



# Trinity Together

Trinity Lutheran Church

357 West Main Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania 19530

December 2023

**Transitional Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ritter

484-529-7801

[dsritter@ptd.net](mailto:dsritter@ptd.net)

**Vicar:** Seth Noggle

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**BSW Intern:** Julia Morton

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[jmort196@live.kutztown.edu](mailto: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](http://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

## 2023 Church Council Members

**Jeff Collier**

Property

**Joseph Jedwab**

Christian Education

**Jessica Miller**

Treasurer, Finance and Stewardship

**Mary Neuenschwander**

Personnel

**Ed Rakowiecki**

Vice President, Personnel

**Dan Raudenbush**

President, Endowment

**Ann Towne**

Mission/Service

**Jean Wagner**

Worship Life

**Alicia Wood**

Secretary, Fellowship

## ***From the Vicar...***

Hello Trinity!

What an honor to have been elected by you all to be the lead minister here at Trinity. Truly, words can't express the deep joy that I have felt these last several months. It has been a pleasure to serve at Trinity as your Director of Youth and Family Ministry and I can't wait to start this new journey as your Vicar. Since many people have been asking me, I thought I'd share a little insight into my journey into becoming an ordained pastor in the ELCA. I will be starting classes this January and will be getting my certification through Wartburg Seminary in Iowa. Most of the classes will be virtual but there will be certain times that I have to travel to Iowa. As of now, it looks like I will only travel out twice a year and for a week at a time. The goal will be to graduate in 2026 after 3 years of courses, and then be ordained within the Lutheran Church. Thankfully, we are blessed to be a congregation with multiple retired pastors who are willing to help and fill in when needed. We will also be keeping Pastor Ritter on who will continue to be a blessing to this congregation through his compassion and gifted ministry. I am so excited to start the search for a new Director of Youth and Family, and I ask you all to keep this in your prayers as we look for the right fit for our community. We are headed on an exciting new journey, and I can't wait to see where the Holy Spirit leads us. You all will continue to be in my prayers as I hope I will be in yours.

Peace,

Vicar Seth Noggle

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

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, my time as Trinity's transition pastor will come to an end. While Susan and I will continue to be active participants in the life of our congregation and I will serve for the next 2-3 years as Visitation Pastor as Seth and Trinity participate in the TEEM program that will eventuate in Seth becoming ordained, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with our congregation for your hard work and energy that has made these last 3 years among the best 3 years of my pastoral ministry.

Trinity is a blessed community of faith filled with many and varied God given gifts. I am thankful for what we are and excited for what we will become in the years ahead. I believe that God has amazing plans for Trinity and for each of us as we embrace God's future.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Ritter*



# Schedule & Volunteers

## ASSISTING MINISTERS:

Dec. 3	9:30 AM	Dan Raudenbush
Dec. 10	9:30 AM	Susan Mangold
Dec. 17	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller
Dec. 24	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	Kendall DeVall
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	Dan Raudenbush
Dec. 31	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller

## LAY READERS:

Dec. 3	9:30 AM	Alice Kutz
Dec. 10	9:30 AM	Susan Mangold
Dec. 17	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller
Dec. 24	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	Kendall DeVall
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	Dan Raudenbush
Dec. 31	9:30 AM	Carolyn Miller

## ACOLYTES:

Dec. 3	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Dec. 10	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
Dec. 17	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab
Dec. 24	9:30 AM	Liam Miller
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	TBD
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	Liam Miller
Dec. 31	9:30 AM	Isaac Jedwab

## USHERS/GREETERS:

Dec. 3	9:30 AM	Linda Geiring and Michele Zimmerman
Dec. 10	9:30 AM	Alicia Wood and Kellen Cunningham
Dec. 17	9:30 AM	Nargiza and Joseph Jedwab
Dec. 24	9:30 AM	Rita and Alan Robertson
Dec. 24	5:00 PM	The DeVall Family
Dec. 24	7:30 PM	Joyce and David Esser
Dec. 31	9:30 AM	Karen Raudenbush and Sally Schoffstall

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

**FLOWER CHAIRPERSON:** Nancy Hildenbrand

**ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Melanie Wessner

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 10	Phase I Congregational Meeting
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 25	Christmas Day

## Committee Meeting Dates...

Worship Life	Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.
Strategic Plan Team	Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m.
Church Council	Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.

