

Trinity Lutheran Church

Monroeville, Ohio

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors"
Luke 2:14

Important Reminders!

Red Cross Blood drive at TLC, is January 2nd. Please log onto www.redcrossblood.org, to schedule your appointment to give blood.

Sewing Group - Wednesday December 3rd & 17th

Christian Ed Mtg - December 3rd @ 5:30pm

Congregational Meeting
December 7th - after service

Council Meeting - Wednesday December 10th @ 5:30pm

Advent Services
Wednesdays Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th
Soup @ 6pm - Service @ 7pm

Christmas Eve Services
7pm @ TLC
10pm @ Nuhfer's Barn

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 28th & January 4th

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Pastor's Letter

What Are We Waiting For?

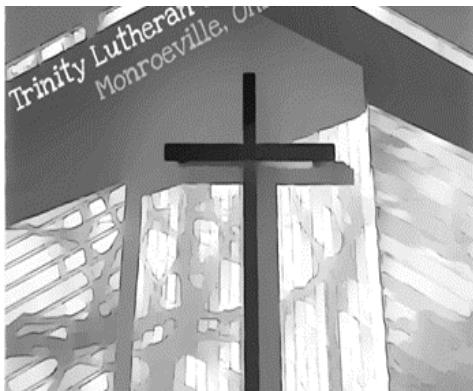
As we once again wait with hopeful anticipation for God to fulfill his promises in "the here and now" and in eternity, we once again consider how it is we are to wait. Jesus often recommended to us that "the master" should find "his servants" doing what he told them to do before he arrived. Since God's chosen people of today know full well what they should be doing, let's share that with others by modeling it for them, revealing the good news to them when they most need to hear it, and by abiding with them as they are drawn closer to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the disciplined servant, the options are plentiful:

Pray for your neighbor, especially with your neighbor present, if possible. Make sure you first ask your neighbor what it is they need in prayer.

Visit those who are ill or shut away from their communities. Your sense of presence with them is by far more important than anything you bring with you. In fact, your time spent with and for them is itself a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Empower your neighbor by giving them a ride. It could be to a medical appointment, the grocery store, worship services, bible study, or even to catch up with an estranged family member.

**Council****President:** Ken Underwood**Vice President:** Rob Ludwig**Treasurer:** Sharon Heyman**Secretary:** Jeff Little**Christian Ed:** Missy Kluding**Youth:** Jennifer Miller**Parish Life:** Cindy Schuller**Worship/GIFTS Team:****Misson Team:** Lorie Pierce**Property Team:** Dan Smith,

Ken Underwood,

Gary Underwood

Staff (volunteer & paid)**Volunteer Coordinator & Office Assistant:** Tonia Smith**MYC Director:** Jenn Miller & Tonia Smith**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*

Host a bible study where and when folks can participate. Having refreshments can't hurt, especially if the sale of refreshments to your group is what gains you the study space to meet.

Assist in worship. No one is too old light the candles who can still walk up two steps and lift their arms for more than 30 seconds. Anyone who can present the readings in worship is welcome, even if we have to bring a microphone and the readings to them. If you can speak and hold a tray, you can help with communion. If you can say, "Hi!" while handing over a bulletin you are qualified to greet. If you like telling people where and when to go, you have the stuff to be an usher.

Provide some holy music for others. We welcome it in our worship services. Those who can no longer get to services like to hear Christmas carols. If you're really good, or at least respectably shameless (?!), other Christian congregations might like to hear you, too.

Make your next trip a mission trip. What you receive will be far beyond what you felt comfortable giving.

For the somewhat less disciplined servant, there are options, too:

Forgive yourself for being less disciplined for Jesus until now.

Pray like crazy—for yourself, for those you love, and those you hardly know. Then, once you understand why you should in any fashion at all, pray for your enemies.

Read your bible. What's the best version? The one you will open and read. How do you honor and care for God's written Word? Read it and make notes in the margins until the pages fall out and you need a new copy.

Find others to read your bible with. Learn to see God through their eyes, too. We learn a lot more that way.

Share miraculous blessings that have occurred in your life and for which there is no good human or scientific explanation. Why be ashamed of God acting in your life on your behalf? Did you think he did this for you so you could keep it quiet?

Worship—wherever you feel comfortable meeting Jesus. He's been knocking at your door for quite a while.

