

TRINITY MONTHLY

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



Giving Thanks

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This month we celebrate two holidays, All Saints Day and Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is about gratitude for all we have, and All Saints is about mourning all we've lost. Upon first glance these celebrations couldn't have less to do with one another. Yet all of us have occasion to both mourn and to be grateful, we all have, and we have all lost.

Holy Scripture is filled with powerful stories which show to us

how God is at work in every aspect of life. In the book of Job we hear of a man who like us has had, and who has lost. For a man of his time Job seems to have had it all, wealth family, the favor of God and his protection, but he loses it all. His children die tragically, his health fails, the only people who speak with him make matters worse. The story of Job's life represents the pinnacle of tragedy. Perhaps the most tragic part of the story is that we are able to identify with it in our own lives. Like Job we are blessed with much and we also lose those whom we love.

(continued)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

[Thanksgiving Service | 3](#)

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Job is an exceptionally faithful man. When Job learns of the death of his children he speaks from his faith in God saying *“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” Job 1:21* Somehow Job is able to see, even in the moment of grief and loss, the hand of God at work for good. Job is able to see through the tears that loss is a proof of God’s providence and care, for we can only lose that which we have been given and we will only mourn losing that which is valuable to us. By faith even mourning can become a cause for gratitude to God. In this way perhaps these celebrations belong alongside each other for us Christians. We have much for God has given so much to us. And we rightly mourn the loss of gifts so great.

Like Job we who have lost the most precious of gifts, the ones we have loved in this life, keep looking with gratitude to God remembering that death will never be the end. Job was a Christian like you and me. Job looked to God to provide a redeemer who would even after death restore the gift of life, and make right all that is wrong in this life. The one he only knew as “Messiah” we know as Jesus. He is the resurrection and the life, the one whom Job looked forward to as he proclaimed hopeful truth that is yours in Christ. *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself...” Job 19:25-27a*

So let us mourn and celebrate, let us laugh and cry together, and by faith in Christ let us walk together in hopeful expectation that even if all were lost, God still has more for us.

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



TRINITY'S NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY

We're putting together a new church directory, and we'd love for you to be a part of it! Reach out to the church office to let them know you'd like to be included, or scan the QR code for more information. Your participation helps us stay connected as a church family.

Have questions? Contact Wendy Shreffler in the church office at (419) 289-2126. She'll be happy to help!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY

Sunday, Nov 9th | 3-5pm | Jack's Place



We've been gathering toys and health supplies and school kits and other goodies all year. Now is the time to *pack those boxes!* By packing shoeboxes, you'll make a lasting impact on the lives of young boys and girls, bringing joy, hope, and the message of Jesus to children who may have never experienced it before.

Did you know that each box has the opportunity to impact the lives of 9 people? If we send 600 boxes, that's 5,400 people who hear about Jesus Christ! Amazing! Let's unite to change lives and share Christ's love this holiday season! Chipotle dinner will be served, so please sign up so we have enough for everyone.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Wednesday, Nov 26th | 7pm

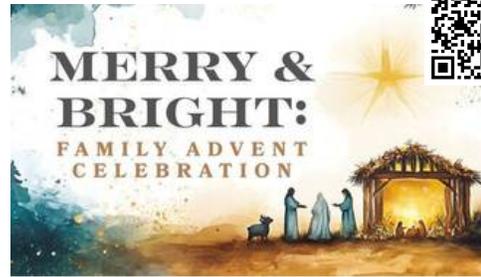
Our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service is set for Wednesday, November 26th, at 7pm. The service includes hymns, seasonal choir music, communion, and a message by Pastor Kevin McClain. Invite your family and friends to join you in worship! Worshipers are encouraged to bring cans of food or other supplies for the Ashland County Food Bank. The church is ground-level and accessible. The service will be recorded and re-played over WNCO-AM1340 on Thanksgiving Day at 10am. We invite you to listen.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: HAPPY HOLIDAYS?

The holiday season is upon us which can bring great joy. Sometimes, however, the season can bring stress and difficult feelings. If you would like someone to walk with you through a difficult season, consider a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are lay people trained to listen and help carry the burdens of others, gently helping people to work through tough times and feelings. Contact the church for more information or Michelle Vanderzyden at michelle@trinityashland.org.

MERRY AND BRIGHT: FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION Sunday, Nov 30th | 2pm | Jack's Place

We've changed up the Advent Workshop to include a delightful presentation from our children! Join us for "Merry and Bright: Family Advent Celebration" a joyful afternoon planned to prepare our hearts for the season.



