



Trinity Together

Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

February 2024

Vicar Seth Noggle, Lead Minister	570-529-2325	Seth.noggle@gmail.com
The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter, Visitation Pastor	484-529-7801	dsritter@ptd.net
Vacant – TBD, Director of Youth & Family Ministry		
Bruce Rohrbach, Director of Music	610-360-8968	brhrbch@hometownu.com
Brandon Wood, Tech & Media Specialist	484-629-9332	technology@trinitykutztown.com
Mike Sailsbery, Financial Secretary	412-849-5255	finsectrinity@hotmail.com
Lisa Finke, Giving Bookkeeper	610-349-2325	lmfinke@msn.com
Diane Spohn, Administrative Assistant	610-683-3450	office@trinitykutztown.com
Julia Morton, BSW Intern	484-374-0031	jmort196@live.kutztown.edu

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 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Phone: 610-683-3450

Website: www.trinitykutztown.com

Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM

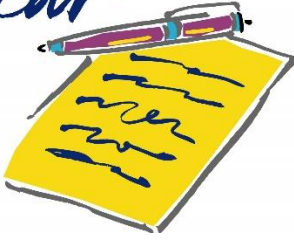
Adult Sunday School at 8:00 AM

Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation after worship

2024 Church Council Members

Jeff Collier	Property
Molly Dubbs	Worship Life
Randy Heffner	Endowment
Joseph Jedwab	Learning
Karise Mace	Stewardship
Jessica Miller	Treasurer, Finance
Ed Rakowiecki	Vice President, Personnel
Ann Towne	Secretary, Mission/Service
Alicia Wood	President, Fellowship

From the Vicar



I can't believe it's already been one month of serving Trinity as its Lead Minister. I happened to come across Dave Dare fixing the outside sign of Trinity to make it say Seth Noggle-Vicar. I was so proud I took a picture and sent it to my parents.

It's amazing how something as simple as changing a couple of letters on a sign board can mean something so significant. But that sign change signified many things to me: The passing of time, my own personal growth, the growth of Trinity, etc. It made me think about the little things in our life that have a larger significance than we typically give them credit for.

We can be so hard on ourselves that it can be easy to miss the big achievements in our life or make light of them. How many times as a Church have we done incredible things to shape our community or help someone in need, only to brush it off as no big deal? I can't even begin to count the times I've seen Trinity members who have given of their time or their money to be there for someone in need.

My prayer for us this year is that we start getting better at noticing the moments when the Holy Spirit is moving. Also, let's get better at giving words of affirmation to those who we see making a difference. A thank you or an "I see the good you're doing" goes a long way.

Peace,

Vicar Seth Noggle



Schedule & Volunteers

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Feb. 4	9:30 AM	Kris Tuerk
Feb. 11	9:30 AM	Kris Tuerk
Feb. 14	7:00 PM	OPEN (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 18	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller
Feb. 25	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush

LAY READERS:

Feb. 4	9:30 AM	Kris Tuerk
Feb. 11	9:30 AM	Kris Tuerk
Feb. 14	7:00 PM	OPEN (Ash Wed.)
Feb. 18	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller
Feb. 25	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush

ACOLYTES:

Feb. 4	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
Feb. 11	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Feb. 18	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
Feb. 25	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab

USHERS/GREETERS:

Feb. 4	9:30 AM	Denise Scheidt and Donna Keglovits
Feb. 11	9:30 AM	April and Ed Rakowiecki
Feb. 18	9:30 AM	Amy Pfeiler-Wunder and Doug Wunder
Feb. 25	9:30 AM	Neuenschwander Family

MONEY COUNTERS: Tina Billig, Nancy and Charles Plushanski

FLOWER CHAIRPERSON: Rita Robertson

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Melanie Wessner and Sue Collier

Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life	Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.
Strategic Plan	Thursday, Feb. 29, at 7 p.m.

Christian Education...

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class welcomes you to join us in enjoying "Faith That Glorifies God," a series of readings that invites us to explore the gift that each of us can be for the world. But what does it mean to live a life of faith that glorifies God? We find an answer in the Book of John where Jesus glorifies God by revealing God's love to the world. But he prays in his disciples' presence that they have also glorified God. We imperfect people can glorify God! Each reading in this series presents an inspiring story of faith that glorifies God. We will follow Rev. Rachael Powell, an ELCA pastor and author of *God's People Made New: How Exploring the Bible Together Launched a Church's Spirit-Filled Future*. Rev. Powell will help us embrace our call to reveal God's love. Please join us Sundays at 8:00 am in the Parlor for discussion, coffee and fellowship.

