



Trinity Together

Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

January 2023

Transitional Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter	484-529-7801	dsritter@ptd.net
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Mission Statement:

“The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is to equip God’s people to do God’s work and bring good news to hungry people.”

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Phone: 610-683-3450

Website: www.trinitykutztown.com

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Adult Sunday School at 8:00 AM

Good News Club at 8:30 AM

2023 Church Council Members

Jeff Collier
Joseph Jedwab
Jessica Miller
Mary Neuenschwander
Ed Rakowiecki
Dan Raudenbush
Ann Towne
Jean Wagner
Alicia Wood

From the Pastor...

Dear Fellow Disciples in Christ,

I pray that this letter finds you ready for and excited about the new year that beckons us at Trinity. It will be a year in which we will seek to discern a direction for our ministry for the next 3-5 years. A planning team has been meeting since late October to oversee the strategic planning process for us. In the next few weeks your participation and prayerful reflection will be needed as we continue to dream, plan and prepare for God's future for us as a congregation.

Let me share with you who is serving on the strategic planning team: Kurt Rohrbach, chairman; Kellen Cunningham; Michele Zimmerman; Nargiza Jedwab; Deb Sailsbery; Andrew Neuenschwander and Ray Hoffman. In addition, our BSW Intern, Rachel Saienni, our DYFM, Seth Noggle, and I are adjunct and support participants. Melissa Haydt, who served as the consultant for the 2010 effort is serving in that capacity again. Please thank them when you see them and pray for them in this work.

As I mentioned previously, your participation and prayerful reflection will be needed in the next few weeks. **Here are important dates for you to place on your calendar so that you can attend and participate in this important undertaking.**

- **Sundays, January 15, 22 & 29 @ 9:30 AM** Worship – Pastor Ritter will lead a 3-week Bible study from the book of Acts
- **Sunday, February 19**, following Worship, a Congregational Planning Workshop w/lunch, 11 AM – 3 PM. (*Snow date is the following Sunday, February 26*)

I learned from my farming father at an early age that when plowing or mowing the grass it is never a good thing to look backwards or your furrow or grass cut will become crooked. Jesus says as much when he cautions someone who promised that he would follow him if only he could go back home and bid farewell to his family. Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God (Lk. 9:62)." So it is for us as a community of faith. While we can and should occasionally pause to reflect upon and give thanks to God for all that has been, as a community of faith we are always being called out into the future and new opportunities to love and serve others because of our love of God.

I look forward to sharing these next weeks and months with you as together we continue to prepare ourselves for the welcoming of our next regularly called pastor and discern where and how God is calling Trinity to serve in our community and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ritter

P. S.: I wanted to share an update regarding my recent health challenges. I appear to be recovering well from my bout with COVID, as is my wife, Susan. As to what may have caused my overnight stay at LVHC back in late November, I am still awaiting the results of a monitor I wore for 10 days. Beyond that it appears that I may need a medication I take to be tweaked a bit. Thank you for your concerns and well wishes. They have been most appreciated.



Schedule & Volunteers

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Jan. 1	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 8	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
Jan. 15	9:30 AM	Amy Pfeiler-Wunder
Jan. 22	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 29	9:30 AM	To be determined

LAY READERS:

Jan. 1	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 8	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
Jan. 15	9:30 AM	No one needed
Jan. 22	9:30 AM	No one needed
Jan. 29	9:30 AM	No one needed

ACOLYTES:

Jan. 1	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 8	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 15	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 22	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 29	9:30 AM	To be determined

USHERS/GREETERS:

Jan. 1	9:30 AM	Melanie Wessner & Alicia Wood
Jan. 8	9:30 AM	Donna Keglovits & Alice Kutz
Jan. 15	9:30 AM	April & Ed Rakowiecki
Jan. 22	9:30 AM	Nargiza & Joseph Jedwab
Jan. 29	9:30 AM	Molly Dubbs & Sean Dugan

TECH COORDINATORS:

Jan. 1	9:30 AM	Brandon Wood
Jan. 8	9:30 AM	Kellen Cunningham
Jan. 15	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 22	9:30 AM	To be determined
Jan. 29	9:30 AM	To be determined

MONEY COUNTERS: Steve Finke and Melanie Wessner

FLOWER CHAIRPERSON: Darlene Dietrich

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Linda Geiring

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life	Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m.
Strategic Planning	Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. (virtual)
Church Council	Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m.
Stewardship	Wednesday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m.
Hymn Selection	Saturday, Jan. 14, at 8:30 a.m.
Endowment	Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m.

From the Church Office...

The church office hours beginning in January are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The office is closed on Mondays.

Deadline for articles for the February newsletter is Monday, January 16th.

Please note: To email the church office, please use the address: office@trinitykutztown.com

Christian Education...

