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# The Newsletter, January 2024



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Valley View, Pennsylvania*

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## Consider for 2024 ...

**“Get up early to spend time with God  
Choose to trust God in every circumstance  
Be still and know that God is good  
Go on a prayer walk  
Ask God to see people the way He does  
Speak biblical affirmations over yourself  
Prioritize time with God every day  
Read the Bible before you pick up your phone  
Meditate on scripture daily  
Surround yourself with people who love Jesus  
Say yes to an opportunity God presents to you  
Get planted in a church community  
Pray more than you worry”**

(Ashley Hetherington)

## December Highlights

### The Miracle of Christmas!

How the Shepherds and Wisemen come together.

Mary and Joseph show up.

And the baby Jesus.

As impromptu as the first Christmas was,

So at times we feel about Sunday School Christmas.

Yet once again God brought children, adults, music and words together.

We paused and thanked God that we could sit back and observe in this day and age.

Praise be to God!

**Children's Christmas Program:** On Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> we were happy to experience our annual Children's Christmas program. Thanks to Lisa Rodichok, Carolyn Dunkelberger and Kylene Kroh for doing a wonderful job coordinating the program, and everyone who helped with rehearsals. A special thank you to all the children who participated in the program. And thanks to Phyllis Klouser for the donation of oranges for all the children, to the Fellowship Committee for providing refreshments following the service, and to Santa for his surprise appearance.

## Poinsettias

In memory of Larry Klouser by Phyllis Klouser

In honor of my family by Phyllis Klouser

In honor of Ronnie Spotts by Alice Straub

In honor of Eleanor Shade by Alice Straub

In memory of Delroy F. Straub, Sr. by Alice Straub

In honor of Delroy and Sheila Straub Jr. and family by Alice Straub

In honor of Bradley and Monica Straub and family Rochelle and Brady by Alice Straub

In memory of Jimmy E. Shade, Michael Family, and Shade Family by Eleanor Shade

In honor of the Musical Ensembles, Vocalists, and Instrumentalists with which I have played over the last 26 Christmas Eves

In memory of Betty Schreffler by Ron Schreffler

In memory of Marian & Paul Klinger by Beverly and David Hand

In memory of Kathryn and Gene Hand by David and Beverly Hand

In memory of Rebecca and Jacob Schwalm by Steve Schwalm

In memory of Franklin R. Artz by Ruth Ann Artz

In honor of Family by Joyce and Vernon Schlegel

## And their Mission Continues...

This past summer members of our congregation spent a week on a mission trip to Charleston, SC. Every day they spent volunteering at a retirement village. In addition to playing bingo, puzzling, playing cards, doing chair yoga, arranging flowers and walking the residents' dogs, they also performed their lip sync act for the residents. When they saw how much the residents enjoyed their performance, they decided to continue their mission work by creating a Christmas lip sync show and made arrangements to perform it for the residents at Providence Place in Pine Grove and Green Valley on the Gordon Nagle Trail on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful and so fun to see. They ended the program with Santa and his helpers distributing Christmas ornaments to each resident. We are so proud of these representatives of Trinity for continuing their mission work by making time during the holidays to share their talents and provide a holiday program that was truly enjoyed by the residents and staff of both facilities. Thank you for your generous hearts.

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### **News from Brethren Housing Association (BHA)**

“We are celebrating this week because our first single dad has graduated from the Transitions program and moved his family into permanent housing!!! During Arnold’s time at BHA, he was able to obtain full-time employment, gain financial stability, and acquire housing. We are so proud of Arnold and the hard work he has put in to accomplish his goals” (*dated Dec 21, 2023, from BHA Facebook page*)

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### **Christmas and People Stories from the Midwest Food Bank**

FYI, our Kitchen Committee receives food free-of-charge from the Midwest Food Bank and uses it to prepare the Agape Table meal offered the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the social hall, also free-of-charge to anyone who wants to join us. The following article is from their newsletter.

“Through last week, 207 truckloads of food valued at \$18 million have come into our MFB Pennsylvania warehouse in 2023, primarily through our “food rescue” activities. Rather than going to a landfill, that food was/is being distributed free of charge to 200+ nonprofit partners who are helping feed over 208,000 people in need. We emphasize the “free of charge” because, frankly, we hear about our agencies paying higher fees at other food banks while those agencies are also seeing record levels of people in need.

