# **TRINITY**

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Chambersburg, PA

# The Visitor



VOLUME 51 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2023

#### **COMING UP:**

#### December 3

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### December 10

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### December 17

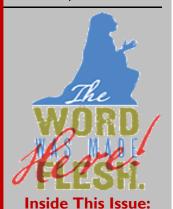
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### December 24

Nativity of Our Lord I: Christmas Eve

#### December 31

First Sunday of Christmas



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# From the Pastor

Dear Trinity Family,

December 3, we will light the first blue candle of Advent. The Advent season will begin. Advent comes from the Latin word, Adventus. It means coming. Who is coming? Jesus, of course! During Advent we use the liturgical color blue; blue is a waiting color. Followers of Jesus wait in hope expecting Jesus to come.

Advent is a very misunderstood season. Even though it's scheduled just before, Advent isn't about waiting for Christmas at all. Baby Jesus is already born over 2000 years ago. And while we remember that historic event and the importance it holds for the world and especially ourselves, we aren't WAITING for it.

Instead, we live the mystery of our faith. Christ HAS come. Christ IS come. Christ WILL come.

We've talked at Trinity about watching for God. I have a bracelet to remind me. God IS present and active in our lives right now. Yet, we also confess that Jesus is coming at the end of the age. We're in that already and not yet between time. In His teaching and the way He lived His life, Jesus gives us a road map for waiting during this in-between time; Jesus present today and Jesus coming at the end of the age.

So, why Advent? Advent is NOT a simple countdown to Christmas. Advent reminds us to slow down, even in the hustle of the holiday frenzy, and make time to deepen our relationships with God. What spiritual practices is God calling you to renew or begin? How might your day be shaped by your connection with God? We wait for Jesus. HOW we wait is the question we ask to help us grow in faith and love as disciples.

That's where Christmas makes a difference. Yes, we aren't waiting for baby Jesus. Yet, Jesus' coming as a vulnerable infant DOES matter to who we are and how we are in the world.

Think about it! Christmas is a celebration of the Incarnation. Incarnation is a big church word meaning became flesh. We hear that particularly in the prologue of John's gospel: John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The word became flesh. Jesus gave up everything it means to be "God" to become one of us. God must love us A LOT to want to become us. The fact that God loves you is NOT a trite saying. It is who God is and the basis for our relationship with God. We know we have value because we are beloved children of God.

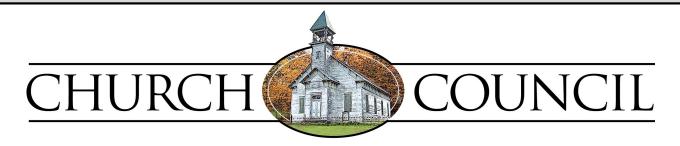
Equally important is the mystery that since we are followers of Christ, we are called to be incarnational as well. We are called to bring God's word of love and healing to our broken world. We join with God in bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth.

We are incarnational when we live from our center that is God's love and peace: when we speak kindly to the people around us, especially to those who particularly annoy us or hold different political views. When we give our time, talent or money to help alleviate suffering in the world. When we focus on what really matters: our relationship to God, ourselves and our neighbors. May Christ bless you in your Advent journey.

Peace,

Pastor Barb

# **NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**



#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

◆ Thank you letters were received from: SCCAP and Lutheran Camping Corporation

#### **GUESTS:**

◆ The Leadership Team for the Boy/Girl Scouts spoke to Council regarding projects they are involved with, number of members in each group and as their groups get smaller continuing to recruit for new members. They also cited that it is getting more expensive and donations are appreciated. They continue to do Fundraisers − 4 per year to help offset the costs. They also expressed their appreciation to Trinity for the use of the building and support

#### STAFF REPORTS:

- Pastor Barb Reported the following:
  - ⇒ 5 hospital visits, 4 home visits, Attended the following committee meetings: Council, Worship, Stewardship, Learning, Personnel, Emergency Plan, Service.
  - $\Rightarrow$  Met with Evan to discuss the particulars of the job postings for office position.
  - ⇒ Received a request from a non member to hold a wedding here at Trinity in May, 2024.
  - ⇒ Guidelines state our pastor would need to be available for this type of event. Council discussed this on a motion by Gloria, second by Evan approval was given to accept this request.
  - ⇒ A request was also received regarding transportation for a patient at Well Span to Results on Orchard Drive. Is this something we should ask the congregation for a volunteer or perhaps a volunteer committee could be set up!!! This will be presented to the congregation via email as well as an announcement. See the rest in the official minutes
- Pastor Ruth reported the following:
  - ⇒ Member phone calls (including family, nursing home) 77
  - ⇒ Member visits (home, nursing-retirement home, hospital) 24
  - ⇒ Office, pastor, committee phone calls, tests, emails, meetings 27
  - $\Rightarrow$  Funerals 1 Doris Miller

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **ENDOWMENT:**

• Request was received from Learning for \$15,000 to help fund the National Youth Convention being held in New Orleans next year. A motion was made by Ray Brindle, second by Gloria McCauley to grant this request. Motion carried.

#### **LEARNING:**

- ◆ Plans are being made for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to be held at first Lutheran at the end of January. Entertainment will be provided by NYG.
- ♦ Youth are very interested in taking a more active roll in worship services. This will start the first Sunday of Advent and continue the first Sunday of each month. Training will be provided.
- SS and Confirmation classes will be cancelled December 24 and 31.
  - Childrens offerings will be collected thru the end of May the kids will choose a Good Gift to purchase.

2

# **NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **SERVICE:**

- Christmas dinner will be held on Sunday, December 17 in the Social hall Cost will be \$5 for adults and children 16 and under free. Entertainment will be provided by the Choristers??
- 15 Christmas gift bags for Meals on Wheels will be filled at the December meeting and delivered to First Lutheran on December 13-14

Funeral Receptions were discussed and the ability to pay for receptions. How would financial help be determined. This will be tabled until the new year.

- Trunk or Treat: Brenda reported this went well. Weather was wonderful that night, 85 pumpkins were given away. Leftover candy will be used in the church office, Meals on Wheels gift bags and First responders with Saints Among Us baked goods.
- Hats and mittens will be distributed for children later in November.
- Funeral Receptions: Donations will be deposited in the Revolving account to be used for future receptions. Start saving and bringing vegetable and soup cans for daffodil arrangements for Meals on Wheels.

#### **WORSHIP:**

- Trees will be set up and decorated by the second Sunday
- Christmas Eve/Christmas Day service will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m on December 24. Children's sermon will be included.
- December 31 Second Sunday of Christmas- No sermon, only carols and scriptures Epiphany January 7, 2024 House Blessing card will be available.

#### **PROPERTY:**

- Plaster repair in sanctuary estimate from Paul Orndorff is \$1250. Painter will be hired once the repair is finished.
- Boro approved Land Use Permit
- Sanctuary fan motor has been replaced (still have one coil down)
- Sacristy fan motor repaired by S&S Electric
- Boilers and pressure vessels re-certified by HSB on behalf of our insurance company. Open spaces in two electrical panels require remediation.
- Altar Rail Estimates being solicited from Champion and Brickers Welding (\$1650)

#### STEWARDSHIP:

- Met on November 7 to discuss plans for the Spring Campaign. Theme will be All Seasons Stewardship.
- Activities will be planned and emphasis will be on loving relationships.
- Book study meeting will be held for Council members in late January. Members need to sign up as books will need to be ordered.
- Committee chairs need to make sure they are contacting individuals on the Time and Talent Sheet who are interested in helping with church activities and events.
- Sign up sheet for book study will be placed on bulletin board in hallway.







# **NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Weather related cancellations: Declaration of Snow Emergency
- Council president and/or pastor will make the announcement, post on Facebook web site, etc.-Post on 95.1 to be determined.
- Endowment will need a nominee for this committee. Evan will speak with Janelle re; this. How many members are currently on Endowment?
- Committee Annual Reports are due by December 20, 2023
- Scouts have made a request to have their access to the building increased for added events. A motion was made by Dave Wenerd, second by Gloria to honor their request. Motion carried.
- Choir TV Video Extender This has been taken care of.
- Due to addressing the most pressing of items, the December meeting will be cancelled.
- Council will meet again on Tuesday, January 9, 2024

**OTHER BUSNESS:** Due to scheduling conflicts, Sara Voight has tendered her resignation to Council effective immediately. Any one know of an interested nominee to complete the term?

Thank you and God Bless,

Evan Sutton

#### Trinity Church Council

Evan Sutton, President Gloria McCauley, Vice President Joyce McDonald, Secretary

Kathy Ashway Laura Pierce Ray Brindle
David Wenerd

Heidi Hawbaker
Wallace Whitworth

### **KEEPING UP WITH TRINITY**

#### **OCTOBER ATTENDANCE**

DATE	IN-PERSON	STREAMED
10/01	83	120
10/08	97	114
10/15	83	128
10/22	101	140
10/29	90	150



#### **OCTOBER INFORMATION**

OCT	Income	\$32,876.69
OCT	Expenses	\$33,927.64
YTD	Budget Underspent (Overspent)	-\$1,050.95



#### **Saints Among Us**

122 bags of baked goods were distributed to first responders on Sunday Nov. 6.
The Borough Police posted a wonderful thank you to Trinity for the baked goods on their Facebook page.

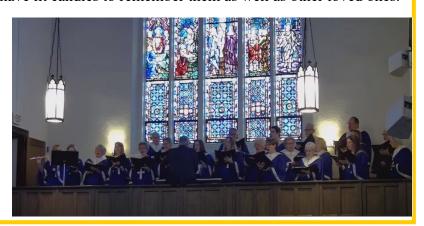
### **KEEPING UP WITH TRINITY**





# All Saints Sunday

We remembered by name,
Trinity members who have passed on in the last year and
have lit candles to remember them as well as other loved ones.



# **COMING UP @ TRINITY**



Christmas Dinner: Trinity's Church Council is planning a congregational Christmas Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023 at 6 PM in the Social Hall The CASHS Choristers will provide entertainment. Christmas Dinner will be catered by Hickory Ridge Restaurant. *Reserve your seat by Dec 3*.



Christie Cistone has submitted her letter of resignation. Her last day is December 31.

Thank you, Christie, for the time, effort, dedication, and commitment you've given Trinity during your tenure here in the office.

Your talent and gifts are appreciated. You will be missed!

Stay alert for information regarding job posting and description which can be found on FB and other digital sites including Indeed and LinkedIn.

# **COMING UP @ TRINITY**

Bell Ringers Needed: The Salvation Army is requesting bell ringers for their Red Kettle Fundraising. Trinity has accepted to ring the bell at Sunnyway Foods on Saturday, December 9 from 9 AM to 5 PM. This is an **inside** venue. This is a wonderful Christmas service opportunity. The more who sign-up, the shorter the commitment of time will be. Please call ASAP the church office 717-263-8156 or contact Louisa Etter at 717-352-7691 or <a href="mailto:chamba@embarqmail.com">chamba@embarqmail.com</a> with the time you would like to ring the bell.



The church office will be **CLOSED** from *Monday, December 25, 2023 and will reopen Tuesday, January 2, 2024* 

Church Office will be **CLOSED Monday, January 15, 2024** to observe
Martin Luther King Jr. Day



#### **SEWING GROUP**

Dec. 13, 2023 @ 11 AM @ Gloria M's home. For more info call/email

#### APPLAUSE AFTER SPECIAL MUSIC

Worship is honoring, glorifying, and adoring the One Who Loves Us. We call worship liturgy. Liturgy means "the work of the people." Worship is our "work." We sing, pray, and honor our audience of one. Everything we do in worship is toward that end. That's why the Spirit led us one Sunday to realize that perhaps applause after special music is inappropriate. We aren't "performing" but the music is actually in praise of God. Applause CAN mean "Amen" or "Thank you God" but mostly it's an acknowledgement of the performer. Therefore, we're trying something new at Trinity. Instead of clapping after the music, we're going to wait until the end of the service to honor the gifts of the performer. During the service we'll remain quiet so we can enter fully into the music and worship. However, when the little ones sing, we will still applaud after they sing.

#### ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due Thursday, January 2, 2024



CPR is still being offered by the YMCA for congregation members at a discount. The church will cover the cost.

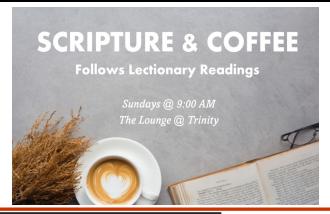
If you are interested in taking the class, please contact Evan Sutton via email @ evanjsutton@comcast.net, or phone at 717-263-7840.

#### CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

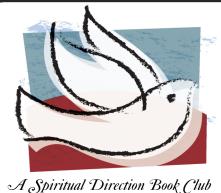
Sunday, January 28, 2028 after worship



# **ADULT GROUPS**







Wallace Whitworth and Jim Druckenbrod would like to restart the Christian reading book club. Books to read shall be volunteered by the membership. Anyone can join in for any book that seems interesting.

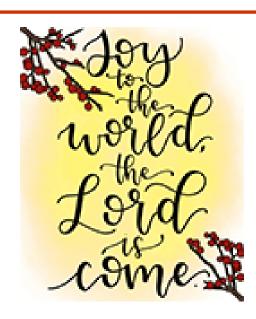
We shall meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month, beginning January 17, in the lounge at Trinity, at 7 PM.

I offer as the first reading, Radical Optimism by Beatrice Bruteau. It highlights many of the themes we covered before: living in the present moment, safety in God's Unconditional Love and that we all belong. And there is great adventure for us ahead in her discussion on leisure (Sabbath rest), cultivating imagination in our spiritual meditation and/or scripture reading, and her concept of God's radical optimism (once it percolates into us) allowing us to become radically optimistic about ourselves, each other, and the fate of God's world.

This year I am going to encourage participants to buy their own copy of the upcoming book. I purchase used books on-line at a fraction of their cost, even after shipping.

Contact either Wallace or myself if you have any questions or suggestions. Jim Druckenbrod

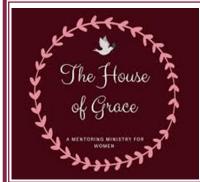




# **SERVICE TEAM**

#### Thank You for Your Baking Response

The Service Team thanks the congregation for their remarkable response to our request for baked goods to honor our 'Saints Among Us.' We were able to distribute 122 bags of baked goods to our state and local police departments, Chambersburg area fire departments, ER and medical emergency workers, emergency communication center, and sanitation department workers. All recipients were most appreciative to receive the baked goods. We were blessed by your generosity. We also thank G.R and Brianne Parham, Sharon Emmons, Helen Wlazlowski, Mary Jo Frey, Libby Felix, Judy Tinberg, Sandy Knoll, Debbie Hile, Jim and Jean Druckenbrod, and Dave and Louisa Etter for distributing the baked goods. The Service Committee.



Thank you, Libby Felix and Mary Jo Frey for providing lunch for The House of Grace on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen were served. Your kindness and generosity is most appreciated and is a blessing to this ministry.

Please contact Carol Hutsler at (717) 496-8941 for more information about this ministry.

# DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services

December's special offering is the SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services. Please remember this special ministry with your offering this month.

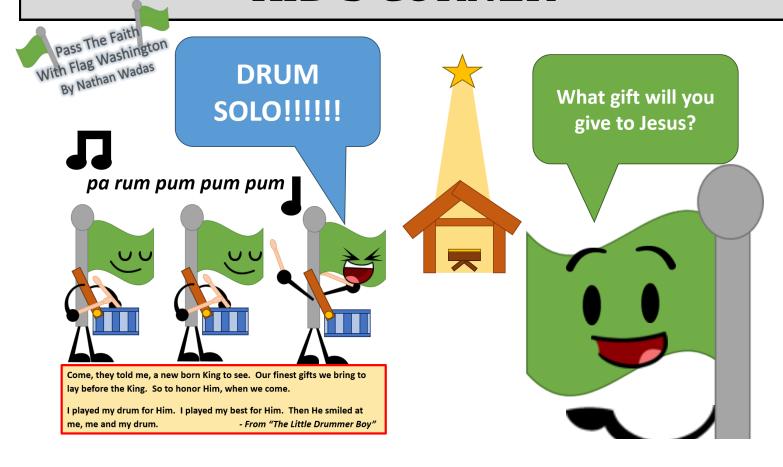


Once again, the Service Team is asking for donations for The Salvation Army Angel Tree. These cards will be handed out at their annual Christmas Party in early December.

They suggest cards from Walmart, Kohl's, and Target. Cards can be in the amount of \$25.00. These will be handed out to the older children! Deadline to have the cards turned in will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is the first Sunday. Please turn them into the office, or they can be given to me, Deb Hile! We have had an overwhelming response in the past two years. Let's try and keep up the good work! Thank you,

The Service Team

# **KID'S CORNER**

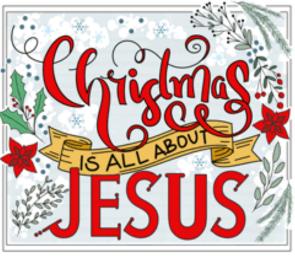


# **YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS**



# **SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES**









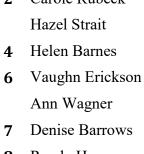
**SUNDAYS - 9 AM - CLOUD 9** 



# **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



1	Laura Pearce
2	Carole Rubeck
	Hazel Strait
4	Helen Barnes



Randy Harmon **Donald Smith** Deborah Hile **10** Carson Barrows

Michael Huntsberry Sr.

**Madison Schmus** 

11 Katherine Ashway

Lori Hepfer **12** 

Heather Wadas 13

Christopher Knoll

15 Wallace Whitworth Jr.

**16** Robert Secrist

17 Molly McGinnis

19 Kaitlyn Hawbaker Floss Sterner

22 Darcy Aurand Dewey Hutsler, III **23** Regina Barra

Meyah Smith

**24** Kenneth Hess Brady Snyder

**27** Arlee Campbell

29 Anne Gossen

Jesse Roland

**31** Cody Diehl

Danielle Martin

Elizabeth Muehl

Nancy Stehle



### READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

#### **DECEMBER BIBLE READINGS** Dec 1 Acts 7-8 Dec 12 Heb 1-6 Dec23 John 13-15 Dec 2 Dec 24 Acts 9-10 Dec 13 Heb 7-10 John 16-18 Dec 3 Acts 11-13 Dec 14 Heb 11-13 **Dec 25** John 19-21 Dec 4 Acts 14-16 Dec15 **Dec 26** 1John 1-5 2Timothy Acts 17-19 Dec 5 Dec 16 2Peter: Jude **Dec 27** 2John: 3John Acts 20-22 **Dec 17** John 1-2 Dec 28 Rev 1-5 Dec 6 Dec 7 Acts 23-25 Dec 18 John 3-4 **Dec 29** Rev 6-11 Dec 8 Acts 26-28 Dec 19 John 5-6 Dec 30 Rev 12-18 Dec 9 1Timothy Dec 20 John 7-8 Dec 31 Rev 19-22 **Dec 10** Titus Dec 21 John 9-10 Dec 11 1Peter 1-5 Dec 22 John 11-12

# **CONNECT WITH OTHERS**









#### **Home-made Cookies Needed:**

The Franklin County Jail Ministry is collecting homemade cookies for inmates.

o You may deliver homemade cookies to the Salem United Brethren Church office (4349 Letterkenny Road, Chambersburg, 263-4123) December 11th -

263-4123) December 11th - 15th (9am-3pm).

On Friday evening Dec

15th at 6:00pm at Salem, come help sort and pack the cookies into individual bags. Come and have a great time together and enjoy eating some broken cookies! On Sunday December 17th, the Chaplain and his volunteers will have a time of devotions and Christmas Caroling with the inmates and will hand-deliver a bag of cookies to each inmate!

# THANK YOU

To the Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you so much for the card, flowers, visits, and especially prayers for dad, Leland Schaffer, and our family while he was in the hospital. Pastor Barb's and Pastor Ruth's visits, and their timing, were some of the many "God Winks" we experienced. God has a plan!

Sincerely, Charlene Van Scyoc

Thank You, Trinity Lutheran Church The Chambersburg Police Department would like to thank Trinity Lutheran Church, The Saints Among Us! The cookies and other treats were delicious, and CPD remains humbled by the support from this community. Our community!!



Thank you to the Service Team
for recognizing me as a Saint at Trinity,
for the kind words that were written in the card,
for the yummy cookies, and for the generous gift card.
They were all greatly appreciated.
D will miss you all so much.

Christie 🛡

Church Congregation, THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your help with the food drive!! Scouts BSA

Pack 135 Troop 135B

Troop 135G

A Note from the Youth

Thank you for ordering from our Sweet Rollers fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering! Our next fundraiser is up and running. There is a bulletin board right inside the entrance to the church with envelopes that you can take and put money in to support our trip. You can place them directly in the offering plates. Keep an eye on the thermometer to see our progress! Thank you again for your support.

Hannah, Alison, Clark, Ben, and Kate





# SpiriTrust Lutheran

Volunteer Opportunities at SpiriTrust Lutheran, The Village at Luther Ridge Pianists are currently needed to play once a month at the Sunday afternoon chapel service. The service begins at 2:00pm and lasts for approximately a half hour.

Volunteer opportunities are also available in our skilled care center. Come assist residents with simple crafts, bingo, and other games. Assist team members with manicures or transporting residents to and from events. Or simply come and spend time with residents by doing friendly visits.



Please contact Linda Beaver if you are interested in helping at 717.264.0737 or <a href="libeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org">lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org</a>

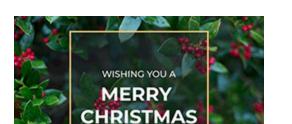
### **HELPING HANDS**



#### **NEW DISCOUNT CARDS ARE HERE!**

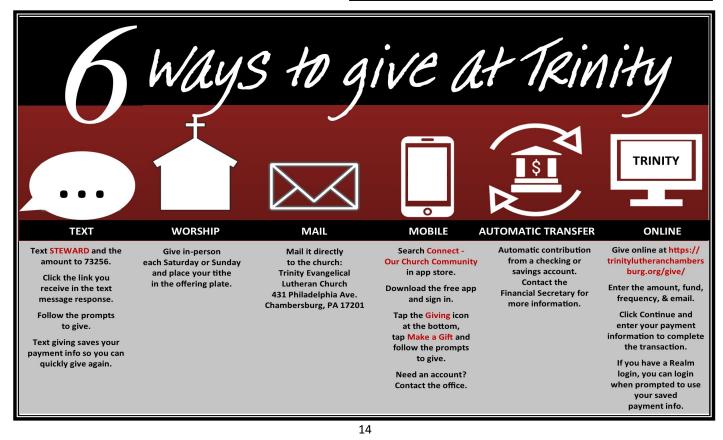
Please see your SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary representative, Sharon Emmons to get yours at <a href="mailto:mysunni@comcast.net">mysunni@comcast.net</a> / or 717-264-3977.
The sale benefits

Luther Ridge Community--residents.



AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!





### **HELPING HANDS**



In need of prayers or know someone who is?
We have a
"Prayer List" and a "Prayer Chain"
Contact the church office

Contact the church office and let us know your request. 717-263-8156 or office@trinitychbg.org



@trinitychambersburg
If you are a member and would like to be part of Trinity's Church Members
Group to get the latest news, go to
\* Trinity's Facebook page
\* Groups

\* Request to join the Members Group.



# GO GREEN TO GET GREEN TRINITY PAPER DAY DECEMBER 31

The best vessel to put your recycled paper (including junk mail and magazines) in is a paper grocery bag or a cardboard box. Please do not tape or tie anything closed. This benefit helps people to stay warm. Thanks so much for your participation.



Sign-up on bulletin board in hallway or call the church office.

Altar Flowers \$40+

Children's Bulletins

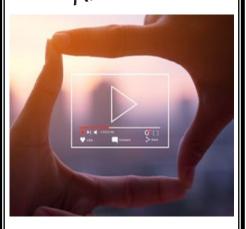
\$3







trinitychambersburg/



#### **OUR WEBSITE**

trinitylutheranchambersburg.org/worship/worshipservices/





#### TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

431 Philadelphia Avenue Chambersburg, PA 17201



"Growing in God"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

#### For more information:

#### www.trinitylutheranchambersburg.org

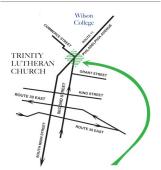
### @trinitychambersburg

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Chambersburg

(C) @Trinitylutherancburg

717-263-8156

email: office@trinitychbg.org



#### **Sunday Worship**

10 AM - Traditional (in-person & streamed)



**DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY** 

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID** Chambersburg, Pa. Permit No. 106

