

TRINITY MONTHLY

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



A Generous Season

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas grows with us each year. While our traditions may change little year after year Christmas has a power to make things seem new to us. Perhaps it is an opportunity to see how much we have changed over the course of a year as we look upon the timeless traditions we cherish within the holiday season. We don't often realize how much we change day in and day out. We are too busy with our busy lives; then all at once in a moment we see ourselves in a different way.

The Apostle Paul speaks of this in his great soliloquy about Love in First Corinthians: "but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways." (1 Corinthians 13:10-12) The Apostle Paul learned that the Love of Christ is always at work growing us into what we must become. Consider Christmas, when you were a child you no doubt thought and acted like a child, with a list of things you wanted to receive.
(continued)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

[Upcoming Highlights | 3](#)

[Christmas Services | 5](#)

[Advent Study | 12](#)

[Get Involved | 13-14](#)

PASTOR'S NOTE CONTINUED

When we grow we learn like Paul did from our Lord Jesus that *"It is better to give than to receive."* (Acts 20:35) Christmas is transformed from a time to get to a time to give. As long as we grow in this way Christmas will continue to be a generous season.

How has Christ grown the love in your heart, how will you give this holiday season? I encourage you to be generous. To give a little more, to love a little more, to share a little more, to grow a little more. It is after all better to give than to receive, and what we give is what those we love will receive. That is who the infant Christ is to us after all, the gift of a generous God to those whom he loves.

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

Of course, you are always welcome to stop by Trinity's office:

Monday - Thursday
9am-5pm



POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Deadline to donate is Monday, Dec 9th

We are collecting donations and memorials for our poinsettia ministry. If you would like to give towards decorating our sanctuary this Christmas season, please fill out the blue sheets available at services or follow the QR code to fill out the form through our website.

The deadline to donate is Monday, December 9th. You can honor a loved one or give thanks to God through this special ministry. After the Christmas season, poinsettias will be delivered to homebound members and nursing home residents. If you would like to help deliver flowers, please contact trinity@trinityashland.org.



UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS



FAMILY ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, Dec 1st | 5-7pm | Jack's Place



Join Us for the Family Advent Workshop! Mark your calendars for December 1st from 5-7pm in Jack's Place! Bring the whole family for an evening filled with fellowship, food, and faith. Pastor Kevin will share an inspiring message about Advent, followed by a delicious dinner. Together, you'll create your own Advent wreath and candles to celebrate the season. Don't forget to bring a dessert to share. Sign up using the QR code. We look forward to seeing you there as we kick off this meaningful time of year!



TRINITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, Dec 15th | 6pm | Meet in Jack's Place



Share a gift of joy and song with our most special members this Christmas season. Join with friends and family as we visit our homebound members with caroling and joy. Meet in Jack's place at 6pm for a special treat and quick instructions before heading out for a fun night of caroling. Scan the QR code to sign up!

WELCOME KRISTEN MCCLAIN: NEW NURSERY COORDINATOR

Many of you may already know Kristen, but we're excited to introduce her in her new role here at Trinity. Originally from Huntington Beach, California, Kristen and her family have been happily calling Ashland home since 2018. As a mother of four—Katelyn, Emma, Noah, and Eric—Kristen understands firsthand how vital the nursery is for young families, and she's thrilled to work alongside our nursery caregivers and volunteers to provide loving care for our youngest members. In her free time, Kristen enjoys baking bread, experimenting with new recipes, gardening, and canning.



Kristen is looking forward to connecting with families and welcoming new little ones into the Trinity family. She's passionate about nurturing our future generation and is excited to be a part of this important ministry. Welcome, Kristen!

