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Trinity Messenger

January 2024 Issue 5

Alleluia. The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned. Alleluia. Matt. 4:16

These questions were asked or comments were made during the annual Congregation Meeting on December 3, 2023. Some answers were provided at that time.

1. What percentage of members contribute financially? Approximately 70%
 2. What criteria define an active member? Contribute on record and commune annually.
 3. We need honest conversations among all of us.
 - a. What can each of us do to address the [financial] challenges ahead of us? The church needs ~\$7800 weekly. There are 107 active units, including young adults living at home.
 - b. If 60 giving units are active, an average of \$131 / week is required from each.
 - c. If 40 giving units are active, an average of \$197 / week is required from each.
 4. Suggest more frequent [financial] updates in the Messenger and bulletin.
 5. Have we considered fund-raising events? These are discouraged in the Lutheran Church as the congregation should be able to support itself.
 6. Are rent monies collected considered fund-raising? No, these go to the Unified Budget.
 7. If the congregation sells the facility can we stipulate that we can keep full access to a portion (e.g. sanctuary)? We won't really know until we attempt to sell.
 8. Are we actively communicating with other congregations about similar issues? Yes, in a limited fashion.
 9. Is the synod helping in this process? The synod will help if directly asked.
 10. Are other denominations eligible for merger at a congregational level? The ELCA has full communion with the Presbyterian Church of America, United Church of Christ, Reformed Church in America, Moravian Church, United Methodist Church and the Episcopal Church.
 11. A transition to half-time ministry is not [and should not be seen as] a failure as amazing things can still happen.
 12. The church is approaching a counter-culture status.
 13. The synod has resources to help us if we ask.
 14. Is the church secretary a full-time position? Yes. The position is salaried with vacation included. Hours not worked are not paid.
 15. During the pastoral call process, an overwhelming concern was pastoral care. Will a half-time staff be supported by the congregation? Pastoral care will need to be internal (peer-peer) rather than from staff.
 16. Is the consulting firm being considered to assist with additional building use to be paid on a one-time or continuing basis? One-time
 17. The congregation was reminded that Biblical guidance is for a tithe contribution.
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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.

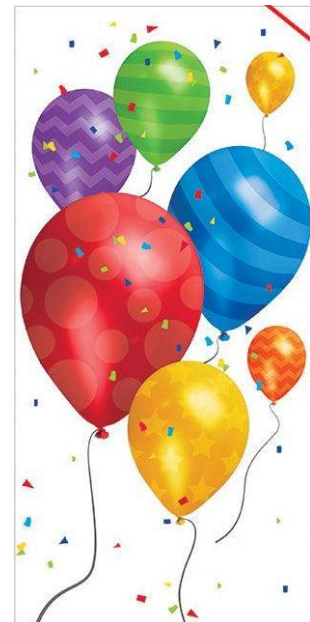
Happy Birthday

To the members of Holy Trinity who are 70 years and older and celebrating a birthday this month.

February Birthdays

1 Rick Woerner
5 Warren Fegley
8 Scott Eaby
9 Kathy Kuhns
10 Earl Dinger
12 Pat Fassnacht
14 Darryll Kuhns
17 Joy Althouse
19 Anne Houck
28 Grace Myers

SEND THEM A BIRTHDAY CARD OR CALL THEM WITH YOUR GREETING. WE PRAY GOD GRANTS THEM MANY MORE YEARS IN THEIR PILGRIMAGE.



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.



Ladies and Gentlemen of Holy Trinity,

Come and join us on Monday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Place for Yoga. If you have been feeling tired and achy from everyday life, Hatha Yoga may be for you. Hatha Yoga is gentle stretching and movements that ease the tension of the muscles that cause the achiness in your body. Our certified instructor is Amy Kulp. Amy has over 20 years of experience and

has been leading our practice for over 10 years here at church. Currently, we have at least 10 members that practice routinely. Five are members of Holy Trinity. There is a modest fee of \$10 per class and at Christmas time we collect for "Fishes & Loaves" to support Holy Trinity's community outreach program. Currently, we only have ladies in our group but extend a welcome to any gentleman who would like to join us. Yes, men, yoga can help you too! So, if you would like to try something new or return to practice, bring a yoga mat, blocks, blanket, and water. If you do not have any of these, we do have items that you can borrow till you get your own. I suggest you wear comfortable clothes. If you have any questions or plan to come, call, text, or email: Deb Martin at 717-466-0885.

In case of inclement weather, we do send out emails or text messages to notify you of cancellations.



THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH Will be going to Caruso's Restaurant after the liturgy on March 10. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us!



Notes of **THANKS**

Dear Friends, On behalf of the Lebanon VA Medical Center patients and staff, we wish to thank you for the recent donation of \$895.61. 100% of your donation will be used to supplement the excellent care and services provided to our Veteran patients and their families. We are very grateful for our generosity and support of our Nations' Veterans.
Sincerely, Jason Lane, Chief, Voluntary Service

Pickleball update

Our Pickleball Court is 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. Come and give it a try. See Ron Kerschner if you have questions.



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

BELL CHOIR Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

January 28- February 3 Calendar

Sunday, January 28	
9:00am	Worship
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
10:15am	SCS
Monday, January 29	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
Tuesday, January 30	
8:00am	Pickleball
9:00am	Coffee Klatch
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Bell Choir
Wednesday, January 31	
6:45pm	Senior Choir
Thursday, February 1	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Property Committee
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
Friday, February 2	
6:30pm	Friday Night Dinners
Saturday, February 3	
7:30am	Walking Group

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 28th Servers:

Council Team: Ed Quirke, Barry Kreider

Assisting Minister: Ed Quirke

Lector: Bill Young

Acolytes: CH Natalie Mull

Ushers: Steve Sweigart, Carl Rentschler,
Andy Sweigart

Altar Guild: Denise Shirker, Kelly Homan,
Ann & Bob Snader

Linens: Patrice Mull

Flowers: Winnie Gerlach



Office Hours: January 29- February 2, 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	8:00 AM- 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
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!

