



Trinity Messenger
January 2026 Issue 3

*Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased" Alleluia. Matt. 3:17*



**Stewardship Special Giving for January:
Mountaineers' Table**

The Ephrata Mountaineer's Table is enrolling new families for the school year. The **Mountaineer's Table** is designed to help families stretch their grocery money, prepare low-cost meals for their families over the weekend, and have their children well-fed and ready to learn.

Every Thursday, participating families receive a recipe and the ingredients to make the meal. Additional items including cereal, peanut butter, soups, and fresh fruits and vegetables are distributed. Helpful information is also included in the weekly packs, including "Smart Shopping Tips," "Clever Ways to Use Leftovers," and "Food to Always Have On Hand." There is no cost to participate, but there are expectations: **Program participants will be expected to pick up their food every Thursday evening at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren located at 201 Crescent Avenue in Ephrata. Failure to do so will result in being removed from the program.**

Treasurer's Report January, 2026

December Financial Report

Unified Budget Income	\$28,047.77
Unified Budget Expense	\$25,862.43

Year To Date:

Income	\$369,804.70
Expenses	\$360,773.85
Surplus	\$9,030.85

Thank you for the generous contributions and financial support in 2025. As you can see, we ended 2025 with a Unified Budget **Balance** of \$9,030.85. That balance will be transferred to our unrestricted reserve funds.

Elevator Fund Contributions: \$4,000.00 was contributed for elevator renovation in December.

Also in December, we made a second payment to Otis Elevator for the equipment to be installed of \$47,118.75. The two payments made to date total \$136,868.75.

To make these payments, we have withdrawn \$114,705.00 from our unrestricted reserve funds. The remainder of the payments are from contributions to the elevator fund.

Treasurer

Holy Trinity is seeking someone to serve as treasurer beginning in 2027.

Larry Hummer completed two 3-year terms as treasurer in December 2025, the maximum allowed by our constitution. The Congregation Council decided to suspend the treasurer term limit and elected Larry to serve as treasurer until the end of 2026. This decision gives the Finance Committee and Council time to decide how to redefine the position.

We are searching now so that the new treasurer can be tutored by our present treasurer later this year. More importantly, we want the person to be part of the discussion with the Finance Committee as we decide how to handle the position and congregational finances going forward.

If interested, contact Larry Hummer or Ed Quirke for more information by **February 8**. We would like to have the treasurer candidate(s) attend the March 10 Finance Committee meeting.

Congregation Council Report

At the January 8 Congregation Council meeting:

- The Council re-affirmed that the Property Committee will manage the use (rental) of the building and parking lot. The Property Committee will have tenants (groups or individuals using our facilities) complete appropriate forms, provide contact information, and, where needed, provide proof of insurance.
 - The Council approved the yoga class request to switch from using the building Monday evenings to Monday mornings.
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ELEVATOR RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

In keeping with the promise made previously, as chairman of the Stewardship Committee, I am pleased to inform you as to the contributions received to date.

In October 2025, the donations totaled \$11,063.94. The Treasurer's Report for November 2025 indicated a total of \$6,717.00. Therefore, the total to date amounts to \$17,735.94

We have started with a very positive indication of what can be done to meet the challenge. Let us continue on the same path for the future. Thank you for your support.

I will provide another report in the February 2026 Trinity Messenger.

Norman A. Wangman



YOGA

Yoga will now be meeting in the Place on Thursday afternoons at 1 PM. Cost is \$10 a class and pay as you go.

Welcome to Holy Trinity Sunday School on the Move!

Please join us for Sunday School the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month, the next one being January 18. Children will proceed downstairs after the Children's Sermon. For those not attending church, please meet us at 9:20 in the Cafe area. All are

welcome for our Journey with Jesus!! ❤️.

Love and Peace,

Holy Trinity Christian Ed



Notes of THANKS

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your love and care during my husband Michael's final days. I appreciate the cards, the visits, the phone calls, and of course, the prayers. Thank you also for your continuing care for me as I enter into a new chapter in my life.

