

# HOLY TRINITY

Evangelical Lutheran Church

## **ECHOES** NEWSLETTER

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

### January, 2024

*In This Issue:*

***From the Pastor - pg. 1***

***Prayer List - pg. 3***

***Letters - pg.6 - 11***

***Worship Assts Schedule -  
pg. 24***

***Calendar - pg. 25***

#### **Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Maurice Y. Lee, Pastor

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***

### From the Pastor

He was born of a woman — yet he was already begotten from the Father.

He was wrapped in swaddling bands — yet at his Resurrection he unloosed the bands of the grave.

He was exiled into Egypt — yet he banished the Egyptian idols.

He had “no form or beauty” — yet he was “fairer than the children of mortals,” and on the mount he shines forth, more luminous than the Sun, to reveal the future mystery.

He hungered — yet he fed thousands and is indeed “living bread.”

He thirsted — yet he cried out: “let whoever thirsts come to me and drink.”

He was tired — yet he is the rest of the weary and burdened.

He was overcome by sleep — yet he rebuked the winds and saved the drowning Peter.

He paid tax — yet he is emperor over those who demand the tax.

He was stoned — yet he was not hit.

He prayed — yet he hears prayer.

He wept — yet he puts an end to weeping.

He was sold for thirty pieces of silver — yet he bought back the world at the cost of his own blood.

*Continued on pg. 2*

# Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *Mission Statement*

We proclaim the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
worshiping, making  
disciples and serving  
in His name.



## 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.

## From the Pastor

*Continued from pg. 1*

A sheep, he was led to the slaughter — yet he shepherds Israel and now the whole world.  
A lamb, he was speechless — yet he is “the Word,” proclaimed by “the voice of one crying in the wilderness.”

He was weak and wounded — yet he cures every disease and every weakness.

He was nailed up on the tree — yet by the tree of life he restores us, indeed, saves even a thief crucified with him.

He was given vinegar to drink, gall to eat — yet he turns water into wine, takes away the taste of bitterness.

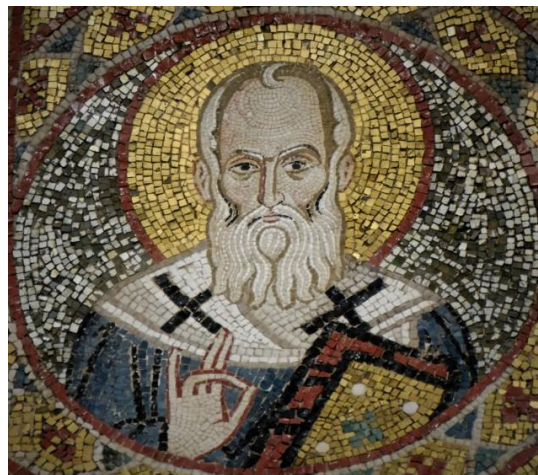
He surrendered his life — yet he has power to take it again, for the veil is rent, things of heaven are revealed, rocks are split, dead men have an early awakening.

He died — yet he gives life, and by death destroys the power of death.

He was buried — yet he rises again.

He went down to Hades — yet he leads souls up, ascends to heaven, and will come to judge the living and the dead.

—St. Gregory of Nazianus, *Oration 29* (cf. *On God and Christ: The Five Theological Orations and Two Letters to Cledonius* [St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 2002], 86–88)





# 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  
the **3rd Monday**  
of each month.

We gather at **7:30 p.m.**  
in the room over

Rosemary Hinkle's garage.  
(See church directory for  
phone # and address)

This space offers privacy.  
Coffee, tea, and dessert  
are served!

Every woman is welcome,  
come as you are able.

Questions contact Rosemary  
@

[Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net)

### 2023 Schedule

**Resumes Jan. 15, 2024**

Feb. 20    March 20

April 17    May 22

June 19

## 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: Antonette, John, Sharon.

**\* We encourage you to bring us your prayer requests for individuals and families in 2024.**

**Please pray for the following families:**

All of the families of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for; especially we pray for: Carr, Maieron, Steinhofner.

**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 all 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.



**Our Christian Sympathy to  
E.J Singley, Kelli Barlow and families  
on the death of Maryjane Singley  
December 24, 2023**

Beloved mother, grandmother and sister in Christ.

**Psalm 112:6**

“For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered forever.”

*those we*  
**LOVE**  
**DON'T GO AWAY,**  
*they walk beside us*  
**EVERY DAY**  
**UNSEEN, UNHEARD,**  
*but always near*  
**STILL LOVED,**  
**STILL MISSED,**  
*and very dear*



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS AVAILABLE LIVE ON YOUTUBE (TheHTLConline) OR OUR WEBSITE HOLYTRINITY.NET OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. JOIN US AT 9 AM.

## Treasurer's Report

November 30, 2023 (For the Year 2023)

	Holy Trinity Ministries	Wider Church
<b>Year to date received for current income</b>	\$ 318,181.48	\$ 64,600.96
<b>Carry over from 2022</b>	(\$ 7,077.02)	\$ 42,122.25
<b>Expenses paid to date</b>	\$ 341,628.18	\$ 66,172.96
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) 2023</b>	(\$30,523.72)	\$ 40,550.25

### LUTHER QUOTES:

"Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not that I might become what I was not."

