



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Trinity Messenger

January 2024 Issue 3

Alleluia. We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us grace and truth. Alleluia.
John 1:41, 17



“To mock another person is to insult their maker.”

I recently heard this quote referred to in a sermon presented by Bishop Jim Dunlop when he visited with the North Lancaster and Lancaster Conferences of our synod. The quote has stuck with me amid the current overwhelming bombardment of media information that is saturating our lives as the approach of the Iowa Caucuses next week looms large. The general ugliness and vitriolic language that is often thrown back and forth between candidates, as well as between their paid pundits and supporters has ramped-up to an alarming level that continues to widen the divide between families, friends, and neighbors and is at times frightening with death threats and promises of violence becoming an acceptable part of the status quo.

The quote with which I began this brief article reminds us that we are each created in the loving image of God. That “other,” with whom we disagree, think unpleasant thoughts about, and/or refuse to interact with, is loved by the same God who loves us, and despite our negative opinion of them is equally worthy to be respected as a child of God rather than mocked and judged by our individual standards and personal biases. When we allow God’s love to be the filter through which we perceive the other person and through which we approach our conversations with them we create Christ-centered space that blesses us with common ground on which to interact with civility and respect and an appreciation for God’s creation that is alive and beautiful in others.

As we navigate the present political season, which is awash with ugliness and the temptation to criticize and judge our neighbor because their opinions are opposite ours, let us strive to be living examples of God’s love by seeing the maker and perfecter of all things wonderfully active in them. Living daily by God’s grace,

Pastor Mark

Child Protection Policy Training

Our new church insurance policy requires that all persons of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, staff and volunteers alike, who presently have a background check on file or wish to volunteer during 2024 must attend an annual child protection training at which the congregational Child Protection Policy is reviewed. To assist you in fulfilling this requirement there will be a training for all those to whom this applies on **Sunday, February 25 during the Adult Forum**. There will be sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area, so please include your name so we can make sure there are enough materials available for everyone attending the training.

Stewardship Special Giving for January Mountaineer's Table

We are excited to be adding *Mountaineer's Table* to our list of organizations whose live-giving work we support as the people of God at Holy Trinity. *Mountaineer's Table* (a 501c3 organization), formerly known as the *Ephrata Power Packs Project*, is in its 10th year of serving families in the Ephrata Area School District (EASD). In 2022 alone, they distributed over 135,000 lbs. of food, feeding an average of 75 families a week, and are presently serving 110 families per week with numbers of those facing daily food insecurity rising. There is no cost to EASD families, who each Thursday arrive at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren to collect their nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and a recipe with the needed ingredients provided to prepare the meal. It is an all-volunteer organization, so all monies donated go directly to help the families get food on the table so that children are well fed and ready to learn.

Stephanie Weber, the director and visionary behind this organization, will be joining us in worship on Sunday, January 7 to further introduce us to the important work being done to assist our struggling neighbors. Please plan to be present at 9:00 AM worship to welcome her and learn more.

2023 Donation Statements

The 2023 Donation Statements were emailed to all members for whom we have email addresses. The statements are emailed one per household, to the primary email we have for that household. For those without email addresses, the printed statements are on the table in the Gathering Area. They will remain there through January 28. If you would like your printed statement mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Come "Getty" some spaghetti !!

Fellowship is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 16th at 6:00.

Just food and fellowship. All are welcome! Sign up sheets for attendance and donation of foods will be in the gathering area. Come feed your soul and your stomach. Questions or concerns, please see Kathy Kuhns.

Pickleball update

Beginning January 2nd, our Pickleball Court will be available every Tuesday from 8AM to 10AM.

Additional days and times will be determined upon interest of court times once we begin this new activity. All experienced players come and join us. Those who expressed interest in learning how to play Pickleball are invited to come to

our December 10th and January 14th Game Day from 2PM to 4PM. Come and give it a try. See Ron Kerschner if you have questions.



Celebration Choir Schedule for January

*Wednesday, January 17 - 7:15 PM - Celebration Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary

*Sunday, January 21 - sing "Arise, Shine" - meet at 8:30 AM in the sanctuary to rehearse before the service

Senior Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:45 PM! All are welcome!!!

BELL CHOIR Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

January 14-20 Calendar

Sunday, January 14	
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
10:15am	SCS
11:00am	Lunch Bunch
2:00pm	2nd Sunday Social
Monday, January 15	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
Tuesday, January 16	
8:00am	Pickleball
11:00am	Revelation Bible Study
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Bell Choir
Wednesday, January 17	
12:00pm	Luther Lunch Ladies
6:45pm	Senior Choir
7:15pm	Celebration Choir
Thursday, January 18	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
Saturday, January 20	
7:30am	Walking Group

Revelation Bible Study

We will resume the Revelation Bible study on Tuesday, January 16 at 11:00 AM and will conclude by 12:15 PM. We will likely conclude the study that morning.

Friday Night Dinners

Friday night dinners for 2024 will begin on February 2, 2024 and every first Friday of the month thereafter. A sign up sheet will be available in the gathering area. Thank you to all whom participate in this ongoing Fellowship. All are welcome!!!!

[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

January 14th Servers:

Council Team: Kathrin Baltz, Christy Boos

Assisting Minister: John Fuehrer

Lector: Dan Doremus

Acolytes: CH Natalie Mull

Ushers: Curtis & Christy Boos,
Bill & Lori Spitzer

Altar Guild: Brenda Wangman,
Heather Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett

Linens: Patricia Fassnacht

Flowers: Dan Doremus



Office Hours: January 15-19, 2024

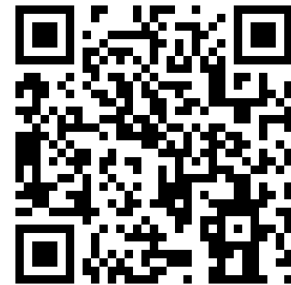
We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517 Donna's Cell: 717-669-7831

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	Holiday- Church Office Closed	Holiday- Church Office Closed
Tuesday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	8:00AM -12:00 noon	OFF

Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website (www.holytrinityephrata.org), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, or your Homes of Hope fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!

