

# HOLY TRINITY

Evangelical Lutheran Church

## ECHOES NEWSLETTER

Parkview & Lycoming Avenue | Abington, Pennsylvania 19001 | Tel: 215.659.2642

### From the Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

In a useful, short (72 pages!) booklet on spiritual formation, Lutheran historian Eric Gritsch reflects on Jesus' instruction to his disciples, "Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16):

"Jesus called for disciples who combine the gift of the Holy Spirit (symbolized by the dove) with cold-blooded wisdom (symbolized by the serpent). The image of the serpent has an interesting history in the Bible. First, the serpent is the instrument of temptation in the garden.... Then, the serpent becomes a symbol of salvation from death during the Exodus.... So the serpent becomes a symbol of healing and salvation, an image shared by ... modern medicine. ... But healing and salvation do not occur without a precise, correct and cold-blooded diagnosis of an illness. To be wise as a serpent means to use the mind for a proper diagnosis in order to move to a proper prognosis and treatment for survival" (*A Handbook for Christian Life in the 21st Century* [American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 2005], 9-10).

By "diagnosis," "treatment," and "survival" Gritsch means:

"Effective Christian servants must be on the alert against the lures of evil. Servanthood must be combined with Serpenthood. For only when Christians have encountered evil, diagnosed and contained it through forms of justice, will they be able to do effective service and experience genuine joy" (12).

### December, 2022

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#### **Pastor**

The Rev. Dr. Maurice Y. Lee  
Pastor

#### **Staff**

Mrs. Jacqueline Smith, *B. Mus.*  
*M. Mus., Director of Music*  
Mrs. Deborah Mumford,  
*Office Administrator*

#### **Worship Services**

Saturday at 5 p.m.  
Sunday at 9 a.m.  
(*Sunday Church School  
at 10:30 a.m.*)

#### **Holy Communion**

Saturday evening, Sunday morning  
& Festival Days

*Deadline for submission of material  
for the Echoes Newsletter is 9 a.m.  
the 15th of each month*

*Continued on pg. 2*

# From the Pastor

*Continued from page 1*

Although I don't myself regard the serpent metaphor as quite so important, I think Gritsch's emphasis on resisting evil and opposing to it the good is especially pertinent in our time, and in this season of Advent leading toward Christmas. Recall how Matthew tells the tale of the Son — Light from Light, true God from true God — coming to the world in our flesh. It's shot through with terrible darkness, Herod's witless unbelief and murderous rage upending trajectories, perverting worship, and costing innocent lives. And even Herod did not understand what was truly at stake. "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood..." (Ephesians 6:12). But the Lord's first advent, while it attracted furious hostility, could not be diverted or defeated by evil.

A correct and helpful diagnosis of what's wrong — in a body, in a culture, or in the world — depends on a rich and joyful understanding of what's right. It takes a clear vision of the good, a knowledge of the way things are meant to be, a grateful reception of God's gifts. In this season — this anticipatory, invitational, light-permeated season — we have the opportunity, once again, to re-learn Jesus, to dive into doctrine, to be surrounded by the Word, to contemplate the destination of our way of discipleship. We have the opportunity, once again, to be drawn into the truest story of all, the story of the Messiah, the story of the Savior, the story of the King. We have the opportunity, once again, to hear the cry — "the bridegroom is at hand!" — to take up lamps, to put on wedding garments, and to welcome the one for whom the whole world (whether it knows it or not!) waits. I thank God that I can do these things with you.

By his life-giving light,  
Pastor Maurice



## Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

### *Mission Statement*

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of people of God, bound together in love for the purpose of glorifying God in worship and in fulfilling His will through spreading the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to all humankind.



### Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers have been presented to the Glory of God by the people of Holy Trinity. Altar Flowers must be ordered no later than the Tuesday afternoon preceding the Sunday they are presented. They may be ordered through the Church Office (215-659-2642). You may pay by placing \$20.00 in a small white pew envelope checked, "Altar Flowers." If you know it, indicate your envelope number.



# Healing Prayer Ministry

Prayer cards are available in a basket on the Altar in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Fill out your prayer requests and members of the Healing Prayer Ministry will pray for your needs. If you leave your contact information a team member will contact you.



## Women's Prayer Group

The Holy Trinity Women's Prayer Group meets once a month

**Join us Wednesday, Dec. 14th**

This month we will meet at church after the vespers service which begins at 6:30 p.m.

We invite you to stay for dinner, we will take our meal into the Study to eat and pray together!

“Prayer is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honor of a Christian.”  
– Spurgeon.

# Prayer List

**One of the beautiful aspects of Christian Fellowship is that we can share one another's concerns through prayer. Please pray for the following:**

