



Trinity Lutheran Church

January 2020 Newsletter

“May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.”
-Nelson Mandela

As we enter into a new year (hello, 2020!), a new church season (the time after Epiphany), and a new season in our life together as a congregation, we come together aware that this will be a year of uncertainty and change. Change, which always entails loss of some kind, is not comfortable or easy. We know this! We also know that change is a part of life, and while it brings with it a sense of loss, change also brings the life-giving presence of fresh perspectives, energy, and ideas.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue conversation and make tough decisions about our budget, our priorities, and the shape of our life and ministry together. It would be easy to rush to a place of scarcity and fear – “We don’t have enough!”, “Will we have to close?”, “We wouldn’t have this problem if young people would just come to church!”, “Can’t we just cut everything out so we can keep the doors open?” The thing about fear, though, is that it doesn’t help us grow. Instead, fear turns our focus and attention inward – away from one another, away from our neighbors, and away from the ministry God is calling us to share.

Throughout the Bible, whenever ordinary people come face-to-face with an angel – God’s messenger – one of the first things the angel says is, “Do not be afraid.” Do not be afraid. The angel says this *not* because it isn’t scary to be in the presence of one of God’s messengers (it is!). The angel says this because in the midst of that fear, God is present and God is good.

God has called and claimed us as beloved ones in the waters of baptism. God has forgiven and nourished us at the table with the presence of Christ in bread and wine. God has filled us with the Holy Spirit, strengthening and empowering us for life in community shaped by love. God promises that we are never alone; promises that death doesn’t have the last word; promises that nothing can separate us from God’s love.

Secure in all that God has done, we can move from fear to hope. Hope opens us to vulnerability and risk and the powerful promise of resurrection. Hope leads us to look outward, toward our neighbors, and toward the work that God is calling us to do. As we move ahead, I pray that the choices we make as a congregation – about our

budget, about our priorities, and about the shape of our life and ministry together – are choices that reflect our hopes, rooted in God’s love for all people and God’s never-failing promise of resurrection and life.

So, what can we do in the face of change?

1. Focus on hope - pay attention to where God is at work among us, and share those experiences! Joy and hope are contagious.
2. Feel your feelings - emotions are a powerful part of what it means to be human. Our ongoing conversations and decisions may elicit a range of feelings: grief, anger, hopelessness, fear, denial, possibility, excitement, etc. Pay attention to them. Journal and talk about them. Look for rituals and practices that help you name and experience your feelings, even as the journey of change continues.
3. Be gentle with one another - change and grief and fear can bring out the worst in people. Be committed to patience and give one another the benefit of the doubt. Aim for open, direct communication. We can work together to ensure that everyone feels informed as decisions are made.
4. Remember that you are loved - God's love for you is deep and abiding. Your value and worth as a beloved child of God does not depend on what you do or don't do. It doesn't depend on your work or talents or where and how you worship. God's love never fails.

Let us pray: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through joys and perils unknown. Give us faith to go out in good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(adapted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 304).

Blessings,
Pastor Kerri

Faith Formation

Adult Sunday School – What do sloth, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, pride, and greed have in common? Join us for Adult Sunday School on **January 12** following worship for conversation as we learn about the seven deadly sins.

Bible Storytime – Bible storytime will take a break for the months of January and February. Stay warm!

Confirmation Class – Confirmation class will be held **Saturday, January 11 from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Trinity.**

Fellowship & Outreach

Meeting – The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 13 at 11am** to go over the German Christmas Marketplace and start planning activities & events for 2020.



Finance

Meeting – The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 6 at 11am.**

Joint Meeting – The Finance and Visioning Team Committees will be meeting together on **Wednesday, January 8 at 7pm.**

*Open to any interested congregation member.



Budget Information Forum – Join treasurer Rod Gunderson on **Sunday, January 19 following worship** for a discussion of the proposed 2020 budget.

November 2019 Income & Expense

	November	Jan. – Nov. YTD Actual	Jan. – Nov. YTD Budget
Total Income	\$6,549	\$92,966	\$100,329
Total Expense	\$11,911	\$133,909	\$136,858
Net Income	-\$5,362	-\$40,943	-\$36,529
Withdrawal from Reserves		\$50,000	\$40,000

Explanations

1. Total Current Income January – November (\$92,966) includes \$11,295.00 given to the Restoration Account which has been used to pay for the sealing of the roof and replacement of heating and air conditioning in the office area.
2. No action has been taken on renovating the ceiling of the sanctuary
3. Bids are being requested for repairing the front steps for which a significant donation has been made.

Donations are still being accepted and much appreciated towards these projects and should be marked “Restoration Account”.

January Offering Counters

Date	Counters		
5	Carolyn Kerns	Melva Roland	Cindy Workman
12	Marcia Davis	Melva Roland	Alan Sandusky
19	Melva Roland	Linda Ruth	Cindy Workman
26	Carolyn Kerns	Melva Roland	Alan Sandusky

Social Ministry

Meeting – The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 11 at 6pm**. Hope to see you there!

Turkey Dinner – Join us on **Saturday, January 18 from noon to 6pm** for the Turkey Dinner. Meal includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce or applesauce, dessert, and drink . The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 years old and younger. Proceeds from the meal will go toward the Back-to-School Clothing Giveaway.



Food Collection for Community Ministries – Every third Sunday at the beginning of worship we'll invite the kids to collect the non-perishable food items you bring in for Community Ministries. Be sure to bring in some food items on **Sunday, January 19!** If you didn't yet get a red "Trinity" reusable grocery bag, you can pick one up at the rear of the sanctuary.



Shout Outs

Thank you to everyone who baked, cooked, planned, and worked to make our Church Tours and German Christmas Marketplace a success! Your hard work and dedication are very much appreciated!



Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Church Tours and German Christmas Marketplace.

Thank you to everyone that attended the Ladies' Christmas Party and brought baby gifts for the Alternatives. YES Pregnancy Support Center.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for and lead worship on Christmas Eve. It is always a joy to celebrate Christ's birth together!

Stewardship

Offering Envelopes – 2020 offering envelopes are available for pick-up at the rear of the sanctuary.

Amazon Smile – Do you often shop on Amazon? Be sure to sign up for Amazon Smile to support our ministry at Trinity! Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the cost of eligible purchases to Trinity. To sign up, visit www.smile.amazon.com, sign in with your regular Amazon username and password, and follow the directions to search for “Trinity Lutheran Church Connellsville.” If you have questions about how to register, please contact Pastor Kerri.



Worship & Music



Take Down Christmas Decorations – Wear your work clothes to church on **Sunday, January 5** and join us **after worship** as we take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and Pfeifer Chapel. Food, drinks, & dessert will be provided.

Meeting – The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 8 at 6pm**. Hope to see you there!

Dinner Church Hiatus – Due to the evening time slot and potential for winter weather, **we will not have Dinner Church in January or February**. Join us again for worship around the table on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Organist Position – Join us for worship in the month of January as we welcome a new organist on a trial basis.

January Greeters

Date	East Narthex	South Entrance	West Narthex
5	Ginny Beecher	Carey Connors	Ron Kerns Sr.
12	Marcia Davis	Cassie DeAngelis	Ron Kerns Sr.
19	Jim Gearhart	Lynn Hazel	Ron Kerns Sr.
26	Carolyn Kerns	Beckie Merchant	Ron Kerns Sr.

Altar Flowers



The cost for sponsoring altar flowers is **\$25**. Please make sure to make your check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and write Altar Flowers in the memo portion of the check or place a cash payment in an envelope with your name and Altar Flowers written on the outside of the envelope.

Payment must be received by the end of the month that flowers had been ordered. **Thank you!**

Dates Available

January – 5 & 26

February – 2, 9, 16, & 23

March – No flowers during Lent

Altar Guild

Anyone interested in helping to launder linens, please call Linda Ruth at 724-626-0131.

Thank you Janie Tikey (December) for all your help doing the linens, your time and hard work is gratefully appreciated.

January – Diane Ratai

February – Ginny Beecher

March – Beth Williams

If you are unable to serve, please contact Linda Ruth.

Annual Congregational Meeting



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **January 26, 2020** for the purpose of adopting the 2020 budget and the election of Church Council members.

