



Trinity Together

Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

December 2022

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 – 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 at 8:30 AM

2022 Church Council Members

Jeff Collier	Property
Joseph Jedwab	Christian Education
Mary Neuenschwander	Personnel
Dan Raudenbush	Treasurer, Finance and Stewardship
Kurt Rohrbach	Vice President, Endowment
Michael Sailsbery	Financial Secretary
Ann Towne	President, Mission/Service and Fellowship
Jean Wagner	Worship Life
Alicia Wood	Secretary, Witness/Communication

From the Pastor...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*Do not be afraid; for behold – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

I believe that these words, spoken by a heavenly messenger to lowly sheep herders can have new meaning for you and me in this fast paced and ever-changing world of the 21st century. A brief perusal of the daily news can make us anxious and uncertain about what the future might hold for us and those we love. Current inflationary pressures and unsteady financial markets add to our potential anxieties and stresses.

Closer to home, while we have been able to accomplish some important goals during the current interim, conducted a successful capital campaign, entered into a strategic discernment process to guide our congregation through the next few years, received new members that are already making a difference in the life of our congregation, Trinity continues to await the opportunity to call its next pastor in a time that is experiencing a real shortage of pastors, particularly those open to an opportunity to transition into a new call.

It is easy to become fearful and to wonder what God is doing and does God really care.

The angel's words serve to remind us that God is at work in the world bringing life and salvation to all the earth, for we, like those shepherds, are among the people in this time to whom God has sent a savior, Jesus, the Christ. This does not mean that life will suddenly become rosy and complication free, but it does mean that whatever you and I may encounter, God is there in the thick of it with us. This good news makes me bolder and more hopeful even amidst all the uncertainties of our time.

I urge you to take time out of the busy-ness of your life during this Advent and Christmas season to gather and celebrate with your fellow disciples in Christ this wonderful news and to ponder what it means for you, those you love and this world we call home. Setting aside time to be a part of the body of Christ at Trinity could be the best Christmas gift you will receive this year.

See you at worship!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ritter



Schedule & Volunteers

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Dec. 4	9:30 AM	Kurt Rohrbach
Dec. 11	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush
Dec. 18	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	To be determined
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	To be determined
Dec. 25	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood

LAY READERS:

Dec. 4	9:30 AM	Kurt Rohrbach
Dec. 11	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush
Dec. 18	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	To be determined
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	To be determined
Dec. 25	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood

ACOLYTES:

Dec. 4	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Dec. 11	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
Dec. 18	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	To be determined
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	J. Miller Family
Dec. 25	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab

USHERS/GREETERS:

Dec. 4	9:30 AM	Karise and Derek Mace
Dec. 11	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood and Jeff Collier
Dec. 18	9:30 AM	Amy Pfeiler-Wunder and Doug Wunder
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	DeVall Family
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	Joyce and David Esser
Dec. 25	9:30 AM	Rita and Alan Robertson

TECH COORDINATORS:

Dec. 4	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Dec. 11	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Dec. 18	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	Brandon Wood
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	Brandon Wood
Dec. 25	9:30 AM	Brandon Wood

MONEY COUNTERS: Bob Hobaugh, Kurt Rohrbach, and Jean Ziegler

FLOWER CHAIRPERSON: Nancy Hildenbrand

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Melanie Wessner

Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life	Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.
Strategic Plan	Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.
Congregational Care	Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

From the Church Office...

The church office hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The office is closed on Mondays.

Deadline for articles for the January newsletter is Monday, December 19th.

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

Christmas Worship Schedule...

Trinity's worship schedule for Christmas is as follows:

Saturday, Dec. 24 – Worship at 5:00 PM will focus upon and involve the children and youth of our congregation. Communion and candlelight ceremony will be observed.

Saturday, Dec. 24 – Worship at 7:30 PM will be a more traditional service and will include Communion and candlelight ceremony.

Sunday, Dec. 25 – Worship at 9:30 AM will be a service of readings and carols. Communion will be celebrated.

Christian Education...

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!

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.

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.