"Before every great opportunity God gave me a great trial."

"Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon."

"A Christian is never in a state of completion but always in a process of becoming."

## 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  
Conor Gowton  
Shaun Hall  
Eric Henderson  
CJ Hess  
Nathan Quinlan  
Vikas Shah  
Jonathan Skilton, MD  
Jeremy Zar

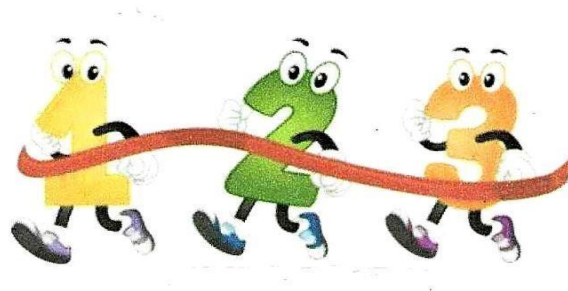
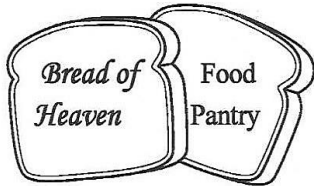
**Please remember your Church in your will.**



## NOTES OF THANKS

A HUGE thank you to all who took the time, energy, and effort to bake so many cookies for our Bread of Heaven guests that we were able to give out more than a dozen to each guest!

Many comments and compliments were received about how lovely it was for the congregation to bake all those homemade cookies! It is truly appreciated!!!



Let's Run the Numbers for food given to our neighbors in need at the Bread of Heaven in 2023:

**EASTER BAGS - 75**

**THANKSGIVING BAGS - 95**

**CHRISTMAS BAGS - 85**

**TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED - 1,105**

**TOTAL NUMBERS SERVED - 5,000**

**157 NEW GUESTS SERVED!**



## NOTES OF THANKS (cont...)

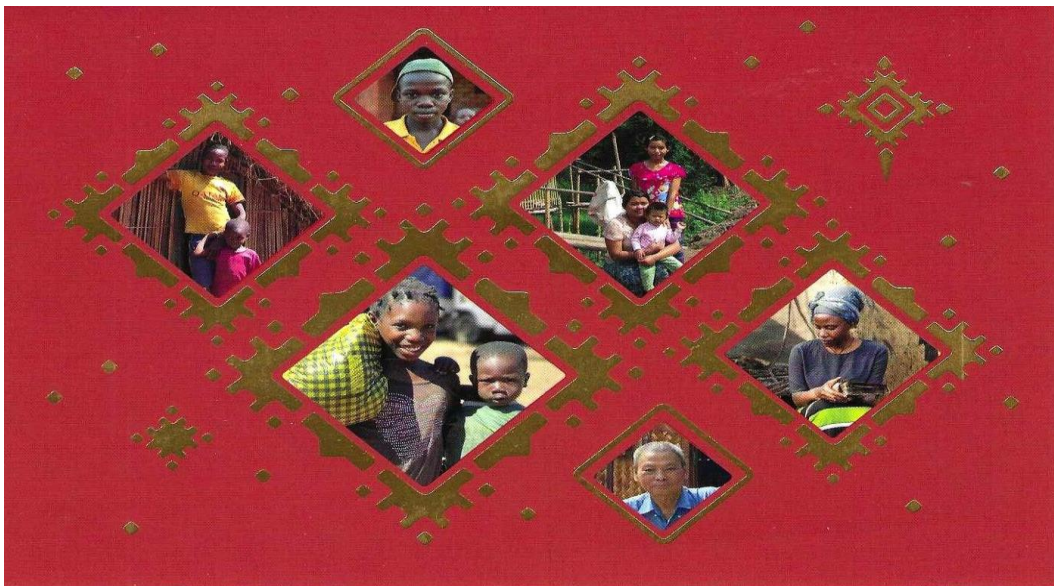


Greetings Holy Trinity Church,

My name is Chris and I am a young life student. I just wanted to thank you for your generous gift. It has made a difference in my life!

Merry Christmas!

Thanks,  
Chris.



Thank you for your support of persecuted Christians in the world's most difficult and dangerous places to follow Christ. We are grateful that you are a VOM Global Ministry partner.

Just as Joseph and Mary fled from Herod, Christians today are forced to flee their country or even their own home because of their faith in Christ. However, they persevere with joy, compelled by the love of God, who willingly sent his only Son into the world to save us.

May their examples inspire each of us to serve with perseverance and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year! Merry Christmas from all of us at



The Voice of the Martyrs



*Serving families  
affected by cancer  
since 1997.*

|||||T00364  
11/27/2023

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2086 PARKVIEW AVE  
ABINGTON PA 19001-1136

November 27, 2023

Dear

Our mission is to provide individualized care and support to families affected by cancer by addressing their most critical needs so that they can concentrate their efforts on regaining their physical health.

