

TRINITY MONTHLY

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



Together in the Faith

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

The Christian Faith we practice is a gift from God. It is sacred. It is Holy. We Baptise, confirm, live, and bury our dead in this faith. This is the “one holy, catholic, and apostolic” faith which our Lord Jesus Christ has once and for all delivered to the saints, and which the gates of Hell will never overcome. Christian faith is not for us to define, but for us to accept from the Lord who gave it to us. Christ defines our faith. At

Trinity we are “Confessional Lutherans” that means that we can tell you what we believe, teach, and confess. Those beliefs come only from the Holy Scriptures, and are described faithfully in a collection of writings that we call the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, compiled in the Book of Concord. This faith is the “Faith Alone” of the reformation. Sadly, in recent years, as we look at Christianity in America, we have seen that faith abandoned piece by piece. From the unwillingness to confess the scriptures as inerrant and bindingly so, which led to our leaving the ELCA, to a new *(continued)*

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

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TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

phenomenon of stepping away from the confessions of our faith, particularly the Nicene Creed that we have always confessed. It has become common in recent years for theologically liberal denominations to either officially remove, or to permit the use of the Nicene Creed, omitting the part which confesses that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Lutherans have always and only ever confessed the Nicene Creed in the form which we do today here at Trinity. The proper name of this Creed is the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed; a name derived from the two councils where the creed was formulated and adopted. Our Lutheran Confessions bind us to the three Ecumenical Creeds, the Apostle's, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. Both the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds teach the Procession of the Holy Spirit from both the Father and the Son as necessary articles of Christian faith. The matters of the Lutheran confessions are the same as those of scripture. They are not open to our modification. Things are only sacred when they cannot be manipulated. Who would be ok with mistreating our sanctuary, let alone the confession of faith that led to its construction?

I point this out to you because this matter, the degradation of this Holy Faith continues today as it has in recent years. Your Pastors and leaders here at Trinity are committed to preserving these Holy Things, the Scriptures and Confessions of our Faith, to the very end.

I encourage you to pray for Christ's Church throughout the world as we stand firm together in the faith once and for all handed down to the Saints, in our day, those Saints are you and me.

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: Monday, December 8th

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 order forms available at services or at the church office.

The deadline to donate is Monday, December 8th. 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.



TRINITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 21st | 6pm | Jack's Place



Share a gift of song with our most special members this Christmas season. Join with friends and family as we visit some of 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!



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 | 12/03 | 91

Janet Eckstein | 12/10 | 85

Clarence Hofer | 12/22 | 92

Patricia Hofer | 12/23 | 86

Stanley Hunt | 12/30 | 91

KITCHEN UPDATE: THANK YOU ROBIN & PEGGY

We would like to share with the Trinity community that Peggy Boggs and Robin Burkholder have decided their time managing the kitchen will come to a close at the end of December this year. We cannot express enough, our gratitude for the time, energy, and care Peggy and Robin have poured into the kitchen over the years. Their service has been a blessing to our staff, congregation, and many ministries. Please join us in thanking them over the month as we celebrate their dedication. Additional opportunities to recognize them will be shared soon.



During this time of transition, we will be taking the opportunity to renovate the kitchen with new flooring and search for the right individual to oversee the kitchen area. With Peggy and Robin concluding their leadership, Wednesday Night Dinners will be coming to a close until further notice (the final dinner being December 17th). We are grateful that several of our dedicated kitchen volunteers have agreed to continue assisting with funeral lunches as needed.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER

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

DEC 3

Ham Loaf

Cheesy Potatoes, Butter Beans, & Watergate Salad

DEC 10

Shredded Chicken Sandwich

Macaroni Salad, & Apple Crisp or Dump Cake

DEC 17

Christmas Morning Casserole

Biscuits and Gravy, & Fruit

DEC 24

Merry Christmas!

No meal will be served.

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*

DEC 31

Happy New Year!

No meal will be served.

