

# TRINITY MONTHLY

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



## Unchanging Truth

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BEN

Time flies. Here we are at the beginning of another year. And with the change from 2025 to 2026, we may look for other things to change as well. We may seek to change our habits, our health, or our way of living. Or maybe we're faced with the prospect of change and we'd rather things just stay the same.

And yet, with the passage of time, things change. As the years pass, seasons change, the world

changes, and even we change—irrespective of whether we want change or not. But what about our faith? Does the Christian faith change? When the world changes, does God change too?

No. God, in His Word tells us: our faith doesn't change. The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians that the Church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (2:20, ESV). As Lutheran Christians, our faith didn't begin with the Reformation. Instead, our clinging to the apostolic and prophetic writings of  
*(continued)*

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

High Praise Pancake Breakfast | 3

Kids Ministry | 6

Senior Ministry | 8

Get Involved | 10

Holy Scripture and to our Lutheran Confessions is itself holding to the Christian faith that has always been.

There is a foundation that is concretely established, and this is the catholic and apostolic faith. Things have changed a great deal over the course of human history, but the faith we have been given hasn't changed a bit. It doesn't matter how quickly time might fly or how drastically the world may change. Neither does the truth change because those around us claim it has. Our faith remains unmoved and unchanged because it is fixed to a sure foundation.

And Christian faith doesn't change because Christ doesn't change. He is the Cornerstone. And because Jesus doesn't fail in keeping His promises, our faith and confession remains fixed to the foundation that He gave us. Christian brothers and sisters, take heart this new year: Christ's love for you remains the same.

Therefore, cling to the faith that He gave you. It is the sure foundation that will never change. Because the years may change, but the foundation never will. We stand upon and within the one holy catholic and apostolic faith and Jesus, the unfailing Christ, is the Cornerstone.

In Christ,



*Pastor Ben*  
**Pastor Ben Mollohan**

### CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

 508 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

 Phone: (419) 289-2126

 Fax: 419-289-1381

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

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

Monday - Thursday  
9am-5pm

## HIGH PRAISE PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> | 10am | Mitchell Hall

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 25th, for the High Praise Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser during the Sunday School Hour! All donations will go towards offsetting the cost of the High Praise event in March. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and support our choir at the same time! High Praise will also be singing at both Sunday services that day.

Please scan the top QR code to register so we can plan for food and seating, and/or scan the bottom QR code to make a donation in support of our High Praise Choir. Thank you for your support!



**Register to Attend**



**Donate to High Praise**

## HIGH PRAISE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE IN JANUARY:

High Praise will meet on the evenings below as they prepare for upcoming performances.

- Wednesday, January 7
- Wednesday, January 14
- Wednesday, January 21

## NEW HEARING ASSISTANCE: AURACAST AUDIO

Audio now streamed directly to compatible hearing aids during worship

We have added Auracast technology that sends audio directly from the sound system to compatible hearing aids. If you use hearing aids with a smartphone app, simply open your hearing aid app during worship. You should see available audio options labeled "Sanctuary" or "Jack's Place." Tap the location you are in to connect and hear the service clearly through your hearing aids.





## WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT: BINGO

Monday, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> | 5:30-8pm | Jack's Place



Change of plans, ladies! Our movie night at The Ashland Theatre has been moved to February, with more details to come. But don't worry—we still have something fun planned for January! Join us for Bingo, where we'll provide soup and light snacks, plus plenty of laughter and prizes to brighten a dreary winter night. Cost is \$5 per person at the door and be sure to bring a friend to share in the post-holiday fun! Scan QR code to register or call the church office at (419) 289-2126.



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> | 6pm | Sanctuary

Save the date! All Trinity members are invited to a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m. At this meeting, we will discuss and approve the 2026 Congregational budget, which reflects how we will support our ministries, staff, and mission in the coming year. Your presence and participation are important as we plan for the year ahead.

## KITCHEN RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

Thanks for your patience and care around the construction area!

Construction in our kitchen is beginning soon and we are very excited for these improvements! During this time, please excuse the mess and follow any posted signs and directions. There will be workers in and out of the area, so we ask everyone to be mindful and considerate as they complete their work. If you have questions or need access to something during construction, please contact the church office—we're happy to help!

## A BEAUTIFUL ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we conclude the Advent and Christmas season, our hearts are full of gratitude. Thank you to the volunteers, musicians, ministry leaders, church leadership, and pastoral staff who shared their time and gifts to create a warm and welcoming place to celebrate God's presence among us. If you haven't already, consider taking a moment to express your appreciation to those who blessed you during this season.

Most of all, we give thanks to God for the life shared with us through Jesus Christ. May God continue to guide and bless our Trinity family and the greater Ashland community in the year ahead.



## CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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

**Donna Wolf** | 01/16 | 94

**Rebecca Humrichouser** | 01/17 | 86

**Alice Fetzer** | 01/19 | 96

**Ann Miller** | 01/21 | 85

**Judy Eagle** | 01/21 | 87

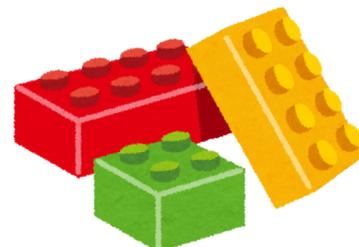
**Janet Greene** | 01/27 | 86

**Tom Gaus** | 01/29 | 85

## TODDLER TIME IS BACK

Begins Jan 15<sup>th</sup> | 10:30–11:30am | Jack's Place

All preschoolers and their moms are invited to join us in Jack's Place on January 15, 22, and 29 as your little ones burn off energy and moms enjoy fellowship together! Mr. Mark will lead a Creative Movement session. There is no cost, no need to sign up—just come and play!



## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT SPONSORED BY TRINITY KIDS 456

Saturday, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> | 7–9pm | Jack's Place



The weather in January may be frightful, but the movie night at Trinity will be delightful! We'll be watching the 2025 Angel Network production of "King of Kings," an animated film where Charles Dickens shares the life, love, and mission of Jesus with his son, Walter. As the story unfolds, Jesus' compassion, teachings, and sacrifice come to life in a way that captivates both children and adults. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite others—friends, family, neighbors, or anyone in our community. All are welcome to join us for an evening centered on Christ's story and fellowship together. Use the QR code to sign up or call the church office.



## FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE: SAVE THE DATE

Friday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> | 6–9pm | Jack's Place

Join us for a lovely evening to make memories between fathers and daughters. The theme for the dance is "An Evening in Paradise" with a luau vibe. So, grab your grass skirt and flower leis and get ready to dance! Registration will be open to Trinity members beginning January 12 and to non-members on January 19.

## PRAYING FOR THE YOUTH WE SERVE

In this month's Ways to Pray for the Youth We Serve, we feature Collin Pence, Emma Haag, William Paddags, and Hope Wolfe. As we celebrate these four Trinity youth, we also pray for the youth in our community—that they will love God with all their hearts and choose friends who support them spiritually.



We rejoice that Collin Pence is this week's highlighted student. Collin is twelve years old and in the 7th grade at Ashland Middle School, where he plays pickleball and is a member of the Cross Country Team. At Trinity, Collin loves singing with High Praise. He feels strongly that God has blessed him with a wonderful life and values his strong relationship with his family as a gift from God. Collin's favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Collin asks his congregation to pray that he continues to do well in life.

### JANUARY YOUTH SHARE GROUPS

Sundays, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm | Youth Room | Grades 7-12

Let's come together for a thoughtful hour of prayer, scripture, and fellowship! We will gather in the Youth Room at Trinity Lutheran Church. Invite a friend and join the fun! Contact Ryane Briggs with any questions.