Get married. If you have been committed to living with the other parent of your children and sharing in the upbringing of those children for more than a couple of years already, is this too much of a stretch to be committed in a way that honors your "significant other," God, and the rest of your community and family? These people want to support you whole-heartedly, if you will only let them. It's a great way to witness to the priority of Christ in your life, a witness for which it is never too late. If your last marriage didn't work out, do you really want to honor your "ex" by not honoring your current partner at least as much?

Why wait?

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,



TLC Prayer List

Keep the following in your continued prayers

Natalee Newland*, Olivia*, Leslie Warnke*, Travis Seip*, Amy*, Wesley Newland*, Ila*, Freida*, John Clayton, Pr. Wayne, Lonnie & Alice Laser, Jerry Strong, Dave England, Bobby Martin, Sue Underwood, Sue Hall, Eric, Megan, Amanda Messenburg, Jason Funk, Gary Underwood, Mike Smith, Bobby Jaycox, Joann Pratt, and Doug Anderson.

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

Church Council Updates

Congregational Meeting Minutes November 9, 2025

Present: Quorum of 39 voting members of Trinity Lutheran Church

Pastor Dan opened the meeting with prayer, with President Ken Underwood presiding. Ken reported that one of the furnaces is not working, and the other furnace is on its way out. We have received three quotes to replace both furnaces. One quote for \$12,000; One quote from Hohler for \$10,500; one quote from Hartland for \$8,800. Council recommends that we go with the Hartland quote. A question was asked about what type of furnace, Ken mentioned that they will be twin furnaces. Ken asked for approval to purchase the furnaces and have them installed, with the amount not to exceed \$9,100. This is to allow for any unexpected costs that may come up with the furnaces being almost 26 years old. Carolyn Adelman made a motion to move ahead with the purchase, Lorie Pierce seconded the motion, motion carried. Ken Underwood adjourned the meeting.

Church Council Minutes November 19, 2025

Present: Pastor Dan, Ken Underwood, Jeff Little, Dan Smith, Lorie Pierce, Missy Kluding, Cindy Schuller

Absent: Jennifer Miller, Gary Underwood, Rob Ludwig

Devotions & Prayer: Pastor Dan opened with prayer. Devotions on Luther's explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostles Creed.

Treasurers Report and Minutes: Treasurer's report and minutes reviewed, Pr. Dan moved to accept, Lorie 2nd.

Old Business:

- 1) Discussion of GIFTS team and inreach care of TLC members.
- 2) We have not been able to find anyone to serve as a long-term replacement for Sharon Heyman as our treasurer. Jennifer Miller has accepted a request to serve in that role temporarily. Council gratefully accepts her service as treasurer.

Property and Planning Team: Ken Underwood

- 1) Ken discussed the 5-year Facility Maintenance Plan and having a new line item in the budget to account for the plan.

Mission Team: Lorie Pierce

- 1) Snacks were delivered to the teachers at school.
- 2) Lori Griffith is finding people and handing out scripts for characters in the Journey to Bethlehem. Not all the roles have been filled and we need to encourage more members to participate.
- 3) Ken needs a few workers with strong backs to assist with setting up the Journey to Bethlehem.

Worship Team: Reporting: Pastor Dan

- 1) Regular Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00pm at TLC. There will also be a 10:00pm service hosted by the Nuhfers in their barn.
- 2) Pastor Dan reported that Sharon Heyman had heard members wanted to offer Marcia Adelman some recompense for directing the choir. Sharon had suggested we could keep the amount low enough to make it unreportable for tax purposes. Council discussed our shared understanding that Marcia volunteered to be our director with no expectation of receiving pay. The church choir will take care of a gift of appreciation for her this year.

Christian Education Team: Missy Kluding

- 1) No Sunday School 12/28/25 or 1/4/26.

Parish Life Team: No Report**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Dan

- 1) Shoeboxes with gifts will be sent to college students, the packing of which will occur 11/30 after worship.
- 2) We would like to see high school students and young adults stay connected with TLC. A flyer is being sent to all members in this age group announcing what we hope will be a group that will meet on Sunday mornings during Sunday school hour.
- 3) Council discussed the issues we are having with children and youth attending Sunday school and church. We are thankful for the grandparents who bring the children to church. We want to find ways to attract more children.