## From the Finance Committee...

Approved 2023 Budget --	\$339,983
Unrestricted income through Oct.	\$212,723
Expenditures through Oct.	\$247,283
Balance through Oct.	\$ (34,560)
Average monthly offering	\$ 20,352

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation Class starting in 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Pr. Ritter or Seth Noggle 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.

## Weekly Advent Series

Trinity together with St. Paul's UCC will be having a weekly Advent series beginning on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. using the book "Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation" by Will Willimon. The series will be held at St. Paul's UCC with the following schedule:

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10:00 AM

You can request a copy of the book by contacting the church office, Vicar Seth or Pr. Ritter.

## ***Upcoming Worship Opportunities...***

### Rejoicing Spirits Worship & Fellowship

On Sunday, December 3, 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.). The worship and fellowship will focus on Christmas, the incarnation of God in the person, Jesus. 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.

## Blue Christmas Worship Scheduled

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 relationship, addiction, etc. **On Sunday, December 17, 6:00 PM, Trinity will be hosting a special opportunity to gather to celebrate Christmas in a more subdued manner for those for whom this time of year can be 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.

## Christmas Worship Schedule

Trinity's worship schedule for Sunday, December 24, 2023, Christmas Eve is as follows:

Sunday, Dec. 24 – **Worship at 9:30 AM** will conclude our Advent journey and prepare us for the proclamation of the Incarnation later in the day. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Sunday, Dec. 24 – **Worship at 5:00 PM** will focus upon and involve the children and youth of our congregation. Communion will be celebrated, and a candle lighting ceremony will be a part of the worship.

Sunday, Dec. 24 – **Worship at 7:30 PM** will be a traditional service and will include the bell choir, Communion and a candle lighting ceremony.

## ***Upcoming Events...***

### Advent Workshop

Our annual Advent Workshop will be taking place on the evening of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is an all-ages event where you can make an advent wreath to help you commemorate the Advent season. We end with an Advent Spiral, which is a prayer practice that helps us step into this season on the right foot. Dinner is provided!

## December 3<sup>rd</sup> Jingle Offering to Assist Special Needs Youth

Blake and his parents are faithful attenders of our community's "Rejoicing Spirits" worship and fellowship ministry that is held monthly at St. Paul UCC. He has been approved for a service dog by the *Angel Retrievers Service Dog* program. Acquiring a service dog doesn't just happen. Blake and his family have gone through a rigorous process to be approved for a dog. Service dogs don't come free. They can cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$38,000.

On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will collect a *Jingle Offering* to help Blake and his family in this endeavor. If you choose to put a check in the *Jingle Offering* bucket, it should be made payable to Trinity. We will combine the collected funds and send one check to the family to support their effort to get a service dog for Blake.

## Phase I Meeting of the Congregation

The Phase I meeting of our congregation is scheduled for **Sunday, December 10, immediately following worship**. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- to receive and approve the minutes from the Phase II meeting held earlier this year,
- to select 3 individuals to serve on our Congregation Council for a 3-year term, and 1 individual to serve a 2-year term.
- to approve a budget for 2024, and
- to take action on an amendment to Trinity's constitution that would create a youth/young person position for a 1-year term that would be renewable one time and increase our Council's size to ten (10) members. A letter informing everyone of the meeting date and providing the proposed changes was sent back in early October.

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

## Kutztown Kitchen

The next Kutztown Kitchen community meal will be on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. A turkey dinner will be served. For questions or to request delivery, please call Ann Towne at 484-239-5314 or the church office.

