

TLC News



Sunday School 9:00 a.m. *Dec. 2026-Jan. 2027* *Worship 10:30 a.m.*

Our Mission: To become more like Jesus, reaching out to our community with God's love."

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



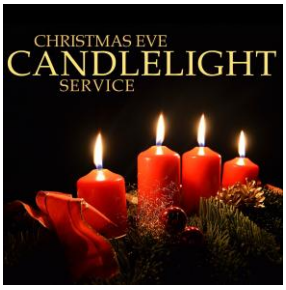
Trinity's Congregational meeting for this year will be held on Sunday, December 6th at 10:30 a.m. before the start of worship. The agenda will include: the proposed 2027 spending plan for approval, the election of Council members and a representative to the TLC Ministry Fund committee, the annual TLC Fund disbursement for approval, and any other necessary business. Your attendance is kindly requested.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Included in this newsletter is an order form for Christmas poinsettias. For $5.00 you can purchase a "forever" poinsettia in honor or in memory of your loved one. The money collected will be donated to a local charity. Please return order forms to Cindy Graybill by **Sunday, December 13th.**





CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP at 10:45 P.M.

O' come, let us adore Him! Our Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service on Thursday, December 24th starts at 10:45 p.m. and is preceded by an organ prelude beginning **at 10:30 p.m.** Bring your family and friends and join us to worship the coming of Christ on Christmas Eve!

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas program is in the planning stages.

CARD SHOWER FOR TRINITY MEMBER



Betty Rager will celebrate her 95th birthday on December 16th. Please send your birthday wishes to the address listed below:

Betty Rager
Magnolia Assisted Living
68 Lexi Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

PASTOR BILL'S MUSINGS

More than Just a King, Even More than God Alone, God with Us

Lord of heaven and earth, you are God revealed in flesh with all of the blessings and struggles that our human lives include. The powers of this world rage around us but you are the power of creation, and every power submits to you, even the power of death. Keep us steadfast in your Word and love. Amen.

In the first week of January, we are still in the midst of the 12 days of Christmas. The season of Christmas does not officially end until Epiphany on January 6th. That is when we celebrate and remember the Magi bringing their gifts to the Christ child.

What is interesting about the Magi is that no names are given for them in the Bible although Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar have become the traditional names. In fact, the Bible does not even say how many Magi there were. It simply states that there were three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. That story is another one of those challenges to hear the actual Biblical story beyond what we think we "remember."

It seems to me that the writing of the story in Matthew's Gospel is meant to point us towards very particular insights through its choices. These points include that God prepares for us a witness to his work in the Magi. The Magi recognize that a new and special king has been born to the people of Israel and this newborn king will be worshipped by both Jew and Gentiles (remember, the Magi are Gentiles).

However, those in power in the world are threatened by the in-breaking of the kingdom of God and openly act to oppose it. The kingship of the Christ child is seen in the gifts of power as revealed in the gold, the frankincense as a symbol of both healing and deity, and the myrrh, an incense used at death for anointing.

It is important for us to slow down in our reading of scripture and to see and reflect on these elements of this oft told story so that we do not miss what it confessed about Jesus and his life from the very beginning of his story. Jesus and his ministry were perceived by the powers of his world, both the powers of the Romans and the powers of the Temple, as a threat to their power and control. He is truly God among us bringing riches and healing to bear on our lives as both Jews and Gentiles, and the manner by which this occurs will include his death. All this is captured in the story of the Magi and the revelation of Epiphany.

Wow, so much is hidden there in this opening story of the birth of Jesus. This is confessional language teaching us about what Matthew and we believe and bear witness to in the person of Jesus and everything to follow in his story.

As another Christmas Day fades away into the past, remember that we are still moving forward in the story of Christmas. It is a story that continues, not just to the twelfth day and the story of the Magi but still continues in us. We share the story in our homes, in our church, and in our lives as we live in the midst of community sharing the continuing Good News of the King who died so that we and all the world might be healed.

Go into the world following the light of Christ that many may come to believe.

Be Christ!

Pastor Bill



TRINITY'S COOKIE WALK



Trinity will be hosting our annual Community Old Fashion Christmas on **Sat, December 5th from 5 to 7 pm**. We will have a soup and sandwich meal, cookie sales, tree decorating, children's crafts and caroling. All proceeds from the goodwill offerings and the cookie walk this year will benefit the McClure EMT's.

NOTICE TO ALL COMMITTEES AND GROUPS



As the year draws to a close, please remember that your committee or group's Annual Report is due on **January 10th** for inclusion in Trinity's Annual Report. Reports may be emailed to the church office at tlcmcclure@gmail.com. Handwritten copies will also be accepted, of course! Just place them in the church office.



2026 OFFERINGS DUE by DECEMBER 31st

For your offering contribution to be accounted to the 2026 tax year it must be received at the church no later than December 31st. Contributions received after Dec. 31st - including any that have a Dec. 31st postmark - are accounted to 2027 records for tax purposes. We thank everyone who has made monetary contributions to Trinity Lutheran Church this past year!