- *Experience the children's Christmas Program*
- *Build your own Advent wreath*
- *Enjoy our festive hot cocoa bar*
- *Bring your favorite Christmas cookie to share*

Bring the whole family and celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent together! Sign up using the QR code so we can have enough wreath supplies and hot cocoa!

OUTREACH VOTING & BALLOT PROCESS

- **Outreach ballots were mailed** on October 27th. If you haven't received yours by November 10th, please contact the church office or Marcha McNutt (419-564-3028). Ballots are due by December 1st and can be returned to the Outreach boxes near the church office or in the sanctuary gathering space.
- **For those new to Trinity**, the Outreach Fund began in the 1980s with a gift from the Walter and Clara Firestone estate and has grown over time. Each year, vetted organizations—local and global—apply for grants that support sharing the gospel, strengthening churches, and promoting human wellbeing.
- **Applications are reviewed** by the Outreach Committee, and Church Council approves the ballot, which includes a brochure with summaries of each request. Members then vote on how to distribute the funds.
- **Please return ballots by December 1st.** This year, we're blessed to have \$300,000 to share, and expect about 450 ballots, meaning each vote helps guide around \$660 in giving. Please prayerfully consider your choices and return your ballot by December 1st.
- **Questions?** Reach out to any Outreach Committee member or Kenny Oberholtzer (419-651-0185).

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS!

Even though the weather didn't cooperate for us to be outside, we are absolutely thrilled with how our fall festival turned out. We owe a massive, heartfelt thank you to every single one of our incredible volunteers! Simply put: we could not have done it without you.

Your enthusiasm, hard work, and dedication made this year's festival a huge success and a truly memorable day for everyone who attended. We deeply appreciate those who:

- Set up tables and chairs and made sure everything was ready to go.
- Decorated to create that perfect, festive atmosphere.
- Cooked and prepared all the delicious food that everyone raved about.
- Manned the different activities with smiles, energy, and patience throughout the event.
- Cleaned up quickly and efficiently once the fun was over.

Whether you volunteered for an hour or the entire day, your time and effort made a real difference. Thank you for making our community's Fall Festival such a wonderful event. We are so grateful for your spirit and commitment!



CHURCH GOLF LEAGUE

On September 11th, Trinity Lutheran Golf Team proudly captured the championship of the Thursday Night Church League. They clinched it in an 18-hole playoff at Brookside Golf Course against the season's runner-up team of First Presbyterian Church. Members of the Trinity Team include Gary Hildebrand (captain), Jack Boggs, Tom Wykoff, and Ken Milligan. They are proud of their success and Christian sportsmanship!





CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

Regie Lloyd | 11/11 | 85

Gilbert Cook | 11/13 | 93

Judy Ryan | 11/15 | 97

Larry Oberholtzer | 11/23 | 85

Stephanie Peterson | 11/24 | 92

Diann Reed | 11/27 | 85

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

WEDNESDAYS IN NOVEMBER

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

Good Shepherd Preschool Benefit Dinner

Hot Dogs, Shredded Chicken
Sandwiches, Mac & Cheese, & Desserts

NOV
5

Turkey Stuff Roll

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green
Bean Casserole, & Pumpkin Cake

NOV
12

Beef & Noodles

Mashed Potatoes, Carrots,
& Strawberry Poke Cake

NOV
19

Happy Thanksgiving

No meal will be served.
See you in December!

NOV
26

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*



NOVEMBER YOUTH SHARE GROUP

Sunday, Nov 9th | 7-8pm | Grades 7-12

Let's come together for a thoughtful hour of prayer, scripture, and fellowship! We gather at a different home each time we meet. In November, we will meet on the 9th at the Haag family home. Text Ryane Briggs for all location details at (419) 651-9383.

TURKEY BOWL

Tuesday, Nov 11th | 7-8pm | Grades 7-12

November means it's turkey time! Grades 7-12 are welcome to join us for a turkey bowl! We'll also hold a cranberry sauce sculpting contest. Bring your best sculpting skills, and a friend, and join us for a fun time!



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Sunday, Nov 23rd | 7-8pm | Grades 7-12

For this week's share group, we'll be meeting in the Youth Room to decorate for Christmas! Join us for a fun and festive time.

PRAYING FOR THE YOUTH WE SERVE

Join us in prayer for Trinity's youth

Trinity's Youth Program is starting a series on Ways to Pray for the Youth We Serve. Each month we will be featuring 4 students (grades 7-12) and giving our congregation a glimpse at the goodness of each student.

This week's youth is Teagan Kime

Teagan is 18 years old and is in the 12th grade.

