



## Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane  
State College, PA 16803  
814-238-2024 [www.trinitystatecollege.org](http://www.trinitystatecollege.org)

## PRAYER LIST

TLC Disciples

Sara Carlson, Dan Brooks, Lorene Stitzer, Neil Kimerer,

TLC Friends

Phyllis, Judy, Laurie, Millie, Sally, Jeanne, Dick



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Becky Krantweiss	6
Peter Forster	6
Joan Kimerer	8
Megan Gonet	10
Leana Topper	10
Angela Kendall	12
Brian Sikorski	14
Lorene Stitzer	14
Bryce Wenrich	15
Bruce Lorich	17
Gerald Krupa	18
Joyce McClellan	18
Ann VanBlargan	19
Fritz Stechele	20
Donna Weller	20
Marjorie Eakin	23
Benjamin Musheno	27
Jay Aubuchon	27

Readings

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

I Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

**2025**  
**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

were e-mailed Wednesday January 21st. If you haven't received yours, please let me know.

Thank you for your contributions.

Debbie Fryer

## TRINITY EVENTS

SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026

10:00AM ZUMBA

5:00PM WORSHIP W/COMMUNION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2026

8:15AM WORSHIP W/COMMUNION

10:00AM WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION

11AM DEEPER WATERS

MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH 2026

6:15 TROOP#375 MTG

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH 2026

9:00AM QUILTING GROUP

5:45PM ZUMBA

7:00PM CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2026

6:00PM DINNER

6:30PM AWARE PRESENTATION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2026

5:45PM ZUMBA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH 2026SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST 2026

10:00AM ZUMBA

5:00 PM WORSHIP W/COMMUNION

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026

8:15AM WORSHIP W/COMMUNION

10:00AM WORSHIP W/ COMMUNION &  
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

11:00AM DEEPER WATERS

# AWARE

Adult Wisdom to Advance Respect &  
Empowerment

EDUCATIONAL & INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM,  
Sponsored by Centre Safe

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS

JANUARY 14th, 28th

& FEBRUARY 4th, & 11th

Dinner will be served @6:00PM  
followed by presentation at 6:45

NO NEED TO SIGN UP

6PM Dinner

6:45 Presentation

Menu

#### Wednesday January 28

Traditional Lasagna, White Veggie Lasagna, Tossed  
Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

#### Wednesday February 4

Baked Salmon, Grilled Pork Tenderloin, Mac&Cheese,  
Cole Slaw, Steamed Broccoli, Cauliflower and Carrots,  
Dessert

#### Wednesday, February 11

Mississippi Beef Roast, Buttermilk Baked Chicken,  
Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Bean Casserole,  
Baked Corn, Chopped Kale Salad, Dessert



#### WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY REMINDER

In light of the upcoming snowstorm and the forecast for dangerously low real-feel, not to mention wind chill temperature, please note, our policy for winter weather. While I, as pastor, live just across the street from our building and thus can easily and safely get to congregational activities including worship; therefore, I find little reason to cancel any activities.

That said, HOWEVER, many of you must drive to attend congregational activities, including worship. So, please, use your own judgment in whether or not you can travel and arrive safely. If you have doubts about the cancellation of activities, please feel free to call me: 814-933-8514.

God bless you and keep you safe, now and always!  
Peace,



## Wanted Singers

for the 2026 Lenten Ecumenical Choir

Laurel Sanders Director,

featuring

- \* *A Little Jazz Mass* (Chilcott) with jazz trio
- \* *Credo RSV 591* (Vivaldi) with strings and organ
- \* *Credo from Afro-Caribbean Mass* (Onowwerosuoke)

**Rehearsals: Sundays, 2-4 PM from Feb. 8**

Grace Lutheran Church, 205 S. Garner St., State College

**Musical Meditation: Wed., Mar. 25@ 7:00 PM**

**Singers of all levels and worship traditions are welcome.**

Explore. Discover. Share the joy.

Join us for a faith journey expressed through great music!



### NOTE DATE CHANGE

PLEASE RE-MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
YARD SALE DATE HAS CHANGED TO  
**SATURDAY MAY 2, 2026**

No worries, you still have time to clean out  
those closets!



We will begin our Lenten Season with

Ash Wednesday

February 18th, 2026

# Mexican Fundraising Dinner

For



# Interfaith Human Services

(Build Your Own Burrito)

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

**5-6:30pm**

State College Friends Meeting

611 East Prospect Ave, State College, PA 16801

**Dinner is FREE**

**Donations go to Interfaith Human Services**

If you want to bring food:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AACAD28A1F5C70-61536637-mexican>

Scout Troop#375

For your generous donation  
to Trinity Lutheran Church.

We appreciate all that you do.





The congregations of Allegheny Synod was tasked to send a letter/card/ poem expressing good wishes to Pastor Kevin Shock when he is installed as Bishop.

Brian Lewis designed a letter (See page 6) representing our well wishes to Allegheny Synod's new Bishop.

## COOKIES NEEDED!



Allegheny Synod is requesting congregations to bake cookies for the reception following **Pastor Shock's Installation as Bishop, February 7**. If you are able to make cookies to be delivered to Trinity the morning of February 6, please let **Christy Bartley** know. You may text her cell phone, **814-933-7000**, or email [bartleychristy49@gmail.com](mailto:bartleychristy49@gmail.com) to let her know what cookies you will be providing, and how many dozens. Cookies should be packaged in **easy, disposable plastic bags, clean boxes, or containers you do not want returned**. Lyn Horning from St. Mark's in Pleasant Gap will pick up the cookies, February 6th, for the installation service. Specific information when cookies need to be at Trinity will be provided once you text or call me. Thank you in advance for your efforts to support this special occasion.

Thank you, Christy Bartley

Thank you Megan Orient for sharing the poem located on Page 7.

If you are interested in sharing a poem, article or story that resonates with you

Feel free to e-mail the article to the church office. We love to "tell the story"



### STAFF

Pastor Ronald C. Miller, Jr.  
[tlcrevron@gmail.com](mailto:tlcrevron@gmail.com)

Graham Sanders, Choir Director  
[gsanders@me.com](mailto:gsanders@me.com)

Barbara Roberts, Pianist  
[barbroberts1960@gmail.com](mailto:barbroberts1960@gmail.com)

Debbie Fryer  
Office Administrator  
[tlcoffice2@comcast.net](mailto:tlcoffice2@comcast.net)

Brian Woodland, Custodian [oppgrade9@yahoo.com](mailto:oppgrade9@yahoo.com)

### COUNCIL

JULY 2025 - JUNE 2028

#### EXECUTIVE TEAM

Brian Lewis, President ([greywolf1949@comcast.net](mailto:greywolf1949@comcast.net))

Ken Healy, Vice President ([kmh804@aol.com](mailto:kmh804@aol.com))

Mary Lou Kiel, Secretary ([mlk12@psu.edu](mailto:mlk12@psu.edu))

#### CHURCH PROPERTIES TEAM

Aaron Hunt ([aaron.d.hunt@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.d.hunt@gmail.com))

Rick Whitmer ([rawhitmer@gmail.com](mailto:rawhitmer@gmail.com))

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Trisha Hunt ([synergie17@gmail.com](mailto:synergie17@gmail.com))

Alison (Ali) Wolff ([wolffali@gmail.com](mailto:wolffali@gmail.com))

Dennis Zerbe ([dpsz1954@comcast.net](mailto:dpsz1954@comcast.net))

Beth Robbins ([beth.robbins57@gmail.com](mailto:beth.robbins57@gmail.com))

#### FINANCIAL TEAM

Kristen Kewitt, Treasurer ([kkewitt@me.com](mailto:kkewitt@me.com))

Christy Bartley, Treasurer ([bartleychristy49@gmail.com](mailto:bartleychristy49@gmail.com))

Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane

State College, PA 16803

January 23 206

The Reverend Kevin Shock

Bishop Allegheny Synod - ELCA

Allegheny Synod

916 Hickory Street

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Dear Bishop Shock,

We hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church in State College, we are delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome as you step into your new role as our Bishop. This is a momentous occasion, and we are eager to embrace the leadership and vision you will bring to our community.

Your commitment to serving God and the congregation is evident, and we are excited about the guidance and inspiration you will offer. Your experience and unwavering faith will undoubtedly strengthen our synod, fostering deeper connections among our congregations and advancing our mission.