More than 17,000 local families have been impacted by BRF, through financial support, individualized care, and the helping hands of community members like you.

2023 has been our biggest year ever:

- More than 1500 newly referred recipients
- Worked with more than 165 social workers at 96 different facilities
- We are on track to serve 2,121 individuals this year
- We will provide more than 10,000 rides to life-saving cancer treatment by the end of 2023

Thank you for your continued support of the Breathing Room Foundation. I have been a volunteer since it began more than 25 years ago. When my sister Diane and her husband Bernie first started the Breathing Room, it had a real sense of community, of neighbors and friends coming together to care for one another. Today, it's still about the community rallying around individuals fighting cancer who need support, as the teams, students, and neighbors of Diane and Bernie rallied around them 25 years ago.

I deliver primarily comfort bags, snack bags, and financial support envelopes to BRF recipients. The countless doors I have knocked on are most often answered in the same way - with a grateful smile and an invitation into their home. Sometimes it's a quick visit, a thank you for the support, and I'm on my way to the next house. But sometimes I stay longer, meeting the whole family, and learning about who each recipient is as an individual. Sometimes they just need someone to talk to. The conversations cover a wide range of topics - we might talk about Philadelphia sports, the gardening they're doing, and their cancer treatments. Anything and everthing.

They all have one thing in common: cancer. And that common denominator is enough for them to need help from the Breathing Room. On top of their cancer diagnosis, they have other, real life problems. Some are lonely. Some are scared. Some are overwhelmed. Some have partners who leave during the cancer treatment because they can't handle it. And many live in poverty.





## BREATHING ROOM FOUNDATION

*Ed is the brother of BRF's founder, Diane Fitzgerald and Executive Directive Mary Ellen Fitzgerald. He has spent a lifetime dedicated to serving the public as a US Army veteran and Philadelphia Police Detective. He started a second career as a PA State Parole Board Field Agent and rose through the ranks to become Pennsylvania's District Director in Philadelphia. He has delivered to thousands of BRF recipients as a volunteer.*

### CONTACT

**P** +215.277.1006  
**E** [maryellen@breathingroomfoundation.org](mailto:maryellen@breathingroomfoundation.org)  
**A** 8310 Brookside Rd.  
Elkins Park, PA

They have to make the choice between buying medication or paying their rent, between new school shoes for their kids or a ride home from treatment. The Breathing Room's ability to step in and make their burdens a little lighter makes all the difference for many of these people.

For so many of the folks we see, nothing is harder for them than not being able to do something for their kids or grandkids. Getting to help them over that hurdle makes a world of difference. They don't have the energy or time to go out shopping for back to school, or prepare Thanksgiving dinner, or plan and shop for the holidays. Dropping off the beautifully wrapped packages and bags and getting to see the eyes of the kids light up with excitement and the faces of the adults relax with relief and gratitude shows how much offering the helping hand of a neighborhood organization really can mean to people who are having a hard time.

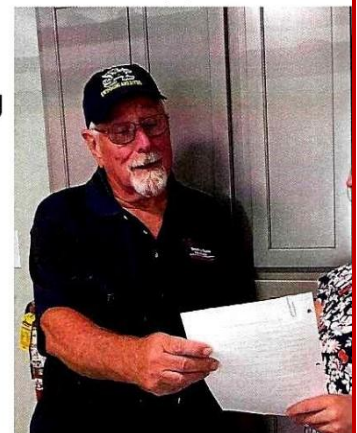
I get a glimpse into the homes of Breathing Room recipients, and the magnitude of the love, support, and gratitude I see is overwhelming. I see the kids stepping up to take care of grandparents, parents taking care of children, and grandparents raising their own grandkids. From multigenerational homes to single individuals - these are fantastic human beings we get to serve, and I'm honored to just be part of it.

As you consider making your year-end gift to the Breathing Room please keep in mind that these are families and individuals like so many of us. They're just facing cancer on top of their real, very full lives. They're sick, they're feeling lonely, and they need a little help - and the Breathing Room is there for everyone who needs it.

On behalf of the recipients who I get to deliver care packages, financial support, and children's programs to - thank you. They all want to give you a hug or shake your hand. Your support means the world to them.

Thank you for supporting the Breathing Room. With your help, we can impact our community in a very real way. With thanks,

*Ed Furlong*





*If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. — Isaiah 58:10*

Dear Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,

In 2023, your generous partnership enabled us to provide more than 1.9 million people with access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) solutions in 13 countries. Not only did we meet these critical physical needs, but we also shared the Living Water message of Jesus Christ with those we had the privilege of serving. Partners like you are expanding Water Mission's global impact, enabling us to serve families in remote communities, refugee settlements, and disaster areas.

Since 2001, more than 8 million men, women, and children have benefitted from Water Mission's WASH solutions. We could not have done this without friends like you who generously give so others might flourish. Thank you!

Whether you are most passionate about providing safe water for survivors of natural disasters, trauma healing seminars for refugees, or hygiene training for entire communities, thank you for trusting Water Mission to use your funds wisely. Flexible funds are critical as we continue to expand our reach and grow our organizational capacity. You can be confident that we use every dollar where it is most needed to impact the most people.