OUR ATTENDANCE

October 4: 19	October 11: 23
October 18: 26	October 25: 28
November 1: 33	November 8: 27

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Please remember these people in your prayers…



Jane Freed, Baby Eden Brown, JoAnne Hall, Tom Nally, Darwin Guyer, Teresa Knepp, Scott Mattern, Gary, Donnie Gill, The Heimbach children, Doug Knepp, Leann Pheasant, Ange Ulrich, Travis Weader, Edgar Wagner, Jackie Fisher, Joanne Hall, Jeff Goss, Robert Etzler Pat Krouse and the Barb Geedy Family.

Our Military Personnel: Craig Hassinger (USAF), Brooke Seler (USAF), Daniel Hoffman Ferguson (USA), Pierce Heimbach (USMC), Teagan Schreffler (USN);

College Students: Matthew Brytczuk, Collin Mayer, Lorna Oldt, Ava Stoner.

OUR SHARED MINISTRY --BY THE NUMBERS—

2026 INCOME THRU NOVEMBER 8th

Our Offerings

Envelopes: $66,510.90
Loose Plate: $2,181.00
Sunday School: $47.00

Total Income: $69,577.89
Total Expenses: $74,457.84

December Birthdays

Caleb Gilbert	12/2
Teagan Schreffler	12/3
Palmer Gilbert	12/8
Steve Knarr	12/14
Betty Rager	12/16
Tanya Schreffler	12/18
Talitha Dobson	12/23
Joanne Hall	12/23

December Anniversaries

Matthew & Amanda Wright	12/1

December Baptismal Anniversaries

Janelle Whitney	12/1
Rick Reitz	12/1
Andy Snook	12/2
Avianna Woodton	12/2
Jeffrey Bender	12/4
Mariah King	12/5
Loretta Goss	12/5
Stephen Flood	12/5
Dominick Flood	12/5
Nittany Weaver	12/6
Cullen Weaver	12/6
Cindy Graybill	12/20
Shawn Klingler	12/24
Henry Stimley	12/29

January Birthdays

Tim Moyer	1/2
Bonnie Jones	1/4
Erma Knarr	1/6
Melissa Moyer	1/8
Mary Ann Greager	1/11
Edna Laub	1/16
Jo Henry	1/18
Christy Jones	1/24
Tom Pheasant	1/24
Jan Gilbert	1/25
Clay Mattern	1/30

January Anniversaries

Sharon & Darv Ort	1/27

January Baptismal Anniversaries

Nancy Duff	1/6
Zachary Brittain	1/9
Sharon Ort	1/15
Alivia Fike	1/17
Brandon Dobson	1/20
Gladys Hassinger	1/24
Kelsie Dobson	1/28

Please let the church office know if we missed your special day!

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The firm deadline for the February/March newsletter will be **January 20th.** If you have any information to contribute, please see that it gets to the church office or email it to tlcmcclure@gmail.com. Thanks!

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

December 6

Assisting Minister:	Robert Etzler
Ushers:	Karen Segall
	Matt Wright
Lector:	Robert Etzler
Treasury Asst:	Pam & Bill Weaver

December 13

Assisting Minister:	Robert Etzler
Ushers:	Denise Fike
	Jan Gilbert
Lector:	Talitha Dobson
Treasury Asst:	Pam & Bill Weaver

December 20

Assisting Minister:	Robert Etzler
Ushers:	Matt Wright
	Ange Ulrich
Lector:	Bonnie Seler
Treasury Asst:	Pam & Bill Weaver

December 27

Assisting Minister:	Robert Etzler
Ushers:	Denise Fike
	Jan Gilbert
Lectors:	Erma Knarr
Treasury Asst:	Pam & Bill Weaver

DECEMBER WORSHIP SUPPORT CHAIRPERSONS

Lectors:	Cindy Graybill
Altar Guild:	
Bread:	Harold Flood
Set-up:	Donna Weader
Take-Down:	Matt & Amanda Wright



PRAYER LIST UPDATE

In January as the new year begins, we will also be starting a new Prayer list. If someone from the previous list is still in need of prayer, please rewrite his or her name on the new list. You may also call the church office to have a name added.



MCCLURE COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING

The McClure Community tree lighting will take place on Sunday, November 29th at 6:00 p.m. in McClure Station Park. Come out & enjoy the lights of the Christmas season.



