



Trinity Lutheran Church

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



ALTAR FLOWERS

December 24

The flowers are given by Keith and Diane Smith  
 in honor of Jesus' birthday.

December 31

The flowers are given by Linda Leslie  
 in memory of Don Leslie and to the Glory of God.

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Linda Leslie, Bonnie Knapp, Jerry Wion, Jim Reynolds, Kris Glad (military)

TLC FRIENDS

Robert White (cancer), Maise Trostle, Mary Trostle, Jenny Dye, Elton Richards (cancer), Stan Lembeck, Edward Petersen (back surgery), Jan Dykhuis (cancer), Delores and Richard Broking, the McJanssen family, Amanda Sigman and family (cancer), Bill Sherman and family (cancer)



Congratulations to John and Kristin Terrill on the birth of their daughter, Blair Gene, on November 4.

JANUARY BLANKET DRIVE TO SUPPORT  
 CLIENTS OF INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES



As has been tradition for the last several years, Trinity has been donating gently used or new blankets to Interfaith Human Services. These blankets are then made available to clients when they come in for their free furniture. Clients include women from the Women's Resource Center who are literally starting from scratch or clients who have just a mattress and box springs. All clients must meet the appropriate low income level to qualify for the program. This year the drive will be held in January. Therefore, if you are planning to replace your blanket or want an excuse to buy a new one during the sales, please remember those who are less fortunate and would really appreciate a warm blanket during these cold winter days. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex in early January. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me either via email ([ees1@psu.edu](mailto:ees1@psu.edu)) or via my cell (814-404-3867). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Esther E. Lauchle  
 TLC representative to Interfaith Human Services (IHS)

TRINITY EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

5:00 pm Worship with  
 Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:15 am Worship with Communion  
 9:15 am Social Time  
 10:45 am Worship with  
 Communion  
 11:45 am Social Time

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm Family Worship  
 7:30 pm Musical Prelude  
 8:00 pm Candlelight Worship with  
 Communion

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am Celebration of the  
 Nativity with Holy Communion

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

5:00 pm Worship with  
 Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:15 am Worship with Communion  
 9:15 am Social Time  
 10:45 am Worship with  
 Communion  
 11:45 am Social Time

FOOD DRIVE COUNT



As of December 17  
 718 food items and a  
 \$100 Gift Card have  
 been donated to the  
 Holiday Food Drive.

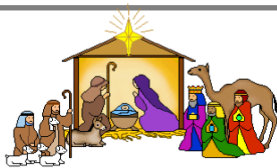
READINGS

DECEMBER 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
 Romans 16:25-27  
 Luke 1:26-38

DECEMBER 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
 Galatians 4:4-7  
 Luke 2:22-40



*Merry Christmas!*



## FROM PASTOR RON...

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Surely it was not easy for Mary or Joseph to undertake what God had asked of them. Mary to give birth to a Child—and not just any child, but the Son of God—while Joseph was asked to care for both Mary and her Baby. What would people say? Who would support them? How would they make it? It would be hard, but God promised assurance to them both!

In Matthew, we read:

But after he had considered this, [quietly divorcing Mary!] an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” (2:20-21).

Joseph has a special relationship with Jesus, as he gets to give Mary’s Child His name, Jesus, “the One who saves.”

Like Joseph and Mary, we too, have a special relationship with this Child. We are invited to participate in the unfolding drama that is the story of God’s love for all people. He promises assurance to us as well. Thus, we can take risks for the sake of this Child, as this light Christmas story suggests:

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the Nativity scene when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures.

Immediately he turned, went outside, and saw a little boy with a red wagon. In the wagon was the figure of the infant Jesus. So, he walked up to the boy and said, “Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?”

The little boy replied, “I got Him from the church.”

“And why did you take Him?”

The boy said, “Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the Lord Jesus and I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give Him a ride around the block in it.”

~Anonymous

It’s not always easy being a servant of the Most High God, but it is a marvelous adventure! As we, once more, celebrate the birth of Jesus, may His promises continue to assure us that we are not alone, that God is with us still, and that the story of God will lead us all to the most amazing of endings!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and all your loved ones! “God bless us, everyone!”

Love,

*Pastor Ron*

Pastor Ron

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## JUST THIS. JUST NOW.

I was driving to work one day thinking about my schedule – the meetings I needed to attend, reports I needed to finish, preparations for upcoming travel, email, phone calls, and making a grocery list in my head so that I could pick up what I needed for supper on the way home from work. All of a sudden, I found myself pulling into the parking garage at the Lutheran Center. I had driven the 9 miles to work and had no idea how I got there. I didn't remember the traffic lights, the turns, the scenery – nothing. I had been so absorbed in what was coming up that I was completely oblivious to the present.

I think this experience is not unique to me. We set part of our lives on autopilot and set the planning, list-making, what if scheduling part on overdrive. Now, planning is a good and necessary thing. One ought to be aware of what is coming up and what needs to be done, but I found that I was so driven by the contingencies and possibilities that I was everywhere all of the time, and, therefore, not anywhere at all.

I asked my spiritual director about this, and she recommended that I meditate on these four words: "Just this. Just now." It's a simple discipline but not an easy one. It can alleviate all that anticipatory stress but only if we are willing to be still.

Here we are in Advent. This season doesn't exist in secular culture where everything is barreling toward Christmas. No time to wait, no time to notice, no time to be present. Not this. Not now. All of a sudden, we will find ourselves on the day after Christmas not knowing how we got there.

Advent is a holy season, a season that bids us to be present, to be still. So much is evoked in this season – hope, longing, and the bittersweet awareness that the world is beautiful and broken. Consider all of these things. Sit with them. Pray with them. Be aware of this time of great promise that comes, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, when night is longest. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wait for the Lord. Disengage the autopilot. Notice. Just this. Just now.

Blessed Advent and merry Christmas, dear church!



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Dear Friends,

May God be with you as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I hope you are blessed to be with family and friends. I pray that you know the great love of our Lord and Savior Jesus. You matter to God. You are loved by Jesus more than you can ever know. As we gather, we celebrate this great love of God that has come to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It amazes me that with his birth, Jesus came to a place the world would never expect. Holy Scripture said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. But what was Bethlehem? It was a tiny village in the literal backwater of the great Roman Empire—the last place anyone would think to look for the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Kings are usually born in palaces, not in a cattle shed in a town the rest of the world didn't know.

Jesus comes to us exactly where the world wouldn't expect him to show us that God works in ways beyond our expectation. God is in the business of surpassing our expectation and what we think is possible.

That same God in Jesus Christ is with us in the Allegheny Synod. That same Jesus is with us as we go forth in our lives. God has done the unexpected and amazing thing of not just coming into this world but claiming ordinary people like you and me and calling us to be a part of the eternal life of God. This amazing and unexpected God is calling you and me to be instruments of his grace, love, and mercy.

God is working in and through you and me. I see over and over the ways that the power of the Holy Spirit is at work through you. God is using you to care for the hungry, clothe the needy, send warmth and comfort to the hurting, and reach out to care for those stricken by natural disaster. Jesus is here in the Allegheny Synod.

As we move through this Christmas season, I invite you to take stock of this year and see how God has blessed you to be a blessing for others.

As we look to 2018, I invite you to join me in listening for where the Holy Spirit might be urging us to move forward in love and service. Jesus is alive and at work here in the heart of central Pennsylvania. He will amaze us with what he can and will do with us.

Merry Christmas  
+Bishop Michael Rhyne

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