

Volume LXXXIII Number 10 December 2026 / January 2027

Trinity Triangle

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Latrobe, PA
Growing in Faith...Reaching out in Love...Making Disciples

Pastor's Corner

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. (ELW #257, v. 2)

While the focus this time of year is on the Christmas holiday, the season of Advent actually is most of the month of December! Advent is a season about preparation, both for the coming of Jesus as an infant on Christmas and his coming again to judge the living and the dead. We are invited into routines that help us to "get ready". In worship, we will light candles on the Advent Wreath that point us toward the coming of Christ and sing verses of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". We add midweek Communion services to help us center our lives on God's will and looking to the way of Jesus. In your homes, you are invited to take and use of the many Advent devotions available in the narthex to guide your prayer life as we prepare for wisdom to come from on high.

As the nights outside our windows grow darker, the light in our worship space grows brighter. We long for Christ to come in our lives and Christmas is a joy because we remember together that he already has. All of the traditions and the ways we celebrate should help us realize the ways Christ breaks into our lives each and every day. Christmas is not only a holiday, but a way of living for those who have taken to heart the ways of our God.
A rich Advent helps us to receive this gift more fully! You and your family, friends, and neighbors are invited to join us in this ancient season. Let us watch and wait for the joy that is coming for all of us, very soon, on that Holy Night.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

In Advent hope and Christmas joy,

Pr. Jason

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve—
All services with Holy Communion.
4:00pm—Children's Service
6:00pm—with Choir and Handbells
8:00pm—with Choir and Handbells and candlelight

Christmas Day—
10:00am
Holy Communion



Advent Devotions with Holy Communion

Join us Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 8am for our Advent Devotions with Holy Communion! We will wind our way through the poetic work of Wendell Berry, American novelist and poet who joined the church triumphant in August of this year. Berry's poems are rich with earthly imagery and drive us toward a heavenly vision of Advent. Printed devotionals are available in the Narthex to accompany this theme as well as available as a digital download via Trinity's website.

Congregational Updates

Council Minutes are posted monthly on the Bulletin Board across from the Office and online at: www.TrinityLatrobe.com/council-minutes

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard— *(located in the narthex)*
In December, we are collecting **Kleenex and pet food** for the Greater Latrobe Food Pantry.
In January / February, we are collecting **Toothpaste / Single pack Adult or Children's toothbrush** for the Greater Latrobe Food Pantry.

Meal Ministry—If you or another member of Trinity are in need of a few home cooked meals delivered to your house to get you through a difficult season in life, please reach out to the church office at 724-537-4450 to sign up for our Meal Ministry. We are gladly accepting new volunteers to help cook.

Calvary Methodist- Messiah Concert (Tickets limited)
Sunday, December 13

Celebrate the season with Handel's inspiring Messiah, surrounded by the glow of candlelight and Calvary's magnificent Tiffany stained-glass masterpieces. This beloved Calvary tradition brings singers, musicians, families and neighbors together for an unforgettable, interactive holiday concert. With professional soloists, a festival choir and chamber orchestra and the invitation to sing-along with eight choruses, this is sure to be a moving experience!

Will You Join Us for Advent / Christmas?

This music is in our folders, but more singers and ringers are needed and welcome in all groups! Please consider sharing your gifts in Trinity & Chancel Choirs, Men's Choir, Youth Choir, Trinity Ringers & Choir Chime Choir and Funeral Choir. Rehearsal times are listed in the weekly calendar in Trinity News and any questions can be answered by Debbie 412-817-0151. Come and sing or ring to the Glory of God and to welcome the baby Jesus!



2027 Broadcast Sponsorships & Flowers

2027 Broadcast Sponsorships and Flowers are posted in the Narthex. Sign up for the dates you would like in the new year, or let the office know if you have specific dates you would like to sign up for.

office@trinitylatrobe.com
724-537-4450

Grief & The Holidays Support Group

Maureen Ceidro from Independence Health System is starting a Grief and the Holidays support group on Monday November 30 at noon. We will meet for 5 weeks talking about ways to get through the holidays while supporting each other in grief. **If you are interested or have any questions at all regarding Grief Support please call Maureen at 724-516-8605.**

Social Chit Chat

Join us on **Monday, December 14th at 10am** for our next Social Chit Chat. Bring a dozen of Christmas cookies to exchange with others and take a variety of cookies home with you.
Ernie Sistek will be playing Christmas music on his accordion. Join us for some Christmas fun!