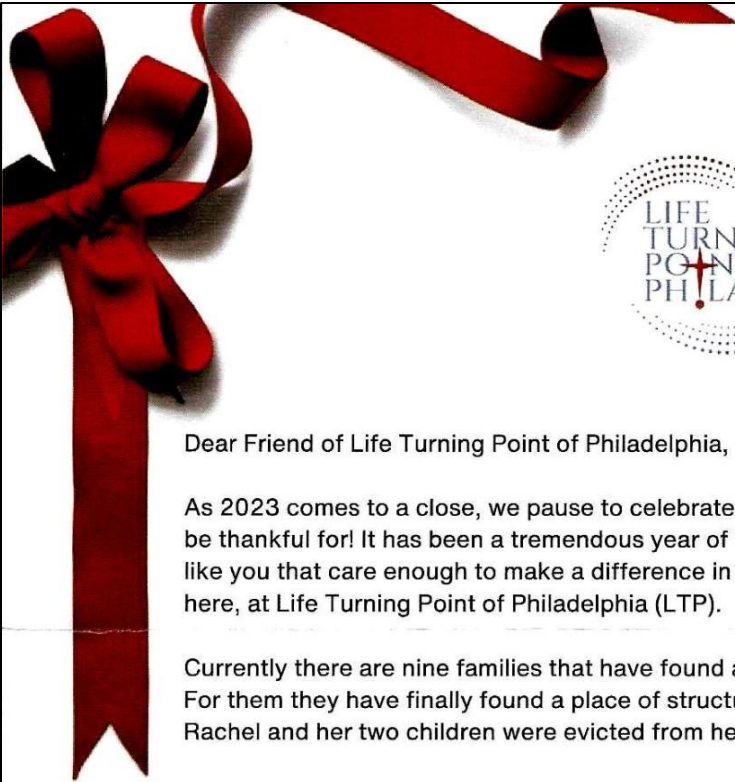
As we wrap up another year of service, I'm excited to share stories of transformation and hope resulting from your ongoing partnership.

One beautiful person you will read about in the enclosed report is Cecilia, a restaurant owner and mother of three young children in Tanzania. Previously, she had to walk two hours round trip multiple times a day or pay someone else to collect water for her. This made it difficult to run a successful business and take care of her family. But now, she has safe water close to her home and business. She can focus on growing her restaurant and can invest the money she saves in her family's well-being.

This story is just one example of how God uses the generosity of our partners to serve our global neighbors. Thank you on behalf of the men, women, and children whose lives have been transformed around the world.

With gratitude,

Jenna Voss  
National Community Engagement Coordinator  
jkvoss@watermission.org | 843.769.7395 (ext. 0033)



5200 Wayne Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
215-826-7810  
info.ltpphila@gmail.com

Dear Friend of Life Turning Point of Philadelphia,

As 2023 comes to a close, we pause to celebrate this holy season. We have so many things to be thankful for! It has been a tremendous year of blessing for us and it's all because of people like you that care enough to make a difference in the lives of the women and children we serve, here, at Life Turning Point of Philadelphia (LTP).

Currently there are nine families that have found a home at Life Turning Point of Philadelphia. For them they have finally found a place of structure, healing, safety, and new beginnings. Rachel and her two children were evicted from her home and came to LTP for help.

Rachel shared, "Life Turning Point represents God's protection for me. At LTP I have an opportunity to start over and be better prepared. I have been assigned a personal counselor, parenting mentor, and a mentor for my son. I am on the path to heal from past relationships and getting back on my feet so I can create a home for my children that is warm, safe, and filled with God's love."

