby, Minister of Music

Ringers, Singers, and Instrumentalists - Our Season, Part II

Many thanks to the Trinity musicians who joyfully and willingly offer their gifts and time to our ensembles and worship services in every season of the liturgical year. We enjoyed many meaningful performances through Ordinary Time, the festival Sundays of Reformation and All Saints', and Advent and Christmas. Our musicians will begin again on Wed., February 5, rehearsing and preparing for Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. And stay tuned, too, for exciting details coming soon about Church Music Sunday!



LENT

The Season of Lent is right around the corner ...

This year, our theme is "All We Need" by BarnGeese Worship. Each week we will explore what the scripture reveals about our needs, personally and communally. We will explore needs in sermons, children's messages, Sunday liturgies, a robust devotional guide, and midweek services focused on healing.

Some of the needs we will explore will be topics like the need for sleep, change, and beauty. Each week's scripture will redefine and expand what we think of as needs. We will rely on the Spirit to nudge us to consider needs, even the basic ones will be cast in a new light as we consider them from the perspective of our lives as God's people. Watch for ways we can focus in on needs – perhaps sharing them in prayer, or in more concrete ways.

I pray that each of us will come to this series anticipating and expecting a meaningful Lenten season.

FIRST SUNDAY KIDS

A special Sunday offering for families of young children on the first Sunday of each month at 10:15 worship. Families are encouraged to sit together. Before the sermon, children are invited to go to the "family room" for a "special time" of Bible stories, songs, and crafts. They may return to the sanctuary for communion, or remain in child care.

Children are also welcome to go to the "family room" for the entire worship time. Each person who works with our children has up to date safe church clearances on file with church.



Save these Lenten Dates

- March 5 – Ash Wednesday
(Ashes to Go at 7 am & noon.
Traditional Worship at 7.)
- March 12 – Weekly midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Worship begins
- March 16 – First Sunday in Lent
- April 13 – Palm Passion Sunday
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship – 6:30 pm
- April 18 – Good Friday – 7 pm
- April 30 – Resurrection Sunday
(Sunrise at 6:30 am, Festival Worship at 10:15 am)

If you haven't picked up your 2024 giving statements or 2025 offering envelopes yet, please be sure to check your mailboxes in the hallway outside the elevator when you are at church!

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/>

Christian Education Opportunities

Snax n Study

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. We are continuing The Chosen, Season 4 on most Sundays, led by David Durbin



Bible Study

is being held on Wednesday evenings in 2025 at 7 pm.

Each week Pastor Karen leads a time of study and discussion on the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sundays.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

continues the fourth Thursday of each month, 8 am at C.C.s family Restaurant on Main Street, Mechanicsburg.



Women's Group

A new women's group is being formed and we want your input. Would you be interested in women's crafts, a prayer group, a women's Bible study, a game night, a retreat? Would you like to have some events for men and women? Ja'net Gochenaur and Amy Boya are leading this endeavor and would love to have your ideas.

SNOW CANCELLATIONS

It's that time of year!

If worship or other events are cancelled due to snow, a notification will be sent via email, church phone message, Facebook and/or personal phone call.

PLEASE check if you are not sure, before coming to church.
Your safety is very important to us!

Trinity Evangelical Church
132 East Main Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone Number: 717-766-2662

2025 Leadership

Staff

Pastor	Karen Durbin	717-766-2662
Parish Administrator	Debbie Schue	717-766-2662
Minister of Music	Melissa Jacoby	717-766-2662
Custodial Service	The Rag Lady	717-571-0839

Officers

President	Dennis Burkhard
Vice President	Leslie Hocker
Treasurer	Debra Hartman
Secretary	tbd
Financial Secretary	Harold Miller

Church Council

Term expires 12/31/25	Jon Hartman, Leslie Hocker, Tyler Hoffman
Term expires 12/31/26	John Hocker, Jim Smith, John Wise
Term expires 12/31/27	Deb Hartman, Dennis Burkhard, Koen Thomas

Committee Chairpersons

Outreach	Pastor Karen Durbin
Worship & Music	Stacey Zeller, Leslie Hocker (signing of vouchers)
Altar Guild	Deb George
Hand bells	Deb Hartman
Ushers	Debbie Schue
Lectors, Assisting Min,	Debbie Schue
Acolytes, Crucifers	Pastor Karen Durbin
Christian Education	Pastor Karen Durbin
Fellowship	Karen Schmick, Brian Schmick
Property	Tim Zielonis
Property Projects	Mike Hartman
Stewardship & Finance	Harold Miller
Nominating Committee	Leslie Hocker, Tyler Hoffman, Jim Smith

Event Highlights...