We anticipate a future rich with opportunities for growth, service, and spiritual nourishment under your leadership. As you navigate this new chapter, please remember that you have a community of dedicated members standing ready to support you in sharing the gospel and engaging in meaningful ministry.

We look forward to your first official gatherings and are excited to work alongside you in fulfilling our shared mission of love and service to our neighbors and the world. May God grant you wisdom and peace as you embark on this important role.

Once again, welcome to the role of Bishop for Allegheny Synod. We are grateful for your ministry and look forward to the work we will accomplish together in Christ.

In Christ's peace,

The Ministers in Christ of Trinity Lutheran Church, State College

Allegheny Synod

# Blessed are the agnostics.

Blessed are they who doubt. Those who aren't sure, who can still be surprised.

Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished and therefore not so certain about everything that they no longer take in new information.

Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.

Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion. Blessed are the poor in spirit.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill an ocean. Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like.

Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.

Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for granted anymore.

Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else.

Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are those who no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers.

Blessed are the forgotten. Blessed are the closeted.

Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the underrepresented.

Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms. Blessed are the meek.

You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard - for Jesus chose to surround himself with people like them.

Blessed are those without documentation. Blessed are the ones without lobbyists.

Blessed are foster kids and special-ed kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved.

Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people.

Blessed are the burned-out social workers and the overworked teachers and the pro bono case takers.

Blessed are the kindhearted football players and the fundraising trophy wives.

Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak. Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven.

Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me when I didn't deserve it.

Blessed are the merciful, for they totally get it.

From *Accidental Saints*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

January 27-28, 2926

Dear Beloved of God,

What a new year we have just welcomed. My goodness, but no doubt like you, I find myself wondering what craziness will be unleashed on the US and the world today. Even more astounding is the lack of checks and balances that have protected and comforted us as a nation of decades. And now....my goodness!

In my reflections today, I come to a teaching of Jesus that I have never really pondered for current circumstance—until now!

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful but inside are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of uncleanness. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.” (Mt 23:27-28)

Not only are there political leaders out of control but so many have combined politics with their religion, obliterating “the separation between church and state.” I have always thought of this passage about “whitewashed tombs” to refer to the religious leaders in Jesus’ day, but never our own. And yet, there is a movement of people who believe (and practice) a “might makes right” kind of civil religion under the label of “Christian.” Seems to me it is anything but Christian.

This teaching of Jesus—which is more of a critique than a teaching and definitely directed at a specific audience—is only part of the critique, of course, I encourage you to read the entire chapter of Matthew 23. Now, I recommend that with some concern for caution. One can interpret the passage and the entire chapter, as instructions of how Jesus wants his followers to deal with those we think are whitewashed tombs. Please, note, however, there is nothing in this chapter that is directed to followers of Jesus. This is definitely not a teaching for us to apply in any way, shape or form. To do so means we run the risk of doing things that would put us in the very same condition we are trying to overcome.

To the contrary, the part in the chapter Jesus does direct to his disciples is this:

“But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (vv 8-12)

The entire critique of the religious leadership is included, at least in part, I believe, to demonstrate to us followers how we are NOT to live. To counter today’s whitewash tombs is the same approach Jesus taught, “be the people of God.” Our task is to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world. As Keith Green included in one of his songs: “Just keep doing your best and pray that it’s blessed, Jesus takes care of the rest.”

While we cannot avoid judging others’ behaviors, we are not to judge what is in their hearts, their motivations or intentions. That is Jesus’s job. That said, we are not called to give up our civil rights to speak freely, to worship as we wish, and to protest or object in ways that do not violate the law.

So, I do encourage you to be who you are and to practice your faith as you see fit, which is to say the way the Holy Spirit so inspires, equips and empowers you to do so. We may all do differently and still all be faithful. For my part, as long as I am a parish pastor, will continue to do what I have been called to do, preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments rightly—which means to do so in ways that enact the Gospel, care for people in need, and pray.

Many times, of late, I find hope in those simple faith practices. Afterall, the inference in Matthew 23 is that the rightful Judge, Jesus, “will come to judge the living and the dead.” What a relief I do not have to do that! We do what we can to the best of our ability and let Jesus take care of the rest.

Despite the terrible and frightening current events in our world, Jesus’ promise at the end of Matthew is a wonderful assurance of hope: “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Just so, we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Love, joy and peace to you and all those you love,

 Pastor Ron

Pastor Ron