*The Handbell choir hosted the Kutztown Kitchen for November. Twelve musicians cooked, served, cleaned up and smiled through it all. We served around 30 people in-house and had 41 take-out and delivery meals that were pre-ordered. We had an additional 8-10 take-outs that occurred during the serving time and sent the leftovers home with 10 or more people.*

*All that to say - we fed a lot of people. This makes a difference in our community.*

## 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.

## From the Music Director...

### Christmas Caroling

Vocal and instrumental Christmas caroling will be on Saturday, December 16, from 10 AM to 1 PM (December 23 if inclement weather). Lunch provided. Please contact Bruce now for lunch attendance and voice or instrument preference. Text or call 610-360-8968 or email [brhrbch@hometownnu.com](mailto:brhrbch@hometownnu.com).

### Christmas Eve Orchestra

Christmas Eve orchestra music is available now! Please contact Bruce at 610-360-8968 or [brhrbch@hometownnu.com](mailto:brhrbch@hometownnu.com) or pick up music after worship on Sundays. Music is "Christmas Short and Suite" by William Himes. All instruments are welcome. We play 4:30-5:00 PM and 7:00-7:30 PM Christmas Eve; rehearsals are Thursdays in Dec. from 6:30-7:00 PM.



## ***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.

## ***Flower Sponsors...***

A flower chart for 2024 will soon be 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.

## ***Assisting Ministers and Lay Readers...***

The December calendar has been filled – thank you! Laurel Ziegler has posted a new chart for 2024. Please feel free to sign up for any open dates at the link below or call the church office:

<https://bit.ly/TrinityWorshipLeaderSchedule>

## ***End of Year Giving...***

Your end of the year financial support is important and will enable Trinity to finish 2023 financially healthy and ready for ministry in 2024. Your contributions for 2023 should reach the church office by Sunday, December 24, to ensure that they are counted for 2023. This includes any contributions that you wish to make to the "Starting a New Chapter" capital campaign for 2023. Thank you for all that you do to support the work of our congregation financially and with your time and talents!

## ***Trinity's Mission Team: Making a Difference ...***

In early July of this year severe flooding impacted several communities in our county. **On the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, Trinity's Mission Team put in two floors for a family who lives in Muhlenberg Township.** The living room and bedroom floors were both damaged from flood waters. While the carpeting was quickly removed, they had been living on rough, plywood floors since the flood. **Our Mission Team over the 2 days laid new water-resistant vinyl-plank flooring chosen by the family.** Now George and his wife can once again enjoy their home and not get splinters in their feet.

Thanks to the 9 individuals who participated in this recovery project. A special thank you must go to Jeff Collier, Bill Hoyer, David Owen and Alan McSparron for their advanced work in choosing the site, measuring and gathering the materials needed.



## **Youth Group Schedule...**

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.

### **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Trinity ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP – All Ages Event**

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

What: Create an advent wreath for the season! Snacks provided, along with crafts and other activities. We end with a contemplative ceremony called an Advent Spiral.

### **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>: Trinity Dungeons and Dragons Night**

Time: 6:00-8:30 PM

Who: All Ages

### **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Grace Lutheran Church of Macungie**

#### **YOUTH GROUP FIELD TRIP**

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

Where: 28 W. Main Street, Macungie PA

Time: 3:30-6:30 PM

We'll be hanging out with Grace Lutheran's youth group, which is the third church that's joining us to go to the ELCA youth gathering. I'll need parents who are willing to drive out. Please RSVP if you can come along!

We'll meet at the Trinity parking lot at 3:30PM and then get back into Kutztown around 6:30PM.

### **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>: Trinity CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Who: All Ages

Where: Meet at Trinity Church Parlor

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

We'll be caroling for the morning and then having lunch at the Church afterwards.

### **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: St. John's Primary Youth Group (Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>)**

Time: 4:30-6:00 PM

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

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

### **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: Trinity Dungeons and Dragons Night**

Time: 6:00-8:30 PM

Who: All Ages

### **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**No Scheduled Youth Group – MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

### **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**No Scheduled Youth Group – HAPPY NEW YEAR'S!**

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

### **Friend, Inc. Holiday Boxes**

We are participating in the Holiday Box Project that Friend, Inc. has every Christmas season. Please see a list of suggested items that can be purchased for each box on the attachment or enclosed with the newsletter. 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.

