



# Trinity Together

Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

February 2023

<b>Transitional Pastor:</b> The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter	484-529-7801	<a href="mailto:dsritter@ptd.net">dsritter@ptd.net</a>
<b>Director of Youth &amp; Family Ministry:</b> Seth Noggle	570-529-2325	<a href="mailto:Seth.noggle@gmail.com">Seth.noggle@gmail.com</a>
<b>Editor/Administrative Assistant:</b> Diane Spohn	610-683-3450	<a href="mailto:office@trinitykutztown.com">office@trinitykutztown.com</a>
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<b>Financial Secretary:</b> Mike Sailsbery	412-849-5255	<a href="mailto:finsectrinity@hotmail.com">finsectrinity@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Giving Bookkeeper:</b> Lisa Finke	610-349-2325	<a href="mailto:lmfinke@msn.com">lmfinke@msn.com</a>
<b>Bachelor of Social Work Intern:</b> Rachel Saienni	610-470-8437	<a href="mailto:rachelsaienni@gmail.com">rachelsaienni@gmail.com</a>

## 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](http://www.trinitykutztown.com)

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Adult Sunday School at 8:00 AM

Good News Club at 10:45 AM (after worship service)

## 2023 Church Council Members

<b>Jeff Collier</b>	Property
<b>Joseph Jedwab</b>	Christian Education
<b>Jessica Miller</b>	Treasurer, Finance and Stewardship
<b>Mary Neuenschwander</b>	Personnel
<b>Ed Rakowiecki</b>	Vice President, Personnel
<b>Dan Raudenbush</b>	President, Endowment
<b>Ann Towne</b>	Mission/Service
<b>Jean Wagner</b>	Worship Life
<b>Alicia Wood</b>	Secretary, Fellowship

## ***From the Pastor...***

Dear Fellow Disciples,

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God (Lk. 9:62).” Jesus spoke these words to a man who promised to follow him after first bidding farewell to his family, a seemingly reasonable request. It seems uncharacteristically harsh coming from Jesus, but as someone who grew up on a farm, I know the problem one can get into plowing and looking backwards. It is important to keep one’s eyes focused out ahead to a goal on the other side of the field, so it is in our faith journey as individuals and a congregation.

Over the next few weeks, we will be asking you to give some extra time to engage with God through the Holy Spirit and your fellow disciples in Christ concerning the nature of Trinity’s ministry in the coming years. We will be asking you to think about

- ways in which we can better equip each of us (God’s people) to do God’s work, and
- ways we can continue to bring God’s good news to hungry people.

In other words, we will be looking at ways in which we can strengthen and grow both our inward focused ministry and our outward focused ministry.

Here is what is in store for us:

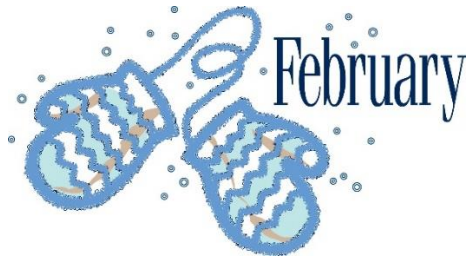
- ❖ A GROWING YOUNG workshop on **Saturday, February 4, from 9 AM until 3:30 PM** where we will examine results of the Growing Young survey that individuals have been invited to take. Here is the link for the survey: <https://www.our-survey.church/telck>. It will provide an opportunity to discern the strengths and weaknesses of Trinity’s current culture and start a conversation around what we can do to maximize our strengths and address our weaknesses. **A sign-up sheet is on the church office door** so that adequate arrangements can be made for lunch that day.
- ❖ An ALL MEMBERS CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING event on **Sunday, February 26 (snow date of 3/5), following worship in the morning until 3:30 PM (please note the change of date)**. This will be an opportunity for us to gather and discuss what of our current ministries should continue, what ministries may need to change and what, if any, new things do we have the gifts and energy to undertake. **A sign-up sheet for this event is on the pastor’s office door.**
- ❖ A CONSECRATION SUNDAY event during worship on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. On this day we will be invited to make our financial commitment to Trinity’s ministries for 2023.

These 3 events along with an ongoing conversation regarding our worship life are important ways in which input from each of you will be important as together with God through the Holy Spirit we seek to discern and plan for the future God has in store for Trinity.