For unto us
A CHILD IS BORN

Join us for a warm Advent & Christmas Season



Weekend of
December 13th & 14th

Christmas Musical

5:30pm | *Saturday, December 13th*
Location: Jack's Place

***Traditional Service**

8:45am | *Sunday, December 14th*
Location: Sanctuary

***Christmas Musical**

11am | *Sunday, December 14th*
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 | *Location: Sanctuary*



More at
TrinityAshland.org

**Event will be livestreamed*



(419) 289-2126



508 Center Street, Ashland, OH

TRINITY KIDS 456 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, Dec 12th | 6-8pm | Mitchell Hall | Grades 4-6



Get ready for a night of holiday cheer at our upcoming Trinity Kids 456 Christmas party, packed with creativity, giving back, and fun!

- Decorate Christmas cookies
- Wrap gifts for our Christmas family
- Share a special devotion about the true meaning of Christmas
- Plan for our January Movie night!

Don't forget to wear your Trinity Kids t-shirt and sign up if you're coming!



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT SPONSORED BY TRINITY KIDS

Saturday, Jan 17th | 7-9pm | Jack's Place



Join us for a showing of *King of Kings* in Jack's Place, sponsored by Trinity Kids 456. All are welcome. Visit the QR code for more details!

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE: SAVE THE DATE

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

Save the date for our annual Father Daughter Dance! This year's theme is "Luau in Paradise" so grab your grass skirts and flower leis and join us for a lovely evening that will make memories for Fathers and Daughters of all ages. Registration info will be available beginning January 5 for Trinity members and January 12 for non-members. Cost is \$50 per couple, and \$10 per additional daughter.

DID YOU SEE A TINY NATIVITY?

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

Our Youth have done it again! During the month of December be sure to look around our church for tiny nativity scenes. If you find one you may keep it or hide it again for someone else to discover.



SILLY SLIPPERS, SOCKS, AND SOUP!

Tuesday, Dec 9th | 7-9pm | Youth Room

Grades 7-12! You're invited to enter our Silly Slipper and Socks competition and enjoy a cup of soup while we play "Christmas Trivia Through the Decades."

YOUTH SHARE GROUP: CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, Dec 14th | 7-8pm | Briggs Home

Join us for a Christmas Party at the Briggs' home. Text Ryane Briggs for the address at (419) 651-9383.



PRAYING FOR THE YOUTH WE SERVE

In this month's series of "Ways to Pray for the Youth We Serve" we will feature Faith Wolfe, Everett Kime, Payton See, and Lilyana Little. As we celebrate these four Trinity youth, let us also pray for the youth in our community asking God to help them come to know Christ as Savior. Let us also give thanks and praise for parents and families.



Faith Wolfe is this newsletter's Trinity youth. Faith is 14 years old and a 9th grader at Ashland High School. She enjoys playing the piano and the organ while taking lessons from Mr. Mark Koehler. Faith is also involved in High Praise, Trinity Bells and Ashland Special Needs Ministry. She feels that God has blessed her with a wonderful, supportive family and an amazing church family. Faith's favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 43:2, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; the flames shall not consume you". She also finds interest in Psalm 38:7, "For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh." Faith knows that God has granted her the ability to think deeply and use her musical abilities and talents to bring joy to others and glorify God. Faith's prayer request is to be able to follow God's path for her, to do well in school and to keep up with responsibilities and commitments.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

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



Ladies of 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. 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, led by our own Aiden Chandler and a special devotion presented by our former member, Chelsey DeMatteis (formerly Chelsey Thiel). *Reminder: Our service project for the Brunch will be to collect blankets for winter. Throw blankets are especially helpful!*

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, Dec 4th | Noon | Jack's Place

All seniors are invited to join us for a delicious lunch and some great fellowship! On the menu is chicken bacon ranch casserole, broccoli, a roll, and cherry cobbler. This month we will have the pleasure of watching the Ashland High School's Sing & Swing ensemble. The cost is \$7, and an RSVP to the church office is required. We hope to see you there!



MNM'S LUNCHEON

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

All women on their own are invited to join us for a special MnM's: Making New Memories gathering on Tuesday, December 16th, at 12pm in Jack's Place. Enjoy a cozy festive meal featuring ham loaf, baked sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and ice cream cake for dessert. Bring along a white elephant gift to exchange as we share laughter, good food, and warm fellowship together. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, relax, and enjoy time with friends old and new.

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

DECEMBER EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH & EUCHRE NIGHT

Expressions of Faith and our monthly Euchre group will pause for the month of December. With so many wonderful holiday activities happening at Trinity, we hope you'll jump into the celebrations in other ways this season! There will be plenty of opportunities to gather, worship, and serve as we prepare our hearts for Christmas and the New Year. Be sure to check the calendar for upcoming details—we look forward to sharing this special season with you.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL: SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS

Musical performances will take place December 13th & 14th

You're invited to experience the joy and wonder of the season at Trinity's 40th Annual Christmas Musical, Sing a Song of Christmas! Join us during our regular worship service times on December 13th and 14th as our choir and musicians fill the sanctuary with beautiful music and powerful messages celebrating Christ's birth. This milestone year will be especially meaningful as Ron Marenchin directs his final musical before passing the baton to Kim Wolbert. The program will feature beloved selections from past years—a joyful reunion of voices and hearts celebrating four decades of music, ministry, and the miracle of God's love.

Bring your family, invite your friends, and share in a weekend that promises to lift spirits and fill Jack's Place with the true sound of Christmas joy.



A JOYFUL REDEDICATION OF HANDBELLS

In loving memory of longtime ringer Dorothy Pflueger.

The basic two-octave set of Trinity's handbells was originally purchased over fifty years ago. After decades of use, this past summer they were factory refurbished and brought back to mint condition through a bequest from the estate of Pastor Robert and Dorothy Pflueger, who participated in many music groups in the churches where they served. They were rededicated on Reformation Sunday, October 26th in memory of Dorothy, who was a longtime ringer in our Trinity Bell Choir. We welcomed their son Jonathan as trumpet soloist with the Trinity Bells that day in a setting of Ode to Joy by Ludwig van Beethoven.



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 or call or stop by the church office. Here are the currently identified areas where help is needed:

- Musical set up on December 11th at 3pm
- 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

SEEKING DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS

Please let this pantry wish list for Associated Charities serve for the month of December:

Shampoo and conditioner, Deodorant, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Tampons, Razors, Dish and Laundry Soap, Hearty Soups, Egg Noodles, Spaghetti noodles and sauce, saltines, macaroni and cheese, oatmeal and oatmeal instant packets, peanut butter and jelly, breakfast bars, mac and cheese, instant mashed potatoes, noodle packets, spaghetti-O's, boxed stuffing mix and jiffy cornbread mix.

All items can be dropped-off in the church office or near the social corner near the Sanctuary.



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.



October 2025 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
10/04-05/2025	93	393
10/11-12/2025	97	399
10/18-19/2025	56 (Grow in Hope Breakfast)	304
10/25-26/2025	100	396

September 2025 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
10/4-5	\$26,105
10/11-12	\$22,418
10/18-19	\$9,721
10/25-26	\$27,089

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$844,278
DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,159,098
DEFICIT	-\$306,755
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$26,956

**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 opened the meeting with a pastoral reflection centered on the calling of the Church to care for God's people in every season of life. He shared that recent weeks have been filled with ministry to the sick and dying, reminding the council that walking with people through both life and death is central to the Church's mission. Pastor Kevin encouraged the council to keep Christ at the heart of all decisions and to ensure that every action supports the faith, comfort, and spiritual care of the congregation and community.

Key Updates & Reports

Approval of Minutes

- Motion carried to approve the previous meeting's minutes.

Pastor's Items

- Altar Guild is seeking three new members; interested individuals may contact Sarah Rivenburgh or Pastor Kevin.

Staff Updates

- Window cleaning scheduled for the coming weekend.
- Freezer replacement planned for Mitchell Hall.
- Exploring installation of thermostat covers.

