



Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane  
 State College, PA 16803  
 814-238-2024 TrinityStateCollege.org



December 28

The flowers are presented by Brian Woodland for all the people that donate their time and talent to God's ministries.

January 4

"God bless Stuart, our son, for the Year of 2015!" given by K.C. and Young Hee Kim.

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Kristofor Glad (military service), Ray Petersen (military service), Tom Huntley, Carolyn Kresen

TLC FRIENDS

Jake Petersen (military service), Jim Rhodes (back surgery), Jim Rodland, Dave Nelson (recovering from heart surgery), Lynea Morgan, Jim Elliott (missionary with Dengue Fever), Jseoung Lee (missionary with Dengue Fever), Kurt Huntley and family, Michael Hamilton and family, Family of Pamela Horner

TRINITY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm Family Worship  
 7:30 pm Pre-Service Music  
 8:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Communion

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 am Christmas Worship

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

5:00 pm Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:15 am Worship with Communion  
 10:45 am Worship with Communion

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

5:00 pm Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

8:15 am Worship with Communion  
 10:45 am Worship with Communion  
 11:45 am Coffee Hour

PRACTICE DISCIPLESHIP INITIATIVE

On Saturday, January 17, the Practice Discipleship Initiative invites all pastors, council members, Sunday school teachers, Christian Ed enthusiasts, and youth leaders of the Nittany Conference to participate in a FREE workshop at Trinity Lutheran Church in State College from 11:00-2:00. The workshop will include two sessions led by Pastor David Bowman, the Allegheny Synod's Practice Discipleship Coach, and a FREE lunch. If you intend to participate or have questions please contact David Bowman by phone (814) 330-8025 or email (JourneyInFaithLM@gmail.com).

Practice Discipleship began as an initiative through the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering to help young people articulate their faith. Research has shown that young people learn to speak faith from adults who speak faith, yet the majority of adults are no more religiously articulate than their youth. The Practice Discipleship Initiative fosters faithful, thoughtful, and intentional leaders in congregations through education, networking, and renewal. Come and join the conversation!

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Sunday, December 21, 2014, Jim Rearick and Brian Woodland were united in marriage. The ceremony was held at the home of Bill Schorder and Elias Martinez; Helen Manful served as the wedding officiant. Congratulations to them both!

TLC FINANCIAL INFORMATION

July 1, 2014 - November 30, 2014

Income \$113,975.76  
 Expenses \$134,602.43  
 Difference \$ -20,626.67

(The expenses include payment of \$26,778.00 for roof repair and new shingles. This was withdrawn from the Building Fund.)

These amounts represent operating income and expenses and do not include any interest, dividends or investment value changes.



## NEW POLICY APPROVED

Among the many contentious changes in our culture today is that of same sex relationships and marriage. The institution of marriage is overseen by the state and is one area where the state permits clergy and others to perform marriages, in a sense on behalf of the state. Thus couples must secure a marriage license and the person performing the marriage must return the proper forms for the marriage to be recognized by the state.

As you may know, recently Pennsylvania joined those states that have made same-sex marriage legal with all the same requirements and opportunities afforded male-female marriage. Here at Trinity the council has supported the pastor in performing marriages for couples based on his discretion without additional oversight from the council. Now that same-sex marriages are permitted the council seeks to be consistent in supporting the pastor in deciding whether or not to perform such marriages based on his discretion.

To that end, the Council unanimously approved the following policy at the November Council meeting:

As a congregation striving to be one with Christ and reconciled with God, the Council of Trinity Lutheran Church authorizes our Pastor(s) to offer premarital counseling and the rite of marriage to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, educational background, or economic condition.

If you have any questions or comments about this policy please feel free to speak with a member of council or Pastor Ron.

## A Christmas Greeting from Bishop Michael Rhyne

Merry Christmas (or Christmas Eve) to all of you in the name of God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that as you celebrate this Christmas season, you are surrounded by the peace of Christ and know his presence in your lives.

Christmas is a season of hope. We have hope because Christ has come, and because our Lord Jesus is with us now and always. That is what makes all the difference.

Why? Because it makes a difference that the one who is God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, has come into this world, claimed you in the waters of baptism, and promises to never let you go. Evil, and sin, and death will not overcome you, because you belong to Jesus and he stands with you now and always. Yes we all will die, but we know that Jesus has the ultimate victory over sin, death and the devil. In short sisters and brother, be not afraid because Christ Jesus has come.

Consider this as well. Heaven and eternal blessedness is much more comfortable than this world we live in. Yet Jesus Christ came here among us. He lowered himself, taking on a human body, and he allowed himself to be subject to and experience all those things that we have to deal with in this life. He was born into poverty, he knew rejection, he knew loneliness, he experienced betrayal at the hands of his friends, and he even knew death – a horrible death upon a cross.

When we consider all that Christ did here it shows us something. We cannot think that Jesus doesn't understand what we go through. No matter how bad it gets, I can't think that Jesus doesn't understand how hard this life can be. Because he has been through all the nastiness that life could throw at him. Jesus is God, yet he came and went through all those things that we have to face, and when we look to that cross, we should understand that he went through some things much worse than we will ever experience.

He did that because he loves us. He did that because God loves you and cherishes you so much, that he would not abandon you to the evils of this world. But he stands with us and holds us in the midst of our struggles. Our Lord is the one who reassures us that whatever may come "This too shall pass," and no matter what, we have the certainty of his presence and the promise of eternal life with him.

That is why we have Hope. Because when we look to that little baby lying in the manger, we see the promise of God that he is always with us and will never let us go. We see the Lord of Heaven and Earth who loved you and me so much that he came here to save us.

The Hope for us is that no matter what evils this world throws at us we know that Jesus is with us. We know that Jesus never abandons us. If he was going to abandon us, he could have avoided the cross, or gotten off and saved himself the trouble. But no matter what pain, what suffering, what evils were thrown at him – Jesus went to all lengths and held back nothing to save us.

That is the one who has come, that is the one who we celebrate in this season. God has done this amazing thing. He loved you and me so much that he held back nothing of himself to make sure we could be with him forever. In the season of Christmas, we therefore celebrate the hope we have because Christ has come, and Christ is here, and that makes all the difference.

May God bless and keep you now and always.

In Christ,

+Bishop Michael Rhyne