Weekly Advent Series

Trinity together with St. Paul's UCC will be having a weekly Advent series beginning on Tuesday, December 6th, at 10:00 a.m. using the book "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado. The series will be held at St. Paul's UCC with the following schedule:

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Dec. 8, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15, 10:00 a.m.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you are planning to attend, please sign the sheet so we can ensure there are enough copies of the book.

Phase I Congregation Meeting...

The Phase I meeting of our congregation is scheduled for Sunday, December 11, immediately following worship. At the meeting we will take action

- to approve the minutes from the 2021 Phase II meeting held earlier this year,
- to select 3 individuals to serve on our congregation council for a 3-year term,
- to approve a budget for 2023, and
- to decide if we want to spend additional funds to repair and reconnect the pipes to the new Allen digital organ console creating a hybrid organ.

Plan to be present for this important annual meeting. It will be possible to attend and vote in person and virtually via Zoom.

From the Finance Committee...

Approved 2022 Budget --	\$323,495
Unrestricted income through Oct.	\$220,048
Expenditures through Oct.	\$241,994
Balance through Oct.	\$(21,946)
Average monthly offering	\$ 18,804
* () will indicate a deficit	

End of Year Giving...

Your end of the year financial support is important and will enable Trinity to finish 2022 financially healthy and ready for ministry in 2023. Your contributions for 2022 should reach the church office by Sunday, December 25, to ensure that they are counted for 2022. This includes any contributions that you wish to make to the "Starting a New Chapter" capital campaign for 2022.

Thank you for all that you do to support the work of our congregation financially and with your time and talents!

Upcoming Events...

Christmas In The Park

On **Sunday, December 11th**, from **3:00-5:00 PM**, you are invited to attend Christmas in the Park: Churches Share the Story. It will be held in the Kutztown Park Tennis Court Pavilion. Come see the live Nativity scene and enjoy live music, refreshments, and crafts.

Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, December 18, 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.

Youth News...

December 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.

Dec. 4th –

Service Opportunity: Christmas Gift sorting at Friend, Inc.

Time: 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM (could be shorter if enough volunteers)

All ages welcome!

Meet at Friend, Inc. (658D Noble St., Kutztown)

Primary Youth Group (K-6th) – **at Trinity**

Time: 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Dec. 11th – **at St. John's**

Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Dec. 18th – **at Trinity**

Secondary Youth Group (8th-12th)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Dec. 25th – **No Scheduled Youth Group**

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

New Members Received...

On Sunday, October 30th, we welcomed the following new members of Trinity:

Suzanne & Michael Barron: 610-683-8408;

smb25n@hometownu.com

Soni Diaz: 484-840-9822; sdiaz852@live.kutztown.edu

Molly Dubbs: 570-449-4474; mdubbs1@verizon.net

Sean Dugan: 484-513-6329; duganator2017@gmail.com

Rejoicing Spirits Ecumenical Community Ministry...

On Sunday, December 4, 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.

Blue Christmas Worship Service...

For many people Christmas is a time of great joy. For others it is a difficult time as they struggle with the challenges of life – the recent death of a loved one, the loss of a job, a troubled relationships, addiction, etc.. On Sunday, December 18, 3:00 PM, at St. Paul UCC (47 S. Whiteoak St.), there will be a special opportunity to gather to celebrate Christmas in a more subdued manner for those for whom this time of year can become overwhelming.

If the joy of Christmas can feel like it is a bit too much, this opportunity to worship and celebrate the incarnation of God in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, may be just what you are looking for.

How You Can Help...

Blanket Collection for the Homeless

Blankets are being collected to give to homeless individuals. If you are able to support this effort, please bring blankets to the church on or before December 18th.

Friend, Inc. Holiday Boxes

We will be participating in the Holiday Box Project that Friend, Inc. has every Christmas season. Below is a list of items that can be purchased for each box, but this is a general guideline so if there is something you would like to substitute or add please feel free. Each family will receive a turkey along with the box. Also, if you would like to decorate the box you are encouraged to do so.