Good News Club/Journey to Adulthood

The Good News Club for grades Pre-K thru 5th grade and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation Class starting in 6th grade meet after Church from 10:45-11:45AM.

Bible Study

Bible Study is on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. **They are led by either Vicar Seth Noggle or Pr. Ritter and are based on the upcoming Sunday's scripture reading(s).** You can join the Bible study group in-person or on Zoom. 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.

2023 Annual Reports are Due...

Please submit your reports for the annual report booklet for 2023 as soon as possible, in order to have them included in the Phase II congregational meeting on February 25th.

Upcoming Worship Opportunities...

Ash Wednesday 2024

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 14th 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** (in front of the building on Main St.) 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.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship, Meal and Study Opportunities

Again, this year Trinity is joining with St. Paul UCC to sponsor 5 mid-week Lenten worship and meal opportunities. The theme this year is “**What R U Up?**”. Each evening will begin with a simple soup and bread meal at 6 PM at the host church and will be followed by worship at 7 PM. The schedule for the series is as follows:

- **February 21**, Trinity Lutheran Church, *Theme: Come Up*, (Pr. Adamson preaches)
- **February 28**, St. Paul UCC, *Theme: Take Up*, (Pr. Ritter preaches)
- **March 6**, Trinity Lutheran Church, *Theme: Raise Up*, (Pr. Adamson preaches)
- **March 13**, St. Paul UCC, *Theme: Light Up*, (Vicar Noggle preaches)
- **March 20**, Trinity Lutheran Church, *Theme: Lift Up*, (Pr. Ritter preaches)

In addition, five Bible study opportunities are scheduled during Lent for Tuesday mornings at 10 AM. They will take

place at St. Paul UCC in its community room off Sander Alley. The series is based on a book by Will Willimon entitled, “**Thank God It’s Thursday: Encountering Jesus at the Lord’s Table as if for the Last Time**”. The schedule for the series is as follows. The weekly leaders are To Be Determined:

- **February 20**, Presenter TBD
- **February 27**, Presenter TBD
- **March 5**, Presenter TBD
- **March 12**, Presenter TBD
- **March 19**, Presenter TBD

Thank God It’s Thursday is the prequel to Bishop Will Willimon’s highly successful, *Thank God It’s Friday*. Following the book of John, Will Willimon focuses on Jesus’ teaching of his disciples prior to his own death but also before their own hour of decision. The climax of the Gospel is when Jesus pours out his life on the cross—surely an enactment and demonstration of the power of God’s self-sacrificial love. **Books for the series are available here at Trinity at no cost.**

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 for worship or study during the season of Lent.

Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service

The next Rejoicing Spirits worship service will be on Sunday, February 5th, at 3:00 PM. “Rejoicing Spirits” is held monthly on the first Sunday of the month and is a worship and fellowship gathering for intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals 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, no shushing worship and fellowship opportunity to freely express their joy and love of God.

Upcoming Events...

Fastnacht Social Valentine's Day Party!

This year's Fastnacht Social will be held on Tuesday, February 13th starting at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We are asking each family to bring a dish to share and to wear Valentine's Day colors! Drinks, paper products and fastnachts with turkey syrup will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be on the office door to help us plan for the event. Get ready to play some games, laugh, and have fun! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Finke (email: Lmfinke@msn.com or cell: 610-349-2325).

Phase II Meeting of the Congregation

The Phase II meeting of the congregation is scheduled for **Sunday, February 25 following the completion of our 9:30 AM worship.**

The actionable item agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Approval of the Phase I meeting minutes – December 10, 2023
- Approval of the Annual Reports Booklet for 2023
- Second vote on an amendment to Trinity's Constitution to add a one (1) year term position to the Congregation Council renewable one time for a youth/young adult (15-29 years of age)

Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, February 25th, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. The National Honor Society from the Kutztown High School, organized by Kendall DeVall and the group's sponsor Amy Howard, will prepare a meal. For questions or to request delivery, please call Ann Towne at 484-239-5314 or the church office.

Ping Pong Club

A ping pong club for all ages is meeting downstairs on Friday afternoons at 4:30 p.m. Please talk to Isaac Jedwab if you are interested or have any questions.

Interested in Joining Trinity...