JANUARY WORSHIP SUPPORT CHAIRPERSONS

Lectors:	Jessica Pheasant
Altar Guild:	
Bread:	Cindy Graybill
Set-up:	Bonnie & Cindy
Take-Down:	Pam & Bill Weaver



JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

January 3

Assisting Minister:	Karen Segall
Ushers:	Robert Etzler
	Ange Ulrich
Lector:	Ange Ulrich
Treasury Asst:	John & Denise Fike

January 10

Assisting Minister:	Karen Segall
Ushers:	Talitha Dobson
	Denise Fike
Lector:	Karen Segall
Treasury Asst:	John & Denise Fike

January 17

Assisting Minister:	Karen Segall
Ushers:	Jan Gilbert
	Ange Ulrich
Lector:	Denise Fike
Treasury Asst:	John & Denise Fike

January 24

Assisting Minister:	Karen Segall
Ushers:	Matt Wright
	Robert Etzler
Lector:	Karen Segall
Treasury Asst:	John & Denise Fike

January 31

Assisting Minister:	Karen Segall
Ushers:	Denise Fike
	Talitha Dobson
Lector:	Karen Segall
Treasury Asst:	John & Denise Fike

SPONSORING ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETINS IN 2027

If you or your family would like to sponsor altar flowers or bulletins for any Sunday worship service during 2027, please add your name and dedication to the list on the bulletin board inside the front door. As in previous years, you will need to contact a florist to order altar flower arrangements. When sponsoring flowers or bulletins, please make sure to print your dedication legibly.



OCTOBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Trinity's Council meeting for November was held on Monday, October 12th at 6:30 PM in the Luther Room. The following are highlights of the meeting
-Piano Moving Fund: Donations thus far total - 588.00
-Old Fashioned Christmas: To be held December 5th at 5PM, using the same format as last year.
-Call Committee: A few people are needed to get the process started.
-Sign Lights: The new lights have power. Al Moody is looking into photocell and completion of the project.
-Council Nominees: We are looking for congregants interested in being nominated for church council. We need a minimum of two new members to replace outgoing members but may have up to six new members for a full council.
-Parish Hall Railing: There has been no news on the railing for the porch on parish hall.
-Handicap Signage: Pastor Esborn requested that the handicap sign behind the church be replaced. It is being investigated.
-Fundraising Committee: $140 was raised at the Heritage Foundation Event. The fundraising committee covered the cost of moving the piano and will be reimbursed once all donations are collected. There will be no Election Day Stand for the Midterms. Egg making will begin January 18, 2027.
-Stewardship: A spending plan meeting will be held October 20th.
-TLC: A meeting will be held in early November.
-Boy Scouts: Denise Fike will be attending the Boy Scout meeting on October 19th.
A hard copy of the minutes is available in the Council notebook on the Information Table. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Trinity's Council meeting for November was held on Monday, November 9th at 6:30 PM in the Luther Room. The following are highlights of the meeting:
-Piano Moving Fund: Enough donations were collected to cover the moving expenses and the Fundraising Committee was reimbursed.
-Piano Tuning: Approved a motion for Heidy to oversee necessary piano tuning (moved by Pastor Esborn, seconded by Talitha Dobson). Nipple's Piano Tuning is scheduled for November 30.
-Proposed Spending Plan: Approved adding a new savings line item to the proposed spending plan, set aside for eventually calling a pastor.
-Boy Scouts' Facilities Use: Approved continuing to allow the Boy Scouts to use church facilities for their charter.
-Christmas Eve Service: Worship will begin at 10:45 PM, preceded by a 10:30 PM organ prelude. Sanctuary decorating will be scheduled after worship in the coming weeks.
-Trinity's Old Fashion Christmas: Flyers and directory update requests have been mailed. Heidy will provide music if the traditional dulcimer group is unavailable, and all event proceeds will benefit the McClure EMTs.
-Trinity's 150th Anniversary (June 6, 2027): Committee chairs will be Lee Knepp, and Janet Walter.
-Annual Congregational Meeting (December 6): Will take place before worship, with leftover cookies served afterward.
-November 5th Sunday Offering: Proceeds will rebuild the Congregational Aid Fund for recipients in need, which will be explained to the congregation before collection.
-Harmony in the Community Initiative: Saturday lessons are scheduled to begin soon.
A hard copy of the minutes is available in the Council notebook on the Information Table. The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Dear Member of Trinity Lutheran Church!

This has been a year of many changes in our Church. With so many changes there can be confusion and misinformation. While we have our newsletters and weekly bulletins, there is often the need to communicate needed information to our members in a quicker fashion.

It has been a while since we updated our Church's directory. I see a lot of landline phone numbers that are probably not even valid. Please take a moment and fill out the bottom of this letter. We want you to be informed of events and changes in a timely manner.

The quickest and easiest way to get out info would be via a text message. I know many of us have spam blockers. Be assured that your number is safe with us and we will test for response to be sure you will receive our messages. The next layer would be email and then via post. If for some reason you are not interested in receiving any communication from the Church, please note that.

Your Name:

Your mailing address:

Your preferred method of communication:

Any additional communication format (i.e. Email, phone #'s not listed above):

Would you like to be on the prayer chain:

Phone or email:

Comments:

Please, **by December 1**st, drop off at the Church's information table or email to **tlcmcclure@gmail.com**
or send in the mail to:

Trinity Lutheran Church
P O Box 168
McClure, PA 17841

Yours in Christ,
Denise Fike
Council Vice President and Head of In-Reach/Out-Reach