In case you didn't get to see pictures of some of our December events online, here are a few from the fun activities that took place during Advent...



Hanging of the
Greens,
November 30



Thank you to everyone who helped to beautify our church for the Advent and Christmas season!

Event Highlights, cont'd...

New Hope Ministries Christmas party, December 3



Thank you to our organist, Melissa Jacoby, for the wonderful music during the party!

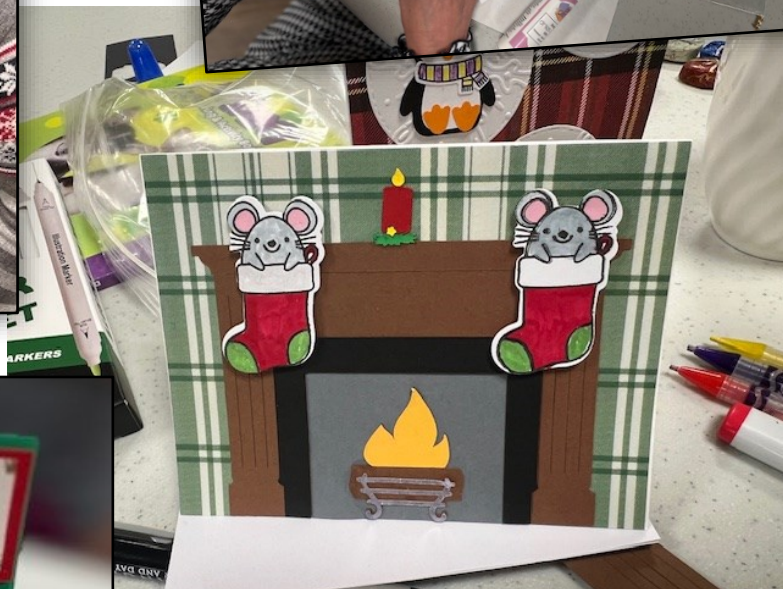


Christmas Card Making, December 15



more on
next
page....

Event Highlights, cont'd...



A lot of fun and beautiful results, ladies!
Thank you to Amy Boya and
Ja'net Gochenauer for leading this event!

Event Highlights, cont'd...

Annual Christmas Tea,
December 22



The food was delicious and a great time was had by all... Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for organizing this festive event!

Youth News

Confirmation

A new Confirmation Class has begun at Trinity. By popular demand, we are meeting every Sunday morning at 9 am. It is never too late to get in on these classes – even if you have already been confirmed! 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.

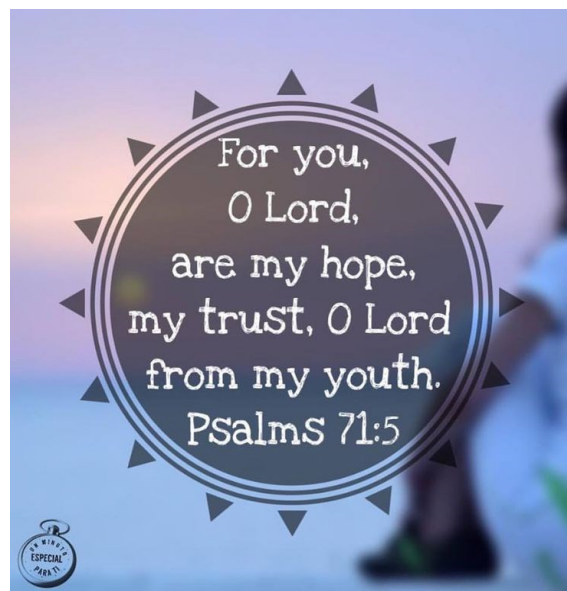
Youth Group

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 12th grade).