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

If you know of someone who is looking for a church home that is Gospel centered, ministry oriented and friendly, invite them to join you on a Sunday morning for worship at 9:30 AM.

NEW, More Robust Online Giving Opportunities...

Starting last month Trinity changed its provider of online giving from VANCO to EFT Corporation. With this change several benefits accrued to Trinity and you, should you choose to use online giving to support our congregation's ministry.

1. Trinity's costs to offer this service are less which means there will be more money for ministry.
2. Additional ways to give are now available to anyone who wishes to make a contribution to Trinity's ministries
 - A. a knowledgeable account representative at EFT to help with any questions or problems
 - B. greater ease to change or make a one-time contribution
 - C. credit and debit card giving options
 - D. Text2Give

All of these improvements are now available to those who choose to use Trinity's online portal along with enhanced security.

If you haven't used online giving in the past, give it a try and rest secure in the knowledge that you won't have to write a check and fill out an envelope as you are rushing out the door to get to worship on time and that whether you are able to be at worship or not your offering will be there to support the good work of our congregation in our

community and beyond. Finally, if you have any questions or would like to talk with someone about online giving or help to set up an account, you can call the church office at 610-683-3450 during regular hours.

Flower Sponsors...

A flower chart for 2024 is now posted on the bulletin board. For any information about sponsoring flowers or serving as the flower chairperson for a month, please call Darlene Dietrich at 610-683-7975 or the church office.

Youth Group Schedule...

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.

Friday, February 2nd: Oasis Event at Trinity

Who: Grades 6 through 12
Time: 6:00-9:00 PM

Oasis will be hosting a youth event with games, activities, and a time in the evening to talk about our faith. Even if you have never attended Oasis, youth in 6th through 12th grade are welcome to attend. **RSVP required – let Seth know at least a week before unless you already notified Oasis.**

Sunday, February 4th: Trinity

Primary Youth Group (Grades 1st-7th)
Time: 4:30-6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Sunday, February 11th: St. John's

Primary Youth Group (Grades 1st-7th)
Time: 4:30-6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Thursday, February 15th: Trinity Dungeons and Dragons Night

Who: All Ages
Time: 6:00-8:30 PM

Friday, February 16th: High School Lock-In: Trinity

Who: 8th through 12th grade
Time: 6:00 PM Friday to 10:00 AM Saturday

We'll be having an all-nighter at Trinity with karaoke, games and food. We'll need a couple of adult volunteers to stay for the night.

Sunday, February 18th: Trinity

Primary Youth Group (Grades 1st-7th)
Time: 4:30-6:00 PM

Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Sunday, February 25th: KU Recreational Center Rock Climbing

Who: 3rd through 12th grade (& parents welcome to climb)
Time: 3:00-5:00 PM
Where: KU Rec Center, South Campus Drive, Kutztown

We will meet at the KU Rec Center. Permission slips will need to be signed for any student under the age of 18. The Rec Center also has pool tables and ping pong tables. Pizza will be provided.

Tuesday, February 27th: Trinity Dungeons and Dragons Night

Who: All Ages
Time: 6:00-8:30 PM

How You Can Help...

Valentine Bags for Shut-Ins

Thank you to everyone who signed up to provide items for the Valentine Bags! If you haven't already returned your item(s), please do so by February 11th. There is a box in the hall near the office. If you have any questions, please call Rita Robertson at 610-737-7039.

Altar Committee Members Needed

There is an urgent need for volunteers to help on the Altar Committee to prepare for worship services. It does not take a lot of time and training will be provided! If you can help, please contact the church office or Debbie Ziegler.

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, here is a list of suggested items:

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.

Winter Weather & Meetings/Worship at Trinity...

The calendar and recent temperatures are beginning to remind us that winter weather may not be far behind. It is highly unlikely that Trinity will ever need to cancel meetings or worship due to the technology at our disposal. If the need should arise to cancel in-person meetings or worship due to the condition of the roads, etc. it is our intent to announce the cancellation on

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

That will be the signal for you to use the zoom log on that is sent out each week for worship or the one that is used for meetings or other activities.

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.

Thank You Notes...

Dear Congregation at Trinity Lutheran,
We deeply appreciate your congregation's effort in gathering Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Boxes and 50 Christmas gifts for the children of our pantry clients. Your wonderful donations have made a significant impact, helping local families enjoy a wonderful year and holiday season!

From the clients, staff and Board of Friend, Inc. Community Services, we sincerely thank you and wish you a very successful 2024!