**Please pray for the following individuals & their families:** (we cannot add last names or initials) The families of the members Holy Trinity together with those they love, including: Adam, Aileen, Alicia, Al, Allan, Allyson, Alonzo, Amanda, Anne, Antonette, Audrey, Barb, Bea, Becky, Bert, Beth, Beth Ann, Ben, Bill, Bob, Brian, Bruce, Carol, Carly, Carter, Chris, Charles, Charlie, Christopher, Cindy, Claire, Colleen, Corey, Dallas, Dan, Daniel, Dave, David, Deb, Deborah, Derek, Diane, Didi, Dina, Dolores, Donna, Dorothea, Dorothy, Dottie, Ekaterina, Elaine, Elena, Eli, Ellen, Eric, Erica, Frank, Sr., Festo, Gavin, Gene, Grace, Greg, Gregory, Hannah, Hans, Heidi, Helen, Irina, Ivan, Jackie, Jamie, Jane, Jared, Jason, Jeff, Jen, Jennifer, Jim, Joe, John, Jon, Joyce, Jude, Judy, Julia, Kathy, Katrina, Kellie, Kelly, Kevan, Kidambi, Konstantin, Laura, Levi, Linda, Lisa, Logan, Lois, Lorraine, Luke, Maggie, Marissa, Maryann, Mary Ellen, Maryjane, Mason, Matthew, Megan, Melody, Micah, Michael, Michail, Mike, Nancy, Neda, Nia, Nik, Nikki, Noreen, Pam, Pat, Patrick, Pete, Peter, Prisca, Randy, Rhonda, Richard, Rick, Robin, Roger, Roman, Ron, Rose, Ruth, Sage, Sam, Samantha, Sandra, Sarah, Scott, Serafina, Shannon, Sharon, Sherri, Soleil, Sondra, Steph, Stephen, Steve, Suzanne, Tatiana, Terry, Tammy, Thorin, Tina, Todd, Tom, Trudy, Tyler, Valentina, Vicki, Willow.

**Please pray for the following families:** Abera, Anastasio, Arnold, Breuer, Brown, Crawford, Custer, Davidson, Dewald, Diener, Engelke, Favorin, Fisher, Flory, Ganther, Gavin, Gregg, Haage, Hamilton, Hamsher, Jacoby, Kitchen, Kramer, Kriesich, Lacy, LaRocca, Lockhart, Lusignea, Mackintosh, Maieron, Martin, McAleese, McGettigan, McGovern, McGowan, Minges, Muldowney, Mutashobya, Necker, O'Rourke, Panzo, Plum, Puhl, Rush, Schenck, Schimpf, Schmidt, Shinn, Sickle, Sklencar, Staedtler, Steinhofner, Tavella, Walsh, Williams, Wilson, Wright.

### **Please pray for the following petitions:**

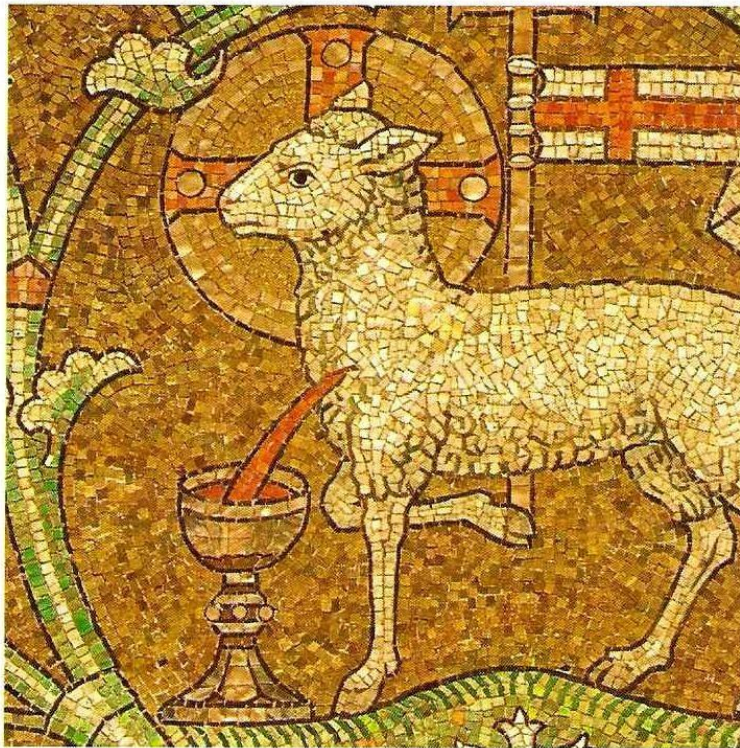
- That God would bless and protect all members of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for.
- That God would guide each of us to grow in grace & that He would please send workers into the Harvest.
- For all who are chronically ill and/or shut-in.
- For all who struggle with addiction to drugs and alcohol.
- For the sick and the grieving.
- For all congregations of the NALC.
- For all travelers and for the dying.
- For the military and their families.
- The unemployed, the underemployed & the uninsured, especially those in our own families.
- All Caregivers, rescue workers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, EMTs,
- For the members of the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, and for the Nifas Silk Congregation.
- For our sister congregations: Nifas Silk in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and First Lutheran in Kirkland Illinois.
- For all Christians who are being persecuted for the faith throughout the world.
- For the victims of rains, wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes and for favorable weather and an abundance of crops.
- For all in financial difficulty that they may be totally restored.
- For those suffering from racial injustice, bigotry, and oppression in our nation and in the world.
- For the people of Ukraine.
- For peace in the world and shootings to stop in our cities.
- For a peaceful political atmosphere.

# Advent Choral Vespers

Anthems, Psalms, and Hymns

by Busarow, Lehman, Nestor, Powell, and Shephard

*for choir, violin, and organ*



*See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiv'n.*

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2086 Parkview Ave., Abington, PA 19001

**Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 4:30 pm**



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE LIVE ON YOUTUBE (THEHTLCONLINE) OR OUR WEBSITE HOLYTRINITY.NET OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

JOIN US AT 9 AM.

★ THE 7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED.