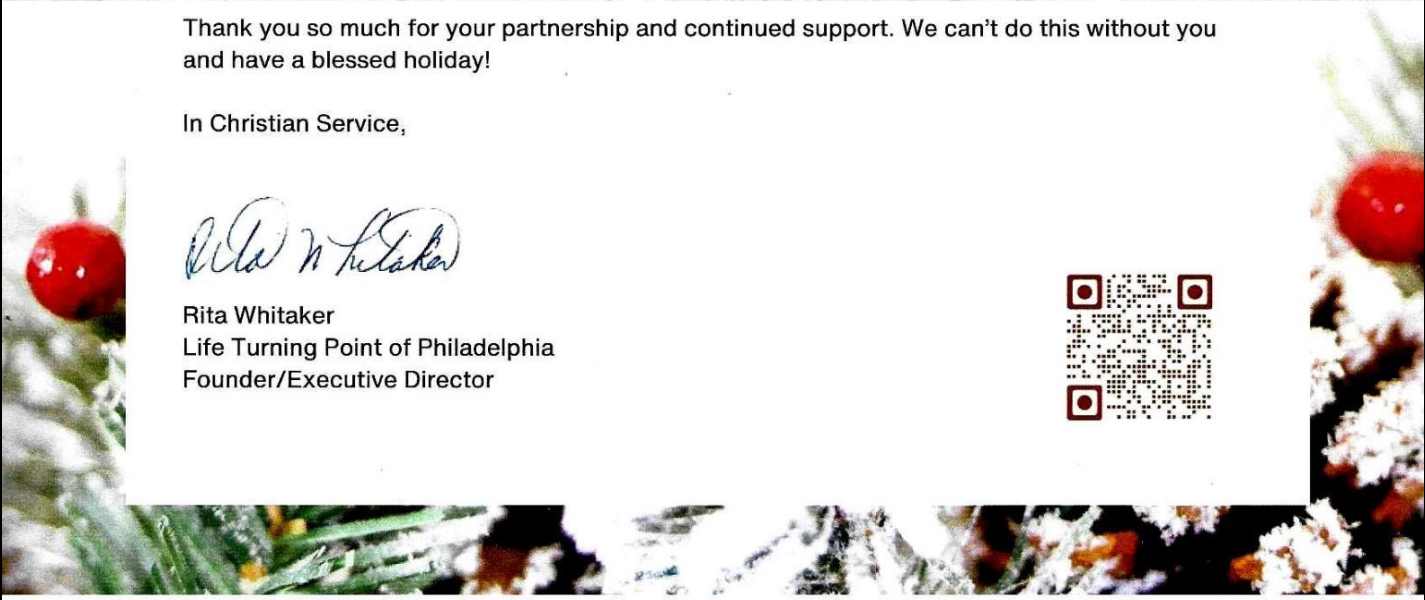
In order to continue to provide for Rachel, and other families like them, we need your support. Would you consider making a gift today? Every little bit counts, and a gift of \$300 would help us tremendously in reaching more families in need. Please give your best, year end, gift today! We would really appreciate it.

As 2023 comes to a close, the ministry doesn't stop. LTP is here to continue to meet the needs of women and children in Philadelphia. Your support is needed to help more families like Rachel and her children!

Thank you so much for your partnership and continued support. We can't do this without you and have a blessed holiday!

In Christian Service,

Rita Whitaker  
Life Turning Point of Philadelphia  
Founder/Executive Director





## Is Just Beginning!

Mark your calendar and be sure to join us

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

**directly after the service at 10:30 a.m.**

for our Annual Congregational Meeting

Items of Business: Reports, Budget, Elections.

Now more than ever we invite your participation

Join the conversation- make your voice heard!

Pray about how you can play a more active role  
in the life of Holy Trinity in 2024!

- Your Church Council -

---

AT THE  **Annual Meeting** SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

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 Robert's 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 the Annual Meeting, **Monday, January 22nd**. At the time each resolution is presented to the 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 & Forms for Resolutions are available in the Narthex.**

Introducing



No it's not an ice cream scoop,  
it's not a meal for one, it's not a tennis term...

**It's a chance to come out  
and serve at the church  
for just one activity on just one day,  
with no further commitment  
to a certain committee.**

It's more than just showing up at an event,  
it is helping to make the event happen  
and knowing why the event serves the body of Christ.

But it is also showing up and having fun!

A lot of the events are already familiar, some may be new.

Stay tuned for how **Single Serve**  
opportunities will be offered.



**From Didi Panzo on Sponsorships  
in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

Rev. Didi Panzo, our missionary in the DRC, recently confirmed that the seminarians pictured on the next page are all continuing their studies and would once again welcome our financial support.

This would not only enable them to pursue their studies without tuition worries, but also provide for the stability of teachers/professors at the Lutheran seminary.

Last year, through your generosity, we were able to provide tuition for one semester for each student. The cost is \$150/semester. If you feel led to provide this support, please place your contribution in an envelope and either place it in the collection plate or leave it in the office with Deb. Checks should be made out to "Holy Trinity" and "Seminarian(s)" should be written in the memo section.

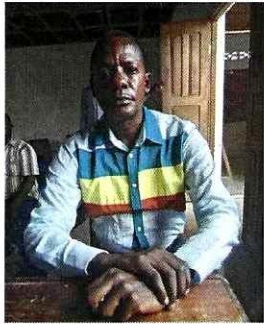


Last year, we also sponsored school children. Pastor Didi has not yet been able to confirm their status with the principal.

Last year, additionally, we provided money to assist Pastor Didi and Seraphina in providing meals for thirty orphans. Sadly, the orphanage was closed due to abuses, and the children were dispersed to different areas. Only a few children remain near Didi and Seraphina at this time.

## Sponsorships Needed for These DRC Seminarians

Our member and missionary Didi Panzo has indicated that these seminarians continue their studies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and would very much appreciate our continued sponsorship of \$150 for a semester. If you would like to provide for these students, please make a check payable to **HOLY TRINITY** and indicate "Seminarian(s)."