No Chit Chat for January & February.
We plan to meet again in March!

For more information on any events contact the church office at 724-537-4450 or office@trinitylatrobe.com.

Prayer List

Please join us in praying for beloved members & friends of Trinity with ongoing concerns:

Dave Shaffer
Pastor Leedahl & David Shank
Caroline Kondrich
Barry Niswonger
Grace Patterson
Nicole Buzzard
Aletha Young
Mark Lawry
Gary Rolfe
Abigail Glagola
Darlene Schultz
Ted Massa
Johannah Frenchik
Michael Voytens
David Meholic
Sue Wintermeyer
Bill Robb
Bridget Shirey-Horman
Anne Brumfield
Larry Findish
Patricia Hall
Debbie Luttner
John Thompson
Robert Heide Jr.
Luka Smith
Keith Mossburg
Sue Ramage
David Murrell
Lillian
Joan Smeltzer
Paula Tucker
Lin Sorber
Teresa Aguilo
Heather Wirick
Georgette Sandrowicz
Phyllis Morgan
Shirley Kohan
John Carlson
Sandy Gaul
Bev Rich
Cassie Murphy
David Shirey
Roger Shaffer
Steve Conrad
Luke Chamberlain
Ken Howell
Levi Key
Janet Houser
Ron George Family
Brenda Rohde
Marilyn Kondrich
David Colaianne
Ruth Ann Fleming
Paula Wasko
Helen Potter
Sharon Matuszky
Jason Cramer
Diane Allen
Larry Armstrong
Giselle Staufer
Tracy Kopesky
Morris Williams
Tate Obarto
Jeb Linden
Casie Hollick
Kenny Decker
Judi Johnston
Patty Williams
Ed Kocar
Pam Terrick
Johanna Geiger
Cathy Porter
Rick Marinchek
Mollie Sabedra
Kace Sabedra

Please call the Office (724)537-4450 or email Office@trinitylatrobe.com to add someone to the prayers.

Holly Jolly- December 5th

Be sure to stop by Trinity during Latrobe's Holly Jolly! We'll be set up in Fellowship Hall for visitors to make their own ornament and decorate (and eat!) cookies! Thank you to all who signed up to help us host this annual trek.



Christmas Caroling

Join us for a throwback to the Christmas Caroling of days of old! We'll gather in the Lounge on Saturday, **December 12 at 6:30pm** before venturing out to the streets of Latrobe to bring carols and joy to our neighbors! Be sure to bundle up and bring a flashlight!



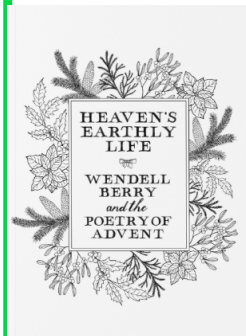


Jingle & Mingle with the Felicis! December 7, 6-8pm

Come out on Monday, December 7 to see the Christmas lights of Wimmerton and stop in for the Felicis Fourth Annual Open House! 111 Carlsbad Court, Latrobe, PA — you are welcome to park in the cul de sac and stop in the house for light refreshments and hot chocolate! No need to RSVP.



Heaven's Earthly Life: Wendell Berry and the Poetry of Advent



Join us as we gather on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings as we explore the stunning poetry of Wendell Berry, who joined the church triumphant this year! Printed copies of the accompanying devotional are available in the Narthex. To receive a digital copy, please be sure to sign up via the website.

Veterans Day Luncheon

November 8th





WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR SERVICE

Happy Veterans Day











Veterans Day Luncheon

November 8th







Thank You

VETERANS









Children, Youth & Families



First Sunday Youth

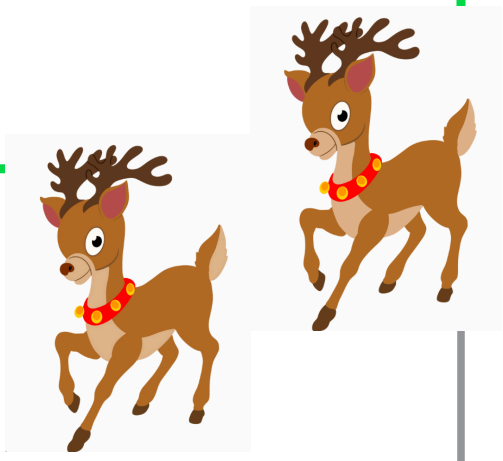
First Sunday in November, our youth were treated to chocolate Mickey waffles by Chef Pastor Jason! Then they rolled up their sleeves and baked dozens of sugar cookies for our “Holly Jolly Latrobe” guests to decorate!