The meeting will follow the Sunday morning worship service which begins at 9:15am. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will take place on Sunday, February 9. Those eligible to vote are confirmed members who have communed in this congregation and given a contribution of record in 2019 or 2020.

Parish News

Anyone desiring a ride to church may call the Church Office, and transportation will be made available.

January Bible Readings

- 1: Colossians 2:6-12
- 2: Hebrews 11:1-12
- 3: Hebrews 11:13-22
- 4: Hebrews 11:23-31

Epiphany of Our Lord

– 5

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Matthew 2:1-12

- 6: Revelation 21:22-27
- 7: Revelation 2:1-7
- 8: Revelation 2:8-17
- 9: Revelation 2:18-29
- 10: Revelation 3:1-6
- 11: Revelation 3:7-13

Baptism of Our Lord –

12

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 29
- Acts 10: 34-43
- Matthew 3:13-17

- 13: Ephesians 1:1-14
- 14: Ephesians 1:15-23
- 15: Ephesians 2:1-10
- 16: Ephesians 2:11-22
- 17: Ephesians 3:1-13
- 18: Ephesians 3:14-21

2 Epiphany – 19

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalm 40:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- John 1:29-42

- 20: Ephesians 4:1-16
- 21: Ephesians 4:17-32
- 22: Ephesians 5:1-14
- 23: Ephesians 5:15-33
- 24: Ephesians 6:1-9
- 25: Ephesians 6:10-24

3 Epiphany – 26

- Isaiah 9:1-4
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
- Matthew 4:12-23

- 27: Galatians 1:1-17
- 28: Galatians 1:18-2:10
- 29: Galatians 2:11-21
- 30: Galatians 3:1-14
- 31: Galatians 3:15-22

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
5 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 9:15am: Holy Communion AM: Cindy Workman R: Tammy Hart 10:30am: Take Down Christmas Decorations	6 11am – Finance Meeting	7 7pm – Boy Scouts
12 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:15am: Holy Communion AM: Alan Sandusky R: Mickie Sandusky 10:30am: Adult Sunday School	13 11am – Fellowship & Outreach Meeting <i>Council Packet Information Deadline</i>	14 7pm – Boy Scouts
19 <i>2 Epiphany</i> 9:15am: Holy Communion AM: Abby Tikey R: Emma Tikey 10:30am: Budget Information Forum	20 6:30pm – Church Council Meeting	21 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 7pm – Boy Scouts
26 <i>3 Epiphany</i> 9:15am: Holy Communion AM: Ginny Beecher R: Don Herbert 10:30am: Annual Congregational Meeting	27	28 7pm – Boy Scouts

January 2020

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year! Office Closed 7pm – NA Group	2 6:30pm – Cub Scouts	3 9pm – AA Group	4
8 6pm – Worship & Music 7pm – Finance & Visioning Team Meeting 7pm – NA Group	9 6:30pm – Cub Scouts	10 9pm – AA Group	11 9:30am-12:30pm: Confirmation Class @ Trinity
15 10am – Garden Club 7pm – NA Group	16 6:30pm – Cub Scouts	17 9pm – AA Group	18 Noon-6pm: Turkey Dinner
22 7pm – NA Group	23 6:30pm – Cub Scouts	24 9pm – AA Group	25
29	30	31	 AM: Assistant Minister R: Reader

Please call or email the church office if you would like to see your name added to the birthday, anniversary, or baptismal anniversary monthly lists.



January Anniversaries

13 – John & Nancy Dye

January Baptismal Anniversaries

1 – Dan Herman, Tonya Miller, & Terri Mauro

2 – Zachary Pilarcik

3 – Randy Ritenour

8 – Chris McLaughlin

9 – Kaitlynn McGinley

12 – Matt Jaynes

19 – Cody Pilarcik

25 – Taylor Soforic

26 – Melva Roland

28 – Ginny Beecher, Stanley Welsh, & Jacob Wadsworth

31 – Barrett Yuhouse

January Birthdays

3 – Zachary Shepler

5 – David Striner

7 – Beth Williams

9 – Brooke Filburn

12 – Matt Jaynes

15 – Ron Kerns Jr. & Randy Rose

16 – Diane Ratai

17 – Gillian Trout

19 – Satya Tony

22 – Nathanael Brady

23 – Bill Stoots

25 – Jacob Wadsworth

26 – Camden Garlick & Jeffrey Stewart Jr.

27 – Chaney DeWitt

29 – Larry McLaughlin

Community Ministries



Connellsville is blessed to have such a great resource present in Connellsville Area Community Ministries. Their food pantry, thrift store, medical supply distribution, case workers, support of the Circles program, and more serve hundreds of people in our area each month. As a congregation, we can point people in need to them for a more thorough supply of resources than we are able to provide alone.

In support of this important ministry our goal is to send financial support to CACM on a regular basis. **If you would like to contribute to this, check the box marked “other” on your offering envelopes and write “Community Ministries”.**

Contact Us

Trinity Lutheran Church

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724-628-7920

Email – trinitychurchville@gmail.com

Website – www.trinitylutheranconnellsville.org

Facebook – www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranConnellsville

Pastor Kerri Clark

Cell: 724-603-5589 (call or text)

Email: rev.kerri.clark@gmail.com

Community Events

Garden Club

Wednesday, January 15 at 10am



25th Annual Fire & Ice Festival

**Friday, January 17 - Sunday, January 19
10am-10pm**

130 North Center Avenue; Somerset, PA 15501

This year's Fire & Ice Festival is an Anniversary event – celebrating 25 YEARS of Fire & Ice!

This year, the fireworks will be held at 6:30pm on Friday, January 17 in the center of the historic district “diamond” in Uptown Somerset! The weekend will progress with fun for the whole family including ice skating, ice carving, 50+ sculptures, live music, food trucks, a children's center, a chili cook-off, local spirits, a winter wares market, bonfires, s'mores, and so much more!

Snow Flurry Fondue Dinner

Greendance the Winery at Sand Hill

306 Deerfield Rd.; Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

724-547-6500



Dates: January 18 & 25 and February 1, 7, & 14 from 6-9pm

Tickets: \$35 each

Cure your cabin fever and join Greendance at our fun-filled, retro fondue parties! Guests will enjoy cheese (Emmentaler-Gruyere) and bittersweet brandywine chocolate fondue courses with complimentary Wine Tasting prior to the event.

29th Annual Ice Festival



**Saturday, January 25 & Sunday, January 26
9am-6pm**

120 East Main Street; Ligonier, PA 15658

Over 50 Ice Sculptures! Grab a warm drink and admire the ice masterpieces around town.



Here's how you can make New Year's resolutions this year and really keep them:

1. Pick one main resolution and one or two secondary ones.
2. Write your resolutions down and post them in easy-to-see places.
3. Find a way to work on your resolutions every day.
4. Start just one new habit per month.
5. Keep track of your progress on a calendar.



January Word Search

T F P M A B Y H W B B Q I F N R A S
W R S A U E R K R A U T R O E N N Y
E I N R P O G O P E T E I N N O R N
N E O T O I F T T E S S N U I P E A
T N I I R Y I I F H E I A T F M T H
Y D T N K S H N S M D L I S X R N P
T S U L M W O T A Y M D J M T X I I
W N L U D C A K E E A R N F D A W P
E O O T G R E K E R G V B F M B H E
N I S H T R R T T S G N I L P M U D
T T E E S U I M U R O F T E G D U B
Y A R R T N R A E Y W E N Y P P A H
T R K K G J A N U A R Y F I R S T S
J B H I Q N R G E U L B M B N Y A U
L E V N J W L X R P E Y L I M A F S
N L P G S T A R S E S E Q C A H N O
T E U V J I K G V F E H J K W O O F
F C Q R H O T D O G S N S M W W J Y

ANNUAL MEETING
BAPTISM
BLUE
BUDGET FORUM
CELEBRATIONS
CONFETTI
DUMPLINGS
EPIPHANY
FAMILY
FRESH START
FRIENDS
GREEN
HAPPY NEW YEAR
HATS

HOT DOGS
JANUARY FIRST
MARTIN LUTHER KING
NOISEMAKERS
PORK
RESOLUTIONS
SAUERKRAUT
SNOW
STARS
TRADITIONS
TURKEY DINNER
TWENTY-TWENTY
WHITE
WINTER