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



Community Outreach

Next Community Meal

Our next community meal will be held at Buhrig's Gathering Place, on February 16, at 5 pm. For this meal, Trinity will be donating desserts. **Note: We will need about 100 servings.** Please let Pastor Karen know if you can provide cupcakes, cookies, or some other dessert that can be easily distributed.

Save the date!

 **FREE** 
Adult Clothing
Saturday, Feb. 8
9-11am



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

Community Outreach, cont'd...

Blessing Box Update

Thank you for your ongoing support of our Blessing Box Ministry. Neighbors have expressed their gratitude for our kindness. We've also seen increased support from the Mechanicsburg community by adding items to the Blessing Box throughout the week.

Blessing Box Needs:

Peanut Butter
Canned Meats - Chicken, Tuna, Spam
Canned Pasta
Soups
Beans - All types
Canned Potatoes
Canned Tomatoes/Sauce
Rice or Pasta Pouches
Spaghetti and Pasta Sauce



Please no glass jars or containers. Placed donations on the table outside of fellowship hall.

A total of **3328** items were donated in 2024. Thank you for your generous support!

Thank you,
Carol

Souper Bowl Sunday!

We will again be participating in New Hope Ministries' food collection for Souper Bowl Sunday. This year's challenge is **Chips vs. Dips!** Bring in your favorite type of chips (potato, corn, taco...) and dips (ranch, buffalo, salsa...). Feel free to get creative! We look forward to seeing the different types of offerings that will be brought in, and may the best snack offering WIN!! Deadline to bring items in is Sunday, February 16.



Trinity's Clothing Closet

Our Clothing Closet began in September 2020, and we have been serving our friends and neighbors over four years. We are open every month, except January, on the second Saturday of the month. All clothing is donated, visitors shop in the fellowship hall, and when checking out are offered a small snack bag of food, water & cup of coffee. This has been a personally rewarding experience for all of us who volunteer in this ministry. Everyone is welcome to help at the Closet and we encourage attending at least once to see a glimpse of the love. Thank you to all for your donations, time & prayers. ~Heather Zielonis

RECAP:

Year 2024 – Visitors 391 – Items Distributed 3740
Year 2023 – Visitors 387 – Items Distributed 2931
Year 2022 – Visitors 301 – Items Distributed 2324
Year 2021 – Visitors 227 – Items Distributed 1858
Year 2020 – Visitors 104 – Items Distributed 571

Grace be to God!

- Heather Zielonis

Birthdays, Etc.



2/3	Emily Hartman
2/5	Olivia Moats
2/6	Gerry Miller
2/7	Ashley Strine
2/12	Karen Schmick
2/14	Cory Reisinger
2/16	Bonnie Williamson
2/17	Patsy Shaw
2/26	Ed Metka, Jr.
2/27	Cynthia Alleman

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



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

Congratulations

to Megan and Michael Aldinger on the birth of their son, Nolan Michael Aldinger, on January 10! The proud grandparents are Mary and Gene Champagne.



TIDINGS DEADLINE:

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

Church Council Highlights

- The Christmas Tea will be held on Sunday, December 22, following the 10:15 am service. A sign-up sheet will be available.
- Installation of new council members will take place at the single 9:00 am worship service on Sunday, December 29, 2024.
- Annual Reports are due in the office by January 13, 2025.
- The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 2025, following the 10:15 am service.

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

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study Class 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship 2 pm, Winter Assembly	3	4	5 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Bible Study 7:15 Choir	6 12 pm, Staff Mtg 7 pm, Church Council	7 4 pm, Set up for Trinity's Clothing Closet	8 9 am, Trinity's Closet-on-Main
9 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship	10	11	12 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Bible Study 7:15 Choir	13	14	15
16 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music 5 pm, Community Dinner	17	18	19 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Bible Study 7:15 Choir	20	21	22
23 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music 11:30 am, In the Footsteps of Paul & Revelation	24	25	26 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Bible Study 7:15 Choir	27 8 am, Men's Breakfast	28	