## Treasurer's Report

October 31, 2022 (For the Year 2022)

	Holy Trinity Ministries	Wider Church
<b>Year to date received for current income</b>	\$ 252,188.45	\$ 55,717.30
<b>Carry over from 2021</b>	\$0.00	\$ 43,897.44
<b>Expenses paid to date</b>	\$ 284,773.33	\$ 51,848.66
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) 2022</b>	(\$ 32,584.88)	\$ 47,766.08

### LUTHER QUOTE:

"Music is hateful and intolerable to the devil, I truly believe, and do not mind saying, that there is no art like music, next to theology. It is the only art, next to theology, that can calm the agitations of the soul, which plainly shows that the devil, the source of anxiety and sadness, flees from the sound of music as he does from religious worship. That is why the Scriptures are full of psalms and hymns, in which praise is given to God. That is why, when we gather round God's throne in heaven, we shall sing His glory. Music is the perfect way to express our love and devotion to God. It is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us."

## Support Us

Please consider a gift of appreciated securities to Holy Trinity as you do your tax planning for this year. You may direct questions about how to do this to Alan Hinkle @ [alanhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:alanhinkle@comcast.net)

### Keep in your prayers the following individuals serving in the armed forces:

Christopher Biehl  
Michael Boerner  
Connor Gowton  
Shaun Hall  
Eric Henderson  
C.J. Hess  
Nathan Quinlan  
Jamie Riley  
Vikas Shah  
Jonathan Skilton, MD  
Jeremy Zar

**Please remember your Church in your will.**



# NOTES OF THANKS



November 9, 2022

Lutheran Church Women  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
2086 Parkview Ave.  
Abington, PA 19001

Dear Women of Holy Trinity,

Thank you for your donation of kitchen linens, cleaning supplies and the \$25.00 gift card to Life Turning Point of Philadelphia in response to our need for supplies for our ministry. Your donation is greatly appreciated as it helps to defray the expense of supply our needs, etc. Tom Scheid has also been here, recently, with a crew doing some grounds work and maintenance. He and Dean will also be mentoring a couple of our boys! Holy Trinity has been a blessing to us!

Currently, our monthly budget is \$20,000.00 and we currently have approximately two months of operating expenses in our account. Although we've had an amazing start to the ministry this year, our income has been down and expenses are up. We really would appreciate your support in this critical time.

As you know, Life Turning Point of Philadelphia exists to serve homeless women and children in Philadelphia through an 18 month, residential, Christian discipleship and Biblical Life Skills training program. We are thankful that you see the value in the work we are doing. We appreciate your support. Together, we can provide women and children with Biblical strategies for LIFE!

We would love an opportunity for you to visit our home. If you'd like, you can contact our office for a tour at (215) 826-7810. We hope to see you soon! And, again, thank you for your support. Please pray for our ministry as we seek to impact families with the love of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Christian Service,

Rita Whitaker  
Life Turning Point of Philadelphia, Founder/Executive Director



*"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." —Matthew 5:7*

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2086 Parkview Ave  
Abington, PA 19001-1136

**In 2022, your generosity enabled us to provide more than 1.5 million people with access to safe water and the Living Water of Jesus Christ.** From our ongoing crisis response in Ukraine to serving in refugee communities, friends like you are expanding Water Mission's global impact.

As your partnership continues to transform lives, I'm excited to share stories of hope in the enclosed report.

Meet Nora, a young mother from Kacheliba, Kenya. Along with other women and girls in her community, she would walk miles to retrieve water from a contaminated source. These daily journeys were dangerous and took away valuable time to receive an education. In 2022, support like yours provided the community of Kacheliba with reliable, safe water access. Today, Nora and other girls attend school regularly and are on track to achieve their dreams.

This story is just one example of how God uses your gifts to serve our global neighbors. Thank you on behalf of the families worldwide experiencing this transformation.

Many blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Garber".

Ken Garber  
Partnerships Manager  
(843) 405-8862  
kgarber@watermission.org

*To our friends at Holy Trinity,  
Thank you for continuing to bless us  
and the "Noras" of this world as a ministry  
partner! -Ken*

1150 Molly Greene Way, Bldg. 1605 • N. Charleston, SC 29405 • +1.843.769.7395 • [watermission.org](http://watermission.org)

**To learn more about the work of Water Mission go to [watermission.org](http://watermission.org)**



## Thankfulness Fueled by Faithfulness

November 2022

Dear friend in Christ,

As you read this, the jack-o-lanterns have perhaps made their way to the compost, and only the most eager already have put up their trees. Talk of recipes for turkey and cranberry sauce will have ensued. Thanksgiving is upon us. Sandwiched between our overly commercialized celebrations of Halloween and Christmas, we have an opportunity to pause and give thanks. For many, the focus will be on their family, their being together, and the food they will share. That's a fine thing! To be sure, we are thankful for togetherness with those we love and for the fruitfulness of the harvest. But we as Christians have something else that fuels our thankfulness: God's faithfulness.

The psalmist fervently urges us, and indeed all people: *"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth... Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."* (Psalm 100:1,4-5)

We in the World Mission Prayer League certainly have experienced the Lord's faithfulness, even in this last month. In particular, our Board of Directors, following the diligent work of their Search Committee, called Kyle Scott to be the new Executive Director of WMPL beginning sometime the later part of next year. Kyle and Lois have accepted that call and are now hard at work bringing some completion and transition to the very important ministry they currently do in directing LAMB Hospital in Bangladesh. We thank God for this marvelous couple, our fellow workers, and we praise Him for his faithfulness to his plan of salvation for the world, to the World Mission Prayer League, and to the generations – and the WMPL sequel – to come. His faithfulness fuels our thankfulness!

We see God's faithfulness in you, too! Your support through prayer and financial gifts are clear evidence not only of your faithfulness, but of God's. You and God together fuel our thankfulness, and so we express our thanks to you, too. God bless you!

Of course, the greatest way for us to express our thankfulness is to continue proclaiming the Lord's name to those who don't yet know him, to those who don't yet know of his faithfulness. We say with Isaiah: *O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.* (Isaiah 25:1)

Dear friend, *"let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful!"* (Hebrews 10:23)

Happy Thanksgiving!

Your fellow worker in Jesus,

Paul Gossman, Executive Director

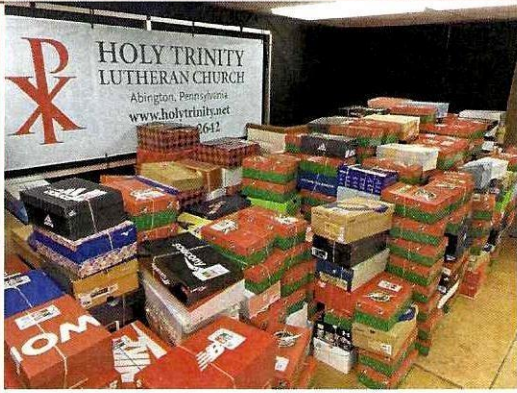


TOGETHER IN CHRIST, PRAYER, & GLOBAL MISSION

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612.871.6843

4837 52A St.  
Camrose, AB T4V 1W5  
canada@wmpl.org  
780.672.0464





## OCC Shoeboxes: It's A Wrap!

### What A Year for Holy Trinity!

We met and exceeded Pastor Maurice's  
500-Box Challenge.

Holy Trinity sent **688** shoeboxes from our packing party, from individuals, and from Bruce and Maureen Freer who brought several hundred boxes from their cousins. WOW. That is more than a 50% increase over our 440 boxes in 2021.

**During National Collection Week at Holy Trinity (8 days straight): 19 volunteers gave 105 hours! We received, cartonized, and delivered 1,340 shoeboxes in 100 cartons.**

#### Packing Party & Drop-Off Thank You's All Around to:

**The Run Around** shoe store in Roslyn and owner Hank DeVincent for providing several hundred shoeboxes to augment our Samaritans Purse supply. Hank routinely asks customers if they want their boxes when they purchase new shoes.

**Dot McGowan** who makes such sweet and colorful knit hats to delight children.  
(And they do love their hats as seen online in videos.)

**Deb** who provides office support, printing, cutting apart 250 notes, and so much more.

**Those who** prepared shoebox items for packing as well as those who gave hours to enable Holy Trinity to host National Collection week November 14-21.

**The congregation** for covering every dollar of our shoebox shipping.

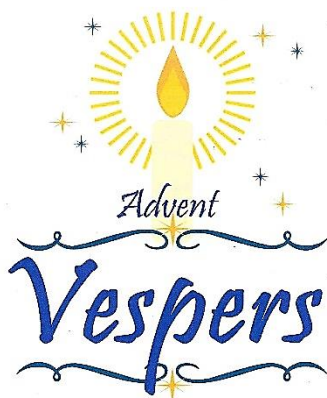
**The Ischinger's** and their Holy Trinity crew who served as the transportation connection between Holy Trinity and Central Drop-Off at Covenant Church, Hatboro, delivering 100 heavy cartons. An "extra heavy" Thank You to Rob and his truck!

**Remember, EVERY box you have packed is a child! And with every child is a family who may not yet know Jesus.**



It is difficult to imagine the great joy and love of God that children feel when they receive their box, a first gift ever for most.

**Enjoy touching and inspiring stories from children who receive shoeboxes**  
[samaritanspurse.org/occ-videos](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ-videos)



Need a break from the fast paced stress of daily life?  
Long to dive into the deep mystery that is God's love?  
Join your church family for a time of quiet reflection  
and preparation for the birth of our Savior.

**Every Wednesday night in Advent,  
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, & 21 at 6:30 p.m.**

Don't worry about rushing to make dinner  
as a meal will be served after worship.

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Don't forget to worship with your Holy Trinity family on Christmas Eve



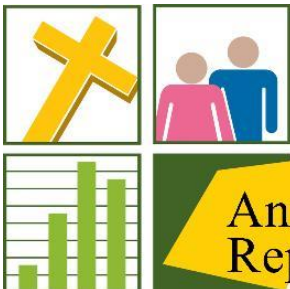


**Congregational Meeting**

**A Special Congregational Meeting**  
to approve changes to the Constitution  
**Sunday, December 4, 2022**  
immediately after worship.



At Annual Meeting this year, **Sunday, January 29, 2023** the first item of business will be the adoption of Rules of Procedure. This adoption of Rules of Procedure has always been done at the outset of every denominational or synodical convocation (LCA, ELCA, or NALC). This adoption needs only a simple majority and is done to make the meeting run smoothly. Among other things, The Rules of Procedure say that Holy Trinity’s Annual Meeting will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, that all speeches will be limited to three minutes, and that anyone can present a resolution but that this resolution must be presented in writing to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 3:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately prior to Annual Meeting. At the time each resolution is presented to Annual Meeting, Reference and Counsel will advise the Annual Meeting as to whether or not the resolution should be adopted. Copies of these Rules of Procedure and Forms for Resolutions are available in the Narthex.