Items that can be included are as follows:

2 Cans of Sweet Potatoes

2 Cans of Cranberry Sauce

2 Cans of Different Vegetables

Large Can of Fruit Juice

Box or Bag of Stuffing Mix

Bag of Apples (may substitute applesauce)

Bag of Potatoes (may substitute canned potatoes or mashed potatoes)

Can of Fruit Cocktail

Cookies

1 Can of Coffee or Cocoa

Holiday Napkins

Christmas boxes need to be delivered to Trinity by **December 11th**. If you are unable to purchase the items, but would still like to help out, gift cards from local grocery stores would also be appreciated by Friend, Inc. The gift cards can be dropped off at the church office before the due dates.

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. Date: Dec. 18.



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.

Memorial Fund Contributions...

We have received the following contributions to the Memorial Fund...

In memory of Barbara Demchyk

Carl and Jean Ziegler

In memory of Kenneth Dietrich

Len Dietrich and Erma Bond

Anna Furst

Kutztown Grange No. #1836

Rhonda and Leslie Lazarus

Alice Rahn

Debra and Steven Schaeffer

Dennis and Charlotte Schroeder

Carl and Jean Ziegler

In memory of Robert Gehringer

Laila Barreto
Leonard Dietrich and Erma Bond
Richard and Grace Haas
Tim and Sue Haas
Mary Luckenbill
Dana Murray
Kathleen and John Oshea
Ann and Gary Rollman
Melissa Saul
Kathleen Schlenker
David and Sandra Stern
Charlann and Terry Warmkessel
Charles and Carol Wessner
Linda Young, Ruth Hilbert, Amy Raybold and
Shelley Strunk
Carl and Jean Ziegler
Robert and Donna Ziegler

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!!!

Dear Trinity Friends,
Thank you so much for the lovely gifts we received when we joined the congregation. The cross is lovely to look at but even more special to hold. I keep it in my coat pocket and love to feel the comfort of the olive wood right with me. I am also enjoying the Jesus Calling book. What an interesting way to present Jesus' words.
Thank you,
Suzy Barron...and Mike, too!

Community Events...

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

Volunteers are needed to ring the Salvation Army Red Kettle in our Topton-Kutztown-Fleetwood area. Please contact Pastor Ritter if you can give an hour or more of time this holiday season!

Kutztown Community Choir Concert

The Kutztown Community Choir will present their annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11th, at 3:00 PM, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main St., Kutztown. The musical selections include festive, fun, and inspirational selections such as *A Festive Christmas Celebration*, *Still, Still, Still*, and *Sing We Now of Christmas*. *Modimo* and *Carols of Scandinavia* add an international flavor to our holiday celebration.

In what has become an audience favorite, the concert will once again conclude with the *Hallelujah Chorus*, from Händel's *Messiah*, in which the audience is invited to join the choir. The annual Christmas Concert has become a treasured tradition in our town, one that affords the community a time to come together and enjoy the sounds and spirit of the holiday season. Please plan on joining us for an afternoon that is sure to delight.

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!



Food for Thought

The (Occasional) Newsletter
of Friend, Inc. Community Services



Fall / Winter 2022 www.friendinc.org 610-683-7790

2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT

Your generosity made this possible!

246

Adults reduce their food insecurity each month by shopping in our self-select food pantry

133

Children are more focused in school each month by having nutritious food selected from our Pantry

542

Individuals were connected to or provided with support services

137

Community members were provided with direct utility assistance which helped prevent homelessness

264

Students who visit our Kutztown University Student Pantry each month

2530

Volunteer hours in 2022! From pantry to parking to Christmas gifting and special events. Our donors and volunteers make our community safer and more healthy!