Gifts Team: No report**New Business:**

- 1) Discussion about how to pay for the new furnaces. There is currently enough money in our checking account that we do not need to move it from any other account.
- 2) Jeff brought up his concern that our meetings could be more efficient if we had a more defined agenda and spent the time needed to find solutions rather than having repeated discussions about the same issue.

Ken moved to adjourn, 2nd by Lorie

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Little - Secretary

Church Council Minutes (Special Budget Meeting)

November 23, 2025

Present: Pastor Dan, Ken Underwood, Jeff Little, Dan Smith, Lorie Pierce, Missy Kluding, Cindy Schuller

Absent: Jennifer Miller, Gary Underwood, Rob Ludwig

Devotions & Prayer: Pastor Dan opened with prayer.

2026 Budget:

- 1) Ken handed out proposed 2026 budget prepared by Sharon Heyman.
- 2) Pastor Dan moved to recommend the budget as presented to the congregation at our annual budget meeting. Jeff 2nd.
- 3) Council discussed the additional expenses in the budget to include 3% pay increases and related costs, as well as the proposed facilities and maintenance costs of \$3,200. The budget as proposed is an increase of over \$8000 from the current budget.
- 4) Council further discussed that our council has not provided the pastor or other church employees an annual evaluation as specified in our constitution. We need to put in place an annual review process for the pastor and church employees, but we need to do it right which could take months to put in place.
- 5) Jeff proposed that instead of proposing a 3% pay raise, that we propose a 2.5% raise that is in line with the Social Security COLA. He also suggested that we inform the congregation that we need to plan and budget for facilities and maintenance but that we request donations and extra gifts from members this year and not include it as a budget line item until next year, as this would reflect a much smaller budget increase than the original proposal.
- 6) Pastor Dan moved that we adjust the proposed budget to reflect a 2.5% pay raise and related expenses and remove the facilities and maintenance line for the 2026 budget. Jeff 2nd.

Motion passed.

- 7) Pastor Dan assertively voiced his belief that we should not be afraid or reluctant to propose a budget that exceeds our projected offering. He believes that we should put our needs before God and the congregation and let our membership decide if we want to support the increase.

8) Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Little - Secretary

TLC Happenings



January: Huron County Humane Society - \$150.65
 February: MOPC Feeding Program - \$177.36
 March: Lexi Hare Medical Bills - \$159.41
 April: Community Service Day - \$116.02
 May: MOCP Scholarships - \$179.71
 June: The Love Bus - \$108.65
 July: The Love Bus - \$130.35
 August: Humane Society - 154.05
 In Memory of Charlene Henney
 September: NALC Disaster Response - \$112
 October : Lydia Scheid - \$202.25
 November: Monroeville Library - \$92

Scan the QR code to access the 2025 Advent Devotional Readings

Printed copies are available in the office

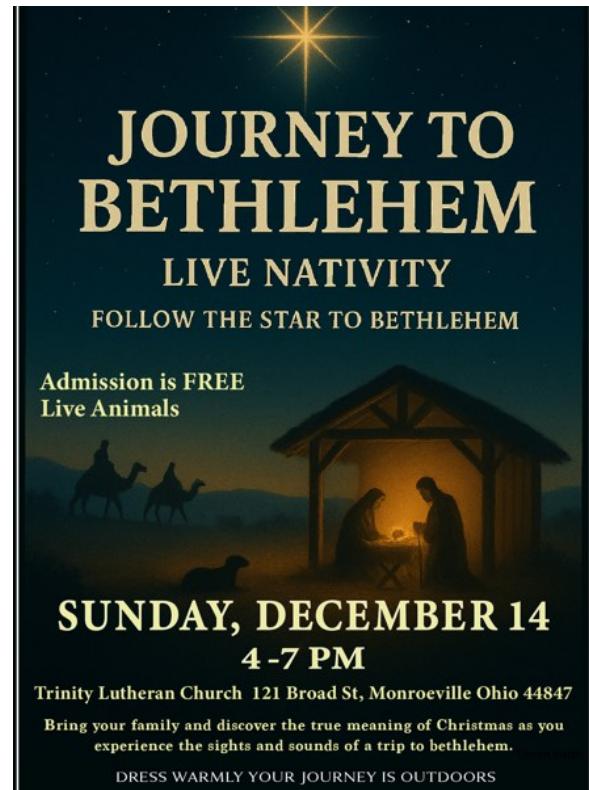


Midweek Services: Wednesday's

December 3, 10, 17

Soup Supper @ 6pm

Service @ 7pm





We will be partnering with Monroeville Local Schools this year to help with the families on their giving tree.