Because we have been blessed by the efforts of almost 900 volunteers, MFB Pennsylvania can share our blessings with our partners free of charge so they can help more people. We work hard to make that happen and pledge to continue doing that! Between December 22 and January 1, our warehouse will be closed to the public for end-of-year inventory and some time off for staff. In the new year, we will share our official report of how much food, how many trucks, etc. While the numbers are fun to share, the real story of Midwest Food Bank Pennsylvania is a story of people. The people who donate their time, talents, and treasures. The people who are fed (physically and spiritually). The people who feed the people who need to be fed.

Of course, the Christmas story is about people, too. A baby. A mom and a dad. Unlikely party guests (shepherds) and fancy party guests (magi). God loves people. By His incredible and amazing grace, He uses and chooses people – then, now; at Midwest Food Bank Pennsylvania and around the world!

From our MFB Pennsylvania family to you and your family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed, healthy New Year. We’ll see you at the warehouse for the 2024 chapter of our story!

THANK YOU, Kathy Anderson-Martin, Executive Director”

# What's Happening in January?

## Sunday School News

Sunday School during church resumes on 1/7/23

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please contact the church office



### Agape Table Meal

December's Agape meal served 90 meals.

January's Agape Meal will be held on

**Wednesday, January 10, at 5:30 PM in the social hall.**

The menu will be ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, applesauce, and cake. Please consider joining us for food and fellowship! Pass the word to your friends and neighbors.

**Trinity's Agape Table meal is always free.** No offering is ever taken at the meal.

Although registration is not required, signing up helps the Kitchen Committee better plan the amount of food to cook.

You can sign up on the easel at the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office at (570)682-9373.



### SOUP SUNDAY – JANUARY 14, 2024


It's that time again! Soup will be served after worship on Sunday, January 14. If you wish to prepare a soup to share, please add your name to the sheet on the easel at the rear of the sanctuary. Crackers will be provided.

Please join us!



Food Closet at St John's United Methodist Church, Hegers: Our Food Closet Item for this month **Egg Noodles**. You may donate any food, this item and others, to the Food Closet cupboard next to the Nursery Classroom. We thank you for your generosity to help local families in need.

**Redners Receipts Enable Trinity to Provide Help to Those in Need:** Trinity’s Good Samaritan Program is funded by the money we receive from your contribution of Redners Receipts. The Good Samaritan Fund was originally created to help with travel expenses to medical appointments but has since expanded to help others as needs arise. The Discipleship Committee is pleased to let you know that through this program, Trinity was able to provide assistance to many families in need. It is a good feeling to know that when families are in need, they think of Trinity as a place that may be able to provide assistance, and we are able to help them. Thanks to those who take the time to save and bring in their Redner’s receipts, thanks to Vernon Schlegel for doing an outstanding job managing the Redner’s receipts, and thanks to Redners for offering this program to the community. Working together, we have a way to help those in need. Praise be to God. P.S. Please remember that the receipts must be dated within the year. Once a year has passed, the receipts will no longer be accepted for this program.

	<p><b>Thank You</b> to everyone who contributed to our Christmas celebrations at Trinity – those who provided special music at our Christmas Eve service, decorated the sanctuary, did special readings during advent, participated in the Children’s Christmas program, provided crafts for the Advent Craft Faire, and all those who attended the special services and events. Your talents and participation enriched our celebration of this most joyous season.</p>
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## Save the Dates

Dates	Events
Thursday Evenings	Choir, 7:00 PM
January 7	Sunday School during worship resumes (10:30 AM)
January 9	Church Council, 7:00 PM
January 10	Agape Table Meal, Social Hall at 5:30 PM
January 14	Soup Sunday after 10:30 AM worship service

## In Our Hearts and in Our Prayers



### *In Memoriam* ✝

We note with sorrow the deaths of  
**Doris Edwards** and **Grace Shankweiler**  
and offer our prayers and sympathies to their families.

We give thanks to God for the gift Doris and Grace  
were to their family and friends.