Sincerely,

Judy Williams

NOTICE: Holy Trinity's website is sometimes up, sometimes not. A new website is being pursued and will be up and running as soon as possible. If you are looking for the livestream connection it is here: Holy Trinity's services are now online at Sermons.net. Just copy and paste the link below into your browser. <https://holyltrinitylutheranchurcheprhrtapa.sermon.net/main>



Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, January 14 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, January 18 – sing "Arise, Shine" by Robert Lau

Wednesday, February 11 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, February 15 (Transfiguration) – sing "Shine, Jesus, Shine" arr. Tom Fettke

Wednesday, March 4 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 11 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, March 15 – sing "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Alice Parker

Wednesday, March 25 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 1 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Thursday, April 2 (Maundy Thursday) – sing "A New Commandment"

Sunday, April 5 (Easter) – sing "Christ Is Alive" arr. Hal H. Hopson

Wednesday, May 13 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, May 17 – sing "God We Gather as Your People" by David Lohman

Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir Schedule:

Handbell Rehearsal is Wednesdays at 6:30PM



Upcoming Performances:

Sunday, January 25: *As with Gladness*

Sunday, February 15: *Beautiful Savior*

Sunday, March 8: *Balm in Gilead*

Easter Sunday, April 5: *Thine is the Glory*

Sunday, May 24: *Holy Is the Lord*

For Questions contact Debbie: 717-681-5985 Elegantkeys88@gmail.com

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

The local branch of the Christ-centered support group, *Celebrate Recovery*, has begun meeting in the church social hall on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The group was meeting at City Gate but outgrew their space and reach out to Holy Trinity to see about finding room in our facility. *Celebrate Recovery* is a world-wide ministry that offers support to persons seeking “freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits” and is not limited to those recovering from addiction. It seeks to serve as well those persons struggling with various types of dependency and the pain and trauma associated with these. If you are interested in finding out more about this group and/or how it might be helpful to you, please check out their website at celebraterecovery.com. All are welcome!

Weekly Bible Study: Tuesdays at 11AM

NEW BIBLE STUDY

A New Bible study focusing on the Acts of the Apostles will begin on Tuesday, January 6. The class will meet in the church conference room at 11:00 AM. There is a participant’s book for the class that can be ordered through Amazon. The book is entitled *Acts: Catching Up With The Spirit*, authored by Matthew L. Skinner. If you have any questions please direct them to Pastor Mark. We look forward to having you as part of the study and learning more about the early activities of the Jesus’ followers.

Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open the first and third full weekend of every month for persons in need of clothing and other household goods. Entrance is accessible via the door off the lower parking lot. Hours are Saturday and Sunday noon – 2pm.

Winter Schedule:

Jan 17th and 18th



Donations: Currently there is a need for men’s pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children’s clothing. All clothing in good shape is accepted. Due to space constraints, household items are no longer accepted. Donations may be dropped off directly at Bergstrasse when the Community Clothing Closet is open or in the box at the back of the narthex in Holy Trinity.

Volunteers: sort clothing, hang it and tag it by color to keep track of what is moving and what is not, and greet shoppers at the courtesy desk. Shoppers check in and specify how many people they are shopping for and what items are of particular interest. Volunteers are needed from 11:30 – 2:30 on Saturdays and

Sundays. You do not need to be there the entire time to volunteer – whatever time you have available within those timeframes is fine.

If you have further questions, you may either stop by the next time the Closet is open and have a look around or call Pattie Martin at 717-344-1347.

Thank you so much for all the donations you have been giving!

HOLY TRINITY HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!

Please follow this link to the new page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563831542098&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

January 18-22 Calendar

18	JAN, SUN	
●	Celebration Choir sings	
●	Epiphany 2	
●	9am	Worship
●	10am	Coffee Hour After Worship
●	10:15am	Adult Forum
19	JAN, MON	
●	Church Office closed	
●	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
●	10am	Women's prayer group
●	6pm	Celebrate recov.
20	JAN, TUE	
●	11am	Bible Study
●	3:30pm	Trini Mini
●	6pm	Pickleball
21	JAN, WED	
●	12pm	Luther Lunch Ladies
●	6:30pm	Handbell Choir
22	JAN, THU	
●	1pm	Yoga
●	3:30pm	Trini Mini
●	7pm	Thursday Worship
24	JAN, SAT	
●	7:30am	Walking Group

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

January 18th Servers:**Council Team:** Bill Spitzer, Heather Zimmerman**Assisting Minister:** Kathy Kuhns**Lector:** Kathy Kuhns**Acolytes:** Lillian Doughty**Ushers:** Denise Shirker, Trig Olson, Matt Shirker**Altar Guild:** Brenda Wangman, Lisa Garrett,
Charlann Brubaker**Linens:** Brenda Wangman**Flowers:** Heather Zimmerman**AV:** Rob Gilbert**Office Hours January 19-23, 2025**

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**Office email: officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org**

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday	9AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	9AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	9AM - 12 NOON	OFF

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.

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 Elevator Improvement fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!