We have set our hands to the plow. Let us go forth in good courage focused on what lies ahead of us while giving thanks for what has been and supporting what is.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Ritter*



## Schedule & Volunteers

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Feb. 5	9:30 AM	Joe Piscitelli
Feb. 12	9:30 AM	Dan Neuenschwander
Feb. 19	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush
Feb. 22	7:00 PM	To be determined (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 26	9:30 AM	Amy Pfeiler-Wunder

### LAY READERS:

Feb. 5	9:30 AM	Joe Piscitelli
Feb. 12	9:30 AM	To be determined
Feb. 19	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush
Feb. 22	7:00 PM	To be determined (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 26	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller

### ACOLYTES:

Feb. 5	9:30 AM	To be determined
Feb. 12	9:30 AM	To be determined
Feb. 19	9:30 AM	To be determined
Feb. 22	7:00 PM	To be determined (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 26	9:30 AM	To be determined

### USHERS/GREETERS:

Feb. 5	9:30 AM	Dan & David Neuenschwander
Feb. 12	9:30 AM	Rita & Alan Robertson
Feb. 19	9:30 AM	Pauline & Kurt Rohrbach
Feb. 22	7:00 PM	To be determined (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 26	9:30 AM	Soni Diaz & Tom Kulp

**MONEY COUNTERS:** Alan and Rita Robertson and Donna Keglovits

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Rita Robertson

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Melanie Wessner and Sue Collier

### IMPORTANT DATES:

February	Black History Month
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 20	President's Day
February 22	Ash Wednesday

### Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life	Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.
Strategic Planning	Sunday, Feb. 19, after worship

### From the Church Office...

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

Deadline for articles for the March newsletter is Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Please note:** To email the church office, please use the address: [office@trinitykutztown.com](mailto:office@trinitykutztown.com)

### Ash Wednesday 2023...

Our annual Lenten journey to the cross (Good Friday), the empty tomb and encounters with the resurrected Christ (Easter) will begin once again this year on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> with worship at 7 PM, here at Trinity. The service will include the imposition of ashes, sermon and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

During the day there will be 2 opportunities to receive ashes using an abbreviated rite called **ASHES on the GO**. They will take 5-10 minutes and are scheduled and located as follows:

- **Trinity church** (on the Baldy Street side of the building) from 11 AM until 1 PM (*walk-up or drive-up*).
- **The Lutheran Ctr.** on the KU campus from 4 PM until 6 PM.

We look forward to greeting you at one of these opportunities to initiate your Lenten journey.

## **Assisting Minister and Lay Reader Schedule...**

There are openings on the Assisting Minister and Lay Reader schedule for 2023. Please consider volunteering to serve in these roles for worship services. Sign up at:

<https://bit.ly/TrinityWorshipLeaderSchedule>

or contact Laurel Ziegler or the church office. Thank you!

## **Mid-week Lenten Worship and Bible Study Opportunities...**

Again, this year Trinity will be joining with St. Paul UCC to sponsor 5 mid-week Lenten worship opportunities. The theme this year is “**Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places.**” Each evening will begin with a meal at 6 PM at the host church that night and will be followed by worship at 7 PM at the same location. The schedule for this series is as follows:

- **March 1**, Trinity Lutheran Church (Pr. Adamson preaches)
- **March 8**, St. Paul UCC, (Pr. Ritter preaches)
- **March 15**, Trinity, (Pr. Adamson preaches)
- **March 22**, St. Paul UCC, (Pr. Ritter preaches)
- **March 29**, Trinity, (Pr. Ritter preaches)

In addition, five Bible study opportunities are scheduled during Lent for Tuesday mornings at 10 AM and will take place at St. Paul UCC. The series by Max Lucado is entitled, “**He Chose the Nails**”. The schedule and leaders for this series are as follows:

- **February 28**, Pr. Ritter
- **March 7**, Pr. Adamson
- **March 14**, Seth Noggle
- **March 21**, Seth Noggle
- **March 28**, Pr. Adamson

Finally, Trinity’s regular Bible study on Thursday mornings at 10 AM with a zoom option will continue as well, so as you can see there will be a variety of opportunities to gather in worship or study during the season of Lent.

## **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 after the worship service beginning Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. We invite our Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Dec.	\$288,059
Expenditures through Dec.	\$288,397
Balance through Dec.	\$ ( 338)
Average monthly offering	\$ 21,121

\* ( ) will indicate a deficit

## **We Say YES!**

### **Stewardship Campaign...**

The Stewardship Campaign to seek your support for Trinity's ministries in 2023 is currently taking place. A mailing went out to every household in mid-January. Included in that mailing were a cover letter and 3 Bible studies designed to be used by members of the household individually or as a family opportunity to study what the Bible has to say regarding our role as stewards of God's many and varied graces. The campaign, entitled, **We Say YES!** will conclude with **Consecration Sunday, scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>, during worship** when members will be asked to make their faith pledge for the support of Trinity's ministries this year. **Please make every effort to attend worship that day so that we will have fewer follow-up mailings to send out to those who were unable to attend.**

## **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.

## **Interested in Joining Trinity...**

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of our congregation, please contact Pr. Ritter. No date has been set for the reception of new members until an individual(s) indicate a desire to join Trinity.

## **Youth News...**

### **February Schedule for our Youth Groups**

My E-mail is [seth.noggle@gmail.com](mailto: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.

#### **Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> – at St. John's**

Primary Youth Group (K-6<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

#### **Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> – No Scheduled Youth Group Super Bowl – Go Birds!**

#### **Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – No Scheduled Youth Group**

#### **Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> (Fri.-Sat.) – LOCK-IN at Trinity**

Who: Youth Group (Grades 4-7) Friends welcome!

Time: 7:30 PM-9:00 AM

RSVP: By February 19<sup>th</sup>

What: This will be held at Trinity and will be an all-nighter at the church. Volunteers are welcome!

What to Bring: Sleepwear, sleeping bag or something comfortable to sleep on, pillow, snacks (not required).

#### **Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – at St. John's**

Secondary Youth Group (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

7:00 – 8:30 PM

## **Upcoming Events...**

### **Kutztown Kitchen**

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, February 26, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. For questions or to request a ride or delivery, please call Ann Towne at 484-239-5314 or the church office.

## Growing Young Workshop

There will be a Growing Young Workshop on Saturday, February 4, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Anyone interested is invited to attend. What will the workshop focus on? Packed with both research and practical ideas, Growing Young **shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the whole church.** The Growing Young workshop will be led by Stacey Burke who is our synod's Growing Young Coordinator. Please sign up on yellow sheet on office door or call the church office.

## **Rejoicing Spirits Ecumenical Community Ministry...**

The next Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County service is at 3:00 pm, Sunday, February 5, 2023, at St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak Street, Kutztown. All are welcome at this no-shush worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities. Rejoicing Spirits includes music and joyous singing, brief, meaningful messages and the chance to connect with others. We meet the first Sunday of every month, 3:00pm at St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown. For more information, contact: Charlene Fisher ([charf1sh@verizon.net](mailto:charf1sh@verizon.net), 610-223-9822) or Erin Webb ([emwebb05@aol.com](mailto:emwebb05@aol.com), 610-894-9949)

## **How You Can Help...**

### **Valentine Shut-In Care Packages**

Trinity and the Mission Committee with to provide outreach/care packages to our shut-ins as a Valentine's Day project. If you would like to contribute to this project, please take a sticky note from the foam board in the hallway outside of the office, 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!

## Souper Bowl of Caring

We will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Attendees at worship will be asked to make a gift to Café Esperanza and/or to bring a nonperishable food item that will be donated to Friend Inc. A collection box will be provided for nonperishable food items and soup pots will be available for financial contributions as people leave worship that day.

## 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...

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

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.

## **Bathroom Rebuild Complete...**

As many of you are aware, our mission team was recently engaged in the design and refurbishing of a bathroom for a family in our area whose husband and father has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), a neuro-muscular disease.

**Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway with this project.** Special recognition must go out to Alan McSparron and David Owen for their leadership of the mission team and the preplanning that they did regarding this endeavor.