**To All Committee Chairpersons**

If you haven’t already, please submit your Annual Report to Deb in the office or email to [secretary@holytrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holytrinity.net)

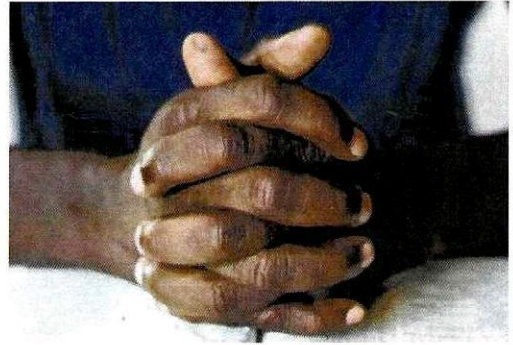
## Feed Orphans; Adopt A Child to Educate

Remember those 30 plates, bowls, and utensil sets Holy Trinity sent in a shipping container to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2019 for our missionaries Didi and Seraphina Panzo? All of those items represent the 30 children who live in a nearby orphanage where they are fed only once a day—at bedtime to ensure that they sleep. These children are hungry every day as we would be if we could eat only one meal a day. Further, like all children, these children need to be in school, but school costs money. There are fees to attend, required uniforms to wear, and fees for books and supplies.



Didi and Seraphina are limited by their own missionary income, but we who are preparing to celebrate our Savior's birth with presents aplenty and delicious spreads at our tables are not limited in the same way. Through Didi and Seraphina, God is offering us opportunities to care for his children: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I needed clothes and you clothed me..."

Didi and Seraphina host the 30 children three times a week for Bible study. They can only afford to feed them one time a week. All of the children together can be fed a bowl of porridge at each meal for \$20. \$40/week would provide those two additional meals that the Panzo's cannot cover. That way, at least three days a week, the children could eat twice.



These children should be in school, learning so that they have a chance to grow and develop like our own children. However, their fees are not covered. But, we can help educate these children. For \$40 a trimester or \$120 a year, a child can have the necessary uniform and materials and have school fees paid. **Wouldn't you like to "adopt" a child to educate?**

If you feel God laying this educational opportunity on your heart, then you will be asked to commit to one entire year at a time. Didi will provide the child's name and grade and supervise the output of money to meet costs. Here is the age spread of the 30 children:

3 2 <sup>nd</sup> graders	2 7 <sup>th</sup> graders
3 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders	4 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
5 4 <sup>th</sup> graders	4 9 <sup>th</sup> graders
9 5 <sup>th</sup> graders	

As you are led, please consider your support to feed and educate children. Make checks out to Holy Trinity. To educate one or more children, please write a check for \$120 per child and indicate in the memo section: "Adopt A Child." To help feed the children, please indicate "Food for Orphans"

*Father*

*Break my heart for what breaks yours*

*Give me open hands and open doors*

*Put your light in my eyes and let me see*

*That my own little world is not about me" Matthew West*

## Can We Talk Money?

### Give to Holy Trinity During Retirement Years through A Qualified Charitable Distribution

It is December, and that means it is time to think about tax-efficient year-end giving!

Retirement-age individuals and couples may find that they don't need income from their traditional IRAs in certain years or all years. Their other sources of income may be sufficient.

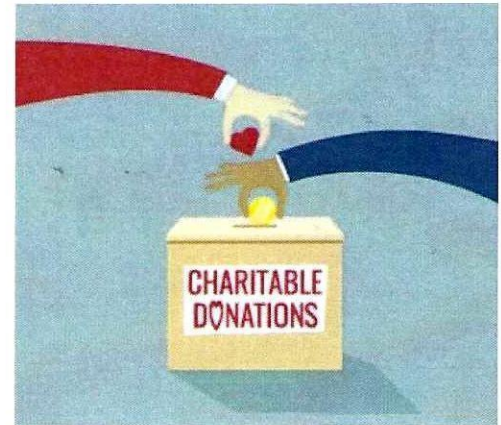
Some may not want all of the IRA income because these withdrawals are subject to ordinary income tax, and more taxable income may push these IRA owners into a higher tax bracket. In particular, a higher tax bracket can have adverse impacts on Social Security payments and Medicare benefits.

Regardless, when you reach age 72, the IRS mandates that traditional IRA owners take annual income withdrawals, known as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Failure to take these withdrawals could subject you to stiff penalties.

Thankfully, charitably-minded individuals and couples age 70½ and older have a tax-smart strategy available with traditional IRAs: the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD allows a donor to instruct a traditional IRA<sup>1</sup> administrator to send up to \$100,000 per year—all or part of the annual Required Minimum Distribution—to an operating charity. Couples who submit tax returns with married filing jointly status each qualify for an annual QCD of up to \$100,000.

You must specify that your IRA distribution goes directly to a designated charity or charities so that you do not need to report the Qualified Charitable Distribution as taxable income, and you do not owe any taxes on the QCD. In addition, the assets can be put to good use by your favorite operating charity (**think Holy Trinity!**), making QCDs a win-win strategy.

Sometimes you may also find that the QCD provides greater tax savings than cash donations for which charitable tax deductions are claimed. This is because Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is reduced, as shown in the following case study, and AGI is used in several key



calculations, such as determining the taxable portion of Social Security benefits or what deductions and credits donors qualify for receiving.

In addition, although the QCD is not deductible as a charitable contribution a Qualified Charitable Distribution allows a donor to receive a tax benefit even if the donor does not itemize deductions. This is the result of the QCD being excluded from taxable income.

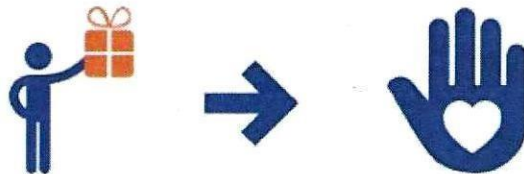
### **Case Study: Enhancing Tax Savings with A QCD Gift**

Bob will submit tax returns with the single filing status and have ordinary income of \$80,000 in 2022. Bob is 75 years old in 2022 and needs to take a Required Minimum Deduction from his traditional IRA. In this instance, Bob's IRA is valued at \$1,050,000, resulting in a projected RMD of \$42,683 (\$1,050,000 divided by the IRS mandated age 75 distribution period amount of 24.6). If Bob makes a QCD for \$3,000, his adjusted gross income is reduced to \$77,000. If Bob takes the standard deduction, as most people do, he saves the tax on \$3,000. The reduced income may also reduce taxes on Social Security benefits and Medicare premiums.

**Holy Trinity is prepared to receive your gift and, in fact, has already received a QCD gift.**

**If you think a Qualified Charitable Distribution is for you, contact your IRA administrator.**

**If you need more information, contact your financial advisor or call Alan Hinkle at 215-704-4511.**

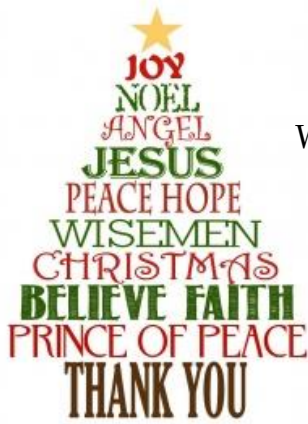


**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE  
DISTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA**

## ***Bread of Heaven* Christmas Meal Collection:**

### **for Homemade Chili Dinner**

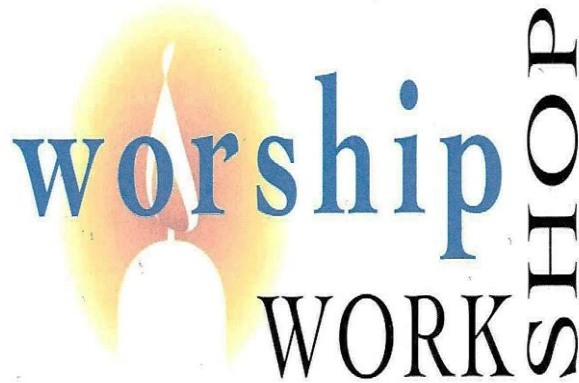
We will be putting together Christmas Bags for our guests at the *Bread of Heaven* Food Pantry for 4 Thursdays in December.



### **Donations needed for these items:**

**Diced Tomatoes, Kidney Beans, Corn bread mix, potatoes au gratin, Chili Seasoning packets, canned diced tomatoes with chilies, and money to purchase ground beef and peppers.**

*Thanks be to God for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit which inspires Holy Trinity's faithful disciples to provide so generously to those in need!*



A series of five hands-on sessions delving into our theology and practice of worship ~ Biblical, liturgical, and traditional ~ at Holy Trinity. All are welcome; you don't have to (already) be one of our worship assistants to participate.

Interested in how we write prayers, sing psalms, read scripture, use a lectionary, celebrate the Eucharist, follow a classical liturgical order as we do?

Join us for any or all of these Worship Workshops.

The first one, on writing prayers, will be held

**Friday, December 2, 6:30 p.m.** in the Sts. Peter & Andrew Study.



# Lutheran Church Women's Circle Bible Study



## December Topic "Christmas Treasure"

*"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11*

According to legend, Martin Luther was walking home through the woods late one evening and noticed how beautiful the stars shone through the trees. He wanted to share the beauty with his family, so he cut down a fir tree and took it home. No one recorded how his wife, Katie, reacted to a pine tree in her living room. However, the idea took off, and became ever more popular through the centuries.

According to tradition, a newlywed couple's Christmas tree should include twelve particular ornaments to ensure a happy life together. This month, we will share the story of the Christmas Tree, our own trimming traditions, and the twelve special ornaments that are symbolic of the Yuletide. Take a break from our regular Bible study lesson. Enjoy some fellowship with your Circle during this festive time of year.

## ★ DECEMBER CIRCLES ★

**Ruth Circle** - Sunday, December 11 at 11:45 a.m. in the SS Peter and Andrew Study.

Leader: Katie Beyer (215) 572 - 6864 [kbeyer0403@gmail.com](mailto:kbeyer0403@gmail.com)

**Eve Circle** - Thursday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the SS Peter and Andrew Study.

Leader: Sue Tolton (215) 659-7054 [suetolton@comcast.net](mailto:suetolton@comcast.net)

**Miriam Circle** - Monday, December 12 at 12:30 p.m. in the Study and Zoom

Leader: Sandy Schmidt (215) 657-5065 [sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com)

**Hannah Circle** - Sunday, December 18 at 10:30 a.m. in Bread of Heaven Café.

Contact: Deb Mumford (267) 210-1789 [Debssam@msn.com](mailto:Debssam@msn.com)

## Why Should You Buy Giant Gift Cards at Church?

The obvious answer is that you shop there and/or you want to give gifts—maybe stocking stuffers—and would like the LCW (Lutheran Church Women of Holy Trinity) to benefit from this fundraiser.



The other answer that we want to make obvious is who really benefits. All of the money we raise from the sale of Giant cards is put into a designated fundraising account. This money is used not only to help our women with scholarships to attend retreats, but also to help others with the proceeds earned each time you purchase a Giant gift card. This month, the women of Holy Trinity are sending:

- \$250 to the Christian-based Cradle of Hope, Glenside, home for single mothers and their children
- \$250 to the Christian-based Life Turning Point of Philadelphia for their home for single mothers and their children.
- \$500 to complete any needed sneaker purchases for Christ's Home and the remainder to purchase needed items on their Amazon wish list.
- \$500 to Didi and Seraphina Panzo through the World Mission Prayer League to help feed orphans.

**Make a difference for others by purchasing Giant Gift Cards!**  
Please see Joy Alderfer for your Giant gift cards.  
She has various denominations that you can select.

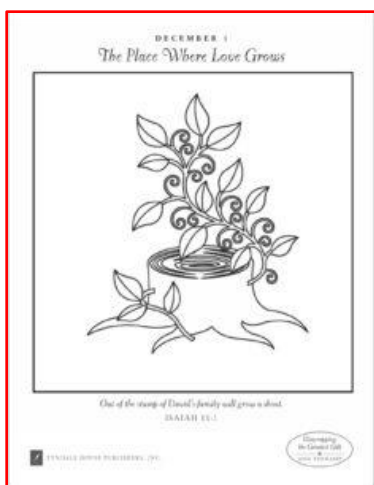
Ladies of the LCW who attended the Tea & Treats event... Celebrate Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of the King with Ann Voskamp's printable ornaments and coloring pages. They are available on her website.

Coloring pages:

[annvoskamp.com/download/coloring-pages/](http://annvoskamp.com/download/coloring-pages/)

Printable ornaments:

[annvoskamp.com/download/color-printable-ornaments/](http://annvoskamp.com/download/color-printable-ornaments/)



## ***Women of Holy Trinity***

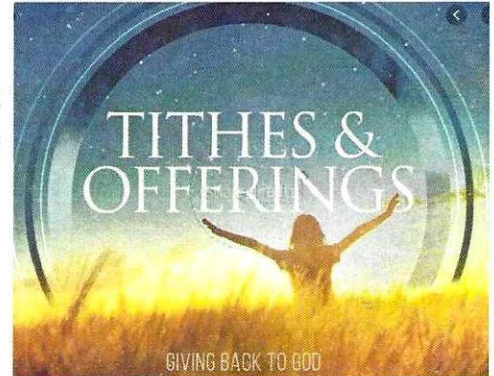
### **We Are Collecting Our Semi Annual Thank Offering**

Thank Offering is the money we set aside throughout our days when we are grateful to God for answered prayer, both in the concerning situations of daily living as well as in our joys that are the blessings we celebrate. We collect Thank Offerings twice a year and dedicate them to the needs of others.

This Fall, we are sharing these offerings equally between the Cradle of Hope in Glenside and Life Turning Point of Philadelphia. These are both Christian homes for otherwise homeless single women and their children. Many of these women have been turned out by their families when they find they are pregnant. These two homes help the women learn parenting skills, complete their education, and obtain jobs in order to be able to support themselves and their children. Very importantly, both homes provide Bible study to give the ladies a foundation in God and Jesus.

**Please contribute your Thank Offering either at our fall General meeting of Holy Trinity Church Women (LCW) on Sunday, November 20, 11:30 AM in the Study or place it in the collection plate in an envelope c marked "LCW Thank Offering."**

*Psalm 50:23 "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God."*



**Christmas greetings from  
your library staff!**

**We hope you'll make time to visit  
and see our work in progress.**

May God bless you at Christmas and always,  
Jeanne, Karen, Linda, Noreen, Sandy.



**adult**  
**CHRISTIAN**  
**education** Sundays at 10:30 AM

**IN THE STUDY:**

Pastor Maurice's Adult SS class

A Christian contribution to contemporary debates based on a Biblical-theological understanding of human nature: intended, given, and renewed by God through Christ in the Spirit.



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**IN THE FRONT HALF OF FELLOWSHIP HALL:**

Starting today, Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>



Tom Schied's Class will be showing the movie 'Risen' in Fellowship Hall. The viewing will run over 3 sessions since the movie is about 2 hours long, which also will give time for discussion.

**RISEN** is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius (Joseph Fiennes), a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide, Lucius (Tom Felton), are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus (Cliff Curtis) in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

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**IN THE BACK HALF OF FELLOWSHIP HALL:**

Pastor Larry's Adult SS class

**A Longer Look at the Readings**

A Bible study based on the lectionary readings used in our worship each Sunday. The study provides information about the readings and their contexts.

Questions and answers mine the riches of the periscopes while encouraging discussion and personal application.



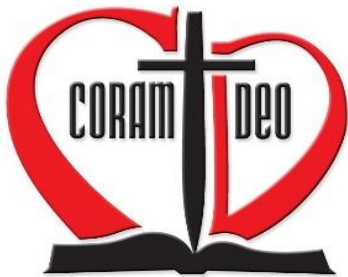
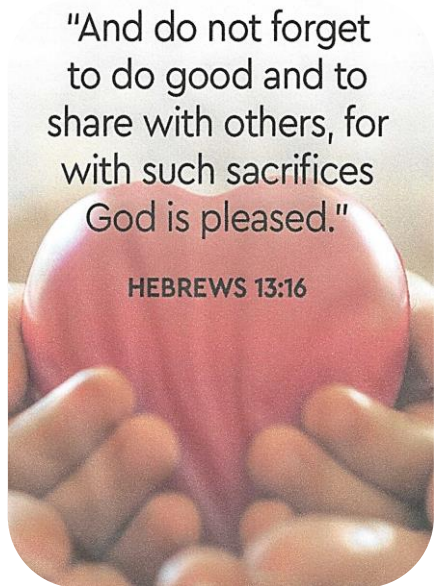
## Sarnelli House Needs ~URGENT

Men's & Women's coats & warm jackets  
Men's jeans esp. waist sizes 32, 34, 36

Women's jeans      Hoodies  
Gloves                Knit caps  
Blankets

**Underwear and socks are always in need.**

Bi-weekly trips are being made to Kensington.  
Leave your donations in the Narthex.