### JANUARY YOUTH FUN NIGHTS

All youth are invited to join us for two fun and welcoming nights this January in the Youth Room—a great chance to hang out with friends, try something new, and enjoy a relaxed, laughter-filled atmosphere.

#### Blow-Up Pickleball Night | Jan 13<sup>th</sup> | 7-8pm

- Learn pickleball while rocking your favorite blow-up or regular costume and enjoy a night full of laughs.

#### Coffee House & Open Mic Night | Jan 29<sup>th</sup> | 7-8:30 pm

- Share your talent while enjoying coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts in a cozy, moody café setting.



Invite your friends and let Ryane Briggs know you'll be attending!



## MNM'S: MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Tuesday, Jan 20<sup>th</sup> | Noon | Jack's Place

Women on their own are invited to join us for the next MnM's (Making New Memories) lunch! Enjoy a delicious soup and salad bar with dessert while connecting with others in a warm and welcoming setting. RSVPs can be made by contacting the church office at (419) 289-2126. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful opportunity to share good food and great company!

## EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

Friday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> | Noon | Lower-Level Elevator Hallway

Do you enjoy making greeting cards? Join us for Expressions of Faith, a creative time for anyone interested in crafting cards. Bring your lunch and any ideas you'd like to share—we'd love to see your creativity in action! No sign up needed.



## EUCHRE NIGHT

Thursday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> | 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 come ready to have fun and meet new people as you rotate partners throughout the night. Be sure to RSVP by contacting the church office at (419) 289-2126. All ages and skill levels welcome.

### **Luther Club Break**

*Luther Club will not meet in January or February.  
We will see you back on March 5th!*

## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS ARE BACK!

Resuming Wednesday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> | 6-7pm | Trinity

All kids preschool to 6th grade are welcome to come sing, learn, and praise together as we jump into a new season of music and fun! If your child has sung with us before or would like to try it for the first time, we'd love to have them join us.

Mark your calendars and invite a friend—see you on January 14th!



## HONORING THE STEINWAY PIANO AND OUR MUSICAL LEGACY

Connecting our past, present, and future through music

On November 6 we dedicated the 1929 Steinway B piano in the choir loft with a recital by the Clay and Jay Piano Duo from Youngstown. The nearly 100-year-old piano came to us in need of refinishing, which was completed this summer through a bequest from longtime Trinity member Bee Zehner, who also came into the world in the 1920s. Bee sang in Trinity's choir for more than 70 years and pursued her love of music through night classes and voice lessons at Ashland University in the 1940s.

The Zehner name carries a long musical legacy at Trinity. Bee's relative, Mabel Zehner, served as organist over three terms spanning the 1920s to 1970s. We are deeply grateful to the Zehner family for their continued support of our worship life.

Before the recital, Pastor Ben Mollohan blessed the Steinway, commending it to the service of God and our community. We also honored the 125th anniversary of the Ashland Musical Club, first formed in 1900 and led early on by several familiar names in Trinity and Ashland's history. Mayor Matt Miller joined us to present a proclamation to current club president Susan Gregg, honoring the long-standing link between music, faith, and community.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY: A LISTENING EAR FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sometimes, all we need is someone to listen. If you're looking for support and encouragement in the new year, a Stephen Minister may be just what you need. Stephen Ministers are trained lay ministers who provide confidential, one-on-one care to individuals going through difficult times. If you're interested in receiving a Stephen Minister or learning how to become one, contact Michelle Vanderzyden at the church office for more information. Start the new year with the help and hope you deserve!



## MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL

Monday Mornings | 8:40am | Trinity Room



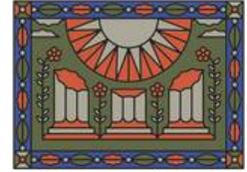
All moms and grandmoms are invited to join Moms in Prayer International every Monday morning at 8:40 a.m. in the Trinity Room. This is a special time to gather together in faith, lifting up our children, teachers, and schools in prayer.