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class welcomes you to join us in enjoying "From Darkness to Light," a program that invites us to see the saving grace of Jesus Christ as the light of the world. We just learned about how God chooses us to carry his message of peace into the world. Now we will look at how we can call to share the light of Christ in a broken world. We will look at stories of forgiveness, strength, mercy, and love overcoming sin, evil and death. Imagine Christ's grace as a lighthouse shining over a dark, dangerous coastline, guiding sailors to safety. Rev. Jeanette Bilas Strandjord will guide us to see how we can be lighthouse keepers. Please join us Sundays at 8:00 am in the Parlor for discussion, coffee, and fellowship.

Good News Club!

The Good News Club, our Sunday School Ministry, meets on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. We invite our Kindergarten through 5th Grade friends to join us!

Bible Study

Bible Study is on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. You can join the Bible study group in-person or on Zoom. To join the group electronically use the Zoom platform. Here's the Zoom link to click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84530518506> To dial-in by phone, call this number: 1 301-715-8592. Then, when you are prompted, enter this Meeting ID number: 845 3051 8506. No other password is needed.

From the Finance Committee...

Approved 2022 Budget --	\$323,495
Unrestricted income through Nov.	\$246,258
Expenditures through Nov.	\$263,312
Balance through Nov.	\$(17,054)
Average monthly offering	\$ 19,352

* () will indicate a deficit

2023 Church Offering Envelopes...

The 2023 church envelopes are available now for pickup. They are on a table at the bottom of the steps into the sanctuary and can be picked up on Sunday mornings or during church office hours. If unable to get to the church during those times, please call the church office to make other arrangements.

Winter Weather Information...

When winter weather turns bad, information concerning in-person cancellations and time changes of activities at Trinity will be sent out via...

- Channel 69 news & WFMZ website
- Email blast and All-Call
- Calling Trinity's Office (610-683-3450) for messages regarding changes in schedule

Worship will be live streamed through Zoom as well as being posted on our Facebook and YouTube pages for later viewing.

Youth News...

January Schedule for our Youth Groups

My E-mail is seth.noggle@gmail.com if you would like to E-mail me and ask to be on the youth group list. That's the best way to be updated on Youth Group activities.

Jan. 1st – No Scheduled Youth Group
Happy New Year!

Jan. 8th – at St. John's
Primary Youth Group (K-6th)
Time: 4:30 – 6:00 PM
Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Jan. 15th – No Scheduled Youth Group
RSVP by this date for the Blue Mountain snow tubing on Jan. 29

Jan. 22nd – at Trinity (ALL AGES)
Primary and Secondary Youth Group
volunteering at Kutztown Kitchen at Trinity

Schedule:
Food Prep: 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Serving/Prep/Clean-Up: 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Feel free to stop by anytime between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. for a free meal!

Jan. 29th – Blue Mountain Snow Tubing

Cost: Depends on if we get the group rates, but roughly \$15-20. The church will cover 50% of cost.

Location: Blue Mountain Ski Resort, 1660 Blue Mountain Drive, Palmerton PA 18071

RSVP: Friends and parents are welcome! Contact Seth by SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, TO RSVP

Schedule: Leave the Trinity parking lot at 5:20 p.m.

Snow tubing from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Get home 8:45ish

Interested in Joining Trinity...

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of our congregation, please contact Pr. Ritter. New members will be received as the opportunity to do so arises.

Annual Reports...

As we begin a new year, committee chairpersons are asked to please submit a report for the year 2022 for the annual report booklet, which will be reviewed during the Phase II congregational meeting. **Please submit reports to the church office by January 24th.** Thank you!

Upcoming Events...

Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, January 22, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. For questions or to request a ride or delivery, please call 610-683-3450 or 484-239-5314.

Rejoicing Spirits Ecumenical Community Ministry...

On Sunday, January 1st, at 3:00 PM, the monthly "Rejoicing Spirits" worship and fellowship gathering for intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals will be held at St. Paul UCC (47 S. Whiteoak St.). Anyone is invited to attend. If you know of someone who is intellectually and developmentally disabled, let them know about this special worship and fellowship opportunity to gather and express their joy and love of God, the creator of us all.

How You Can Help...

Undecorate the Church

On Saturday, January 7, at 9:00 a.m., please join us to undecorate the church after the Christmas season. Many hands make light work!

Mission Team Needs Volunteers

We recently learned of a family in our community who is in need of some home renovations for the husband and father who has been diagnosed with ALS (commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease). The disease impacts the neuro-muscular system. Unfortunately, there is no cure.

Trinity's Mission Team is planning to tear out a current bathroom and replace it with a new wheelchair accessible one beginning on Saturday, January 14th. **The demolition schedule for that weekend is as follows:**

Saturday the 14th – 9 AM thru 4 PM

Sunday the 15th – 1 PM thru 4 PM

This work will require some strong muscles and possibly younger individuals to carry debris out to a dumpster for removal from the property.