Christian Education

- Offering Challenge remains strong with close competition among classes.
- High School students will partner with elementary groups Dec. 14 to celebrate Jesus' birth.
- Good Attendance awards (PreK-12) will be presented at all three services Jan. 17-18.
- Council noted appreciation for Ryane's leadership.

Finance Committee

- Work continues on the 2026 budget and funding plan.
- Budget Meetings Approved:
 - Council Budget Meeting: 6:00 p.m. before next council meeting.
 - Congregational Budget Meeting: January 11th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
- Motions Passed:
 - Move Outreach Missions (388775) funds into Outreach-Unrestricted (389550); discontinue use of 388775.
 - Move Irving/Eisel Cash Account (110400) into Irving/Eisel Investment Funds to increase income and growth.
 - Amend October's motion to authorize \$750,000 (revised from \$500,000) from ACCF Clark Fund growth for significant building safety, structural, and security repairs.

Trinity Lutheran Good Shepherd Preschool (Montessori)

- Nov. 5 fundraiser dinner raised over \$1,100. Families enjoyed a meal, crafts, and games.

Outreach Committee

- Voting currently in progress.

Personnel Committee

- Kitchen Positions: Robin and Peggy expected to finish by end of December; new hospitality-focused kitchen position will need approval.
- Pastor Ben's Colloquy: Council continues to review requirements and correspondence.
 - Documents reviewed include the Candidacy Manual, NALC letter, panel decision, coursework email, and recent NALC communication.
 - Rob Hendrix will communicate with Amy Little for clarification and next steps.
- United Way: Question raised on sharing information with staff.
- Design Committee:
 - Motion to hire Elizabeth Klingler for \$550 to design preschool alcove failed.

Property and Grounds

- Planned 2026 Updates:
 - Kitchen tile (Barefoot Floors): \$13,512
 - Awaiting estimate for kitchen equipment and drains overhaul
 - Carpet replacement for hallways, entrances, and choir room: \$48,418
 - Boiler options: repair \$5,240 or replace with two new boilers for \$68,040
- TLC Properties:
 - 100% occupancy; October dispersal: \$6,000
 - Approved rent adjustments for 2026 across all listed units.

Women and Children

- Over 625 shoeboxes packed; collection week ongoing.
- New Advent Workshop progressing well—includes Children's musical, cookies, cocoa, and wreath-making.
- Women's Christmas Brunch will feature speaker Chelsey (Theil) DeMattias and music by Aiden Chandler.
- Trinity 456 collected over \$900 for their adopted Christmas family; gift-wrapping scheduled for Dec. 12.

Worship and Music

- Children's Christmas Program on Nov. 30 with 25+ kids.
- Kid's Choir second session wrapping up; singing at 8:45 service this weekend.
- Christmas Musical (Dec. 13-14) includes about 70 participants.
- Praise Team luncheon/retreat held in preparation for Advent and Christmas Eve.
- Steinway B Dedication:
 - Refurbished 1929 Steinway B piano dedicated Nov. 6 with recital by Clay & Jay Piano Duo.
 - Restoration funded by the Bee Zehner estate; rich history shared connecting music, Trinity, and the Ashland community.
- Handbells Rededicated:
 - Original two-octave set refurbished and rededicated Oct. 26 in memory of Dorothy Pflueger with her son Jonathan playing trumpet for the occasion.
- Thanksgiving Eve Service:
 - Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. with music, communion, and sermon by Pastor Kevin.
 - Offering of canned goods encouraged.
 - Service will be replayed on WNCO-AM1340 Thanksgiving Day at 10 a.m.

Youth Ministry

- Turkey Bowl event was a success (60 ft. cardboard bowling alley!).
- Next Fun Night: Dec. 9 (Silly Socks, Slippers & Soup).
- Updated second semester schedule includes increased events:
- Share Groups: 3 Sunday evenings/month
- Fun Nights: 2 per month, alternating Tues/Thurs

Closing

- Motion to adjourn carried. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment