

Trinity Lutheran Church

Monroeville, Ohio

"May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfil all your plans." Psalm 20:4

Important Reminders!

Red Cross Blood drive at TLC, is Jan 3rd. Please log onto www.redcrossblood.org, to schedule your appointment to give blood.

Sewing Group - Wednesday
January 15th

Christian Ed Mtg - TBD

Council Meeting - Wednesday
January 8th @ 5:30pm

Congregational Meeting & Potluck
Sunday, January 26th

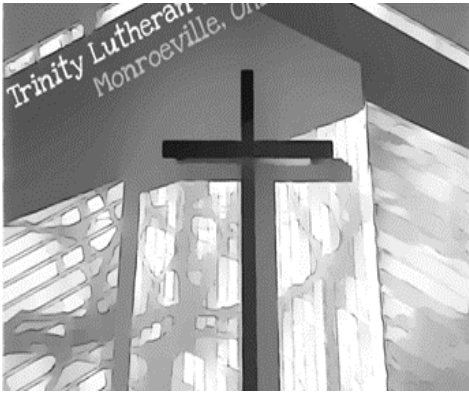
Council Updates.....	3
NALC/Midwestern Region.....	6
N. Central OH Mission	7
Youth/TLC Happenings.....	8
Worship Assistants	10
Offering.....	10
Coffee Hosts	10
Calendar.....	11

Pastor's Letter

Here I Go Again, Not on My Own

As I enjoy the peace of Christmas in the context of the originating homesteads of both Kathy and me (which by the grace of God are within 10-12 miles of each other), I find the sense that everything is happening according to God's plan for us even within the differences of opinion and tradition between families and family members. I find that same sense as Kathy's wrist and elbow heal from fractures. I find it when I recall how more than a few members of our congregation and Kathy's congregation are healing from cancer or just dealing with it. I find it even amid the all-too-familiar political strivings within our nation and across the globe. After all, Jesus, God's only Son, understood peace even while those in power expressed offense at his teachings, even his very identity. Of course, the powerful tend to want to imagine they are God in their own right, so...

When I want what God does not want for me, even when I attempt to reject his will for me, I really don't envy his position or his authority. How many of God's children, all for whom he has expressed a desire for continued relationship, are either railing at him right now over the "unfairness" of their having lost loved ones, their failing health, or their diminishing wealth and status? How many more of them have decided that, since life seems unfair to them for whatever reason, they will just ignore him and act like he does not really exist? *IF* I were God, the one who loves us enough to learn of our shortcomings firsthand and sacrifice his [Son's] mortal existence to free us from our self-induced slavery to sin, I think I would prefer the railing. Those who rail at me can at least have a sense that something is happening even if they don't agree with it at the moment. Those who ignore their Creator live with a sense of denial about all existence which ends in self-destruction, either in this life, the next life, or both. An absence of genuine relationship is a living hell. I therefore can't imagine loving any of us creatures as much as God does and having to deal with our silent treatment towards him and/or utter denial of him. It must really hurt to see us wander into oblivion.



Council

President: Rob Ludwig
Vice President: Bret Gfell
Treasurer: Sharon Heyman
Secretary: Jennifer Miller
Christian Ed: Missy Kluding
Youth: Jennifer Miller
Parish Life: Cindy Schuller
Worship/GIFTS Team:
 Monica Nuhfer
Mission Team: Lorie Pierce
Property Team: Bret Gfell,
 Dan Smith, Gary Underwood

Staff (volunteer & paid)

**Volunteer Coordinator &
 Office Assistant:** Tonia Smith
MYC Director: Jenn Miller &
 Tonia Smith
Tech Guru: Nate Griffith
Organist: Andrew Morfier
Organist: Julie Roeder
Custodian: Jenn Miller
Pastor: Rev. Dan Pennington
 Phone: 567-333-6451

Email: dan@pastorpennington.org

Trinity Lutheran Church
 121 Broad Street
 PO Box 497
 Monroeville, OH 44847
 419-465-2480

Facebook Page: Trinity Lutheran
 Church, Monroeville, Ohio
 Website: tlcmonroeville.com

I believe real peace comes through genuine relationship no matter how wonderful or tattered it is at the moment. Honest give-and-take over the priorities of our existence and God's plan for us seems to be what establishes that sense of everything happening according to his plan whether or not we love it at the moment.

I find shalom in *God's* hands, not mine. I have lived long enough to realize that when I start making important decisions for myself or for/with those I love, without God's ruling authority involved, I screw it up royally, divine pun intended. Accordingly, at this point my preference is to be a sheep of our Good Shepherd's flock even though I have been called to be *a* shepherd of *a* flock, a very small, yet not insignificant part of his worldwide flock. Therefore, since his guidance is paramount to submitting any of mine, it's back to him I go, back to prayer for those under my charge (cf. ordination liturgy), for friends and for family. It's back I go to his previously written and translated Word so that it might finally "sink in" despite the fact that his divine guidance should not require so much repetition to do so. It's back to submitting my will to his whether I do so with great joy, or trepidation, or even grumbling. And we are far enough into the new church year that I hope the new calendar year finds you needing and wanting to do the same.

Grace and peace, always,
 Rev. Daniel I. Pennington

Pastor Dan

Church Council Updates

Congregational Meeting December 1, 2024

The meeting was opened with prayer and called to order by Rob Ludwig.

The 2025 Budget was passed out to everyone. This budget ends up being a \$47/week increase from last year's budget.

Thank you to Bret Gfell for serving on council, his term is up and to Monica Nuhfer as she will be stepping down. We will be voting on two new council members. Council has nominated Jeff Little, and Ken Underwood, both of whom have accepted the nominations. No other nominations were given.

The Sanctuary renovation was discussed. New paint, new carpet, altar moved out, new cushions, and a cabinet/bulletin board in the entrance to make it look more welcoming when coming in. Asking for \$30,000 plus 10% contingency.

Ballots were passed out for voting on the 2025 budget, new council members, and approval of the request for funds for the church renovation. 56 ballots were received, 56 in favor of the budget and council members, and 54 for the church renovation.

Pastor Dan closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jennifer Miller*, Secretary of Council

Church Council Updates

Church Council Minutes December 11, 2024

Present: Bret Gfell, Jennifer Miller, Gary Underwood, Rob Ludwig, Pastor Dan, Cindy Schuller, Dan Smith

Absent: Monica Nuhfer, Missy Kluding, Lorie Pierce

Devotions & Prayer:

Pastor Dan opened with a devotion from Ecclesiastes.

Treasurer Report & Minutes

The treasurer's report and minutes from November were reviewed.

Bret made a motion to accept treasurer's reports and minutes. The motion was seconded by Rob. Motion carried.

Property and Planning Team: Reporting: Bret

Sanctuary renovation project is moving forward, tentatively looking at painting January 25 and carpet on the 31st.

Mission Team: Reporting: Gary

Gary received an email from Pastor Andy about hosting the Chikoti's in 2025. A schedule was attached. Tentatively looking at them visiting TLC August 1st. More information will be shared as it is received.

Gifts & Worship Team: Reporting: Pastor Dan

Pastor Dan requested that we purchase new candles for the altar that will fit and match the other candles. A motion was made to purchase the candles, seconded and carried.

Christian Education Team: Reporting: Pastor Dan & Jenn

Confirmation class is going well.

The children will be singing on Dec 15th during children's time.

There will be no Sunday School on December 22 or 29th.

Trying to plan something for January for the kids and families, ice skating or game night.

Church Council Updates

Parish Life: Reporting: Cindy

We will be having a potluck on January 26th after the congregational meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Will be out of the office/town from December 25th - January 5th

Old Business:

Pastor Dan shared an update on the progress of the Directory.

Council members were given a copy of the Constitution with suggested changes and revisions from the committee task force. It was requested we review the document and be prepared to discuss it at next meeting.

New Business:

Committee reports will be due to Jennifer by January 5th.

A congregational meeting will be held on January 26th.

Motion to Adjourn made by: Pastor Dan

Seconded by: Dan Smith

We prayed the Lord's Prayer and said, "Good Night."

Respectfully submitted by: Jennifer Miller, Secretary.

TLC Prayer List

Keep the following in your continued prayers

Juanita Wingate, Natalee Newland, Olivia, Leslie Warnke, Travis Seip, David G, Wendy, and Randy Schafer

Military Personal: Anna Little, Owen Roeder, Jeff Schuller, Nick Tommas, Nate Tommas

****We have started a fresh prayer list – if you would like someone added that we have removed, please let Tonia or Jenn know****

NALC / MIDWESTERN AREA NEWS & UPDATES

you can also find this information posted on the bulletin boards outside the offices



NOVEMBER 2024

- NALC Disaster Response to Hurricane Helene
- Mission district deans meet
- Recent ordinations
- NALC devotions for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany
- Youth and Family Ministry update
- All praise and thanks to God Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness – a brief history
- Making ourselves gods
- Discipleship-Evangelism Connection
- Message at dedication of Bonhoeffer House
- Executive Council adopts new criteria for vetting missions
- 2025 March for Life and Y4Life
- NALC clergy retreat to focus on Lutheran Confessions
- NALC Executive Council update



DECEMBER 2024

- Christmas message from Bishop Dan Selbo.
- Support the work of the NALC. NALC staff additions and updates.
- All praise and thanks to God – Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness – Scripture and theology – by the Rev. Dr. Amy Schiffrin.
- Daily prayer resource updated.
- NALC clergy retreat to focus on Lutheran Confessions.
- Youth and family ministry update.

***Full newsletters available on the bulletin board outside the offices**

NORTH CENTRAL OHIO MISSION DISTRICT

NEWS & UPDATES

you can also find this information posted on the bulletin boards outside the offices



**MIDWESTERN AREA
NEWSLETTER**



**The December newsletter was not available at the time of printing.
It will be posted on the bulletin board outside the offices as soon as it becomes available.**

From: Katherine Pennington <penningtonkm@gmail.com>

Date: Dec 13, 2024 11:47 AM

Subject: Southwest Mission District Hosts Councils Retreat

To:

Cc:

Dear People of North Central Ohio Mission District,

Pr. Mark Daniels, Dean of Southwest Mission District, invites us to a Church Councils Retreat on January 11th. He writes:

You can find the flyer with all the pertinent information attached. Our retreat presenter is Wally Martinson. My hope is that every church council and every pastor will be able to participate. With this retreat, you'll be able to kill two birds with one stone:

1. You'll get great inspiration and practical insights for your church councils.
2. You can have your first church council meeting of 2025 while you're all gathered for the retreat.

PLUS: It's always great to get together with leaders from other churches and to enjoy the fantastic lunch you know that the folks at Grace in Springfield always provide. Please urge all your church council members to attend the retreat. They won't want to miss out!

See the attached flyer for more information.

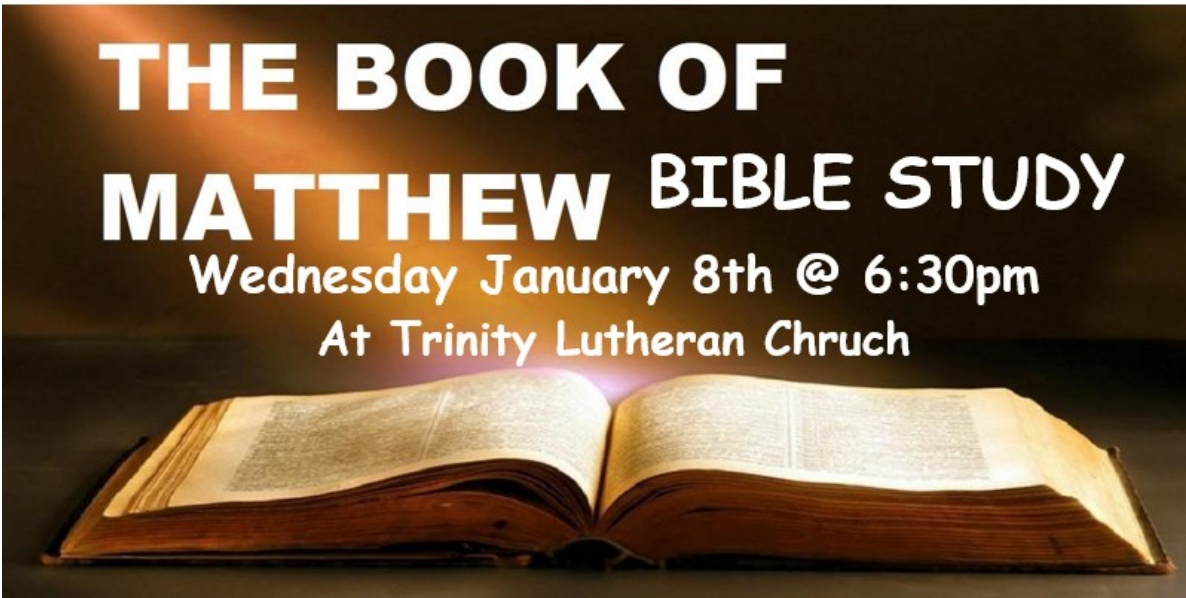
Grace and Peace,
Pastor Kathy Pennington
Dean, North Central Ohio Mission District, NALC
Mobile: 715-554-4658

***More information can be found on the bulletin board outside the offices**

TLC Youth Happenings

The month of December was another busy month - we had another successful year of The Journey, the children sang for us during Children's time for their Christmas Program, and great participating from our youth (and adults) with lighting the Advent Candle.





Scan this QR code to view the information from the Lutheran Congregational Support Network



Thank you to all those who bought gifts or donated money for the family that we adopted this year.



MOCP Fundraiser

\$20/pair of shoes

Place your donation in the offering plate and indicate on envelope: MOCP- Shoes



Shoes that Grow

January Worship Assistants

Date	Lector	Greeter	Acolyte
January 5	Jeff Reineck	Carolyn Adelman	
January 12	Cara Kinn	Ken Underwood	
January 19	Jeff Reineck	Bob & Sue Underwood	
January 26	Carolyn Adelman	Bob & Sue Underwood	

Altar Workers for January: Carolyn Adelman

January Coffee Hosts

January 5	Tom & Darlene White
January 12	Steve & Donna Colvin
January 19	Ken & Deb Underwood
January 26	Kathy Pocock & Braxton

December Offering

December 1	\$3537
December 8	\$2485
December 15	\$3916
December 22	\$4640
December 29	\$1920
December Online Giving	\$0

We need **\$2477** each week to make our budget. Thank you for continuing to faithfully support the Lord's work.

We are **behind \$169.51** for 2024.

Please remember your gifts when you are away.

Our ministry depends on your generosity.

You can give to the Lord's work here at TLC by scanning the QR code or going to:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/tlc-monroeville>



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Congregational Mtg			1	2 Nora Long B-day	3	4
5 Lindsey Gfell B-day	6	7 Anna Little B-day Linda Myers B-day	8 Council Meeting	9 Andrew Gfell B-day	10	11
12 Andrew Gfell B-day Baylee Smith B-day Julia White B-day	13 Alec Schafer Baptismal Anniv.	14 Audrey Gaston B-day Morgan Griffith Baptismal Anniv.	15 Leah Lavalley B-day Sewing Group	16	17 Sharon Gfell B-day	18
19 Randy Anderson B-day	20 Dennis Henkle B-day	21	22 Clyde Anderson B-day Liam Gerber B-day Barron Wilhelm B-day	23	24 Sylvia Schuster B-day	25 Tyler Tonelli B-day
26 Congregational Mtg & Potluck	27	28	29 Bret Gfell Baptismal Anniv.	30 Dan Smith B-day	31 Clyde & Arlene Anderson Wedding Anniversary Mandy Schafer B-day	