Then, during the following week a new bathroom will be installed. This work will occur during the day and will be led by skilled individuals in the various trades needed. Volunteers will be needed to assist with this work. It is hoped that 4-6 individuals will be present each of the weekdays during the installation work.

If you can help at any time during this project, please contact David Owen with days and times you are available and if you have any special skills. Dave's contact info is as follows:

Cell: 610-823-4958

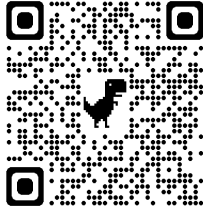
Email: processmasters@aol.com

Valentine Shut-In Care Packages

Trinity and the Mission Committee wish to provide outreach/care packages to our shut-ins as a Valentine's Day project. If you would like to contribute to this project, beginning on Jan. 8th there will be item suggestions written on sticky notes located on a foam board in the hallway outside of the office. These items will be packaged and distributed to the shut-ins for Valentine's Day. Please take the note, sign up on the table so we know what you are bringing, and return your item(s) to the box in the hall by February 12, 2023. If you have any questions, please call Rita Robertson at 610-737-7039. Thank you!

Kutztown Kitchen

"Feed my sheep." – John 21:17. We need helpers for Kutztown Kitchen. Will you consider lending a few hours to this mission to help feed hungry people? Talk to Ann Towne, sign up on the office door, or scan QR code and sign up on Signup Genius. Dates: Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, Apr. 23.



Student Food Pantry at KU

Thank you to everyone who has contributed time, groceries, and cash donations to this ministry. If you would like to contribute food items, please see the list below...

Peanut Butter	Juice
Miscellaneous Snacks	Crackers
Knorr Side Dish Packets	Cereal
Instant Potato Packets	Breakfast Bars
Toiletries	Mac 'n Cheese
Soup	Tuna
Canned Fruits & Veggies	Pasta

There is a box outside of the Parlor for the items you are donating. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the church office.

Flower Sponsors...

Flower sponsors are needed for 2023. The chart to sign up will be posted shortly on the bulletin board. In the meantime, if you would like to provide the flowers for a Sunday worship service, please call Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975 or the church office. Sponsors can order the flowers from their choice of florist. Thank you!

Devotional Books...

The new issue of "Christ in Our Home" devotional booklet is available to pick up in the rear of the church and also on the outside cart. It contains devotionals for January through March.

Consider a LEGACY or a SPECIAL Gift to Trinity...

With rising interest rates and inflation, if you are 65 or older, now might be a good time to consider a charitable annuity. It can serve to produce current income for you, the creator, and upon your death a legacy gift to Trinity. In addition, when you create the annuity, it will serve to reduce your tax liability for that year. For more information you can talk to a financial planner, or you can contact the ELCA Foundation for assistance in this regard.

Another possible gifting opportunity with tax reduction implications is gifting a portion of your IRA. Gifts up to \$100,000 can be made from an IRA to a charitable entity such as Trinity. Again, you can talk to a financial planner or the folks at the ELCA Foundation to assist you in this matter.

Medical Equipment Available...

The Demchyk family would like to offer these items to anyone in the congregation, or anywhere, who is reliant on supplemental oxygen, in order to give them more freedom to get about, inside and outside their home. Please contact Steve Demchyk at 610-570-8812 or sdemchyk@ptd.net if interested.

1. Airsep Freestyle Portable Oxygen Concentrator; includes battery with charger (AC) and car charger, backpack and carry case
2. Inogyn At Home Oxygen Concentrator Model GS-100
3. Inogyn One Portable Oxygen Concentrator with rechargeable batteries and chargers, Model 10-300
4. Inogyn One G4 Oxygen Concentrator Model 10-400 with batteries and chargers
5. Pari Trek S Compressor Assembly (nebulizer for breathing treatments), Model 047B1000
6. Pari Trek S Compressor Nebulizer Assembly with carry case, Model 047B1000
7. Pacifica Elite Compressor Nebulizer, Model 18070
8. Assortment of tubing of various lengths, connectors, cannulas

Flag Retirement Box...

Trinity is a designated collection point for ready to be retired flags, sponsored by the Scouts of Kutztown. If you have a flag to be retired, please place it in the labeled wooden box across from the office.

Memorial Fund Contributions...

We have received the following additional contributions to the Memorial Fund this month...

In memory of Kenneth Dietrich

Louise and Robert DeVall
Carol and John Dietrich
Eunice and Franklin Dietrich
Brenda and Frank Knight
Ellen and Philip Long
Linda and Philip Menges
Kari Dietrich Sifferle and William Sifferle
Emelie and Scott Swackhamer
Dawn and Paul Vasko

In memory of Robert Gehringer

Kathleen and John O'Shea
Ann and Gary Rollman

Community Events...