Dear Vicar Seth Noggle,
I would like to express my gratitude for your Church's donations to our students. I can assure you that the donations will be put to good use. The students were very excited and grateful to receive the much-needed requested winter items and wanted to share their appreciation as well.

Thank you for being a substantial partner to Kutztown University and the PROFS program. Donations from generous people like you help us in keeping our mission of supporting our neediest students.

Nadia M. Daher, MSW, LSW
Student Assistance Coordinator for Special Populations
PROFS/Office of Student Assistance

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in November 2023.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Amanda White
Director, Congregation Generosity, ELCA

Thrivent Choice Dollars Make a Difference!

If you have certain products with Thrivent Financial you may have *Choice Dollars* that you can designate to a charity of your choice, like Trinity. To find out, you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 or talk to your Thrivent agent. In 2022 Trinity's members designated over \$3,500 of their *Choice Dollars* to our congregation.

Please consider designating your *Choice Dollars* to Trinity this year!

Position Available...

St. Paul's UCC, 47 S. Whiteoak St., Kutztown is looking to fill their open administrative assistant position. There is a job description available in our (Trinity's) church office that can be emailed or printed for anyone interested. For more information or to apply, please contact Pastor Kim at 610-683-3393 or via email at pastorkim@stpaulskutztown.org

Community Events...

Kutztown Strong Event

Kutztown Strong is planning a Valentine's Dance at the high school on **February 10th** from 7:00 - 9:30 PM. We are in need of chaperones. If interested, please reach out to Sue Collier at kutztownstrong@gmail.com. Clearances are needed for this event, and Sue can easily share that information with you.

Free Senior Luncheon

St. Barnabas Center at 234 East Main Street, Kutztown is hosting a free senior luncheon on **February 2nd** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Better With Age

The Kutztown Community Library hosts Better With Age the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at the library, located at 70 Bieber Alley, Kutztown. Please call 610-683-5820 for more information.

Theology With a Twist

On Tuesday, **February 6th**, at 7 p.m., Theology With a Twist will present a program at the Kutztown Tavern. This month's topic is: Faith Formation & Families, a panel discussion about the kids, teens, and parents who are (or aren't) in our churches, programs that work and don't work, and how the church tends to be one step behind what families want and need in their faith lives. Panel includes: Marjorie Hughes, current Minister of Faith Formation at First UCC of Hellertown; Rev. Kimberly Berenotto, current Pastor of Longswamp UCC; and Rev. Sara Hertzog, Retired Pastor of Maidencreek Church (ELCA/UCC).

Kutztown Folk Music Society

The next concert in the 2023-2024 Kutztown Folk Music Society series will be on Friday, **February 9th**, featuring David Cullen with Matt Miskie. For the first time ever, they will have a Grammy Award-winning guitarist and an outstanding folk singer. Concerts are held at St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. There is a \$9 donation for the concert; \$7 for seniors, military and students; free for children 12 and under. Please see the full schedule of concerts posted on the church bulletin board.

Young at Heart

Young at Heart Seniors meets every third Wednesday of the month at St. Paul's UCC, 47 South Whiteoak Street, Kutztown at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. On **February 21st**, Rev. Harry Serio will be speaking on "Ghosts Among Us." For more information, please contact the church office at 610-683-3393.

Bear Creek Camp...

Registration for youth and family summer camps at Bear Creek is now open. New this summer is rafting day trips, new lake pavilion, and expanded ropes course. Register online at:

<https://bearcreekcamp.campbrainregistration.com/>

Register before March 31st for an exclusive Early Bird T-shirt with this summer's logo.

