

Trinity Lutheran Church Monroeville, Ohio

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34

Important Reminders!

Red Cross Blood drive at TLC, is March 6th. Please log onto www.redcrossblood.org, to schedule your appointment to give blood.

Congregational Reports Meeting & Potluck - February 1st after service

Sewing Group - Wednesday February 4th & 18th

Christian Ed Mtg - February 4th @ 5:30_{pm}

Council Meeting - Wednesday February 11th @ 5:30_{pm}

Bible Study @ TLC Thursdays @ 4:30_{pm}

Bible Study @ Arter's - Norwalk Monday's @ 4_{pm}

Choir Practice Wednesday's @ 6:30_{pm}

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Pastor's Letter

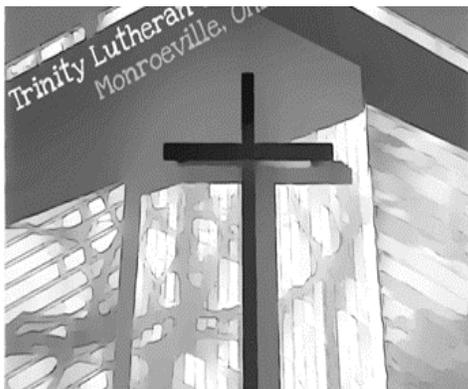
Winter Doldrums

My son probably said it best last week as he was applying for a new job after attempting self-employment last year, "God just said, 'Stop! You're not going to do anything right now.'" And when we consider how very little snow it took with its accompanying deep freeze to get that effect, that extreme reduction in human progress, there might be a message behind it.

When the clergy retreat which your general secretary, dean and pastor were all supposed to attend was cancelled, I found myself retreating at home and diving into a book of the bible about long-suffering patience, depression and grief. The book's title is Job (pronounced "jobe"). It may be one of the longest pauses one can take when reading God's written word, even up against books like Leviticus, Numbers and Lamentations. It tells of Job's lament of indignation against the loss of all his children, all his wealth and even his health. It also tells of the worthless goading and advice of his three closest friends to approach God with a sense of confession of his own guilt for somehow working against God's will so that God might restore Job's great fortunes as he once had. And through it all, Job maintains that nothing he had done could have deserved so great an evil that befell him, even to the point of wishing the very day he was conceived had never existed.

Job is a hard reading to comprehend. It questions our concept of a God that would never send evil upon us, which is exactly how we feel when we outlive our children or watch





Council

- President:** Ken Underwood
- Vice President:** Rob Ludwig
- Treasurer:** Jennifer Miller
- 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

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PO Box 497
Monroeville, OH 44847
419-465-2480

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



We are a called and forgiven community of God's people sent into the world to share Christ's love

when people of truth and faith get cut down by violence early in life. God's relief to these very human feelings and questions is to give us a glimpse of all of creation he has made of which we may never have considered. He calls us again to go out and have dominion over the earth he created in the same way he first called to Adam and Eve to do the same. He reminds us that to question his sense of justice is to question the plans of the one who laid the foundations of the earth and filled it with wonders to behold which have nothing to do with the so-called advancement of humanity. He invites us to try to consider all that is. There is more to consider than to grieve just that which he gave us and that which we have lost. There is always more, as Job soon discovers as God blesses him twice over compared to what Job once had.

These slow times in winter are probably a really good time to ask what more God wants us to consider of his creation. Are there people and things and creatures and places we have not explored which God wants us to explore? There is certainly more than that which with he has blessed us to date. Where should we go today?

Grace and peace, always,

Pastor Dan

TLC Prayer List

Keep the following in your continued prayers

Natalee Newland*, Olivia*, Leslie Warnke*, Travis Seip*, Amy*, Wesley Newland*, Ila*, John Clayton, Pr. Wayne, Lonnie & Alice Laser, Jerry Strong, Bobby Martin, Eric, Sue Hall, Megan, Jason Funk, Mike Smith, Bobby Jaycox, Joann Pratt, Grayson, Alice White, Scott Bauer, Carol Chandler, Darlene Wotts, Jay Thurston, Sue Adkins, Gary Fries, Rick Schipple, Don Tommas, and Bob Underwood.