## **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.

## **Flower Sponsors...**

The following dates are available for flower sponsors:

February 19	July 30
March 19 and 26	August 20 and 27
April 9 and 23	September 3, 17 and 24
May 21 and 28	October 8 and 22
June 4 and 18	December 24 and 31

We also need monthly flower chairpersons to call people who sponsored flowers to remind them and see how they want the sponsorship listed in the bulletin and then deliver the flowers after the service. Chairpersons are needed for the months of April, June, July, September, October, and November.

To sponsor flowers or volunteer to be flower chairperson for a month, please call Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975, sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board, or call the church office at 610-683-3450.

## **Thank You Notes...**

Dear Trinity Members,

On behalf of Kutztown Strong I want to extend our sincere thanks for your donation of \$115.08 from the Jingle Offering. It will help us continue our mission *to strengthen the resolve of the next generation*. We've been around for several years now, we've made progress, but there is still so much more to do and so much to learn in this never-ending battle that has affected so many lives. Thank you again for your support and the work you do in the community.

Merry Schlegel, Kutztown Strong President

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Dear Rev. Dr. Dennis S. Ritter,

On behalf of the Kutztown Community Library, thank you for your donation of \$60.95 received on 12/21/2022 to support the library's programming for children and youth in the community. We are grateful for your contribution.

Sincerely,  
Board of Trustees

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Dear Congregation at Trinity Lutheran,  
Thank you for your donations of 30 Christmas gifts for children of our pantry clients and the Holiday Dinner Boxes for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The generosity from your congregation helped to make this past Holiday season a little brighter for those in need. From the clients, staff and Board of Friend, Inc. Community Services, we sincerely thank you and wish you a happy and healthy 2023!

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Dear Friends at Trinity Lutheran,

Please know that your generosity will have a positive effect on someone's life and what could possibly mean more than that? At Friend, Inc. we think it means everything, which is why we devote our days to that effort. Also, know that we absolutely could not do it without the kindness of people like you.

Your gift of \$500 will go a long way towards helping individuals and families throughout northeastern Berks County. You are helping to alleviate hunger, mitigate financial crisis, provide money management education, job placement assistance, and other life sustaining support including referrals to outside agencies such as Safe Berks, Family Guidance Center, and Maternal and Family Services (WIC).

With Sincere Thanks and Deep Respect,  
Jim Reece, Executive Director

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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Kutztown Fire & Rescue, thank you for your generous donation of \$150. As you may or may not know, Kutztown Fire & Rescue is a 100% volunteer department that runs approximately 500 calls annually. We greatly appreciate your generous donation and will continue to work hard to keep our community safe.

Todd Evans, Chief

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Dear friend in Christ,

**Thank you** for sharing your gifts with our church, and for sharing the power of God's love with the world. As we begin this new year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your powerful impact in the previous one. We are drawn into community by our shared faith. We are also called to go out and get to work alongside our siblings in Christ, near and far. **Your generosity makes incredible work possible.** You have helped plant crops, build homes and churches, expand access to education, provide quality health care, and so much more.

In thanks,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America

## 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 each month at 10 a.m. The February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature an AARP speaker.

### Kutztown Folk Music Society

February 10: Hannah Violet, leader of the Hannah Violet Trio and a judge at the Berks Fiddle Festival. Her beautiful voice, whether on guitar or fiddle, will really draw your attention! And there may be a surprise guest musician!

### 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. **On February 15<sup>th</sup>**, Hallie Vaughan, a retired fourth grade teacher with an interest in women's history, will portray female spies of three different historical times. She dresses in period costumes and fully embodies each character she portrays. For more information, call Barbara at 610-683-3393 or via email at [office@stpaulskutztown.org](mailto:office@stpaulskutztown.org)

### Friend, Inc. 2023 Benefit Auction

Come join Friend, Inc. Community Services on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 5pm for their 33rd annual BENEFIT AUCTION at Beltzner Hall in the Kutztown Fairgrounds. Bid on awesome art, jewelry, household items, gift certificates for local businesses, and more. ALL monies raised stay right here in Berks which allows Friend, Inc. to continue to provide food and social support programs to those in need. Tickets and virtual bidding options can be found on Friend, Inc.'s website.

### Wellness on Wheels

Berks Community Health Center's mobile medical unit, Wellness on Wheels, will be at Friend Inc. on 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.