She attends the Classical Conversations Campus here at Trinity. She is involved at Opus II Dance Studio and enjoys reading, watching movies and working backstage for musical theater productions. When asked how God has blessed Teagan she replied "God has blessed me with many things, but recently I was able to meet the Director of Logos Theatre, a christian theater company, and filled out a content card to potentially audition." Teagan's favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 25:11 "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." She believes that she has been given the spiritual gift of peacemaker. Teagan is requesting prayer for her and her friends to stay protected from injury and to work diligently together as they perfect their craft of dancing.



The other featured students for the month of November are:

- Ebenezer Wolfe
- Keely Loy
- Noah McClain

One student will be featured in our Midweek Update email each week. Be sure to learn more about the youth in our community, and keep them in your prayers!

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT: FRIENDSGIVING

Monday, Nov 3rd | 5:30pm | Jack's Place



Come enjoy a delicious meal and a night of fellowship as we give thanks for all the blessings God has given us! The meal will be provided—just come and enjoy time together. Carol Jump from *Enjoy! Floral & Gifts* will share how to create beautiful fall arrangements for the holiday season. The cost is \$5 per person or \$20 if you'd like to take home the materials to make your own arrangement (includes admission and supplies).

For our service project, please bring items for Associated Charities' holiday food distribution. Needed items include canned green beans or corn, boxed stuffing, 8 oz. instant potatoes, cream of mushroom soup, cake mixes and frosting, instant vanilla pudding, boxed mac and cheese, applesauce, peanut butter, gravy packets, and canned pumpkin. Sign up using the QR code!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH DECORATORS NEEDED

Saturday, Dec 6th | 9-11am | Jack's Place

Ladies, it's time to gear up for the annual Women's Christmas Brunch! We're looking for creative women to help make the atmosphere truly festive by volunteering to decorate a table. This is a wonderful way to contribute to the joy of the morning! If you are interested in sharing your decorating talents, please contact Dawn Forbes at dawn@trinityashland.org.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Saturday, Dec 6th | 9-11am | Jack's Place



Ladies of the Trinity and Friends, we warmly invite you to pause from the holiday hustle and join us for a beautiful morning of fellowship and inspiration at our Annual Women's Christmas Brunch. This year's brunch will be held on Saturday, December 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30am in Jack's Place. The cost to attend is \$20 per person. Come share in the joy as we offer a delightful, fully catered brunch by Bella's 220, Christmas music to set a festive mood and A special devotion presented by our former member, Chelsey DeMatteis (formerly Chelsey Thiel).

We look forward to celebrating the start of the Christmas season with you! Please reserve your seat or full table so we can prepare for a wonderful gathering.

LUTHER CLUB

Thursday, Nov 6th | Noon | Jack's Place

All seniors are invited to join us for a delicious lunch and some great fellowship! On the menu is chicken spaghetti casserole, salad, garlic bread, and banana pudding. This month's speaker will be Killian Murray, Assistant Director of Foundations Community Childcare. The cost is \$7, and an RSVP to the church office is required. We hope to see you there!



MNM'S LUNCHEON

Tuesday, Nov 18th | Noon | Jack's Place

Women on their own are invited to join us for a time of warm fellowship and delicious food! We'll enjoy a menu of turkey/stuffing roll with gravy, sweet potato casserole, French green beans, a roll, and pumpkin dessert. Please RSVP by contacting the church office. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful opportunity to share good food and great company!

EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, Nov 20th | 6:30pm | Jack's Place

If you enjoy playing Euchre, join us for a fun evening of cards! You don't need a partner to register—just bring your enthusiasm. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office. We look forward to a great time together; all ages and skill levels welcome!

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH NOT MEETING THIS MONTH

Expressions of Faith will not meet in November or December. See you on January 16th, 2026!

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL REHEARSALS HAVE BEGUN

Musical performances will take place December 13th & 14th

This year's Christmas Musical marks a very special milestone—the 40th anniversary of Trinity's beloved tradition and Ron's final musical as director before passing the baton to Kim Wolbert. Sing a Song of Christmas will feature favorite selections from past years, bringing together a reunion of singers to celebrate Christ's birth and the incredible legacy of our music ministry.

It's not too late to join rehearsals and be part of this special celebration! If you have questions or would like to still participate, please contact Ron Marenchin or Kim Wolbert.



PIANO REDEDICATION: NOVEMBER 6TH

Thursday, Nov 6th | 7pm | Sanctuary | Free

Celebrate the dedication of our newly refurbished Steinway B piano in the Sanctuary, followed by a lively performance from the Clay and Jay Duo, two pianists from Youngstown who play together. Together at the same keyboard, they create a rich, four-hand sound.

