

# TRINITY MONTHLY

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY WITH GOD'S TRUTH THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE



## A New Year

### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! I pray that your Christmas was blessed and overflowed with the joys of the season. As you wind down and slide back into a normal rhythm of life I want to encourage you to do something a bit different this coming year. Rather than putting Christmas behind you I encourage you to keep it before you. Christmas is first and foremost about the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ.

The birth of Christ, especially in light of the circumstances into which he was born, is proof to us that God can come into any moment and change the world. This is not the kind of truth to celebrate and then forget. It is the kind of truth that gives hope to every moment, because even in the darkest night, in the most impossible of circumstances God can appear. This is the promise of the incarnation; this is the power of Christmas.

*(continued)*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

Pancake Breakfast | 3

Youth Glow Tubing | 6

Trinity Kids Program | 8

Wednesday Nights  
Menu | 15



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH


Christmas never stops giving hope, it is an ever-present truth that the power of God will take on flesh and reveal himself to us. When we live out our faith in Christ loving God and each other God can be seen taking flesh in us. This is the life that Jesus lived, and the life that he laid down for us that we might pick it up and live as children of God. So let's keep Christmas before us and keep our eyes scanning for God to be revealed in the flesh through the words and deeds of love that we live and share all year long.

In Christ,



*Rev. K. McClain*  
Pastor Kevin McClain  
Lead Pastor

## CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

 508 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

 Phone: 419-289-2126

 Fax: 419-289-1381

 [trinityashland.org](http://trinityashland.org)

And of course, you are  
always welcome to stop  
by Trinity's office,  
Monday - Thursday,  
9am-5pm!

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

## COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Sunday, Jan 14th | 12-2pm | Mitchell Hall

Join us for potluck after the 11am Praise Service! The meal will begin at noon, and we will serve soups, salads and bread. Please bring a side to share!

## HIGH PRAISE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, Jan 28th | 10-11am | Mitchell Hall

You're Invited! Please join the High Praise choir for our second annual pancake breakfast fundraiser. We will be serving up pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice to help raise money for our choir. We will meet during the Sunday school hour in Mitchell Hall. Register today with the QR code!



## GRATITUDE FOR MARK RAFELD

We want to extend our immense gratitude to Mark Rafeld for serving as Trinity's Safety Coordinator for the past three years. Mark stepped into this critical role during a pivotal time for our church as we sought to strengthen our safety policies and procedures. Mark brought tremendous focus, care and attention to safety implementation at Trinity. As his term comes to a close, we wish Mark all the best in his next endeavors. Please be sure to personally thank him for his years of service. We sincerely appreciate Mark's leadership and dedication to creating a welcoming, safe space for all at Trinity.



## THANKFUL FOR TERRY LOY

We want to recognize and thank Terry Loy as he retires from his role as Trinity's Lead Custodian. Terry has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain the cleanliness and upkeep of our church. He ensured our facilities were welcoming, clean and safe for our members, employees and visitors. We sincerely appreciate all the ways Terry worked to preserve the sanctuary, amenities and parking areas we enjoy each week. As he begins this new chapter, please join us in thanking Terry for blessing our congregation through his quality service in this vital role. Best wishes, Terry!

# HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

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## PROOFREADING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you know the difference between they're, their, and there? Can you spot a misplaced comma from a mile away? Does it make you cringe when you see an unnecessary apostrophe? Then we need YOU!

We are looking for talented editors and proofreaders to review materials before they go out to the congregation - newsletters, bulletins, slides, print pieces, and more. If God has blessed you with an incredible attention to detail, please consider volunteering your gifts.

If you are interested please call the office at 419-289-2126 or email [trinity@trinityashland.org](mailto:trinity@trinityashland.org). We would love your help making sure everything that goes out from Trinity looks polished and professional while sharing our messages of hope!



## CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Let's shower our cherished members over 85 with lots of love and well-wishes as they celebrate their January birthdays!

Norma Hiner 1/3/1939

Alice Fetzer 1/19/1930

Donna Wolf 1/16/1932

Judy Eagle 1/21/1939



### TODDLER TIME

Thursday, Jan 18th | 10:30-11:30am | Jack's Place

Join us for Toddler Time on Thursdays! This is a great chance to bundle up your toddler and get out of the house to enjoy playtime with other little ones while you connect with other moms and caregivers. We have many toys, activities and space for the kiddos to run around, explore and burn off energy in Jack's Place. Join us for this no-cost time of fun and connection.



### FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Friday, Feb 2nd | 6-9pm | Jack's Place

Fathers and daughters are welcome to share in this special event that celebrates the unique and precious bond between fathers and daughters. The cost is \$50 per pair, and \$5 for each additional daughter. Follow the QR code for more information and to register (which opens on Jan 15th for TLC members). Space is limited!



### OPEN GYM

Thursdays in Feb | 6:30-7:30pm | Jack's Place

Thursdays in February, all kids are welcome to come and play during our free open gym time! There will be basketball, dodgeball and other games, giving kids a great chance to hang with friends. Dates for open gym include February 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.



## ASHLAND SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY RESPITE TRAINING

Sunday, Jan 7th | 10-11am | Youth Rooms

Twice each month on Saturday nights throughout the spring, Trinity transforms into an oasis of prayer, praise and laughter. The Saturday night respite program is a great way to serve families in our community. It's our prayer that you and your family will consider jumping into the fun and serve with us. Join us for a one hour training session led by Christina Teevan and our very own Kloey Kaeser. It will be held during the Sunday School hour and is designed to prepare you to serve at the Saturday night respite programs! All MS and HS students and their families can follow the QR code to register.



## MS AND HS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, Jan 14th & 21st | 10-11am

Students can join us on January 14th and 21st for a time of discipleship during the Sunday School hour. We gather in the youth rooms. Parents are welcome to sit in.



## GLOW TUBING

Sunday, Jan 14th | 6:30pm-11pm | Snow Trails

All 6-12th grade students are invited to join us for some glowing winter fun at Snow Trails! Tickets are \$15. We will meet outside of the front office at 6:30pm and return at 11pm. Please bring money for dinner. We will be stopping at McDonald's next to Snow Trails beforehand. Register using the QR code.





## 2024 WINTER JAM

Saturday, Jan 27th | 4:30-9:30pm

We're heading to Columbus to enjoy Christian music's biggest tour! Students in grades 7-12 are welcome to register. Tickets are \$15. Meet outside of Matt's office at 4:30pm, and we will return to the church parking lot at 9:30pm. Students should bring \$15 for their ticket/donation, as well as money for dinner and snacks. Register using the QR code, limited spots available!



## YOUTH BIBLE STUDY (YBS)

Wednesdays starting Jan 10th | 6:30-7:30pm

On Wednesdays starting January 10th, students in grades 4-12 are welcome to join for a time of community, growth and faith. We will be exploring the Gospel of John together. Doors open at 6pm, and we gather in the Youth Rooms. Join us, and bring your friends!



## HIGH PRAISE YOUTH CHOIR

Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30pm | Choir Room

On Wednesdays after YBS, our High Praise youth choir meets for rehearsals. In January, we will meet on the 10th, 17th and 31st. All students in grades 7-12 are welcome to join for this musical time of friendship and laughter.



## CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY

I don't know about you but I am wondering where my shoe boxes were delivered and how much each child was wowed by the gifts they received. But most of all I wonder and pray that each child will participate in "The Greatest Journey" Bible study and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. I hope that during this New Year you too will pray for the children and that all the shoe boxes will make an impact on their lives

Please save the date for our next packing party – November 10, 2024. To make the packing party successful we will need to start collecting donations. While you are out shopping look for clearance items of toys, hats, gloves or holiday clothing.

Blessings to all,  
Ruth Ann Linder



## LUNCHEON FOR FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, Jan 14th | After 11am Praise Service

Join us for a time of community building around the table! We will provide the soup, salad and bread. Please bring a dish to share. We will meet in the Trinity Room following the 11am Praise Service.

## TRINITY KIDS PROGRAM

Begins Sunday, Jan 14th

During 11am Praise Service

Starting January 14th, Trinity Kids will provide a space where children can learn to worship, and prepare to participate in the service with their parents. Trinity Kids is for children Pre-K through 5th grade, and will be offered during the 11am Praise Service. The drop-off window is 10:50am-11:10am. We will be using the Gospel Project curriculum as well as filling in with material that reflects the Lutheran traditions and liturgy. We're excited for all the good things to come through Trinity Kids!





# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## WOMEN'S EVENT: GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Monday, Jan 8th | 6-7:30pm | Jack's Place

As we welcome the new year, we'd like to invite you to our Girl's Night Out on January 8th at 6pm. This will be an evening focused on bringing more Joy to January and connecting with others in our community.



We'll start by writing uplifting messages and cards for those who may be struggling or feeling isolated. Spreading small acts of kindness can make a big difference! Then we'll enjoy some laughter together watching comedian Anjelah Johnson's lively standup routine. Over tasty appetizers, we'll have the chance to meet new friends and reconnect.

We hope you'll join us for an evening focused on supporting one another and spreading more light. Feel free to bring a friend along too! Register using the QR code.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Thursday mornings | 9-10:30am | Mitchell Hall

Our Women's BSF will be studying the Book of John in the weeks ahead. We meet at Trinity and offer a preschool program (infant-preschool) during our time together. We will start up again on January 11th.

# MEN'S MINISTRY



## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIPS

Day and evening options

Our Men's BSF groups will be studying the Book of John in the weeks ahead.

Our **day group** meets at Pizza Hut at 11am on Tuesdays. The address is 1274 Claremont Ave (Pizza Hut) in Ashland. The day group will start back up on January 9th.

The **evening group** meets at Trinity (Meeting Room A/B) at 6:30pm on Mondays. They will start back up on January 8th.

# SENIOR MINISTRY

## TRINITY TRAVELERS

Thanks to all who planned our December trip and to all who have supported Trinity Travelers over the years. It was a fun day, and we are looking forward to our next adventure together in the spring.



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesday, Jan 9th | 1-3pm

Friends, our monthly Prayer Shawl Ministry welcomes all who wish to share comforting creations with those in need. Gather with us in fellowship on the second Tuesday as we knit, crochet, and craft items to warm body and spirit. Novice or expert, working together we wrap our care into blankets, shawls, and crosses to be gifted as reminders of God's loving embrace.

Let comforting creativity bring you to our circle, where compassion takes shape through our hands. Please join us or contact Jane Burns if you have any questions, [jlburns851@gmail.com](mailto:jlburns851@gmail.com) or 419-289- 9444. However you are called to participate, know that you are welcome here as we share the gifts God has graciously given.

## EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, Jan 19th | Noon | Lower Level Hallway

If you love creating original greeting cards, join us! We'll start with lunch at Ohio Fire and then return to the church to make our greeting cards. RSVP to Wendy Shreffler at 419-289-2126 if you plan to attend the lunch.

## LUTHER CLUB

Luther Club will take a break in January and February, and will return in March.

# SENIOR MINISTRY



## MNM'S LUNCH

Tuesday, Jan 16th | Noon | Jack's Place

Let's bring in the new year with fellowship! If you are a woman who is single, widowed or on your own, you are invited to join. The menu is stuffed shells, garlic bread, salad and cream pie. Please RSVP by January 11th by calling the church office.

This is a photo from our December MnM's Christmas party!

## NAVIGATING TRINITY'S WEBSITE

Wednesday, Jan 24th | 4:30-5:30pm | Rooms A & B

Some have expressed that they've had a challenging time navigating our new church website. Joe McFrederick is here to help! During this informational time, he and several others will provide guidance on using the website, and be on hand to guide members on how to navigate it. They will also be available to answer any specific questions you may have.



## EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, Jan 25th | 6:30-8:30pm | Jack's Place

Shuffle up and deal! Join us in Jack's Place for a lively game night of Euchre. All skill levels are welcome and you don't need a partner to attend. Contact the office at (419) 289-2126 to register and come enjoy an evening of cards and camaraderie.

## MUSIC IN THE NEW YEAR: ALL CHOIRS RESUME

Wednesday, Jan 10th

As the new year begins again, so does our music! All vocal and hand bell choirs resume rehearsals on Wednesday, Jan 10th. Come and join us!



## NOTES OF JOY CHOIR

Sunday, Jan 21st | 11am Praise Service

Come and hear the Notes of Joy Choir on Sunday, Jan 21st in Jack's Place! Rehearsals resume Wednesday, January 10th.

## HIGH PRAISE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, Jan 28th | 10-11am | Mitchell Lower

You're Invited! Please join the High Praise choir kids for our second annual pancake breakfast fundraiser. We will be serving up pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice to help raise money for our choir. We will meet during the Sunday school hour in Mitchell Hall.





## UPDATE & THANK YOU!

Our Music Enrichment is taught by Mrs. Kim Wolbert. She is a delight with the children. We are fortunate to have Experiential Music Enrichment as part of our curriculum.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE NEW YEAR

All begin again on Jan 7th | 10am

Sunday School classes for children and adults begins again on Sunday, January 7th! Join a class and check out our weekly announcements for new classes beginning. This month, Sunday School will be offered January 7th, 14th and 21st. **Please note that there will not be Sunday School on Sunday, January 28th** so that our community can enjoy the High Praise Pancake Breakfast together!

## EXPLORING THE BIBLE: NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Beginning Jan 7th | 10am | 4-week study

In the new year, Pastor Kevin will share a new, short-term class called "Exploring the Bible" during the Sunday school hour. Together, we will learn more about the structure and purposes of Scripture, as well as common challenges to understanding the Bible and how to read and live-out Scripture more intentionally. This will be a valuable opportunity for learning, connection and growth.

# GET INVOLVED

## WHERE WILL YOU SERVE? EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES

At Trinity, we strive to serve others and make a difference in our community, just as Jesus calls us to do. We need your help continuing our mission through these service opportunities:

- **Food & Fellowship:** Do you enjoy baking or connecting with new people? Our Olive Tree Café needs bakers to donate tasty treats and friendly hosts to greet visitors. You'll be providing hospitality and helping newcomers feel welcome.
- **First Impressions:** Help make a great first impression by volunteering at our Information Desk, welcoming new faces, and guiding people to classes and services. Your warmth and assistance can make someone's day.
- **Radio Ministry:** If you prefer behind-the-scenes work, we need help running our radio ministry programs. You'll be spreading God's message near and far from the comfort of our church.

Jesus tells us that whatever we do for others, we do for Him. Through volunteering with us, you can share your gifts and passions while walking in Christ's footsteps. Contact us today to get involved!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

We are seeking new volunteers to join Trinity's Historical Committee, which maintains our historical library and archives. No prior experience needed! Longtime historian Cheryl Hildebrand is happy to train. If you have an interest in history and would enjoy helping preserve Trinity's heritage, please contact the church office at 419-289-2126.

## WE ARE HIRING: DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Trinity is seeking a Director of Christian Development. This individual is responsible for the overall strategy, development and execution of Christian education programs for all age groups, including children, youth, and adults. Please email Trinity with your resume to apply.

# WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY

## What's On the Menu

5:30-6pm in Jack's Place  
Suggested donation \$5

Happy New Year!

No meal will be served.

JAN  
3

Beef & Noodles

Beef & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes,  
Corn and Poke Cake

JAN  
10

Meatloaf & Scallop Potatoes

Meatloaf, Scallop Potatoes, Green  
Beans and Brownies

JAN  
17

Spaghetti & Salad

Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread and  
Peach Cobbler

JAN  
24

Tomato or Potato Soup

Tomato or Potato Soup, Ham Salad  
Sandwiches and Cake

JAN  
31

### WEEKEND SERVICES & TIMES

#### SATURDAY NIGHT:

FOLK SERVICE 5:30pm

#### SUNDAY MORNING:

TRADITIONAL SERVICE  
8:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10am

PRAISE SERVICE  
11am



**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**RSVP encouraged by Tuesday.**

**Call ahead for carry-out. Please call:**

Peggy: (419) 210-5226 | Robin: (419) 632-5097

(419) 289-2126 | [TRINITYASHLAND.ORG](http://TRINITYASHLAND.ORG)

# ATTENDANCE & GIVING

NOVEMBER 2023 ATTENDANCE		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
11/5/2023	85	373
11/12/2023	111	289
11/19/2023	114	311
11/26/2023	82	343

*We are currently transitioning to a new finance system and will report all numbers related to 2023 receipts and operating funds in February.*

## OUTREACH VOTING RESULTS

The votes are in and the results are finalized for our 2024 Outreach distributions. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who participated. We are proud to support so many worthwhile groups doing important work.





# COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

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## Council Committee Updates from December Meeting

### **Pastor's Remarks:**

This Advent season we fix our eyes on the coming of Christ - not only looking back to that blessed night in Bethlehem, but looking ahead to the day when every broken thing will be made new. Though our work on council and committees may seem small, it is part of how God is bringing redemption through our congregation. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

**Finance:** We approved the 2024 budget and discussed NALC benevolence allocation.

**Grounds:** Lawncare and leaf removal finished up for the year.

**Kitchen:** Grateful for Tom, Ken, and other weekly volunteers serving 180-190 people at Wednesday night dinners.

**Missions:** Finalizing 2024 plans to support Bible camps.

**Montessori School:** Hiring new office assistant, shortened hours in Fall 2024.

**Nurture:** We hope to add a young member and welcome nominations!

**Outreach:** Tallied over 360 ballots to allocate \$237,000 to two dozen community organizations.

**Personnel:** Evaluating new Communications Director candidate and safety coordinator role term is over.

**Property:** Gary Goon gave an update on waterproofing project in assembly rooms A, B, C and D.

**Safety and Security:** Meeting this week to discuss plans.

**Senior Ministries:** No updates.

**Women and Children:** Recent events included Advent Workshop and Christmas dinner. Upcoming: Toddler Time, Open Gym, Father/Daughter dance.

**Worship:** No updates.

**Young Adults:** No updates.

**Youth:** Special needs respite care training in January. Winter events - glow tubing 1/14 and Winter Jam concert 1/27.

**Call Committee:** Vetting another pastoral candidate. Please keep them in your prayers.

Continue to watch this newsletter and bulletin for more updates!