Whether your kids are in preschool or college, your presence makes a difference! Come connect with other women, share encouragement, and cover our schools in God's love and protection.

Come as you are — all are welcome! Contact Michelle Vanderzyden at the church for more information.

## BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP 2026 STUDY: *EXILE AND RETURN* Available Dates & Times Below

**Exile &  
Return**  
A TIME TO BUILD



Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) began a new study this fall, Exile & Return, featuring eight Old Testament books of history and prophecy that cover Israel's exile in Babylon and their eventual return to the promised land. Start the new year by joining into this study that isn't just an Old Testament history lesson. These books speak to people who feel displaced, weary, or like they're waiting for something more. Walking through these often-ignored pages will uncover the ache of living in a world that is not our home while continually pointing toward our hope of Jesus' return. Surprisingly, this study reveals the unwavering heart of our Savior, who meets us in every chapter of our lives.

Check out [www.bsf.org](http://www.bsf.org) to register or contact Michelle Vanderzyden for more information.

### DAYTIME OPTIONS

#### **Women & Preschool Daytime Class**

*Thursdays | 9am | Location: Trinity Lutheran Church*

#### **Men's Daytime Class**

*Thursdays | 12pm/Noon | Location: Ashland University*

### EVENING OPTIONS

#### **Women's Evening Class**

*Mondays | 6:30pm | Location: Park St. Brethren Church*

#### **Men's Evening Class**

*Mondays | 6:30pm | Location: Trinity Lutheran Church*

## TRINITY OUTREACH DISTRIBUTIONS 2025-2026

Please see the report below for the results of how the congregation voted and approved this year's outreach distributions. The report outlines all the organizations supported and the funds distributed. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support of outreach ministry.

	<b>Actual</b>
Nepal Missionary Support	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Total Council Approved Funds</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
Appleseed Community Health	\$ 7,500.00
Mission to Amish	\$ 5,000.00
Savannah United Methodist Ceiling	\$ 15,000.00
Albion Bible Church Roof	\$ 25,000.00
Kroc Center Musical	\$ 15,000.00
Ashland Christian Health Center	\$ 6,800.00
Ashland County Young Life Camp	\$ 10,000.00
Vincent House EPIC Camp	\$ 11,429.59
Morning Star Camp	\$ 10,833.67
OHuddle Mentorship Program	\$ 13,500.00
Mt. Zion Day Care Center	\$ 27,970.56
Crestline United Methodist Elevator	\$ 20,879.43
Redeemer Lutheran Church Rebuild	\$ 34,000.00
Tanzania Orphanage	\$ 25,523.00
Yengesa Academy Solar Power	\$ 16,500.00
Albanians for Action in Albania	\$ 11,550.00
Courage Worldwide Tanzania	\$ 34,667.75
CEF India Andaman Island Mission	\$ 12,000.00
<b>Total Ballot Approved Funds</b>	<b>\$ 303,154.00</b>
<b>Total Outreach Distributions</b>	<b>\$ 309,154.00</b>

November 2025 Church Services		
DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	CHURCH SERVICES
11/01-02/2025	113	347
11/08-09/2025	120	326
11/15-16/2025	97	354
11/22-23/2025	103	407
11/26/25 (Thanksgiving Eve)	N/A	109
11/29-30/2025	90	331

November 2025 Receipts	
DATE	AMOUNT
11/01-02/2025	\$27,962
11/08-09/2025	\$13,164
11/15-16/2025	\$17,131
11/22-23/2025	\$18,623
11/29-30/2025	\$17,469

Operating Fund YTD	
INCOME	\$938,857
DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,266,324
TRANSFERS	\$8,065
DEFICIT	-\$319,402
WEEKLY INCOME NEEDED FOR OPERATION BUDGET	\$26,382

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

**REGARDING GIVING ENVELOPES:**

If you receive giving envelopes but would like to discontinue them, please email [giving@trinityashland.org](mailto:giving@trinityashland.org) with your name & address to confirm your request. You may continue to give online via the website.

## **COUNCIL REPORT: DECEMBER 2025 MEETING**

### Opening & Pastor's Report

Pastor Kevin shared a devotional reflection, noting that December, in all its busyness, teaches the Church about the many ways God calls us to love and serve. He reminded council members that there is much work to do in God's Kingdom and encouraged them to remain mindful of the good that surrounds them each day.

### Key Updates & Reports

#### **Approval of Minutes**

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

#### **Staff Updates**

- Bulletins will now be linked on the website, with the Midweek email also connecting there.
- Safety Committee will reconvene as needed.
- Christmas dinner for staff is being organized by the pastors' wives.
- Hearing aid system upgraded with improved functionality; announcement forthcoming.

#### **Christian Education**

- Birthday Party for Jesus held on December 14 with ornament making, cookie decorating, and a story by Aaron Wolfe.
- High School students assisted younger students.

#### **Finance Committee**

- Finance Committee approved the 2026 budget.
- Budget will be presented at the December 15 Council Budget Meeting, with a motion to follow at the regular council meeting.
- Congregational Budget Meeting: January 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. (agenda to be finalized).
- 2025 year-end giving statements will be emailed in January; mailed via USPS where email is unavailable.
- \$750,000 withdrawal from the ACCF Clark Fund received and placed in a high-interest account pending project expenses.
- Motion carried to approve the 2026 budget as presented.

## **Kitchen**

- Final Wednesday night dinner: December 17 (downstairs).

## **Trinity Lutheran Good Shepherd Preschool (Montessori)**

- Last day before break: December 18.
- Epiphany celebration scheduled for January 7 (breakfast for lunch).
- Gorman Nature Center representatives visited on December 9 with a turtle and snake.

## **Nurture**

- Church directory updates will resume in the new year.

## **Outreach Committee**

- Ballots counted and disbursements calculated.
- Award letters sent; checks to be distributed next month.

## **Personnel Committee**

- Staff Bonuses:
  - Rob Hendrix moved to approve 2025 staff bonuses from the same fund as last year. Sara seconded. Discussion ensued.
  - Motion carried with one abstention (staff member).
- Kitchen staff departures:
  - Robin – December 17
  - Peggy – December 31
- Exit interviews and PTO payouts planned.
- Job description for new kitchen position to be approved at January council meeting.
- Health insurance options under review pending cost.

## **Property and Grounds**

- Kitchen renovations update: volunteers needed to clear kitchen ahead of January 5 start date; workday to be announced.
- Roof update discussed.
- Motion carried to sell church vans with proceeds directed to the van maintenance line.
- TLC Properties report:
  - November start balance \$24,662.02; end balance \$25,082.11.
  - November disbursement: \$4,700.00.
  - 100% occupancy.

## **Senior Ministries**

- Regular activities (Luther Club, Euchre, and others) continue as scheduled.

## **Women and Children**

- 4th–6th grade ministry thriving; Christmas gathering raised \$1,000 to adopt a family.
- Group caroled at Good Shepherd with Kim Wolbert.
- Advent Workshop successful with reduced costs.
- Women’s Christmas Brunch attended by over 165 women.
- Father–Daughter Dance planned for February 6 (pending kitchen renovation).

## **Worship and Music**

- Ron’s 40th and final Christmas musical held with strong attendance despite weather.
- High Praise sang in Praise & Worship.
- Children’s choirs’ final rehearsal scheduled.
- January 25 Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for High Praise announced.

## **Youth Ministry**

- December 9 Fun Night: six students participated.
- December 14 Share Group at the Briggs’ home with 13 students.
- Increased youth activities planned for January.
- January 17, 2026: 4–6 ministry and Youth Program to host a family movie night (King of Kings) in Jack’s Place.

## **Closing**

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

## **Adjournment**