Better With Age

The Kutztown Community Library at 70 Bieber Alley is starting a new monthly program for adults 60+ to build connections, hear speakers, and play games. It will be held the third Friday of the month at 10 a.m. beginning January 20. The January meeting will be introductions, and on February 17th there will be an AARP speaker.

Young At Heart Seniors

Young at Heart Seniors meets every third Wednesday of the month at St. Paul's UCC, 47 South Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. Join us to hear speakers, crafts, speakers and refreshments. For more information, call Barbara at 610-683-3393 or via email at office@stpaulskutztown.org

Friend, Inc. 2021 Benefit Auction

What can you create with that old dresser discovered at the flea market? Friend, Inc. is looking for artists, creatives and craftsmen to flip furniture items to competitively auction at our 2023 Benefit auction. Here's your chance to have fun for a good cause with a little friendly rivalry thrown in for good measure. If you are interested in becoming a "Friendly Flipper" call 610-683-9012 and talk to Jim. The contest will end on auction night April 29, 2023!

Wellness on Wheels

Berks Community Health Center's mobile medical unit, Wellness on Wheels, will be at Friend Inc. on January 16 and February 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wellness on Wheels will have medical staff available for well checks, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, and referrals to specialists. **An appointment is required.** Call 610-988-4838, extension 1266 to schedule.

Bear Creek Camp News

Registration for Youth and Family Camps will open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. Some sessions and age groups have historically filled quickly, so we encourage you to register early! All campers who register before March 31st will receive an exclusive Early Bird T-Shirt when they arrive at camp featuring this year's theme logo. Visit the website for more information: bearcreekcamp.org

Session 1: June 18-23
Session 2: June 25-30
Session 3: July 2-7
Session 4: July 9-14
Session 5: July 16-21
Session 6: July 23-28
Session 7: July 30-August 4
Session 8: August 6-11

Try Camp: Sessions 1, 2, 4 & 5; Family Camp: Session 3

Bear Creek is also looking for summer staff. Being part of summer staff means caring for campers, growing as a community, and finding plenty of adventures along the way. If you are or know of anyone 18 or older that is ready for the summer of a lifetime, contact kaitlyn@bearcreekcamp.org



ARISE,
SHINE;
FOR YOUR LIGHT
HAS COME,
AND THE GLORY
OF THE LORD
HAS RISEN
UPON YOU.

ISAIAH 60:1, NRSV

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm Worship Life Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Strategic Plan Steering Committee (virtual meeting)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am Undecorate the sanctuary</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00pm Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30am Hymn Selection Committee 9:00am Mission Team Project</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 1:00pm Mission Team Project</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Endowment Committee Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 2:00pm Youth Groups Prep, Serve and Clean Up for Kutztown Kitchen 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 5:20pm Snow Tubing at Blue Mountain</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>



JANUARY

Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sam Garland Aliza Collier	2 Christine Kunkel Elijah Miller Liam Miller	3 Michael Miller	4	5	6	7 David Adam
8 Emily Bubbenmoyer	9	10 Soni Diaz Jeremy Miller	11 Brent Ziegler	12 Michaila Lopic-Lloyd	13	14 Daryl Dietrich
15 Nicole Angelisanti Will DeVall	16	17 Deron Youse	18 Ethan Horvath Michael Adam Steve Dundore	19	20 Dale Lichtenwalner	21 Scott Beck Sue Mangold
22 Laura Werst Zachary Owen Julia Mace	23	24 James Kohler	25 Alyssa Heffelfinger Catherine Kunkel	26 Mike Sailsbery	27 Florita Hobaugh	28 April Rakowiecki
29 William Towne Pamela Sullivan	30 Bettie Kelchner	31				

SYNOD NEWS
 NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

**Generosity and Vitality in
 the **NOW** Normal**

A Stewardship Extravaganza

January 21, 2023 | Trinity, Lansdale



Generosity And Vitality In The NOW Normal
 Sponsored by the Southeastern PA and Northeastern PA
 Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saturday, January 21, 2023
 8 A.M. To 4 P.M.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 1000 W. Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446

An In-Person Only Event
 Cost: \$40 per person (includes lunch)
 FREE for SEPA/NEPA Synod seminarians and first-call
 pastors

Engage with outstanding church leaders in plenary
 presentations and question-and-answer sessions.



Keynote:

Ryan Burge: "The Nones:
 From The Overlooked
 Category to Impossible
 to Miss in Less Than
 Fifty Years"

Register Now!

Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/
LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY



SAVE
THE
DATE

SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023

JUNE
1-3



ELCA

A Fresh Look for the ELCA

The ELCA has released refreshed branding featuring a cleaner look and a modified color scheme. Learn more at elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Branding. The new logos should be used in digital media including websites, email, and social media. Printed materials may be used until they are depleted.