May God comfort all who mourn their loss,  
and may we be comforted by the hope of the resurrection.

“Rest eternal grant them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.”

# Important Info...



## **Worship Services - Everyone Welcome!**

- ✚ Saturday Evenings, 5:00 PM
- ✚ Sunday Mornings, 10:30 AM

Don't forget, if you have a commitment on Sunday, please consider attending worship Saturday at 5:00 PM.

It's one of the reasons we offer an option.



**Sunday School:** Sunday School is held every Sunday morning. We will continue teaching Sunday School during the worship service. All children will begin worship with their families, then shortly after the first hymn, head to a classroom for a snack and lesson. The children's choir will practice immediately after worship and continue to perform during Sunday services. Children will still participate in special services and communion.

**3 years old through Sixth Grade and Confirmation  
TLC Kids Choir following Sunday School**

You do not have to be a member of Trinity to attend. Our Sunday School is open to all. If you are interested in an adult Sunday School class, please contact the church office.

# Contact Us ...

- ✚ Trinity Lutheran Church, 1220 West Maple Street, PO Box 153, Valley View, PA 17983
- ✚ Office Phone: (570) 682-9373
- ✚ Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ✚ Visit us on the web at: [www.TrinityintheValley.com](http://www.TrinityintheValley.com)
- ✚ Email address for Trinity: [TrinityLuthvv@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityLuthvv@gmail.com)
- ✚ Follow us on Facebook

## **Please call the Pastor or Church Office...**

- ✚ When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so that visits can be made.
- ✚ When your class or group plans to have a meeting, so that it can be placed on the church calendar.
- ✚ When your home or business phone number or email address changes, to update church records
- ✚ When you are planning to move – out of town or locally
- ✚ When a baby arrives in your immediate or extended family
- ✚ When a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence

Want to "Go Green" with your offering? Electronic giving to Trinity is available through the Simply Giving Program endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union and administered by Vanco Payment Solutions. Online contributions can be debited from your checking or savings account, or processed through your credit or debit card. To enroll, go to [www.trinityinthevalley.com](http://www.trinityinthevalley.com), scroll to the bottom of the page, and click the button titled "Electronic Giving."

Deadlines: The bulletin deadline is Wednesday at noon. Bulletins will be available for folding from Thursday at noon on. Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.



Community Aid Bins: The two Community Aid bins at the east end of the parking lot are waiting for donations. Trinity receives 3 cents per pound back for whatever is donated which in turn is used to support Trinity's Mission Outreach. The items we donate support Community Aid's mission.

Newsletter Distribution: Please call the church office at 570-682-9373 if you would like to receive the newsletter via email or U.S. mail or if you would prefer a LARGE PRINT version. You may also pick up a copy inside the office entrance or on the shelving unit to the right of the glass case across from the Nursery classroom.

Birthdays and Anniversaries: To help celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries, we would like to project pictures on the screen at the time of singing. Anyone interested should submit a photo two weeks ahead of the date. Just put it in the door of the church office. Surprise your loved one with a photo from the past! We can also include in the newsletter. Just let us know.

Communion Cards: Please make sure that you sign a Communion Card. Record of Communion keeps you in active member status. Pencils in the pews will be disinfected. After you use a pencil, leave it on the pew or place it in a container on the way out of worship so it can be disinfected.

Tree of Life: Leaves in honor or memory of loved ones or special events such as weddings, confirmations, baptisms are still available. The cost is \$60 per leaf with proceeds designated for Christian Education. If interested, please complete a Leave Your Legacy form for each leaf. These forms can be found on the glass case across from the Nursery Classroom and returned to Vernon Schlegel.

Congratulations: If you would like to share good news (retirements, promotions, awards, etc.) about a member of Trinity, former member, friend or family of a member, please let the church office know so it can be included in a future Newsletter.

Visitor Bags: The Discipleship Committee has assembled Visitor Bags to give to our visitors. If you see a visitor, please alert one of the ushers.



"You, Lord, give perfect peace  
to those who keep  
their purpose firm  
and put their trust in you."

Isaiah 26:3



### Mission Statement Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran in America and is called to carry on the serving, teaching, proclaiming ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people through our life as a congregation and through our daily lives as individual Christians.