See Jennifer or Tonia if you would like to help shop for the family.



Mondays @ 4pm - Sheri's Coffee Shop in Norwalk
Thursdays @ 4:30pm - Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday School Giving

December: Christmas Cards to mail out

January: Coffee Cups w/ items for the elderly

February: Making New Bookmarks for church bibles

Bring in items or money that will be used to purchase items

Dear Trinity Lutheran church, Pastor Dan, and church council,

On behalf of the North American Lutheran Church, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$10,000 to the 20/20 Vision!

As your friend, I want to thank you for always being so generous with what you have, even when it's sacrificial. You represent the NALC very well as one of its member congregations! May God continue to bless you and strengthen you on your Discipleship journey!

In Christ,
Pastor Amy H. H.
General Secretary

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)

Dear Trinity Lutheran church,

Thank you for your generous contribution to the NALC's 20/20 Vision Initiative. We are seeing so much growth and maturity in our church body and there is so much more to come. Thank you for making this possible.

In Christ,
Maddie Benson

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)

Quarterly Newsletter



www.MalawiOrphanCareProject.org

Posted on Bulletin Board outside office



11/3/25

Dear People of Trinity Lutheran,

Thank you for your recent monthly support! It is very much needed and appreciated. We continue feeding over 900 orphans and we recently sent education money for 87 high school, 12 boarding school and 4 to college. It is very life changing!

Most sincerely,
Jan Fisher, Treasurer

December Worship Assistants

Date	Lector	Greeter	Acolyte
December 7	Candi Kinn	Ken Underwood	
December 14	Angie Swanbeck	Barb Gurney	
December 21	Miriam Tommas	Barb Gurney	
December 28	Paula Underwood	Carolyn Adelman	

Altar Workers for December: Carolyn & Tonia

December Coffee Hosts



December 7	Cindy Schuller
December 14	Beth Smith
December 21	Daniel Clinker
December 28	Darlene White

November Offering

November 2	\$3348
November 9	\$1926
November 16	\$3876
November 23	\$2192
November 30	\$1219
November Online Giving	\$250

We need \$2524 each week to make our budget. Thank you for continuing to faithfully support the Lord's work.

We are **behind \$6,823.70*** for 2025.

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>



*as of November 30, 2025

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Ava Hicks B-day Bernie Yoder B-day Bible Study @ Sheri's Coffee Shop 4pm	2	3 Jan Wetlin B-day Rachelle Corbin B-day Sewing Group Christian Ed Mtg 5:30 Choir Practice 5:30 Advent Soup @ 6pm Advent Service @ 7pm	4 Steve Heyman B-day Trisha Patterson B-day Bible Study 4:30	5	6 Lanny Gilbert B-day Jon & Julie Roeder Anniversary
7 Rylee Henney B-day Congregational Meeting	8 Bret Gfell B-day Ben & Lindsey Gfell Anniversary Bible Study @ Sheri's Coffee Shop 4pm	9 Tyler Reineck B-day Jeff & Cindy Schuller Anniversary	10 Church Council Mtg 5:30 Choir Practice 5:30 Advent Soup @ 6pm Advent Service @ 7pm	11 Bible Study 4:30	12 Todd Lillo B-day Matt White Baptismal Anniversary	13
					14 The Journey 4-7pm	
					15 John Ostheimer B-day Bible Study @ Sheri's Coffee Shop 4pm	16 17 Arlene Anderson B-day Jeff Reineck B-day Jennifer Miller B-day Avery Kluding Baptismal Anniversary Sewing Group Choir Practice 5:30 Advent Soup @ 6pm Advent Service @ 7pm
					18 Sharon Heyman B-day Bible Study 4:30	19 20 Alex Schafer B-day Clay Krueger B-day Elizabeth Wurster B-day Rich & Nancy Gfell Anniversary 21 Kinsey Griffith B-day Kids Christmas Program
					22 Bible Study @ Sheri's Coffee Shop 4pm	23 24 Jim Thill B-day Aiden Myers, Brittni Myers, Cole Myers, Jarrett Beard, Riley Beard Baptismal Anniversary Christmas Eve Service @ TLC 7pm 25 26 Tanner Smith B-day
					27 28 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	29 30 Aiden Sc B-day
						31