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS



CELEBRATING DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

Marjorie Wittman | December 3rd

Patricia Hofer | December 23rd

Clarence Hofer | December 22nd

Stanley Hunt | December 30th

What's On the Menu **WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER**

5:15-6pm in Jack's Place
Suggested \$5 donation

Ham Loaf

Cheesy Potatoes, Carrots,
& Watergate Salad

DEC
4

Shredded Chicken Sandwiches

Tater Tots & Yellow Cake with
Chocolate Frosting

DEC
11

Christmas Morning Casserole

Biscuits & Orange or Banana

DEC
18

Merry Christmas!

Enjoy the birth of Christ
& time together!

DEC
25

RSVP required by Monday. Call ahead for carry-out.

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

**Please note all meals
are subject to change*



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOY *to* *the* WORLD

Join us for a warm Advent
& Christmas Season



Weekend of
December 14th & 15th

Christmas Musical

5:30pm | *Saturday, December 14th*
Location: Jack's Place

**Traditional Service
& Communion**

8:45am | *Sunday, December 15th*
Location: Sanctuary

Christmas Musical

11am | *Sunday, December 15th*
Location: Jack's Place



Worship on
Christmas Eve

Communion Service

4pm | *Location: Sanctuary*

Family & Candlelight

6pm
Location: Jack's Place

Communion by Candlelight

7:30pm | *Location: Sanctuary*

Recital of Carols & Communion

10pm | *Location: Sanctuary*



Worship on
Christmas Day

Lessons & Carols

10:30am | *Location: Sanctuary*



Worship on
New Year's Eve

Communion Service

5:30pm | *Tuesday, Dec 31st*
Location: Sanctuary



More at
TrinityAshland.org



(419) 289-2126



508 Center Street, Ashland, OH



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO

*Sing
Christmas*

A Christmas Choral Experience

Saturday, December 14th

5:30pm in Jack's Place

&

Sunday, December 15th

11am in Jack's Place

Trinity Lutheran Church - 508 Center Street, Ashland, OH 44805



YOUTH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Wednesday, Dec 18th | 6-7pm | Youth Room

All youth are invited to join us on December 18th from 6-7pm in the Youth Room for a special evening of holiday fun! Led by Ryane Briggs, this event will include light snacks, a brief devotional, and Christmas-themed "Minute to Win It" games. This is a great chance to relax, laugh, and spend time with friends before the final High Praise Christmas rehearsal in Jack's Place. Come ready to bond, hang out, and celebrate the season with your Trinity youth community!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Saturday, Dec 7th | 9-11am | Jack's Place



All women of the congregation and community are invited to join us for our Women's Christmas Brunch! The theme for this year is *Comfort and Joy*, a celebration of togetherness and the spirit of the season. Melanie Miller will be our guest speaker, and Ashland High School "Sing & Swing" will provide entertainment.

Let your creativity shine as we enjoy an inspiring morning filled with fellowship, food, decorations, and fun. This is the perfect chance to gather before the busy holiday season begins. Rita's Catering will provide a delicious meal, and the cost is \$18 per person (tables of 8 available). For our service project, we will be collecting items for the Ashland Pregnancy Center. We look forward to celebrating with you and sharing in this special time of comfort, joy, and connection. Sign up using the QR code!



SAVE THE DATE: GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Monday, Jan 13th | 5:30-7:30pm | Jack's Place

Bring the New Year in with laughter as we share time together! Women of all ages are welcome, as are their guests! Cost is \$5 per person to cover food. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating together!

SENIOR MINISTRY

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, Dec 5th | Noon | Jack's Place

All seniors are invited to join us on Thursday, December 5th, at 12pm in Jack's Place for a festive lunch filled with delicious holiday favorites and warm fellowship. The menu will feature turkey roll, sweet potatoes, corn casserole, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie, creating a comforting holiday meal. After lunch, enjoy a special performance by the AU Chamber Singers. The cost is \$7, and an RSVP is required. Celebrate the season with friends, good food, and music—we hope to see you there!



