TRINITY TIDINGS

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December 2026

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

Dear Trinity Family,

Happy New Year! Advent is upon us once again and the church year begins anew. During Advent we aren't waiting for Christmas but waiting for Jesus. It's a reminder we live into the mystery of our faith. Christ HAS come. Christ IS come. Christ WILL come.

Advent celebrates the coming of Jesus: in our lives right now, in his coming at the end of the age and remembering His coming at Christmas. The liturgical color for Advent is blue; it is a waiting color. We're waiting for Jesus.

That's where Christmas does make a difference. Yes, we aren't waiting for baby Jesus; He came 2000 years ago. Yet, Jesus' coming as a vulnerable infant DOES matter to who we are and how we are in the world.

Think about it! Christmas is a celebration of the Incarnation. Incarnation is a big church word meaning became flesh. We hear that particularly in the prologue of John's gospel: John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

God must love us A LOT to want to become us. The fact that God loves you is NOT a trite saying. It is who God is and the basis for our relationship with God. We know we have value because we are beloved children of God.

Equally important is the mystery that since we are followers of Christ, we are called to be incarnational as well. We are called to bring God's word of love and healing to our broken world. We join with God in bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth.

We have grown together in understanding and living out Christ's incarnation with one another and our neighbors. As I transition to retirement, know you will be in my prayers always. Remember to open your hearts as the Holy Spirit guides you to new ministry possibilities into the future. Tradition provides roots but be brave enough to risk letting go of what no longer serves. You are special. Remember that the Holy Spirit has given you exactly what you need for the next chapter.

May you be showered with grace today and always.
Pastor Barb

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Worship



FIRST SUNDAY KIDS CHURCH -

We will meet on Sunday, December 6 during 10:15 worship, as we continue our learning of the 12 disciples, the Armor of God and a song about the Armor of God. Stop and take a look at the Kids Korner bulletin board. You might find some facts about the disciples that you didn't know. We welcome all children from two to ten yrs. to join our class during the 10:15a.m. Sunday service.
- Amy and Ja'net





Candlelight worship will be held on December 24 at 8:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends and help us to usher in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!





Lessons & Carols will be held on December 27, at 9 am during our combined worship service that Sunday.

Worship, cont'd...

Updates from the Lower Susquehanna Synod

By Stacey Zeller

On Sunday, December 6, we will welcome Pastor Beth Martini, Assistant to the Bishop, from the Lower Susquehanna Synod office to our Snax n Study hour! She will give an update on Synod "happenings" as well as the pastoral call process. Please join us from 9:00 – 10:00 am for this informative session!

If you can, please consider bringing a breakfast treat to share with everyone! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. No need to commit to a specific item… just let us know if you can bring something!

We hope to see you there!



Don't forget to order your poinsettias and help to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!

Cost is $13 each and the deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 6.

Pick up an order form at the church or click here to get to a printable form.

Council News & Updates

Church Council Highlights

- Confirmation is scheduled for May 16, 2027; Pentecost Sunday.
- On December 6th, Pastor Barb Martini will lead both Snax & Study and the worship service.
- The Music & Worship Committee will begin to look at the Christmas Eve surveys sent out this fall.
- The Stewardship Committee is looking for more volunteers to count the offerings from Sunday mornings.
- Pastor Barb and Debbie Schue will prepare and mail letters out to inactive members.
- Deb George has agreed to serve on the Audit Committee for a full three-year term.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:

The church office will be closed December 24 through January 3 for the holidays, as has been the tradition in the past. We will reopen on Monday, January 4. If you have an emergency, please call the church office (717-766-2662)and the Pastor will be notified. We will be checking voice messages daily.

Music Notes

O Lord, hear our prayer,
O Lord, hear our prayer.
Maranatha! Maranatha!
O come, Lord Jesus, come.
~ Advent Prayer Response
Music Sourcebook for All Saints through Transfiguration

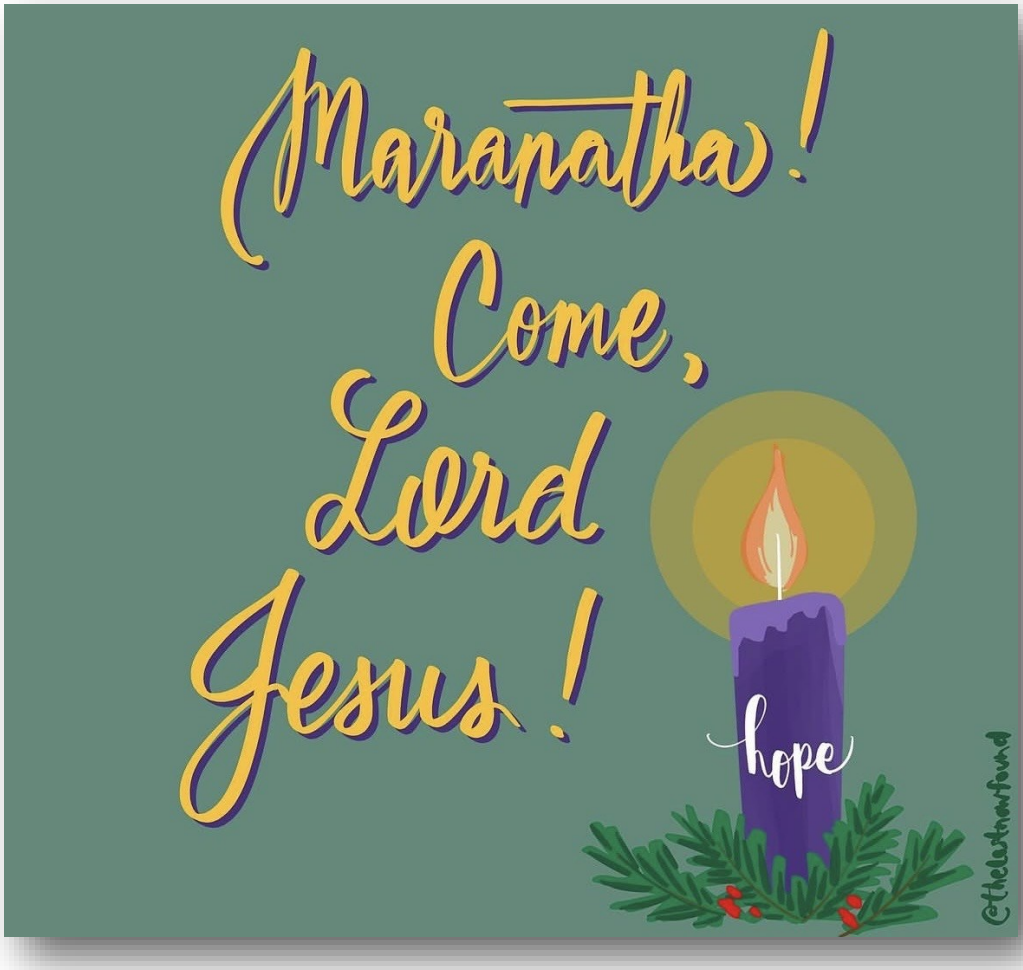
I was listening to a worship service online when a short musical gem stopped me in my tracks: a fervent, tuneful Advent prayer response I had never heard before. Let's sing it here at Trinity during the four Sundays of Advent this year!

"*Maranatha"* is an Aramaic word - a combination of two words *"marana – tha"* - which literally means "*the Lord comes*" or in the imperative, "*Come, Lord!*" The apostle Paul added this Aramaic word at the end of his first letter to the Corinthians (16:22), and early Christians used the expression in prayer and as a greeting, in particular at celebrations of the Lord's Supper.

Maranatha resonates in the Lord's Prayer, too: "*Your kingdom come"* (Matthew 5: 10; Luke 11:2). When we pray for the Lord's kingdom to come, we ask God to come and fulfill God's work of redemption – to unite all things in Christ and to make all things new. We pray for that transformation, too, that we may more fully reflect the likeness of Christ here on earth in all that we are, think, say, and do.

Maranatha! Let us enter this Advent season with joyful hope, praying that Jesus reign in our hearts, empowering us to be Christ's redeeming presence and merciful love in the world.

- Melissa Jacoby,
Minister of Music



Christian Education Opportunities

Snax n Study Winter Update

By Stacey Zeller

Our Snax n Study group will be taking a well-deserved break over the Christmas and New Year holidays! We've had a busy 2026 spending weeks discussing: "The Chosen" movie series, the end of season 4 and all of season 5; "Confirmation 101," led over the summer by Pastor Barb; "Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi," a six-week series by Amy-Jill Levine; and a presentation by Koen Thomas on his week at the Synod's leadership camp. We will round out 2026 with our final program for the year, an Advent series by Adam Hamilton, "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas." I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteer facilitators and "snax"-providers for your invaluable contributions to the program!

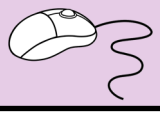
Upon our return to meeting regularly in 2027, Melissa Jacoby will be leading a two-week discussion on the book by John Mark Comer, "The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry." This will be held on Sundays, January 24 and 31. After that, it'll be time to start thinking about Lent (can you believe that?)! More information and sign-up sheets will be provided at a later date about our plans in 2027.

On behalf of the Snax n Study group, we wish you all a blessed season of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas! We look forward to worshipping and learning together in the New Year!

JUST A REMINDER…

If you are on Facebook, remember to check out our page and like and share. We post regularly, especially when there are lots of things going on! Please help us get the word out about the good things happening at Trinity, and share the good news and worship opportunities. This is a great forum for us to keep in touch.

Remember to like us and share us:
https://www.facebook.com/TLCMech





Men's Breakfast

continues the fourth Thursday of each month, 8 am at C.C.s Family Restaurant on Main Street, Mechanicsburg. There will be no breakfast in the month of December due to the Christmas holiday. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, January 28.

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/

Women at the Well

The Well is everywhere the women gather together to hear the Word, learn & grow, support & share, and, pray & love together.

Our goal is to develop ourselves to be servants in the capacity that the Lord asks us to be. As servants, we are constantly growing in all areas of our lives while sharing experiences, old and new knowledge, caring and sharing, and building long lasting friendships!

We are a very diverse group and we offer many different opportunities for the women at Trinity and our community. We are open to new ideas and activities. We also provide family activities.

We would like to thank all who participated in our November activities: making holiday cards and the Cookie Exchange. We had lots of good conversation and fun!

WATW Book- Bible Related Study -
Next, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the Book Study. We had some very interesting discussions and we are more on the look out for God in our daily lives! We are on a break for the holidays and will resume meeting until January 5th at 6 p.m. in the church library. We will be starting our new book, "A Deeper Well, the story of the Woman at the Well", by Jill Eileen Smith. We would love to see returning faces and some new ones too! We will be starting with the Prologue. Then please go to the back of the book to page 329 and read Note to the Reader. Pause a day or two and write your thoughts to the author's questions and write down any questions you might have. Next, read chapters one thru four. Chapter questions to consider will be sent out closer to Christmas and the New Year.

WATW Needle Night - For those who attend or would like to join our Needle Night group, we will be off for the holidays. We will regroup on January 12th at 6 p.m., also in the library at the church. I hope to see all of you then and possibly some "Wishy washy soap cloth/bags" that you have made. If you need a copy of the directions, please let me know or if you have any questions on making the soapy wash cloth/bag, please text Aunt Beth.

Stitch'en Servants - For our Stitch'en Servants group, we'll be in touch with you later about making more animal blankets for the shelter. If anyone would like to join the group, please give Ja'net a call. We generally sew the kits at home in our spare time. When they are completed, we will present them for a blessing before we hand off our hand-made gifts to the special groups.

The WATW group also takes part in community projects, and special interest activities include: providing cookies to our shut-ins during the Christmas holidays; card making for other various holidays; going to theater & musical events; painting class; movie night, AED classes, informational Seminars; & competitions to support community groups within our church, like the Blessing Box! We are always open to more ideas for fun things to do!