## Coram Deo

Meeting once a month on the 2nd Monday of each month  
in the SS Peter & Andrew Study at 7:30 p.m.

All are invited to join - even if it's "just for one book".

Books we are reading for the monthly gatherings:

**December 12 - *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen**

January 9 - *Watership Down* by Richard Adams

February 13 - *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder

March 13 - *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë



## Wreaths Across America, Saturday, December 17

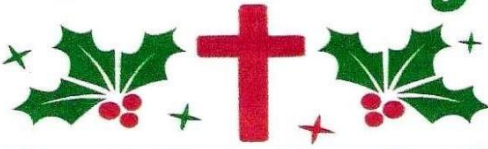
Philadelphia National Cemetery

6909 Limekiln Pike, Philadelphia, PA 19138

Wreaths are arriving at 9 a.m. help is needed  
to unload the truck. Plans are to meet at  
church at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to the cemetery.

For more info contact Wayne Laudenslager  
(215) 200 - 1706

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

*Happy  
Birthday*  
  
**JESUS  
PARTY**

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON!**

You're invited to take part in our Nativity Pageant  
and celebrate with us at our  
Happy Birthday Jesus party.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

**2 - 3:30 PM HTLC Fellowship Hall**

**Children 4 + up**

**RSVP by 12/18**

**Sign-up sheet in the Narthex  
or email [secretary@holytrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holytrinity.net)**



# December Worship Assistants Schedule



## December 4

<b>Usher 1</b>	<b>Lector- Sat Linda Cassady</b>	<b>Cantor Dean Lawrence</b>
<b>Stream Frank</b>	<b>Sun Matthew Gregg</b>	<b>Acolyte Sophia Morales</b>
<b>Team Ganther</b>		<b>Crucifer Sherry Breslin</b>

## December 11

<b>Usher 2</b>	<b>Lector - Sat Karen McGovern</b>	<b>Cantor Deb Mumford</b>
<b>Stream Rob</b>	<b>Sun Deb Mumford</b>	<b>Acolyte Jonathan Mustashobya</b>
<b>Team Ischinger</b>		<b>Crucifer Matthew Gregg</b>

## December 18

<b>Usher 3</b>	<b>Lector-Sat Linda Cassady</b>	<b>Cantor Ravinia Lee</b>
<b>Stream Charlie</b>	<b>Sun Sherri Gregg</b>	<b>Acolyte Gloria Ischinger</b>
<b>Team Tolton</b>		<b>Crucifer Sherri Gregg</b>

## December 24 7:30 PM

<b>Usher 2</b>		<b>Acolyte Rob Ischinger</b>
	<b>Stream Hannah Mumford</b>	<b>Crucifer Charlie Tolton</b>
	<b>Team</b>	
<b>Lector - Allan Shikhvarg</b>		

## December 25

<b>Usher 4</b>	<b>Lector - Sat Karen McGovern</b>		
<b>Stream Gloria</b>	<b>Sun Kile Smith</b>	<b>Acolyte Charlie Tolton</b>	
<b>Team Ischinger</b>		<b>Crucifer Frank Ganther</b>	

If you cannot serve please contact someone on the list for that particular service team and find a replacement. If you cannot find a replacement simply contact the office (215) 659-2642 or email Deb at [secretary@holyltrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holyltrinity.net)

Called to *Serve*

# DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid. ~ Martin Luther</p>				<b>1</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven  6:30 Handbell Choir 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>2</b>  6:30 PM 7:30 AA	<b>3</b> 9:00 Stephen Ministry Training  5:00 Holy Communion  7:00 AA
<b>4 ADVENT 2</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult  Special Cong. Meeting  6:00 AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  7:00 Council	<b>7</b>  6:30 PM	<b>8</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven  6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Eve Circle 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>9</b>  7:30 AA	<b>10</b> 9:00 Stephen Ministry Training  5:00 Holy Communion  7:00 AA
<b>11 ADVENT 3</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 11:30 Ruth Circle in Study  5:00 - 7:00 SOT Youth Group  6:00 AA	<b>12</b> 12:30 Miriam Circle	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  6:30 PM WPG 7:00 PM	<b>15</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven  6:30 Handbell Choir 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>16</b>  7:30 AA	<b>17</b> 8:30 departure  9:00 Stephen Ministry Training  5:00 Holy Communion  7:00 AA
<b>18 ADVENT 4</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 10:30 Hannah Circle  6:00 AA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  7:00 PM Evangelism	<b>21</b>  6:30 PM	<b>22</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven  6:30 Handbell Choir 8:00 Chancel Choir	<b>23</b>  7:30 AA	<b>24</b>  SERVICE 7:30 PM
<b>25 CHRISTMAS 1</b> 9:00 Holy Communion  	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Party 2 PM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven	<b>30</b>  7:30 AA	<b>31</b> 

## Special Dates:

- Advent 2, Dec. 4, 2022
- Advent 3, Dec. 11, 2022
- Advent 4, Dec. 18, 2022
- First Day of Winter, Dec. 21, 2022
- Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2022
- Happy Birthday Jesus Party, Dec. 27, 2022

Merry Christmas



AND A