Christmas boxes need to be delivered to Trinity by **December 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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 date.

### **Christmas Shoppe 2023**

The Christmas Shoppe is this weekend - Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00-8:00 PM and Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon. This event will help individuals and families obtain gifts for loved ones at an affordable price. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact the social work intern, Julia Morton, at 484-374-0031, [jmort196@live.kutztown.edu](mailto:jmort196@live.kutztown.edu) or call or email the church directly.

### **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 on the next page.

**Peanut Butter**  
**Miscellaneous Snacks**  
**Knorr Side Dish Packets**  
**Instant Potato Packets**  
**Toiletries**  
**Soup**  
**Canned Fruits & Veggies**

**Juice**  
**Crackers**  
**Cereal**  
**Breakfast Bars**  
**Mac 'n Cheese**  
**Tuna**  
**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.

## **Community Events...**

### **Kutztown Community Choir Concert**

The Kutztown Community Choir will have their annual holiday concert on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 3 PM here at Trinity. Plan to come and enjoy a “Choral Celebration of Christmas”!

### **St. Luke's Good Grief Workshops**

St. Luke's offers 90-minute virtual workshops to provide you with a better understanding of what grief is, how it may affect you emotionally, physically, spiritually and psychologically, coping strategies and ways to reconcile the loss. For more information and to receive an invitation to join the meeting, call 484-526-2499. You will be asked to download the Microsoft Teams app on your smart phone or computer. Offerings in December are:

- Thursday, 12/7/2023, from 1-2:30 PM
- Wednesday, 12/20/2023, from 6-7:30 PM

### **Kutztown Folk Music Society**

The next concert in the 2023-2024 Kutztown Folk Music Society series will be on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, featuring the Buffalo Mountain Bluegrass Duo, a brother and sister duo of Autumn and Canyon Moore. 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 posted on the church bulletin board.

### **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.

### **Hyssongs in Concert**

The Hyssongs family trio will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fleetwood on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to present a Christmas & Southern Gospel Concert. The doors open at 5 PM and the concert begins at 6 PM. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door; children 5-12 are \$5. For tickets, please call 610-657-8727 or 610-944-9820.

### **Nativity Sets Display**

On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Zion's Lutheran Church, 354 Zion's Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555, will open its Fellowship Hall to the General Public from noon until 3:00 PM, with a display of over 130 Nativity Sets from a private collection.

A “Free Will” donation will be received and all proceeds will be sent to Pastor Aaron Decker, a Son of our Congregation, employed by the ELCA Global Mission, to help in support of the church's Ministry in Bolivia.

Cookies and hot and cold beverages will be available during the showing. Please spread the word of this event to friends and neighbors to help in obtaining a generous contribution to Pastor Decker and the ELCA Global Mission Ministry in Bolivia while enjoying an unusual display reflecting the true reason for the celebration of Christmas.

For more information or for any questions, please contact Ron Seaman at [bobbersee123@aol.com](mailto:bobbersee123@aol.com).





### Friend, Inc. Holiday Boxes

We are participating in the Holiday Box Project that Friend, Inc. has every Thanksgiving and 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 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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 date.

