



The Trinity Messenger

A Periodic Publication of: Trinity Lutheran Church
(Post Office Box 544)
205 West Grove Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411-0544

Dates To Remember

- Dec. 10: Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 17: Family Worship and Christmas Play (9:15 AM)
- Dec. 17: Fall Meeting of the Congregation (at all services)
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Traditional Worship – Advent 4 (10:30 AM)
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Eucharist (7:30 PM)
- Dec. 31: Traditional Worship Service (10:30 am)
- Jan. 15: Congregation Council Meeting
- Jan. 17: Preschool / Kindergarten Readiness Open House (5-7PM)
- Jan. 28: Deadline for the Epiphany/Lent - 2018 Newsletter



Our Parish Christmas Worship Schedule

This Christmas we will have one morning service which will be the final Sunday in Advent. The evening service will be the Nativity of Our Lord.

Dec. 24 10:30 AM – Traditional Worship – Advent 4

Dec. 24 7:30 PM – Traditional Candlelight Eucharist

On New Year's Eve, December 31 we will have one service for the day at 10:30 AM.



A Children's Play

“The Children’s Nativity Story”, will be presented at the Family Service on December 17, by the children of the Sunday school. We thank all of the children and families for the hard work as they present their annual gift to the congregation. Thank you to Heather Klien for directing this year’s play as well as all who assisted with the program. The cast includes: Ben Worrell, Sydney Hauk, Deenna Richmond, Emily Klien, Elizabeth Harvey, Evie Walters, Jake Walters, Nathaniel Worrell, Shelby Hauk, Timmy Richmond, Tyler Ruddy, Donovan Yelland, Lincoln Gehris, London Gehris, Xaelyn Gehris, Aven Gehris, Albany Skojec, Hudson Skojec, Dee Smith. Special thanks to Jeremy for music accompaniment and Dee Smith for costume upkeep.



Decorating for Christmas

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Christmas tree and church following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, December 17. If you are able to help prepare our church for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, it will be greatly appreciated.

Fall Meeting of the Congregation

The Fall Meeting of the Congregation will take place at each of the services on Sunday, December 17. The budget for 2018 will be proposed. Please make every effort to attend one of the services: 8:15, 9:15 (Family Service with Christmas Play) and 10:30.

Angel Tree

This year our congregation shopped for over 50 names from the Angel Tree. Recipients are families served by UCP here in Clarks Summit and surrounding areas. The way Trinity responds for this project each year is wonderful and touches the hearts of those who receive your kindness: I hope it touches your heart the same way to be able to brighten someone’s Christmas. Thank you so much, Carole

Poinsettias

The poinsettias for the altar will be delivered on Friday, December 22 at 11:00 AM. A couple of volunteers are needed on that day to place the flowers around the altar as decoration for the Christmas Eve services.

Trinity Lutheran Men in Mission

Please consider joining with the Men in Mission for events and gatherings in fellowship with other men of Trinity. Some activities include assisting with Bingo at Gino Merli Veteran's Center; Spring Dinner for the ladies of the church; breakfast meetings, blood drives and more. For more information, please contact Mike Krahlung at 570-698-7106 or mhklk@gmail.com.

Sunday School and Youth Group

The Fill the Bag Project was a huge success once again this year. Thank you to all who helped us donate 150 bags of food to the Dalton Food Pantry. A special thank you to those who assisted on the Saturday before Thanksgiving with the sorting of mountains of food collected throughout the community and to those who assisted again on the following Monday with the distribution of food for Thanksgiving meals.

The Sunday school students are now hard at work preparing for the Christmas Play that will be presented on Sunday, December 17 at the 9:15 Family Worship Service. We hope that you are able to attend this gift to the congregation. Youth Group has a busy schedule and members are asked to watch emails, texts and bulletins for upcoming events. youth in grades 3-12 are invited to join in the activities of Youth Group. Please remember that Sunday school classes will not be held on December 24 or 31. All Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7, 2018.



Evangelism

Appreciation is extended to Mike Krahlung for the daily devotionals via email and especially the extra devotionals from the writings of Martin Luther leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Trinity Women in Fellowship

Trinity Women in Fellowship met on December 6 for a special Christmas Luncheon. Guests from area churches attended as well. The theme for the luncheon was "The Three Kings". More than 40 women from 5 area churches enjoyed a wonderful lunch, much fellowship and learning a bit about the Three Kings. The group will not meet in January, but will have their first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, February 21, 2018. All women are invited to the group at any time.

Card Ministry

Appreciation is extended to all of the volunteers who sponsor the Card Ministry and/or address and mail cards to shut-ins each month. Your kind actions mean so much to so many and we continually receive messages about how much it means to someone to know that they are being thought of in such a special way. If you are interested in sponsoring the Card Ministry, the cost is \$20 per month and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church hallway. If you would like to address and mail the cards for a given month (cards are mailed on time per month), please contact Terry Bockelkamp to sign up for a month. Appreciation is extended to Terry for overseeing the Card Ministry program.