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen 6:00pm Advent Workshop	28 Office Closed	29	30	1 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 9:00am Decorate Christmas tree in sanctuary
4 8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 10:45am Service Opportunity at Friend Inc. - Sorting Christmas Gifts 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at Trinity	5 Office Closed	6 7:00pm Strategic Plan Steering Committee 7:00pm Worship Life Committee Meeting	7	8 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:30am Phase I Congregational Meeting 3:00pm Christmas in the Park - Tennis Court Pavilion 3:00pm Kutztown Community Choir Concert at Trinity 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's	12 Office Closed	13 7:00pm Council Meeting	14	15 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Congregational Care Team- Ozgood's 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 8:00am Adult Sunday School 8:30am Good News Club 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Confirmation Class 3:00pm Blue Christmas Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 4:30pm Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at Trinity	19 January Newsletter Submission Deadline Office Closed	20	21	22 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Worship Service 7:30pm Christmas Eve Traditional Worship Service
25 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom)	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31



DECEMBER

Birthdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Justin Shurr	3 Jarrett Noecker
4 Jaclyn Freed	5 Laurel Ziegler	6	7 Benjamin Beck Robert DeVall, Jr. Nicholas Horvath	8 Nancy Hildenbrand Karen Raudenbush	9 Matthew Esser Erika Dundore Deb Sailsbery	10 David Dare Richard Miller
11 Kendall DeVall Steven Herbert Brenda Beck Kristin Sell Magan Graff	12 Donna Keglovits	13 Luther Moyer Bruce Rohrbach	14	15 Martha Johnson Christopher Collier Kathleen Hertzog Jason Wentzel Rich Heffelfinger Steven Heffner	16 Ray Hoffman	17
18 Karl Bubbenmoyer Dan Neuenschwander Meredith Ewing	19 Melissa Hartman Erica Woodland	20 Rachel Stump Jim Orwig Arlena Estrella	21	22 Debra Rohrbach	23 Samuel Towne Nicholas Gottlund	24 Clint Foster
25 Merry Schlegel Kathryn Yost Benjamin Schearer	26	27 Julie Seiders	28 Lisa Finke	29 Meredith Keeney	30	31

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Merry Christmas

Dear Friends and Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Creator and from Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Northeastern PA Synod Staff and Bishop Christopher deForest we wish you the merriest Christmas and a blessed and fruitful new year!

This year the NEPA Synod accomplished a cornucopia of ministry in all corners of the NEPA territory. Your love for God in Christ fed the hungry, built relationships with the downtrodden and outcast, diapered babies, shared the love of God in Christ, and much more...

Christmas reminds us of the length God goes to build relationships with us. God comes all the way down to a dirty stable in Bethlehem... an unexpected, messy beginning for the Messiah. Jesus is exactly the Messiah we needed without understanding why we needed him.

Christmas is an opportunity to reflect on the ways God comes to us unexpectedly -- It's an opportunity to meditate on the reality that Christ comes to us as an infant, totally reliant on his parents... Christ comes in the most usual way, and yet he's the one foretold in the prophets of old, he saves the people from sin and death, and he keeps coming to us. Jesus comes to us in bread and wine, in baptism, through prayer and thanksgiving, and when we gather together around God's Word.

Continue to be the Body of Christ in the world. Keep serving, preaching, proclaiming, worshipping, and sharing the good news of what God has done for us!

Yours in Christ,
NEPA Synod Staff



Register Now!

Join us!

LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

January 28, 2023

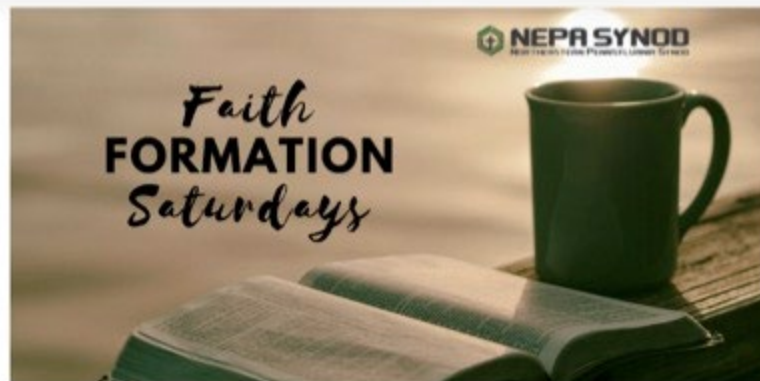
[WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/
LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY](http://WWW.GODSLOVE.ORG/LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY)



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023**

**JUNE
1-3**



Faith Formation Saturdays

Date: Monthly (2nd Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