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

Church Council Updates

Church Council Minutes January 14, 2026

Present: Pastor Dan, Ken Underwood, Jeff Little, Dan Smith, Jen Miller, Lorie Pierce, Dan Smith, Gary Underwood

Absent: Rob Ludwig, Missy Kluding, Cindy Schuller

Devotions & Prayer: Pastor Dan opened with prayer and Devotions on readings from Luke 9:57-62 and Luke 18:15-17. These readings focused on themes that Pastor Dan believes this congregation does well: forging ahead and letting the children come to Christ.

Minutes: Lorie moved to accept December minutes, Dan S. 2nd, motion passed

Treasurer's Report: 2025 year-end budget and treasurer's report were reviewed and discussed. It was noted that despite having a shortfall of nearly \$2000 in budgeted giving, we spent \$4000 less than budgeted. Our finances are in good shape. Lorie moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Ken 2nd, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

1) Ken requested that we not present committee reports at this meeting and focus on our other agenda items.
2) Jeff requested that committee reports be sent to him in writing for distribution to council prior to our meetings so that we can read them on our own and use council time to ask questions and clarify reports. This will give us more time to focus our council discussions on other topics. It was decided by general consent that monthly committee reports should be sent to Jeff (jlittle1stqst@yahoo.com) by the 1st Thursday of each month.

Election of 2026 Officers:

Ken, Rob, and Jeff agreed to serve another year in their current offices. Jen Miller accepted council's request that she serve as treasurer following Sharon Heyman's resignation. No other nominations were made. Lorie moved to close nominations, Gary 2nd, motion passed. Lorie moved to elect officers as slated:

President - Ken Underwood

Vice President - Rob Ludwig

Secretary - Jeff Little

Jen 2nd, motion passed.

Gary made a motion to appoint Jennifer Miller as TLC treasurer and maintain Candi Kinn and Darlene White as signers on our checking account. Pastor Dan 2nd, motion passed

Annual Meeting: Ken moved that we hold our annual congregation meeting on February 1st. Jeff 2nd, motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

1) Pastor Dan told the council about a resource offered by the NALC to assist congregations in strategic planning and goal setting. Pastor Dan will send links to the renew tools and pathways to church council and other interested congregation members.

2) Journey to Bethlehem - Pastor would like to see TLC have a plan in place to move the "Journey" indoors if bad weather would otherwise force us to cancel. He considered that space would be tight and there might not be a place to serve cookies and cocoa. He approached Pastor Wayne at the UCC and discussed the idea of the UCC as a site for refreshments after people walk the Journey. Pastor Wayne is open to that possibility. The Journey team will also need to update settings, props, and backdrops. Ken and Gary would like to work with the Griffiths and others to plan the Journey for next year.

3) New Budgeting and Treasurer's Reports - Pastor reported that Rob would like to be involved with helping Jen select new software and update our reports. No action taken as Jen and Rob haven't had any talks about this topic yet.

4) Pastor Dan informed the council that Lifewise Academy has asked to use our facility as they are attempting to start a program with Monroeville 2nd and 3rd-grade students. Lifewise would use the adult Sunday School room for lunch and programming on Wednesdays starting January 28. Pastor Dan moved to give them access, Gary 2nd, motion passed.

5) The White family requested use of the Church for a memorial service for Eric on February 21. Pr. Dan moved to approve their use of the church, Lorie 2nd, approved.

Other New Business: Gary asked Pastor if he could create an echelon giving report and provide it to TLC members of our congregation so that they can see where their giving compares to other family units (no names included) as an encouragement to increase their offerings. Pastor Dan said that he would work on it.

Jeff moved to adjourn, Dan s. 2nd, motion carried.
Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Little, TLC secretary on 1/24/2026

IT'S TIME FOR SUPER BOWL SUBS!