Altar Guild

A very joyous and Merry Christmas is wished to all. May the new year be a happy and healthy one. Thank you to all who have continued to support the Altar Guild with your time and talent. New members are always welcomed and if you are interested in learning how to prepare the altar for services, please contact Pat Kiefer at 570-587-2485.

2018 Newsletter Schedule

The following dates for the submission of articles and announcements as well as the anticipated mailing dates for the newsletters in 2018:

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
Epiphany/Lent - 2018	January 28, 2018	February 7, 2018
Holy Week/Easter -2018	March 18, 2018	March 38, 2018
Pentecost Season (Summer) - 2018	May 6, 2018	May 16, 2018
September - 2018	August 19, 2018	August 29, 2018
Fall - 2018	October 14, 2018	October 24, 2018
Advent/Christmas - 2018	December 2, 2018	December 12, 2018

Library

“Tis the Season to be Reading!”

Trinity’s library is a reading wonderland! The library is filled to the brim with Christmas titles for adults and children. We also have many Christmas movies from which to choose. Please stop by the table outside the gathering area or stop in the library to browse through what Trinity has to offer.

A special thank you goes to the Schneck Family from the preschool for donating a book entitled “God Loves Me More Than That” for our children’s reading section.

Thank you to the Wyoming/Lackawanna County Farm Bureau for the gift of a new book, “Sleep Tight Farm” to our church library. The book was given by Cheryl Matulevich on behalf of the Bureau when she attended the ladies Christmas luncheon.

Thank you to Debbie Miller for donating the book “Grief: The Event, The Work, The Forever” in memory of John Gallup, Jr.

Appreciation is extended to a friend of the library for the donation of two books; “The Art of Biblical Narrative” and “The First Coming”.

The preschool and Kindergarten Readiness children are making their monthly visits to the library. We will be learning about the birth of Baby Jesus and the many blessings this time of year brings our way. Of course, all children will receive a candy cane and book mark.

The best of Seasons Reading to everyone.



Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness

Excitement is in the air! The children in the preschool and KRP classes are getting ready for Christmas and the holiday vacation! Students in the Kindergarten Readiness Program are traveling around the world to learn about Christmas in other countries. So far they have visited Australia and the Netherlands. Visits to three more countries are upcoming. Arts and crafts abound in their classrooms and we hope you get a chance to stop over and see them (next to Pastor Jeff’s office). The KRP students as well as the preschool 3 and 4 year old classes will visit the church library for their stories about the birth of Jesus.

The preschool classes are busy with Christmas activities, songs and preparations for a visit from Santa Claus. Feel free to stop downstairs and see their works of art all around the rooms and doors.



Open House

Trinity Early Learning Center will hold an Open House on Wednesday, January 17 from 5-7 PM. Invite your friends to come out and see what our preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Programs offer.

Preschool – Kindergarten Readiness Registration

Registration for the 2018/19 school year will begin in mid-January. If you have a child (or know a child) you would be interested in registering for our preschool or Kindergarten Readiness Program (for children who will be 5 by August 31 but will not be going to Kindergarten), please contact the church office for more information. The three-year-old class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30. The four-year-old class meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-11:30 or 12:30-3:00. The Kindergarten Readiness Program has a 3, 4 or 5 day option; classes meet from 8:45-11:45.

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Mission Statement

Trinity Lutheran Church is a family of believers in Christ who grow in their faith and their relationships with God and each other by participating in common experiences of Worship, Christian Education, and Fellowship.

Inspired by Christ’s love, we are called through our faith to witness to the Good News and reach out to serve the needs of people within our congregation, the community, and the world.

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The Next Issue of the Newsletter

The next issue of the parish newsletter will be the "Epiphany/Lent 2018" edition. The deadline for articles will be Sunday, January 28. The anticipated mailing date will be February 7. Please submit articles and announcements to the church office prior to Sunday, January 28.

Mitten Collection

Mittens, hats and scarves will be collected at services on December 17 and Christmas Eve. Items may be brought to church for the Family Service, Christmas Eve (or any service) and left on the pews or placed in the collection box in the gathering area. They will be delivered to United Neighborhood Centers for distribution to families in need throughout the winter.



First Communion Instruction

First Communion Instruction will begin with the season of Lent. Please watch bulletins, newsletters and emails for more information as the time gets closer.

Christmas at St. Luke's Manor

Over 240 items were collected for the residents at St. Luke's Manor. Members of the congregation provided personal items and Santa will visit the residents on Christmas day. Your participation is much appreciated. A special thanks to Dee Smith for overseeing this effort annually.