All are welcome to enjoy this special, and free, evening of music!

TRINITY LUTHERAN GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL COMMUNITY DINNER

Wednesday, Nov 5th | 5:15pm | Jack's Place

Join us for the Preschool Community Dinner on Wednesday, November 5th at 5:15pm. Enjoy a delicious meal, connect with others, and support our preschool—it's both a Wednesday Night Supper and a fundraiser!

CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Support needed for Christmas events & services

Help us make our Christmas services a wonderful time of worship and warmth! If someone wants to help, they can contact Wendy Shreffler at wendy@trinityashland.org in the church office. Here are the currently identified areas where help is needed:

- Musical set up on December 11th at 9am
- Musical tear down on December 14 after the final performance
- Parking attendants at the Musical and on Christmas Eve
- Christmas Eve hallway hosts
- Cookies for Christmas Eve

BAKERS NEEDED FOR OLIVE TREE CAFE



The Olive Tree Cafe is a sweet spot for connection, providing coffee and donuts to our guests every Sunday morning between church services. It's a cherished time for fellowship, and we'd love to add a little touch of homemade goodness to the mix!

We're putting out a friendly call for our talented bakers! Can you spare a little time and love to bake something delicious—like a batch of muffins, a coffee cake, or perhaps a dozen cookies—for the cafe? Not only does your generous donation of baked goods help Trinity's bottom line, but it also provides that wonderful, comforting, homemade quality that truly makes a difference to the folks to stop by!

You can easily sign up and see what dates are available using our Meal Train by scanning the QR code. Contact Dawn Forbes at dawn@trinityashland.org for more information.

HOW MAY WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Stephen Ministers will be available following services on the 1st weekend of each month to pray for you. Join a Stephen Minister in the library after the Saturday 5:30pm Folk Service or the Sunday 8:45am Traditional Service. Following the 11am Praise Service, prayer will be offered in the back of Jack's Place. In addition, if you would like to include a prayer through our prayer ministry, send a request through the reach out on our website, on a connect card or by calling the office. If you would like to join us in praying for our church, community, and world, let us know and we will forward prayers to you via email.



ASHLAND CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTER: CHRISTMAS DECOR FUNDRAISING SALE

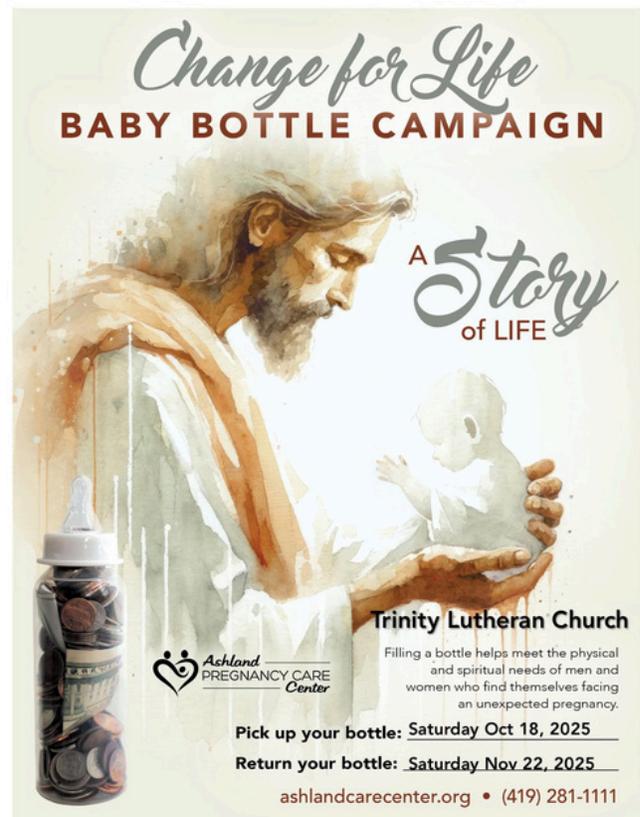
Saturday, Nov 8th | 9am - 2pm | 380 E. 4th Street

Shop for festive holiday decor while supporting the mission of Ashland Christian Health Center! All proceeds help provide free, faith-based healthcare to those in need. Celebrate the season by giving back!

ASHLAND PREGNANCY CARE CENTER: BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Oct 18th - Nov 22nd

Contact Kathy Shelly at skshelly237@gmail.com with any questions!