If you would like to join us, please let Amy or Ja'net know.

Be sure to check our website and the church's Facebook page to see what other special activities we have coming up!



Event Highlights: Women at the Well

Trinity's Women at the Well was busy this past month! In addition to their regular Tuesday needle nights and book studies, they held a card-making event on Saturday, November 14 and a cookie walk/dance on Saturday, November 21. Both of these special gatherings were a lot of fun, and it was nice to get together before the rush of the holidays for some time with just the girls!



Patsy and Amy, the creative force behind the WATW card-making events...









Event Highlights, cont'd ...

The Women at the Well shared a preview of holiday cheer with a festive Cookie Walk on Saturday, November 21. Seven women and one little girl sang, walked, twirled and danced their way around the fellowship hall, gathering up the homemade cookies they had made for the event, to be given to our homebound friends. Bonus: There were enough cookies left over that everyone in attendance got to take a container of cookies home to enjoy with their families. It was a fun morning of sweet fellowship with friends!















Boxes full of cookies, ready for delivery!



Community Outreach

Blessing Box Needs:

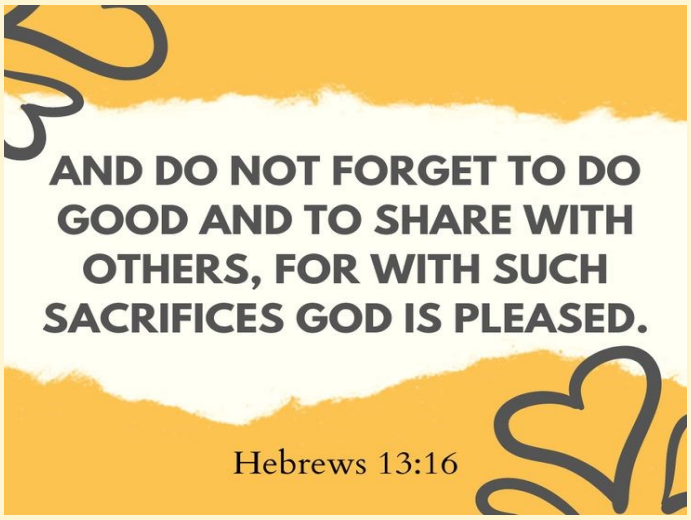
Through November about 3300 items have been donated. These donations aid our neighbors and their food shortages. Thank you for your generous support!

Blessing Box Needs:



Cereal
Canned Soup
Canned Chicken or Spam
Canned Pasta
Canned Beef Stew
Canned Vegetables/ Potatoes
Macaroni & Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce
Stuffing Mix
Mashed Potatoes
Single-serving snacks (Chips, Pretzels, etc.)

Please no glass containers. Glass jars have the potential to crack or break in the colder weather. Thank you.





Thank you so much to everyone who has donated items to New Hope Ministries' Christmas Blessing Express! Your gifts will bring joy to so many families in our area.
The final date to bring in gift donations is Monday, November 30.
Here is a picture of our collection so far:



Trinity's Clothing Closet

We are collecting clean and gently used adult winter clothing and coats. Everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship of helping those in need. Grab some coffee and stop by any second Saturday of the month (except January) between 9 and 11 a.m. and check it out.

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. ~Heather

Community Outreach

Homeless Memorial Blanket Initiative 2026

December 21, 2026 | New York City



For the past five years, the Homeless Memorial Blanket Initiative has gathered people together on December 21 - the longest, darkest night of the year - to remember lives lost, honor human dignity, and respond with compassion to those experiencing homelessness. Each year, hundreds of handmade blankets are created and shared with people who need warmth. For 2026, there was a new one-time challenge: backpacks.

At synod assembly in June, our congregations were invited to take a backpack and accept the challenge of filling it and returning it to the synod office as soon as it was filled, or by the end of September. What should go inside? That was up to us. We were invited to begin with one question: "If I suddenly lost my home, what would I hope I could carry on my back?"