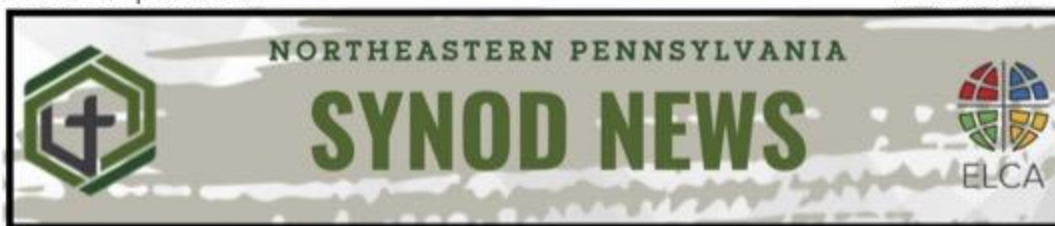


2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 6:00pm The Christmas Shoppe 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00am The Christmas Shoppe
<b>3</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) – Jingle Offering 10:45am Good News Club and Journey to Adulthood/Confirmation 3:00pm Rejoicing Spirits Worship Service at St. Paul's UCC 6:00pm Advent Wreath Workshop 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>4</b> Office Closed 7:00pm Kutztown Community Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10:00am Advent Bible Study at St. Paul's UCC 7:00pm Worship Life Team Meeting	<b>6</b> 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Group Dungeons and Dragons Night at Trinity - All Ages 6:30pm Orchestra Rehearsal for Christmas Eve 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Strategic Plan Oversight Team	<b>8</b> 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 10:45am Phase I Congregational Meeting 3:00pm Kutztown Community Choir Concert at Trinity 3:30pm Youth Group Leaves for Grace Lutheran, Macungie 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>11</b> Office Closed	<b>12</b> 10:00am Advent Bible Study at St. Paul's UCC 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Orchestra Rehearsal for Christmas Eve 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:00am Christmas Caroling 11:00am Private Event in All-Purpose Room
<b>17</b> 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 Kutztown Kitchen Community Meal 4:30pm Primary Youth Group at St. John's 6:00pm Blue Christmas Worship Service at Trinity 6:00pm Secondary Youth Group at St. John's 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>18</b> Office Closed	<b>19</b> 10:00am Advent Bible Study at St. Paul's UCC 6:00pm Youth Group Dungeons and Dragons Night at Trinity - All Ages	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Orchestra Rehearsal for Christmas Eve 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Worship Service 7:30pm Christmas Eve Traditional Worship Service	<b>25</b> MERRY CHRISTMAS!	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship: Holy Communion (In-person & Zoom) 7:00pm SA Meeting	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR'S!	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 4:30pm Ping Pong Club 7:00pm AA Meeting	<b>6</b>



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Parker Collier	2 Justin Shurr
3 Jarrett Noecker	4 Jaclyn Freed	5 Sean Dugan 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 Noelle McCall	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						



## *Young Adult in Global Mission: A Year in Senegal*

**Asalaa maalekum. May God's peace be upon you.**

My name is Quentin Bernhard. I recently served with the ELCA program Young Adults in Global Mission—YAGM—in Senegal. My time with YAGM came to an end in July, and Senegal country cohort peers and I returned to the United States. We are among the 23 young adults from the 2022-2023 year who served in accompaniment in four different country programs.

I live in New Tripoli in Lehigh County, and I'm a member of New Life Lutheran Church in New Tripoli. Many individuals and congregations from our synod supported me in my YAGM year. Thank you for your support of my time in Senegal and for the opportunity to be in continuing relationship after my time abroad.

My coming to the United States, to the communities I grew up in in Pennsylvania, was also my leaving a community I grew in—a community I grew in as a Lutheran and as a young person, one I have good friends in. I lived in Yeumbeul Bene Baraque, in western Senegal, for ten months. I lived with a host family in a community. I saw friends every day, many when at my placement site. Connected with our partner organization Senegalese Lutheran Development Services—SLDS—I worked in a community center that serves the community in numerous ways, splitting my time between the library and the mutual fund credit union.

My friends and family in Senegal continue to send me voice messages, reminding me that I am also Maguette Ndiaye, my Senegalese name, and reminding me that we are still connected, even if connected in a different way now. Our relationships and our future—all of our future—is unknown to us. Our faith—and our trust in one another—can allow us to take steps and leaps in that future.

Quentin Bernhard



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*God of Goodness, We give you praise for the ordinariness of Christmas - that the day comes the same as any other day. We give you praise that there is no sign in the heavens, and no bright star but the light of your presence in the ordinary birth of the child. We give you praise that unobtrusively you are in the center of human affairs, involved in the struggle of life, and sharing human experience.*

*We give you praise that out of compassion you take our part, and open to us a new way of life. We pray that this day we shall be able to see its true glory."*

— Caryl Micklem



A circular logo for 'NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING' framed by a string of colorful Christmas lights. Below the text is the website 'www.elca.church/gathering' and a red 'REGISTER NOW!' button.