Help support our next mission trip to Malawi by ordering a delicious sub!
All proceeds will go toward covering travel costs for the team.



How to Order:

Order forms are available in the church office. Please return completed forms to Tonia Smith as soon as possible.



Sub Making & Pick-Up:

Subs will be made during Sunday School Hour on February 8th and can be picked up in the fellowship hall before or after worship that day.



Payment:

Payment may be made to Tonia Smith or Jeff Little when orders are placed or when subs are picked up.

Thank you for supporting our mission and helping make this trip possible



TLC Happenings



January:



Mondays @ 4_{pm} - Arter's in Norwalk

Thursdays @ 4:30_{pm} - Trinity Lutheran Church



- ◆ Ice Skating - February 22nd Noon to 1:30 @ Fremont Rec Center
- ◆ Youth Club - March 2, 9, 16, 23
- ◆ Mystery Trip - Monday, June 29th
- ◆ VBS - July 26, 27, 28, 29

Sunday School Giving

February: Making New Bookmarks for church bibles

Some of our youth were able to catch the new movie 'David' at the movie theater. If you haven't seen it, it is a great movie to see for kids and adults to grow in their faith.



Monica Nuhfer hosted a "Prayer Board" event on a Friday evening in January. Despite the cold weather she had a great turn out - and all had a wonderful time. Keep your eyes/ears open for another event in the future.

Prayer Board
GIRLS NIGHT

Come join us to create your own prayer board to grow in relationship with God.

When: Friday, January 23rd
6 pm to 9 pm

Bring your own snacks & wear comfy clothes!

Everything you need to make the prayer board will be provided!

Where: 121 W Broad St,
Monroeville, OH 44847

RSVP to
MONICA NUHFER 419-706-5472



January Worship Assistants

Date	Lector	Greeter	Acolyte
February 1	Miriam Tommas	Jim & Romona Thill	
February 8	Jeff Little	OPEN	
February 15	Candi Kinn	OPEN	
February 22	Carolyn Adelman	OPEN	

Altar Workers for February: Kathy Pocock

February Coffee Hosts



- February 1 Cindy Schuller
- February 8 Daniel Clinker
- February 15 Ken & Deb Underwood
- February 22 Steve & Donna Colvin

January Offering

- January 4 **\$3714**
- January 11 **\$2545**
- January 18 **\$1718**
- January 25 **\$-**
- January Online Giving **\$220**

We needed **\$2615** each week to make our budget. Thank you for continuing to faithfully support the Lord's work.

We are **behind \$2263*** for 2026.

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 January 30, 2025

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Isabelle Ballard B-day Isaac Krueger Baptismal Anniversary Annual Reports Mtg & Potluck	2 Aidan Schafer Baptismal Anniversary Bible Study @ Arter's Coffee Shop 4 _{pm}	3 Carolyn Adeliman Baptismal Anniversary	4 Lifewise Program Sewing Group Christian Ed Mtg 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	5 Bible Study 4:30	6	7
8 Grayson Yoder B-day	9 Bible Study @ Arter's Coffee Shop 4 _{pm}	10 Steve Heyman Baptismal Anniversary	11 Daryl Underwood B-day Ethan Wilhelm B-day Nichole Hicks B-day Lifewise Program Church Council Mtg 5:30 Choir Practice 6:30	12 Dan Smith Baptismal Anniversary Bible Study 4:30	13	14
15	16 Addison Gessling B-day Bible Study @ Arter's Coffee Shop 4 _{pm}	17	18 Ian Schafer B-day Lifewise Program Sewing Group Choir Practice 6:30	19 Bible Study 4:30	20 Ava Krueger B-day	21
22 Ice Skating @ Fremont Rec 12-1:30 _{pm}	23 Bryon Gessling B-day Bible Study @ Arter's Coffee Shop 4 _{pm}	24	25 Lifewise Program Choir Practice 6:30	26 Bible Study 4:30	27 Elizabeth Wurster B-day	28 Kathy Henney B-day