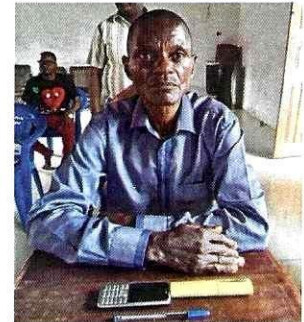
Albert



Beatrice



Charon



Donatien



Emmuel N



Emmanuel T



Esperant



Georges



Jean



Jonathan



Joseph



Moise



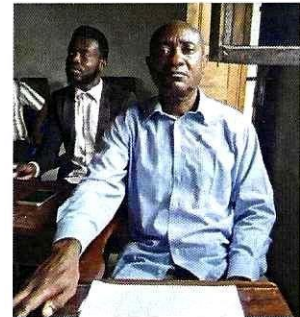
Michee



Judith



Pierre



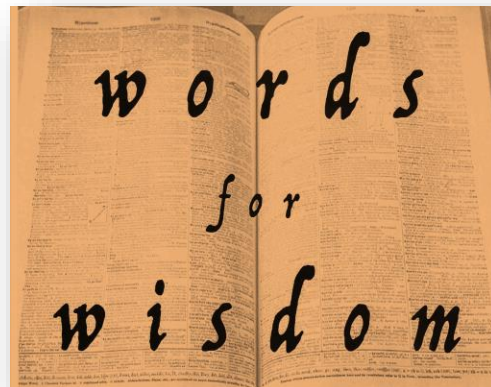
Roger

# adult CHRISTIAN education

Sundays at 10:30 AM

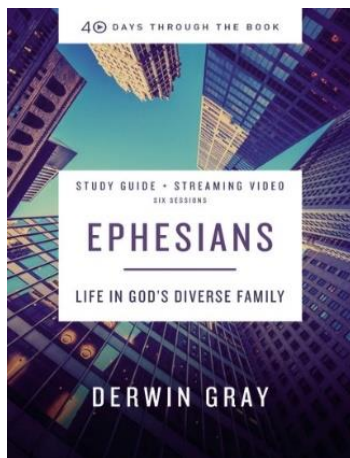
## IN THE STUDY:

Pastor Maurice's Adult SS class  
Strange words. Church history and teaching are littered with them, as if knowing God were all about secret incantations and esoteric codes. (Or maybe the words are strange because our culture is so completely indifferent to knowing God.)



Theological vocabulary — the meanings, stories, connections, and implications of some of those words; not for enlarging heads, but for deepening faith — is the topic of this four-month series with Pastor Maurice, Sundays after worship in the Sts. Peter and Andrew Study. **Beginning today, Sunday, December 3.**

## IN THE FRONT HALF OF FELLOWSHIP HALL:



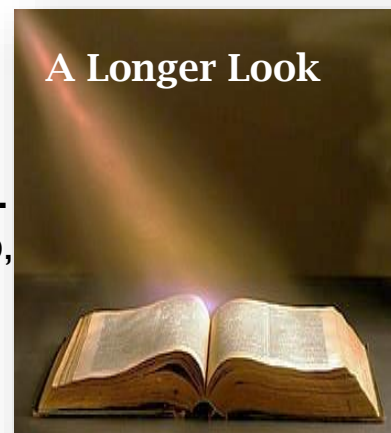
Starting Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>

Tom Schied's Class will be doing a 6 week study on Ephesians in Fellowship Hall. In this six-session study (streaming video included), author pastor Derwin Gray, of Transformation Church, takes the group through Paul's letter to the Ephesians to reveal how the apostle presented the revolutionary idea that Jesus came not only to forgive sins but also to create a unified family out of a diverse people.

## IN THE BACK HALF OF FELLOWSHIP HALL:

Pastor Larry's Adult SS class

Here is an opportunity to dig deeper into each week's three Scripture readings with **A Longer Look at the Lessons**. This Bible Study, based on the Bible Readings in our worship, provides information about the readings and their contexts. The class meets in Fellowship Hall - stage end at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. Pastor Guenzel facilitates the discussion. All older teens and adults are welcome!





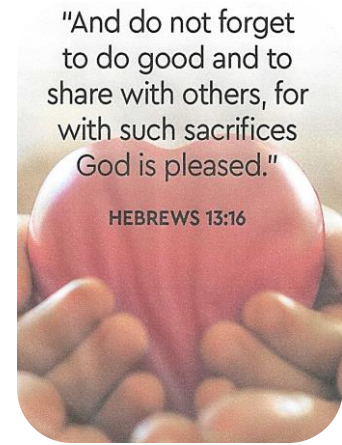
## Sarnelli House Needs ~URGENT

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:

January 15 - *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

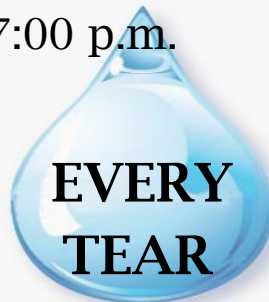
February 12 - *The Heart is Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers

March 11 - *Foundations of Russian Culture*  
by Alexander Schmemmann



## MONDAY NIGHT WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP

We meet in the Study at 7:00 p.m.



A weekly support group for those going through a time  
of grief and loss, whatever stage you may be in.

We invite you to gather in a safe space to talk, share,  
(or not) and receive care and support.

Wednesday, January 24th

6:30 p.m.

in the SS Peter & Andrew Study

Starting with Vespers

followed by dinner

Topic: Come, and find out!