Here at Trinity on Main, we filled 13 backpacks, made possible with funds provided through a Thrivent grant obtained by Leslie and John Hocker. They then purchased the items for each backpack and filled them. Pastor Barb and the congregation gave thanks and blessed the backpacks for use among God's people in need at worship on September 20 and then delivered them to the synod office.



Birthdays, Etc.



12/01	Josh Wagenheim
12/08	Carol Pensyl
12/15	Bill Snoke
12/17	Tiberius Hocker
12/18	Abbey Hocker
12/20	Bob Anderson
12/22	Emily Anderson
12/29	Jordan Leiby
12/30	Nadine Ovack
12/30	Matt Thomsen



2027 OFFERING ENVELOPES:

Please note: Offering envelopes for 2027 will be available soon. Be sure to check your mailboxes in the hallway!



January Community Dinner

Mark your calendars now for the next Community Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, January 31 at 5 pm at Buhrig's Gathering Place!

REMEMBERING OLD FRIENDS…

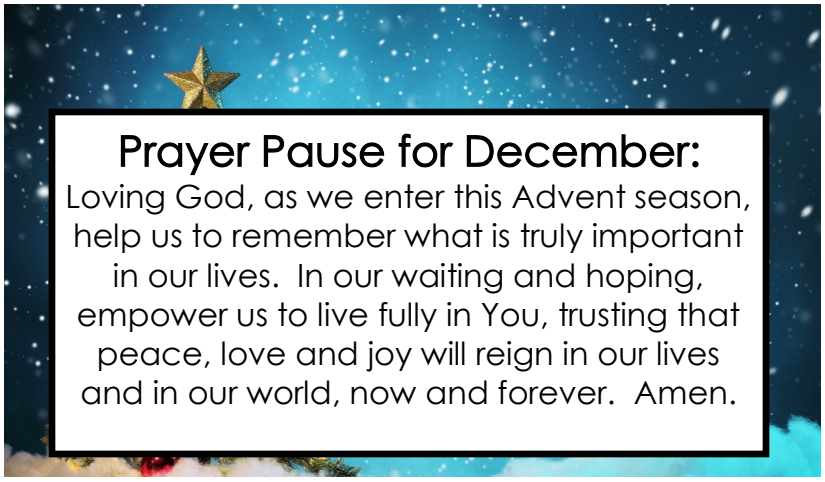
Jesus calls us to relationship: relationship with God, one another and our neighbors. Please reach out to our shut-ins and those you haven't seen in a while at church with a note or card to let them know you are thinking of them! It's important that we assure them they aren't forgotten. If you need an address for someone, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Wishing you all a:



TIDINGS DEADLINE:

NOTE: There will be no Tidings for the month of January. The deadline for the February issue will be January 10.



Prayer Pause for December:

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, help us to remember what is truly important in our lives. In our waiting and hoping, empower us to live fully in You, trusting that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. Amen.

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/

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Minister of Music Contact Info

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Parish Administrator Contact Info

Debbie Schue
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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… Walmart & Target gift cards are welcome & encouraged!

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 Monday, November 30.

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December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9 am NHM Christmas Party 5:45 Choir 6:20 Bells	3	4	5
6 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax 'n Study 9 am Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music 10:15 am First Sunday Kids 4 pm WATW Trip to Messiah	7	8	9 12 pm Advent Service 5:45 Choir 6:20 Bells 7 pm Advent Service	10 7 pm Church Council	11 4 pm, Set up for Trinity's Clothing Closet	12 9 am, Trinity's Closet-on-Main
13 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am, Snax n Study 9 am, Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music	14	15	16 12 pm Advent Service 5:45 Choir 6:20 Bells 7 pm Advent Service	17	18	19
20 8 am Spoken Worship 8:45 am Snax n Study 9 am,Confirmation Class 10:15 am Worship with Music	21	22	23 12 pm Advent Service	24 **Christmas Eve** 8:30 pm Christmas Eve service Church office closed thru January 3	25 **Christmas Day** 	26
27 **Lessons & Carols** 9 am Combined Worship	28	29	30	31	January 1 	