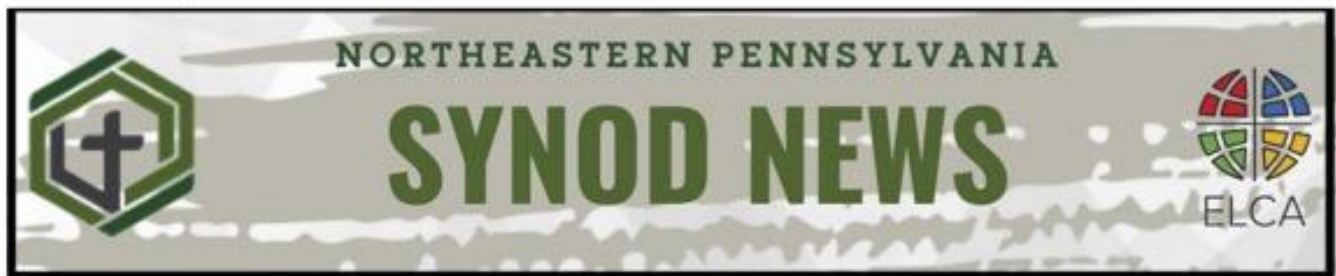


2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 6:00pm Oasis Youth Event at Trinity 7:00pm AA Meeting	3
4 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at Trinity 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	5 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir	6 7:00pm Worship Life Team Meeting	7 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	8 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	10
11 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm SA Meeting	12 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir	13 6:00pm Fastnacht Social	14 11:00am Ashes to Go - Trinity 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 4:00pm Ashes to Go - Lutheran Centre 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship - Trinity	15 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	17
18 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at Trinity 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at Trinity 7:00pm SA Meeting	19 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir	20 10:00am Lenten Book Study at St. Paul's UCC 7:00pm Council Meeting	21 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Meal - Trinity 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service - Trinity	22 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Orchestra Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	24
25 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Phase II Congregational Meeting 3:00pm Youth Event-Rock Climbing at KU 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 7:00pm SA Meeting	26 Office Closed 7:30pm Kutztown Community Choir	27 10:00am Lenten Book Study at St. Paul's UCC 6:00pm Youth Group Dungeons and Dragons Night at Trinity - All Ages	28 2:00pm Faith, Growth and Support-Rita Lieb 6:00pm Midweek Lenten Meal - St. Paul's UCC 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Service - St. Paul's UCC	29 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Strategic Plan Implementation Team Meeting	1 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	2



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Kevin Stump
4 Bennett Keglovits	5	6 Lisa Bogert	7	8	9 Jennifer Topale	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 Herrmann 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 Hunter W. Yoder	28 Arlan Seaman	29		



Advent Shares: Hope Out Loud

Support from the HOL! (Hope Out Loud!) Capital Campaign saw Advent members participate in dozens of projects – some new, some one-time; some existing ministries were expanded or refreshed. The dedicated members of Advent who truly care about people in need were very active and supportive. One member shared: “When I had some tough years, my church came through for me! That experience changed me in big ways. I vowed that I would get involved more and & pay it forward”. Helping others has made me a happier Christian.” There are so many completed (and ongoing!) projects. These ministries are wide-ranging and varied – food, clothing, shelter, blankets, books, and prayers. Cookies at Christmastime.

Advent members help men, women, babies, children, people in prison, people in recovery from addictions, hungry people – in our community, our country, and around the world. Members have said that they feel joy in providing the services and the looks on the faces of the recipients reinforce joy there too. Some of the projects receive seed money from Thrivent Action Teams. Some of our favorite ministries and activities are Bombas Socks donations, books and Bibles for Berks County Prison, Christmas Cookies for Common Ground, the Hungry Yard Sale, Family Promise, our Little Free Library and Little Free Pantry, the (new in 2020) Prayer Team, and the many clothing drives.

As one example of the positive impact in the community: The Little Free Pantry was filled and emptied on the same day. We cannot keep it filled fast enough. Through our \$250.00 Thrivent Action Team sponsorship by members of different committees, we can grocery shop and fill our shelves in Advent’s grocery shelves. We fill up my grocery cart three times a week and go outside to our Little Free Pantry. Within hours it had been emptied. Praise God for Thrivent and Advent’s church members in helping fill our community’s bellies with happiness through our wonderful blessed giving! Another goal of the HOL! The campaign was to increase the use of technology in our church life. In the middle of the pandemic, we premiered a fresh, beautiful, new website to tell people about Advent – reaching out in a modern way to share God’s word and work with our neighbors, friends, and people who want to learn about God. This new website increases our visibility in the community and provides valuable information for members and visitors alike. Seeing new people attend and join our church brings



joy, creating more of a sense of “community”. We continue to be inspired by: 1) Jesus’ examples of sharing, healing – “love our neighbor as ourselves”, (2) a thirst for learning about our faith through study and worship, (3) the need for support in our local and global community, (4) Reflection on our blessings and those less fortunate, (5) and, socializing with others while providing service. Members think Advent’s sermons and services explicitly help to keep us inspired and filled with the joy of serving.



Reconsiderations Task Force for Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations of the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. A task force will begin working in 2024 to lead this five-year process of discernment. Information is available about the reconsiderations and task force expectations. Apply or nominate