## THE NEED

*Only 2% of college students are being reached by the Gospel*



transforming college students  
to transform the world

Ray Wiesen, who leads the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) at Penn State Abington is once again asking for our support of his CCO students.

Penn State Abington students will be traveling to Pittsburgh for the annual Coalition for Christian Outreach Jubilee event. Jubilee is a one-of-a-kind conference to equip students to serve Jesus Christ with their entire lives: in their vocations, communities, families, and churches.

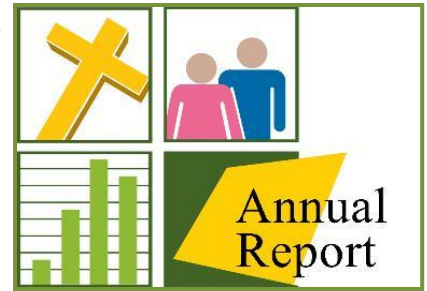
In the past, we asked you to pack individual bags for students. This year, we are being asked to contribute in a different way due to the volume of students. Please watch the bulletins for details on how you can participate.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to show the love of Jesus to students.

## REMINDER TO

### All Committee Chairpersons & Other Group Leaders

Please submit your Annual Reports  
to the Church office by  
**Monday, January 15, 2024**



---

All are welcome to attend  
the 2024 Budget Meeting  
**Sunday, January 21st at 10:30 AM**

Q & A with Janice Donnelly,  
Chairperson of Finance Committee

During the Sunday School hour

Copies of the Annual Report will be available.

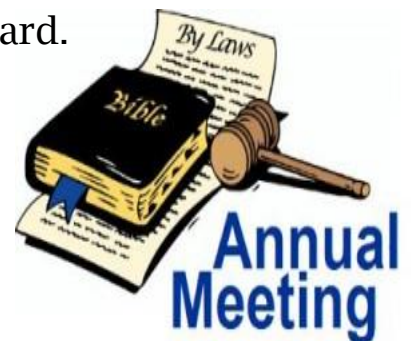


---

**The Annual Congregational meeting is Sunday, Jan. 28th**

Immediately following Worship service at **10:30 am**

There is **NO Sunday School**. Please make every effort  
to attend this important meeting. Make your voice heard.



# Lutheran Church Women's Circle Bible Study



## JANUARY CIRCLES

### **Topic: Matthew and Thomas: The Tax Collector and the Twin**

*"For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."* Matthew 9:13

The presence of Matthew and Thomas in Jesus' chosen twelve reveals a lot about *who* Jesus is searching out to become his followers. It may be that when Jesus stopped abruptly at the tax booth of Matthew and said, "Follow me," the eyes and mouths of everyone around flew open wide. Why was Matthew such a shocking and unlikely choice? And why should his selection matter so much to us? Thomas was called Didymus, which means, "twin", but he is better known as "Doubting Thomas." Is that nickname fair? What can we learn from him who struggled to believe? These questions and more will be answered when Circles gather for the January meetings.

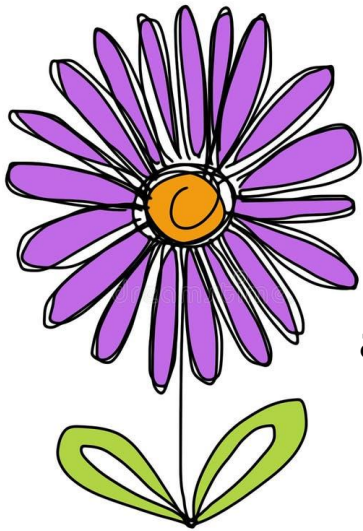
Here are the circle times and dates as well as leader with contact information. Do not hesitate to contact a Circle leader to find out more about an individual Circle.

**Miriam Circle - Monday, January 8 at 12:30 p.m.** in the SS Peter & Andrew Study  
Leader: Sandy Schmidt (215) 657-5065 [sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyschmidt19001@yahoo.com)

**Eve Circle - Thursday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m.** in the SS Peter & Andrew Study  
Leader: Sue Tolton (215) 659-7054 [suetolton@comcast.net](mailto:suetolton@comcast.net)

**Ruth Circle - Sunday, January 14 at 11:45 a.m.** in the SS Peter & Andrew Study  
Leader: Katie Beyer (215) 572- 6864 [kbeyer0403@gmail.com](mailto:kbeyer0403@gmail.com)

**Hannah Circle - Sunday, January 21 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Bread of Heaven Café  
Contact: Deb Mumford (267) 210-1789 [debssam@msn.com](mailto:debssam@msn.com)



Happy New Year Ladies,  
Your Lutheran Church Women's group  
is holding a special event:

**Saturday, January 20th  
at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

Complete with a potluck brunch

Our guest speaker is **Ravinia Lee** presenting  
a synopsis of her travels to England this past summer.

Included in the mornings' event will be a fun gift exchange so be sure to bring along one of the special items that you may have received as a recent birthday or Christmas present but cannot use.

Wrapping up our event with a brief General Meeting to vote on updates to our constitution and approve officers for elected positions in the LCW.

---

### **Giant Gift Cards - A great way to shop!**



Whether you are purchasing for yourself or as a gift the LCW makes it easy and convenient! Plus our program is a wonderful fundraising tool as the LCW receives a 5% cash back for each card sold!

This money goes to charities that Holy Trinity supports as well as our scholarship fund which is utilized to offset the cost of any LCW related function for any church women who may want to attend but need financial assistance.

**See Joy Alderfer for purchase or orders.**

**(215) 672 - 2042 or email her [alderfer42@comcast.net](mailto:alderfer42@comcast.net)**



**FRI., APRIL 26 - SUN., APRIL 28**

**GET YOUR RETREAT ON THIS SPRING  
AND JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST TIME AT**

**The Ave Maria Retreat House  
at The Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.  
654 Ferry Road, Doylestown, PA 18901**



**CHECK OUT THE FACILITY BY LOGGING ONTO**  
*[Czestochowa.us/visit-us/retreat-house/](http://Czestochowa.us/visit-us/retreat-house/)*

**Our retreat leader will be The Rev. Lara Bhasin  
from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Manhattan, NY**

**CAN'T COMMIT TO AN ENTIRE WEEKEND?  
REMEMBER ONE DAY PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED!**



## Youth Group Gathering Sunday, January 21st 12 ~ 2 PM

Come hang out, play games, enjoy lunch and help us plan for the upcoming Youth Sunday and other 2024 service projects and a few fun outings together!  
As always, please invite your friends ~the more the merrier!

---

### Start the New Year with Daily Bible Reading

Start the New Year with the Word of God. We talk a lot about reading the Bible, but how many of us do read his Word daily? The beginning of the New Year is a good time to begin daily Bible Reading.

One suggestion is to go to the NALC website for a daily Bible reading at:

<https://thenalc.org/daily-readings-archive/>.

Another website with daily Bible Reading plans

is: <https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/>.

You can also purchase editions of the Bible that are divided into daily selections of Old Testament, Psalm, Proverbs, and New Testament. This method will get you through the Bible in a year. One of these editions, The One Year Bible ESV Paperback can

be found on <https://www.christianbook.com/page/bibles/translations/esv> on Amazon.com. Whatever daily plan you use, get started now.

You will be blessed as you read God's Word every day.





# January Worship Assistants Schedule



## January 7

Usher 3

Acolyte Nancy Necker

Cantor Dean Lawrence

Crucifer Jim Necker

Stream

Team Frank Ganther

Lector- Sat Bruce & Maureen  
Freer

Sun Kathy Ingerson

## January 14

Usher 4

Acolyte Helen Haun

Cantor Tom Schied

Crucifer Allan Shikhvarg

Stream

Team Gloria Ischinger

Lector-Sat Karen McGovern

Sun Larry Guenzel

## January 21

Usher 5

Acolyte Sherry Breslin

Cantor Ravinia Lee

Crucifer Frank Ganther

Stream

Team Charlie Tolton

Lector- Sat Karen McGovern

Sun Julia Gregg

## January 28

Usher 1

Acolyte Gloria Ischinger

Cantor Steve Wyszomierski

Crucifer Matthew Gregg

Lector - Sat Bruce & Maureen  
Freer

Stream

Team Rob Ischinger

Sun Suzanne Brown

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*





# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>Office closed</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven 10:00 Theology class  6:45 Handbell Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Epiphany 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA
<b>7 Baptism of our Lord</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult  6:00 AA	<b>8</b> 12:30 Miriam Circle  7:00 Every Tear	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  7:30 Council	<b>11</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven 10:00 Theology class  6:45 Handbell Choir 7:30 Eve Circle	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  5:00 Holy Communion  7:00 AA
<b>14 Epiphany 2</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru Adult 11:45 Ruth Circle  6:00 AA	<b>15</b> Office Closed <b>Pastor at NALC retreat in FL</b>  7:00 Every Tear 7:00 WPG 7:30 Coram Deo	<b>16</b> <b>Pastor at NALC retreat in FL</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Pastor at NALC retreat in FL</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Pastor at NALC retreat in FL</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven  6:45 Handbell Choir	<b>19</b> <b>Pastor at NALC retreat in FL</b>  7:30 AA	<b>20</b> 10:00 LCW <b>General Meeting</b>  5:00 Holy Communion  7:00 AA
<b>21 Epiphany 3</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School Pre-K thru 18 10:30 Hannah Circle 10:30 Budget Meeting <b>12:00 - 2:00 S.O.T. Youth Group</b> 6:00 AA	<b>22</b>  7:00 Every Tear	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Worship Workshop Class 6:30 PM</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 Bread of Heaven 10:00 Theology class  6:45 Handbell Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  5:00 Holy Communion  7:00 AA
<b>28 Epiphany 4</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30  <b>Annual Meeting</b> 6:00 AA	<b>29</b>  7:00 Every Tear	<b>30</b>  7:30 Stewardship	<b>31</b>  7:30 Worship & Music meeting			

## Special Dates:

- \* Epiphany, January 6, 2024
- \* Baptism of our Lord, January 7, 2024
- \* Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance, January 15, 2024
- \* Annual Congregational Meeting, January 28, 2024