MNM'S: MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Tuesday, Dec 17th | Noon | Jack's Place

All women on their own are invited to join us for a special holiday luncheon as part of MnM's: Making New Memories group, on Tuesday, December 17th, at 12pm in Jack's Place. Enjoy a festive meal featuring cranberry chicken, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and peppermint lasagna. This event is a great opportunity to create new memories, connect with others, and share in the joy of the season.

Please RSVP to the church office to reserve your spot. We look forward to celebrating with you!

December Expressions of Faith & Euchre

Please note that Expressions of Faith and the monthly Euchre gathering will be taking a break for the month of December. We encourage everyone to join us in the other holiday activities happening at Trinity this season! There are plenty of ways to celebrate, connect, and serve as we prepare for Christmas together. Keep an eye on our events calendar for details, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming holiday gatherings.



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS IN DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec 22nd 8:45am Traditional Service

Our Children's Choirs—Music Makers, Cherubs, and Notes of Joy—will be singing on Sunday, December 22nd in our Traditional Service. Join us as these young voices share the joy of the season in a beautiful musical offering!

Christmas Eve Service 6pm | Jack's Place

We are excited to announce that all Children's Choirs (and High Praise) will be singing in the Christmas Eve Service! This is a special opportunity for our young singers to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus through music. We look forward to sharing this joyful and memorable service with our congregation!

HIGH PRAISE CHOIR IN DECEMBER

Rehearsals Wednesdays in December | 7-8pm

High Praise is back for the holiday season! Join us on Wednesdays in December—December 4th, 11th, and 18th—for rehearsals as we prepare to sing for the Christmas Eve Service. Whether you've been part of High Praise before or are joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you participate in this special holiday celebration. Come be a part of the music that will help make our Christmas Eve truly memorable!

Sunday, Dec 22nd 11am Praise Service

High Praise will perform at the 11am service. Don't miss this special opportunity to experience the powerful music and festive spirit of the season through our choirs. We look forward to celebrating Christmas together in song!

Christmas Eve Service 6pm | Jack's Place

We're looking forward to High Praise (and our Children's Choirs) singing in our Christmas Eve Service! This is a special opportunity for our young singers to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus through music. Join us for a beautiful evening of worship and song!

SAVE THE DATE:

HIGH PRAISE FUNDRAISER PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, Jan 26th | 10am | During the Sunday School Hour

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 26th, for the High Praise Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast during the Sunday School Hour! All donations will go toward offsetting the cost of the High Praise trip in April. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and support our choir as they prepare for this exciting opportunity. High Praise will also be singing at both Sunday services that day.

Additionally, High Praise will meet for rehearsals on three Wednesdays in January: January 8th, 15th, and 22nd, as they continue to prepare for the upcoming performances. We look forward to seeing you there!



MONTESSORI
GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Serving ages 2 ½ to 5 years of age. We follow the Montessori philosophy. In addition, we offer spiritual formation and experiential music enrichment. Our program provides individualized learning. Enrollment packets are available outside the Montessori office. For additional questions, please contact Cindy Duffey at (419) 289-2126 or montessori@trinityashland.org.



OUTREACH & MISSIONS

STORY OF IMPACT

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party: A Night of Generosity & Global Impact



What an incredible night! On November 10th, Trinity's community came together with one mission: to bring hope, joy, and the message of Jesus to children around the world through our Operation Christmas Child Packing Party. Together, families, friends, and small groups packed 467 shoeboxes, each filled with love and thoughtful gifts, with even more boxes still being packed. After an inspiring time of packing, everyone celebrated with Chipotle—a fitting end to a night focused on giving back.

This event was especially meaningful for the children in our congregation, who had the chance to hand-pick items for children their own age. From toys to school supplies to hygiene essentials, each box is a gift that not only brings joy to the recipient but also a message of love and hope in Jesus. For many of these children, this shoebox may be the first gift they've ever received, and it's a tangible reminder that they are seen, loved, and valued by God.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, has been filling shoeboxes for children in need since 1993. What began as a single act of kindness has now become a global movement that has delivered over 220 million shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries. Each box represents an opportunity for children to learn about Jesus, often for the very first time. Local churches partner with Samaritan's Purse to present these gifts at festive outreach events, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in a meaningful and unforgettable way.

The impact of a simple shoebox is extraordinary, and through it, Trinity is living out the Great Commission. Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me" (Mark 10:14), and every box we pack is a step toward making disciples of all nations. Thank you to each person who contributed to this mission. Your generosity is lighting up lives and pointing children around the world to the hope of Christ. This Christmas, Trinity has truly embodied the spirit of giving, showing that every act of kindness, no matter how small, has the power to change lives.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



ADVENT STUDY

Sundays, December 1st - 22nd
10-10:50am | Trinity Room

The Christmas season, or Advent, is more than a sentimental story or a quiet manger scene we use to decorate our living rooms. The Christmas story is the good news of God entering into our darkness. Take a deeper look at Jesus as Emmanuel, our Wonderful Counselor, the Everlasting Father, and the Great I Am through this Advent study. When you know Jesus, you will realize Christmas is more than a nice story—the arrival of Jesus changes everything. No sign-up needed!



KIDS' BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Sunday, Dec 22nd | 10-10:50am
Assembly Rooms | Pre-K - Grade 6



Join us on Sunday, December 22nd, from 10-10:50am in Assembly Rooms A, B, C, and D for a special Christmas celebration for children Pre-K through 6th grade! This fun-filled event will include carols, a craft or decorating cookies, a Christmas Bible story and lesson, and games—all designed to celebrate the birth of Christ. Children are encouraged to bring their friends for a joyful time of learning and fun. Sign up is requested to help us prepare for the event. We look forward to celebrating the season together!

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES:

December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd

NOTE: No Sunday School on December 29th for the holidays.

GET INVOLVED

THE GIFT OF LISTENING: STEPHEN MINISTRY

Would you like to give the gift of coming alongside someone when they need a hand? Would you like to learn how to make the most of the gifts God has given you to help others bear their burdens? Why not consider becoming a Stephen Minister in the new year? Through the simple act of hearing another's struggle, you can give the greatest gift of love to another in need. Contact Michelle Vanderzyden at michelle@trinityashland.org for more details, or if you or someone you know needs someone to hear your concerns.



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Can you help?

At Trinity Church, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of faith, and we need your help to care for our youngest members! Our nursery is a vital part of our Sunday services, providing a safe and loving environment for children while their families worship. But we can't do it without you!

Volunteer Opportunities

Whether you can commit to one Sunday a month, one Sunday every three months, or just occasionally, your help will make a huge difference. As a volunteer, you will be paired with a lead caregiver to support them in creating a welcoming space for our children, while also assisting in greeting and caring for guests. Your time and service will not only bless the little ones in our congregation but also support the entire church family.

How to Get Involved

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Kristen McClain at nursery@trinityashland.org or call 419-685-0978. Your willingness to serve is a blessing to our congregation, and together, we can make a meaningful impact on the lives of the children we care for. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!



GET INVOLVED



ALPHA COURSE AT AU

Tuesdays, Jan 14th - Feb 25th | 5:30-7pm | AU



Join a conversation! Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly environment. This Alpha course will take place at Ashland University! All are welcome to join in for great talks and discussions. Sign up is suggested. Friends are welcome. Scan the QR code to view an Alpha trailer! Contact Michelle Vanderzyden for more information at michelle@trinityashland.org.

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lots of opportunities to get involved!

December brings many opportunities to serve at Trinity! We're looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas Musical on December 14th and 15th by assisting with set-up and take-down, as well as parking attendants to help direct cars before performances and Christmas Eve services. We also need friendly faces to greet visitors and give directions on Christmas Eve, along with volunteers to keep the cookie and coffee station stocked for everyone to enjoy. If you'd like to help with any of these needs, or can bring cookies for Christmas Eve, please contact Wendy Shreffler at wendy@trinityashland.org.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES: FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

November - January | Church Office

With the holiday season approaching, Associated Charities is in need of donations to support those in our community, as many face greater needs during this time of year. For November, December, and January, they are requesting items such as hearty soups, pasta, cereal, peanut butter, and personal hygiene products. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or in the hallway between the elevator and the social corner. Thank you for your support!



ATTENDANCE & GIVING

October 2024 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
10/05-06/2024	98	312
10/12-13/2024	115	303
10/19-20/2024	91	449
10/26-27/2024	105	465

October 2024 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
10/6	\$27,065
10/13	\$23,463
10/20	\$13,206
10/27	\$28,396

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$814,350
DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,023,274
DEFICIT	-\$201,063
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$23,797

COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

COUNCIL REPORT: NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING

Meeting Highlights

Pastor's Opening Reflection

Pastor Kevin reflected on the Thanksgiving holiday, urging the council to consider gratitude and love as a foundation for all gatherings, inviting them to experience "holy days" through fellowship and connection to God.

Approval of Minutes

Kenny Oberholtzer moved to accept the previous meeting's minutes, seconded by Jenny. The motion was carried unanimously.

Staff Updates

- Joellen is gradually recovering and plans to work limited hours starting mid-December.
- Rae Harris will be leaving her position on December 12th.

Old Business

- Pastor Georg Warneke, who previously served at Trinity, expressed interest in returning for a four-week volunteer service next summer, with only flight and lodging expenses required. A decision on this will require advance planning and budget considerations.
- Strategic Leadership Team decisions are paused until the new year. A subcommittee was formed to rework the team list and advance the process.

Christian Education

- No Sunday School classes on November 24.
- A "Birthday Party for Jesus" will replace regular classes on December 22, with a lesson, music, and activities for children. Efforts are underway to create a substitute list for Sunday School teachers.

Finance Committee

- Approved the mailing of year-end giving letters for December 9, with the 2025 budget process on track. A special Church Council meeting is scheduled for December 3 to review the budget, with approval anticipated on December 10.
- The Finance Committee suggested a special congregational meeting to approve the 2025 budget on January 26.
- Plans to address projected deficits of \$150K for 2024 and \$300K for 2025 using designated funds, including Bequest, Memorials, and other specific reserves.
- Council approved moving monthly meetings to the third Tuesday starting in January 2025 to allow more accurate financial reporting.

COUNCIL NOTES & NEWS

Finance Committee (Continued)

- Motion carried to remove former employee Kate Strine from the Farmers State Bank accounts.

Property and Grounds

- Choir loft flooring and electrical estimates are underway.
- A spring mulch delivery, awarded through a fundraiser, was announced.

Outreach and Missions

- Trinity will cover half the costs for members attending a SONetwork Bible Camp in 2025, funded by the Outreach Fund.

Personnel Committee

- Council approved the hiring of Gage Garlinghouse, a seminary student, as an intern to assist with administrative tasks and reside in the church apartment.
- The Director of Communications position remains open.
- A new custodian has been provided by Ohio Pro Clean following the resignation of Charles Roberts.

Worship and Music

- Upcoming performances and rehearsals were highlighted, including the Men's Chorus, High Praise, and Christmas musical preparations.
- Special holiday services, including Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve, are planned with broad participation from members of all ages.

Youth Ministry

- High school Sunday School attendance remains strong. Upcoming youth events were outlined, with the first event scheduled for December 18.
- Ryane Briggs is forming a youth committee and planning an outreach to youth and parents.

Women and Children

- Operation Christmas Child and the Advent Workshop are set for December, along with the Women's Christmas Brunch.
- Kristen McClain was hired as the Nursery Coordinator, overseeing care during services.

Adjournment

- The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn and was closed with the Lord's Prayer.