Merry Christmas

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to worshipping and celebrating the birth of our Lord with you.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the
N.E. Penna Synod of the
Evan. Lutheran Church in America*

Jeffrey Bohan
Interim Pastor

Krystle and Ignacio Madrussan
Missionaries in Argentina & Uruguay

Carole Hamersly
Office Manager and Pre-School Registrar

Heather Klien
*Director of Youth Ministries and
Sunday School Superintendent*

Jeremy Prostka
Organist and Choir Director

Tammy Rade
ELCA Deacon

Terry Bockelkamp
*Librarian
Prayer Ministry Coordinator*

The Church Office is open Mon, Wed, and
Thur. from 9:00 A.M. to 12 Noon
(other hours as needed)
Office: 587-1088 Pre-School: 586-5590
Trinity Website:
www.TrinityLutheranCS.com

The Parish Messenger is published
periodically by:

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 544
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-0544

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity Lutheran Church

December 10, 2017 - January 13, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 10</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> <p>7:00 PM Service of Advent Lessons and Carols</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 11</p> <p>7:00 PM Congregation Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 12</p> <p>6:30 PM Property Sub-Committee Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 13</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 16</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 17</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 AM Family Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:40 AM Decorating for Christmas</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 20</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 23</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 24</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 30</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 31</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 3</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 7</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>9:30 AM Adult Education Class</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Congregation Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 10</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>6:30 PM Education Ministry Team Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 13</p>

Trinity Lutheran Church

January 14, 2018 - February 17, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 14</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Congregation Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 15</p> <p>7:00 PM Congregation Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 17</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 21</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Congregation Coffee Hour</p> <p>11:40 AM Worship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 24</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 27</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 28</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Congregation Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jan 31</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 4</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Congregation Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 7</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 11</p> <p>8:15 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:40 AM Congregation Coffee Hour</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 12</p> <p>7:00 PM Congregation Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 14</p> <p>10:00 AM Quilting Group</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Feb 17</p>

Trinity Lutheran Church

Birthdays and Anniversaries: December 10, 2017 - January 20, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12 <i>Betty and Larry Wood</i> Matthew Woytach	Dec 13 Renee Mathews Suzanne Jones	Dec 14 Payton Stauffer	Dec 15 Billy McDonough	Dec 16
Dec 17 <i>Nancy and Ed Thompson</i>	Dec 18 Peg Kelly	Dec 19	Dec 20 Nancy Thompson	Dec 21 Elyse Rehder	Dec 22 Zachary Sloneker <i>Muriel and John Gallo</i>	Dec 23
Dec 24 John Gallo, Sr.	Dec 25	Dec 26	Dec 27 Robert Hamersly	Dec 28 Mark Skojec	Dec 29 Charles Saxe, Jr. Christine Lopatofsky David Lindsey	Dec 30 Audrey Cecchetelli
Dec 31 Addison Hoffman Michael Pencek Andrew Lewis Bonnie Keller	Jan 1 Robert Klien	Jan 2	Jan 3 Justin Phillips	Jan 4	Jan 5 Katherine (Kitchie) Strauch	Jan 6
Jan 7	Jan 8 Joseph Hamersly Maria Rehder	Jan 9 William Hamersly Jacob Walters	Jan 10 Alexis Hall Betty Rowlands	Jan 11 Sierra Demusere	Jan 12 <i>Carole and David Hamersly</i> Samantha Stanton	Jan 13 Casey Nealon
Jan 14 Brett Howell Tammy Rade	Jan 15 Arthur Wells, Jr.	Jan 16 Brenda Grunza Weston Harris Ben Belaski Victoria Demusere	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19 Lizzie Worrell Nathan Rehder	Jan 20



The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people." (Luke 2:10)

Merry Christmas! In the Name of Jesus. Amen. The Son of God is born. The Savior has arrived. The first sermons preached by this angel to shepherds is all about Good News. Not much Good News back then. Romans running everything. A new tax. Not much Good News now. Terrorism. The economy. War and disease and illness all around. But here is Good News. The Savior is born. And He's for all people. For shepherds. For Israelites. For you.

The Good News, and "peace on earth" that come at Christmas don't come because we get a nice white Christmas with soft glowing lights and some Burl Ives carols playing in the background. It comes because the One who makes all things new has been born. Jesus, "Yahweh saves" because He comes to save His people. The "peace on earth" doesn't arrive because everybody stops fighting but because the One who is born has come to bring an end to the enmity we have with God. God is no longer against you because of your sins. He can't be. For this Child that is born is born to take your sins and die for them on Calvary and rise the third day.

People can envision a big, bad, mean God who shows up and brings His fire and brimstone to kill bad people. But that's not what the angel preaches. No, this Savior is born to save sinners. To rescue them from sin and death. To defeat the devil. To pay for your sins by dying and rising for you.

And, in a world that is full of what doesn't appear to be much peace, the proof of our peace with God is the birth of Jesus. And it's given in your new birth in the waters of baptism. It's given to you in the flesh and blood of the One who Himself was laid in a feed trough when He was born.

Good News! There is peace with God. He's not your enemy. He loves and forgives you. That is why Jesus was born this day for you. Merry Christmas! In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

"To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild; This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth." (From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, LSB 358:2)