



Trinity Lutheran Church

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



The altar flowers are presented by Keith and Diane Smith in memory of their parents John and Dorothy Criswell and Jack and Sally Smith.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

10:00 am Zumba
 5:00 pm Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:15 am Worship with Communion
 9:30 am Sunday School
 9:30 am Joyful Voices
 10:45 am Worship with Communion
 11:45 am Coffee Hour

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

6:00 pm Zumba

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00 pm Family Worship
 7:30 pm Musical Prelude
 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

HOLIDAY CHANGES

Next week's newsletter will be a combined newsletter for December 28 and January 4. If you have any items you would like included in this edition, please email them to me by noon Monday, December 22.

~Marla

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

A January workday is being planned for painting the interior of the church. Stayed tuned for more information.

PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Kristofor Glad (military service), Ray Petersen (military service), Peter Weyandt, 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

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Worship

7:30 pm Musical Prelude

8:00 pm Candlelight Worship with Communion

Christmas Day

10:00 am Celebration of the Nativity with Holy Communion

Happy Birthday to all who celebrate their special day in January.



Angela Garritano	1	Barb Roberts	16
Johnna McCabe	2	Dennis Lorah	17
Heather Weyandt	4	Bette Larson	18
Eric Fedorko	5	Kevin Trostle	19
Laurie Smith	5	Andrew Rodabaugh	20
Rick Whitmer	9	Dennis Weidel	23
Alexa Oselinsky	11	Jane Weller	24
David Oselinsky	12	Gina Motter	25
Dee Frisque	13	Bill Hessert	26
Jonathan Musheno	15	Marc Frey	28
Rhonda Walker Hall	15	Liam Merritt	29
Bill Adams	16	Scott Crain	30

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.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How would you complete this sentence? "Christmas is _____." No doubt we would have a wide variety of responses: family and friends, presents and giving, lights and decorations, trees and garland, special worship with music and candle-lighting, or, lots of special food and drink!

This time of year is obviously a busy one for most of us given our expectations and the desire to make "This Christmas" special for loved ones. We all do lots of special things this time of the year. Most of us, no doubt, need to be reminded of the Psalmist's advice, "be still and know that I am God!" To that end I offer one of my favorite poems by one of my favorite poets:

Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

New Hampshire, 1923

At the same time, Christmas can be a challenging time especially for those for whom life has not been so pleasant. Such people might complete the sentence above quite differently: Christmas is lonely and sad, frustrating and overwhelming, filled with guilt and shame, emptiness and grief. Such feelings are only compounded by the communal expectation that Christmas is to be a joyous, happy time. We may want to be aware of those for whom Christmas is a difficult time and trust God to guide us in supporting them.

One family who lost a loved one this year is that of Sheila Merrill, an absence that is keenly felt. You may not know that the family donated the Christmas Tree Sheila had for her last Christmas. It was planted near Atherton Street with some other former trees used here for Christmas. If you look for it at night you will find that the family has decorated it in Sheila's memory! I deeply appreciate their special gift! What a delightful and meaningful way to remind us that whatever we hold Christmas to be, it is nothing less than the love that comes to us in quiet simple ways through the One whose birth we celebrate at Christmas!

Love comes down at Christmas, and so, whether this is a joyous or difficult time for us, in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, everyone!"

Love, joy and peace to you and yours!

Pastor Ron

Pastor Ron



FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. (Matthew 25:35)

Last week the members of Deeper Waters packed up 430 items for the Toys for Tot food drive. Another 61 items have been added this week. The grand total to date is 666 items. The food drive will continue through Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, 2015, since Trinity is participating in the Allegheny Synod 25,000 Can Challenge. Thank you for your continued support of the food drive.

A shout out to the Deeper Waters Crew for their help with the food drive.

SYNOD 25,000 CAN CHALLENGE UPDATE

As of December 14, we have received a count of **8,889** for the 25,000 Can Challenge!

THANK YOU!!!

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!

TRINITY COUNCIL - JULY 2013—JUNE 2016

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