### Community Supported Agriculture

There will be a CSA pickup location again this year in Kutztown at Four Monkeys Coffee for shares of produce from Taproot Farm. See their website for more information or to sign up for summer shares: <https://taprootfarmpa.com>.



February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 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	<b>30</b> Office Closed	<b>31</b> 7:00pm Endowment Committee Meeting	<b>1</b> 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00am Growing Young Workshop
<b>5</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Good News Club 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Worship Life Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Good News Club	<b>13</b> Office Closed	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Good News Club 10:45am Strategic Plan Steering Committee	<b>20</b> Office Closed 7:00pm Strategic Plan Steering Committee (if needed)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	<b>23</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 7:30pm Youth Group Lock-In at Trinity	<b>25</b> 9:00am Lock-In Ends
<b>26</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Good News Club 11:00am Congregational Planning Workshop 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 7:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> 10:00am Lenten Bible Study at St. Paul's UCC	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Meal - Trinity 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service - Trinity	<b>2</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Kevin Stump	4 Bennett Keglovits
5	6 Lisa Bogert	7	8	9	10	11 Patrick Herbert Joyce Rohrbach
12	13 Morgan Esser	14	15	16 Emily Jones	17	18 Dave Miller Amanda Reffie
19 Doris Sell Cecilia Kelchner	20 John Kelchner Caroline Kern Heidi Kern Kelly Hermann Joan Berg Ryan Woodland Paityn Ziegler	21 Mark Smith Kelly Ryan	22 Sarah Stump Melissa Bubbenmoyer	23 Alice Kutz Wynonna Werst	24 Susan Kern Jeff Hertzog Clint Foster	25 Derek Mace Liam Bowerman
26 Pauline Graff Nicholas Bogert	27 Andrew Miller Heidi Heffelfinger	28 Arlan Seaman				



# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



## *FriEDEN'S: An Amazing Garden Story*

A few weeks after the lockdown in the spring of 2020, I called a neighbor in town who had a garden in her front yard. It's Shartlesville, and the PA Dutch are used to their yards looking \*just so,\* so I knew this was a brave woman who loved gardening vegetables more than public opinion. I also knew she didn't have room for pumpkins in her small yard, so I called and proposed we plant some viney crops up on our church property. She agreed and even had the seeds, gardening skills, and ideas, so after consultation with council, the garden was born. We sent our crop to the neighboring UCC congregation's food pantry, and with the excess had physically- distant free produce giveaways.

In 2021, we expanded the garden by half, to about 50 by 75 feet. We watered each plant via a recycled gallon milk jug with a pinprick in the bottom. The plants were happy, but our backs were not. It took 45 minutes to an hour to water all the jugs, which we did nearly every day because the garden is in full sun. The black plastic we used for weed suppression became a slip-and-slide while we irrigated.

In 2022, we were able to install a drip irrigation system that did not require filling milk jugs and weed suppression fabric that was not slippery. The fabric required using a blow torch to make holes for planting but will be able to be used for multiple years. The irrigation only required turning on the spigot and letting it run for several hours, which was a true God-send because we had some unexpected health issues on the garden team that limited our volunteer force! It was an extraordinarily dry summer, so the grant came just in time.

This past summer we had 21 people volunteer in the garden, took produce to 5 food pantries or senior centers, including Cafe Esperanza in Reading, and welcomed 29 people into the garden at a joint VBS. Not only are we feeding our neighbors with free, fresh, pesticide-free produce, but we are also getting to know our neighbors, developing new connections in the congregation among volunteers, teaching children about food insecurity and the joy of gardening, and passing on agricultural wisdom.

Submitted by Pastor Inge Williams

SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY  
 2023

GOING  
BEYOND  
DEATH  
TO LIFE

JUNE  
1-3

## *What's happening at Kalahari?*

- Plenaries full of important decisions like the next Vice President of the Synod and the next Secretary.
- Small group breakouts with important and timely topics like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, innovative worship, and more...
- Vibrant worship featuring Agape (David Scherer) and spoken word poet, Joe Davis.
- Free time activities and gatherings.
- And an incredible guest preacher for our festival worship (announcement coming soon.)

*We're hard at work planning  
this incredible event!*



SO LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER,  
RECHARGE, WORSHIP, AND ENGAGE IN  
THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.