Society of St. Nicholas - December 6th at 12pm in Trinity Cafe

Designed for children in 3rd thru 6th Grade, this program will accompany young people and their trusted adult as they enter the next step of “Christmas Magic.” Together we learn the story of St. Nicholas and the global traditions of Christmas. Please note that younger siblings should not be present for this event. All participants will receive a certificate and a special charge as they join the "Society of St. Nicholas!" Sign-ups are located on bulletin board across from the Lounge.



Save the Dates:

First Sunday - December 6th from 6-8pm

December 6, 6-8pm- Reindeer Games!
Join us for our second annual party with Minute-to-Win-It style Christmas games! Bring a dip or appetizer to share.



First Sunday Youth - January 9, 6-8pm- Family Feud

Calling all youth families! We're coming together for some good old fashioned fun! Pastor Jess will be "surveying" the congregation to get us ready for a youth group "Family Feud" game show night! Sign up on the youth bulletin board to let us know how many from your family are coming! Siblings are welcome, though we may scramble up kids and grown-ups for the event. We will order pizza for this event.









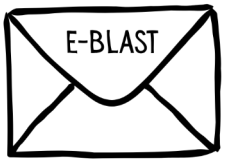






In November, Trinity's youth helped rake leaves for Hearts and Hands Helping Seniors (Faith in Action).

Do you receive the E-Blast? Did you know that Trinity has a weekly E-Blast that delivers straight to your in-box? Stay up to date on what's happening around here by signing up at:
www.TrinityLatrobe.com



Club FRED has had a blast learning and playing together. See here the inflatable GaGa Ball Pit!







Confirmation students learned about the Paschal Candle while melting down last year's candle to make memorial gifts for families whose loved ones were named on All Saints Sunday.





Jenny O. led Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in painting fall canvases this month!









Greater Latrobe Ministerial Association
Community Christmas Dinner

This year's Christmas Dinner will be on Saturday, **December 26th at 2pm** at Latrobe Presbyterian Church. Free tickets will be available through December 14th. Pick up your ticket in the church office Monday-Friday. Dine in only. (No Take-outs) Questions, call 724-613-6075.

Trinity's Annual Christmas Baskets

As Christmas approaches, Trinity is once again preparing Christmas baskets for families in need in our community. Last year, your generosity helped us provide food for approximately 144 families. Each basket includes groceries for several meals, along with a grocery gift card. Families who received a Christmas basket last year have been contacted regarding this year's program.

This ministry is made possible through the generous donations of our congregation. Please consider supporting this meaningful ministry. Your generosity helps bring food, hope, and the love of Christ to families during the Christmas season. Donations may be made through the church offering or online at Trinitylatrobe.com/give by selecting "Christmas Baskets."

Bishop Stoller to visit Trinity on January 9 and 10

Bishop Mellisa Stoller will be joining us and preaching at all worship services the weekend of January 9 & 10. Bishop Stoller was elected as the third bishop of our synod in June 2025 at the Synod Assembly. She previously served as our synod's Assistant to the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, and as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Penn Hills. Bishop Stoller brings a spirit of joy and excitement in her leadership of our synod and care for our clergy and congregations.

This will be Bishop Stoller's first visit to Trinity as bishop and she comes to meet members of our congregation and bring greetings from the synod. Please mark your calendars and plan to worship with us and meet the bishop!



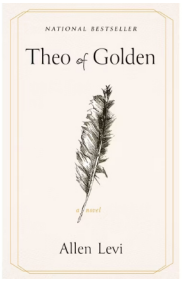




Fall Congregational Meeting

This is official notice that a congregational meeting will be held following all worship services the weekend of **December 5 & 6**. The business at this meeting will only include voting by ballot on the following items:

1) election of members to the Congregational Council; and
2) voting on the proposed operating budget for 2027 (with any approved amendments from the Nov. 22 business meeting).



"Theo of Golden" Book Study
Mondays, January 11, 18, and 25

Have you joined the thousands of folks who read "Theo of Golden" this year? Join Pastor Jess in the New Year to talk about the biblical images and theological themes throughout the book! Sign up on the bulletin board across from the lounge.

CWS Blanket Sunday - January 16 & 17

We are set to observe Church World Service Blanket Sunday on the weekend of **January 17th**! Help us wrap the world in warmth as we mark another year of contributing to this very important ministry. Special envelopes will be included with your worship bulletin or you may give online at trinitylatrobe.com/give.

Installation of Worship Assistants - January 16 &17

We will pause during the start of a new year to install our Acolytes, Lectors, Liturgical Deacons, Musicians, and Ushers at all worship services. All returning and new servants will be invited forward for prayer. We are grateful for all of you who serve the Lord so faithfully through these ministries!

Church Deacons

Do you have an interest in becoming a Liturgical Deacon?

A Liturgical Deacon plays a supportive role at each worship service. You will assist the Pastors with serving the wine during communion.

If you have served as a Liturgical Deacon in the past and would like to serve again, or if this is something you have contemplated doing, we are in need of Deacons for our Saturday evening service at 5:30pm and also at each of the Sunday services, 8:15am and 10:45am. Please prayfully consider this role, and if you are interested in signing up for the upcoming 2027 year, sign up on the bulletin board across from the lounge with your phone number and which service you are interested in serving at. You can also contact Jane Lawson at 724-217-2574.

ELCA Good Gifts

As you begin to think about Christmas gifts, remember the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog! The catalog offers a wide range of gifts from $10 of chicks to help begin a flock for a family to $50 to support a refugee family all the way to a $2500 gift to help give as many as 500 families access to clean water! You can pick up a catalog in Trinity's Narthex or explore online at ELCA.org/goodgifts. We will also have a limited number of gift tags/ornaments available for donors who wish to give a physical symbol of their gift. There are catalogues and handouts available in the Narthex this Advent!

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SEASON

F E B Q C I G B C V R K M E W A C P U V X T S N M D Z O J
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ADVENT WREATH
BIRTH OF JESUS
CANDLES
CAPTIVE
CELEBRATION
DAY AND HOUR UNKNOWN
EMMANUEL
ETERNAL KINGDOM
FOUR SUNDAYS
FRANKINCENSE
GOLD
HOPE
ISRAEL
JESUS
JOY
LOVE
MYRRH
NATIVITY
PREPARATION
RANSOM
RETURN
REJOICE
SECOND COMING
SEVERANCE
SON OF MAN
WAITING

The Trinity Triangle is available in color on our website www.trinitylatrobe.com/triangle.
If you prefer to receive a notice when it is posted instead of a paper copy in the mail,
please contact the church office (724)537-4450 or office@trinitylatrobe.com



Our thanks to David Colaianne who produces these word searches for the Triangle!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
331 Weldon Street
Latrobe, PA 15650
Phone: (724) 537-4450
Email: office@trinitylatrobe.com
Return Service Requested

Living in God's amazing grace

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Permit number 73

Merry CHRISTMAS
DAN

Have a safe and blessed Christmas
Love,
Lori

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
~ Luke 2:10

Debbie Morley

Merry Christmas!! Trinity Family!
Pr. Jason

Wishing you all a season of blessings and a year of happiness. Kori Morgan

So very grateful for ALL of you
Pastor Jess

Walter Vargo

Merry Christmas

Elliana Tingle



December

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00 Advent Communion 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group 7:00 Handbells	2 8:00 Advent Communion 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. 2:00 Grief Group 3:00 Outreach 7:00 Choir	3 8:00 Advent Communion 11:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA Mtg.	4 10:00 Property **OFFICE CLOSES AT 2:30PM** **BUILDING CLOSES AT 3:00PM**	5 9:30 Holly Jolly **5:30 Spoken Communion** **Congregational Meeting after worship**
6 **Congregational Meeting after both services** 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School No Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Men's Choir 12:00 Society of St. Nicholas 6:00 First Sunday Youth	7 12:00 Zoom Bible Study 12:00 Grief and the Holidays Support Group 2:00 Grief Group 6:00 Jingle & Mingle **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	8 8:00 Advent Communion 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics Christmas Party 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Finance 7:00 Handbells	9 **Council Deadline** 8:00 Advent Communion 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir	10 8:00 Advent Communion 11:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA Mtg.	11 **OFFICE CLOSES AT 2:30PM** **BUILDING CLOSES AT 3:00PM**	12 **5:30 Spoken Communion** 6:30-7:30 Christmas Caroling **Council Installation**
13 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Choir Chimes 12:15 Drive-Thru Communion 4:00 Calvary Methodist – Messiah Concert **Council Installation**	14 10:00 Social Chit Chat 12:00 Zoom Bible Study 12:00 Grief and the Holidays Support Group 2:00 Loyalhanna Communion 2:00 Grief Group **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	15 8:00 Advent Communion 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group 6:30 Council	16 8:00 Advent Communion 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir	17 8:00 Assemble Christmas Boxes 8:00 Advent Communion 11:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA Mtg	18 8:00 Pack Christmas Boxes **OFFICE CLOSES AT 2:30PM** **BUILDING CLOSES AT 3:00PM**	19 8:30-11:30 Christmas Box Distribution **5:30 Spoken Communion**
20 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Christmas Pageant & Breakfast 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Men's Choir 12:00 Decorate for Christmas	21 12:00 Zoom Bible Study 12:00 Grief and the Holidays Support Group 2:00 Grief Group **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	22 8:00 Advent Communion No Bible Basics No Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group No Handbells	23 No WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. No Choir	24 **CHRISTMAS EVE** **OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON** **4:00 Children's Service** **6:00 Holy Communion** **8:00 Holy Communion**	25 **10:00 Holy Communion**  **OFFICE CLOSED**	26 2:00 GLMA Christmas Dinner at Latrobe Presbyterian Church **5:30 Spoken Communion**
27 8:15 Holy Communion No Sunday School 10:45 Holy Communion	28 12:00 Grief & the Holidays Support Group 2:00 Grief Group **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	29 No Bible Basics No Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group No Handbells	30 No WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. No Choir	31 **OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON** No Club FRED		



January



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
3 8:15 Holy Communion No Sunday School 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Men's Choir 12:00 Undecorate Church	4 12:00 Zoom Bible Study 2:00 Grief Group **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	5 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group	6 **Epiphany** 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir	7 11:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA Mtg.	1 **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSED**	2 **5:30 Spoken Communion**
10 **Bishop Stoller visiting** 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Choir Chimes 12:15 Drive-Thru Communion 6:00 First Sunday Youth – Family Feud	11 12:00 Zoom Bible Study 2:00 Grief Group 6:00 Theo Study **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	12 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group 6:00 Finance	13 **Council / Triangle Deadline** 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir	14 11:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA Mtg.	15 **OFFICE CLOSES AT 2:30PM** **BUILDING CLOSES AT 3:00PM**	16 **CWS Blanket Sunday** **5:30 Spoken Communion** **Installation of Worship Assistants**
17 **CWS Blanket Sunday** 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Men's Choir **Installation of Worship Assistants**	18 10:30 Barnes Place Communion 12:00 Zoom Bible Study 2:00 Loyalhanna Communion 2:00 Grief Group 6:00 Theo Study **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	19 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group 6:00 Council orientation	20 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. Meeting 7:00 Choir	21 11:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA Mtg.	22 **Mail Triangle** **OFFICE CLOSES AT 2:30PM** **BUILDING CLOSES AT 3:00PM**	23 **5:30 Spoken Communion**
24 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Choir Chimes 12:00 Boundaries Training	25 12:00 Zoom Bible Study 2:00 Grief Group 6:00 Theo Study **OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSE at 4:30pm**	26 9:30 Prayer Group 10:00 Bible Basics 10:00 Shepherd Shop 6:00 Grief Group	27 9:00 WELCA Quilters 12:00 AA Mtg. 7:00 Choir	28 11:00 Purls of Prayer 3:50 Club FRED 7:30 AA Mtg.	29 **OFFICE CLOSES AT 2:30PM** **BUILDING CLOSES AT 3:00PM**	30 5:00 Healing Service **5:30 Spoken Communion** Youth at Quake
31 8:15 Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Youth Choir 10:45 Holy Communion 12:00 Healing Service						