September 2025 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
09/06-07/2025	119	341
09/13-14/2025 Fair Starts	115	317
09/20-21-2025	119	328
09/27-28/2025	86	332

September 2025 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
09/06-07/2025	\$15,101
09/13-14/2025	\$18,800
09/20-21-2025	\$15,373
09/27-28/2025	\$23,216

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$757,070
DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,003,902
DEFICIT	-\$238,767
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$25,741

**Newsletter receipt and operating fund amounts reflect information from two months prior, as approved and available at the time of newsletter composition.*

COUNCIL REPORT: NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING

Opening & Pastor's Report

Pastor Kevin and Pastor Ben were away attending a conference in Minneapolis supporting Trinity's ongoing vicarage partnership with the American Lutheran Theological Seminary. Pastor Kevin shared in his written report two unique requests received this month: one from Ashland University regarding promotion of an event on the Council of Nicea, and another from the Salvation Army requesting to use Trinity for an anniversary service. Both requests were declined to ensure alignment with Trinity's confession of faith. He reaffirmed Trinity's commitment to standing firm in faith and remaining a pillar of the Christian community through a clear and faithful confession of the Gospel.

Key Updates & Reports

Approval of Minutes & Treasurer's Report

- Dan Wierbiki moved to approve the minutes. Ann Emmons seconded. Motion carried.
- Dan Wierbiki moved to approve the treasurer's report. Lorna Ross seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Items

- Discussion of "Trinity's Confession of Faith and the Use of the Nicene Creed" document included in Council Folder.

Staff Updates

- Pastors and Vicar attended conference in Minneapolis.
- A new Community Alcove will be created to display all community event information in one place.

Strategic Planning

- Council approved the list of Implementation Teams submitted by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Christian Education

- Plans are underway to recognize children and youth for consistent Sunday School attendance with quarterly awards.
- The first Offering Challenge celebration is set for Nov. 2, with students giving a total of \$116.54 so far.

Finance Committee

- 2026 Budget reflects a \$130,000 reduction from 2025. Final review and approval set for November meetings.
- Council will be asked to approve \$30,000 for 2026 NALC Benevolence, same as 2025.
- Council approved transferring \$500,000 from the ACCF Clark Fund principal for major building repairs, including HVAC units, roof replacement, and flooring updates.

Grounds

- Seasonal cleanup completed; fountain closed for winter.

Kitchen

- Kitchen staff working on routine maintenance plans.

Missions

- Wolfe Temple Talk presented this past Sunday.

Trinity Lutheran Good Shepherd Preschool (Montessori)

- Safety discussions continue, including potential installation of a hallway door.
- Community Fundraiser Dinner scheduled for Nov. 5 at 5:15 p.m. during Wednesday Night Dinner. All proceeds will support the preschool.
- Positive feedback received from families; congratulations to new director, Jenny Pence.

Outreach Committee

- Ballots printed and ready for mailing at month's end.

Personnel Committee

- 2025 and 2026 staff holiday schedules approved.

Property and Grounds

- Motion carried to approve up to \$2,837 from Rental Properties for professional window washing.
- TLC Properties: Beginning balance \$24,978.46; ending balance \$26,253.08; 100% occupancy.
- Motion carried to allow Property Committee to use Caldwell Property Trust for standard maintenance and repairs.
-

Senior Ministries

- Senior Luncheon Celebration held Oct. 9 at Jack's Place with approximately 125 attendees and Mayor Matt Miller as guest speaker.
-

Women and Children

- Fall Festival drew around 200 attendees and several new families interested in Trinity.
- Trinity Kids 456 visited Honey Haven Farm on Oct. 24.
- Next Girls Night Out will feature a Friendsgiving meal, service project, and floral demonstration by Enjoy Floral & Gifts.

Worship and Music

- Men's Chorus had over 25 participants singing for Oct. 11–12 services.
- Children's Christmas Program rehearsals began Oct. 22 with 18 children participating.
- Christmas Musical rehearsals begin Oct. 27, celebrating the 40th Christmas Musical and marking Ron's final year as director before passing the baton to Kim Wolbert.

Youth Ministry

- Youth Fall Bible Character Costume Party was a hit with 14 students participating.
- Awards: Most Creative Costume – Noah McClain; Most Biblically Accurate – Abigail Karl.
- Next event: Turkey Bowl & Cranberry Sculpting Contest on Nov. 11.
- Share Groups averaging 10 students weekly.
- November newsletter will launch "Praying for the Youth We Serve," featuring four students monthly.
- Youth volunteer surveys underway for church service opportunities including ushering, music, tech, and more.

Closing

- Ann Emmons moved to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment