



Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane
State College, PA 16803
814-238-2024 www.trinitystatecollege.org

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Bruce Lorch, Carol Bernlohr, Jerry Wion, Linda Leslie, Jim Reynolds, Laurel Saville, Kevin Trostle, Jessica Rodabaugh, Carolyn Kresen, Amanda Silliker, Sylvia O'Connor (death of Francis)

TLC FRIENDS

John (cancer), Richard & Deloros Broking, Judi (cancer), Jessica (paralyzed, car accident), Jock (death of wife)

Last Advent Soup/Salad Dinner

6:00 pm Soup & Salad Dinner
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
A signup sheet is on the door to Fellowship Hall.



Desserts are requested.
A Freewill Offering will be received.
Wednesday, Dec 19

TRINITY EVENTS

Saturday, December 15

10:00 am Zumba
5:00 pm Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

8:15 am Worship with Communion
9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship with Communion
11:45 am Social Time

12:00 pm Christmas Caroling

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:45 pm Zumba
7:00 pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19

6:00 pm Advent Soup/Salad Dinner
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer
7:30 pm Advent Study

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:45 pm Zumba
7:00 pm Choir

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

10:00 am Zumba
5:00 pm Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:15 am Worship with Communion
10:45 am Worship with Communion
11:45am Social Time

Advent Study

On Wednesday, December 19th at 7:30 (after Holden Evening Prayer) we are planning a one time study for Advent, in the Faith Room.

The study "**Fear not: God is at work beyond our ability to image**" taken from the December issue of "Gather", an ELCA publication. It explores the role of fear and hope in the story of Christmas and in our lives and faith journeys.

Copies of the devotional are on the table across from Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in joining the group or have questions, please contact

Kayla Smith (kayjosmith22@gmail.com) or 717-781-5885



Please keep Sylvia O'Connor in your prayers due to the death of her husband, Francis O'Connor on Friday, Dec. 7th

READINGS

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18



Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are given by Alyce & Marty Mehring in Loving Memory of their Parents

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Birthdays

Cassandra Richards	3
Shawn Lelko	6
Peggy McCabe	6
Mary Lou Kiel	7
Eleanor Frey	8
Sylvia Musheno	8
Anthony Garritano	10
Neil Kimerer	13
Benjamin Stout	17
Anna Miller	18
Matthew Poehner	18
Chad Trout	19
Timothy Wenrich	19
Ronald Porter	20
Abby Lichtig	21
Barbara Trout	21
Lisa Cowan	23
Sharon Miller	24
Beth Robbins	25
Elena Wenrich	25
Joan Piper	26
Joby Topper	27
Rachael Taverno	28
john Terrill	28
Carina Easton	29
Carolyn Kresen	30
Jorja Petrey	30
Kayla Smith	30



FINAL WEEK TO DONATE

PTBA 13th Annual Winter Clothing Drive

The Patton Twp. Business Association is collecting **New or Gently Used winter coats, winter boots, scarves, gloves & hats** for the

BURROWES STREET YOUTH HAVEN

as part of the Center County Youth Service Bureau (YSB) in State College for boys and girls between the ages of 12-18

Donations will be collected until **Friday, December 21st, 2018**

IHS Blanket Drive

Help take a little chill out of the lives of some of our fellow Centre County residents

Please consider donating to the Interfaith Human Services Blanket Drive

Donation Dates: December 16 to January 13

There has been a box placed in the narthex for New and Gently Used Blankets

If you have question please contact:

Carol Smith (piffy1957@gmail.com) or 814--441-3183



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 16th

Noon

Sign up sheet is on the door of Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be served before caroling.

It's Time to Pass the IHS Torch, a note from Esther Lauchle

It has been my honor and pleasure for the past several years to be Trinity's representative on the Interfaith Human Services (IHS) Board of Directors. Most recently, you supported me by donating money so that I could represent TLC and rappel off of the Hyatt Building downtown. You've also signed up to ring bells during the Christmas Wishing Well campaign and donated bedding to be made available when clients get mattresses through the free furniture program. When I was asked to represent Trinity, I had virtually no knowledge what IHS did. But once I became involved, I was overcome with the role IHS plays in the community and the services they offer to those in need, including helping clients learn how to budget, serving as rep payees, providing emergency funds to help cover electricity and fuel, and offering free furniture. I may have shared with you the time when a gentleman came in to complete paperwork so he could get some furniture. After I explained what he needed to fill out, he turned to me and asked me if I could help him because he could not read. I can't begin to explain how my heart ached for that poor man. Occasionally I have had an article included in the Piper about a fundraising opportunity or what is happening at IHS. However, I believe it is now time to step down so that others in the congregation can become a part of this important organization. The more people learn firsthand about the important role IHS plays, it becomes a domino effect and others become aware. Therefore, I had asked Pastor Ron to select someone to replace me; and so effective immediately Carol Smith and Kayla Smith will be Trinity's representatives. I know they'll do a great job. Although I will no longer be on the IHS Board, I will continue to volunteer and to provide support to this wonderful charity.

Have a Very Merry Christmas.

Esther



Postcards from the ELCA website have been printed and are available on the guestbook stand, the table in the narthex and the stand in the back of the sanctuary with our Christmas worship schedule on them.

Please feel free to take them to spread the work of Trinity with your neighbors, coworkers, and friends.



WEEK 3 - TOTAL 321

1 WEEK TO GO - Let's do this!

GRAND TOTAL 637

Toys for Tots and Holiday Food Drive Challenge

4 WEEKS - Nov. 18 - Dec 16th

We are looking to collect **1000 non-perishable food items for the food bank. We are so close!!**

If you have questions please contact:

Donna or Gene Weller (814) 237-2107



SET UP WILL BE STARTING ABOUT 5:30 ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 14TH
SECOND FLOOR OF THE PENN STATER CONFERENCE CENTER
FOR ANYONE WISHING TO HELP



2018
Toys for Tots Wrapping Schedule
Penn Stater Conference Center 2nd Floor

Saturday December 15th

10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon Youth Groups & Scout Troops
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Open session for the public.

Sunday December 16th

2:00 PM to 4:00 P.M. Open session for the public.

Monday December 17th

2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Open session for the public if needed.

Wednesday December 19th

6:00 P.M. Clean-up and transfer of remaining toys – Open to the public



* Those attending wrapping sessions are asked to bring a food item being collected to support Centre County Food Pantries.

Penn State Men's Basketball vs. Colgate 2 PM Saturday December 8th

Penn State Women's Basketball vs. St. Bonaventure –2 PM Sunday Dec. 9th

Bring a new, unwrapped toy and get a ticket for \$5

** Volunteers are required by the Marine Corps to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement. Copies will be at the Penn Stater or are available online at <http://lemont-pa.toysfortots.org> under Local Documents

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we prepare to welcome the Christ Child once again this Christmas, I find myself reflecting on the words from St. Luke:

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

No place for them? Think about it. Joseph was from Bethlehem. Surely, he still had family living there, though perhaps only extended family. The right and proper plan would have been to stay with relatives, but no one will receive him, despite Mary's dire condition. Is this the way Luke seeks to emphasize part of the scandal surrounding Jesus' birth, after all, even though Mary and Joseph were engaged, they were not yet married! Were people offended by their situation and thus refused to help?

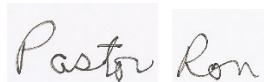
As I understand it, inns in those days were not safe places to stay. One would only go to an inn if they had no, absolutely no other option. Yes, even here, Luke tells us, they were turned away. Having a child did not grant any special consideration for the soon-to-be-mother. It was a tough, cruel world into which the Son of God was born.

So, they wind up in a stable, a barn that houses animals. In those days, the barn or shed could be emptied of animals and swept clean for people to stay, but Luke makes no mention of that. Have you ever been in a barn? Not a pleasant place with all the smells and noises the animals make. Yes, the straw might have smelled sweet, unless it's been in there for a few days. And a manger is a food trough, which served as a cradle! Not the most attractive of settings to give birth. And yet, that's the way God seems to work, showing up in the most unexpected, unattractive, unusual places, for the benefit of the most unlikely people!

This is the heart of the Christmas message and the core of our celebrations: the birth of the Christ Child, the Messiah, the Savior of the World. Just thinking about it, in many ways this is still a tough, cruel world and God continues to show up in the most unexpected, unattractive, unusual places, to benefit of the most unlikely people: us! Thanks be to God!

May God surprise you and yours this Christmas season and bless you richly throughout the New Year!

Peace, joy and love,



Pastor Ron



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF

Pastor Ronald C. Miller, Jr.
tlcrevron@comcast.net

Beth Robbins
Office Administrator
tlcoffice2@comcast.net

Barbara Roberts
Pianist, Bell Choir
barbroberts1960@gmail.com

Brian Woodland
Custodian
oppgrade9@yahoo.com

Heather Brewer
Choir Director
heatherbrewer8305@gmail.com

COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2016 - JUNE 2019

EXECUTIVE TEAM

John Waters, President (jrw8@psu.edu)
Judy Lankes, Vice President (jwalks@aol.com)
Laurette Gonet, Secretary (Laurette.Gonet@gmail.com)

CHURCH PROPERTIES TEAM LEADER

Jay Aubuchon (jayaubuchon@gmail.com)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Scott Sheaffer (sheaffer@mac.com)
Sue Glad (gladsam@comcast.net)
Elaine Burn (ejb559@comcast.net)
Sue Ellen Krupa (sekrupa77@gmail.com)

FINANCIAL TEAM

Karen Hammel, Treasurer (hulettk67@gmail.com)



“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—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.’” –Luke 2:10-11

Merry Christmas. May God be with you on this Christmas Eve. My prayer is that you will be blessed by celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus and that you are surrounded by friends and family.

We know so very well the story of our Lord’s birth as told in the Gospel of Luke. Every Christmas Eve we gather and hear again the story of the announcement to the shepherds, the angels on high, and the little baby who was laid in the manger.

We hear those words originally spoken to the shepherds, but the angel’s words from Luke’s Gospel are intended for all of us. “And this will be a sign *to you*.” “*To you* is born this day...” “*For you* a Savior, one anointed by the Lord, has been born...”

The angel’s words are more than an image or a memory. They are a sign. A sign that God has done something new. In Jesus Christ, God has come into this broken world to live with us, care for us, teach us, and save us.

The babe lying in the manger is God who has come into our broken and flawed world—into our messy and imperfect lives. God took on our human flesh and a human life in Jesus. God broke into this unforgiving world in the lowliest of circumstances. Jesus came as a baby to a teenage mother and a carpenter father. As we know there was no room for them at the inn.

In Jesus we see the God who took a place with us in the struggles and the hardship of this life by showing up in the worst of circumstances so that we might know that no matter how bad our circumstances seem, this Jesus is with us and is here *for us*.

Jesus is the great good news that God has come to us and God is with us. Jesus who came to that little manger 2000 years ago is with us now and always.

May you know the love of Christ Jesus this Christmas. May you know his presence. May you know the Lord who loves you so much, that he would come into this world to claim us and save us. Jesus loves you. Christ is with you. I thank God for you.

Merry Christmas,
+ Bishop Michael Rhyne