

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MONROEVILLE, OHIO

God's gifts and calling can't be taken back" (Romans 11:29)

## Important Reminders!

**Red Cross Blood drive** at TLC, is January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), to schedule your appointment to give blood.

**Sewing Group** Wednesday  
December 6<sup>th</sup> & December 20<sup>th</sup>

**Christian Ed. Meeting**  
Wednesday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30<sup>pm</sup>

**Council Meeting** Wednesday,  
December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30<sup>pm</sup>

**Advent Midweek Services:**  
Wednesdays  
6 pm Soup/ 7<sup>pm</sup> Service  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

**The Journey to Bethlehem**  
December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 4-7<sup>pm</sup>

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## Pastor's Letter

### Tea Time

Advent is the season wherein we await the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord, reliving the past when Israel awaited the birth of the Messiah and embracing the future as we await Christ's second coming at the end of the age.

A British theologian once compared waiting for Christ to waiting for someone we have invited over for a late morning or early afternoon visit. He explains that if we wait *poorly*, we might sit in an easy chair, fretfully watch the clock and worry about whether or not the one who accepted our invitation will actually make an appearance. We then might start to wonder if we seem *worthy* of them visiting us at all. We might further imagine that if the invited visitor even *hesitates* to consider our worthiness of a visit, then maybe they were never worthy of the invitation in the first place. If we are subject to their judgement after having so kindly invited them into our home, then we should judge *them* before we are subject to *their* judgement. Lost in our own fretfulness, we could very easily put ourselves at odds with the one we thought favorable for an invitation before they ever approach our door.

Then again, if we wait properly for the one we invited over for a visit, perhaps we could spend some effort in appreciation for their visit even before they arrive. Maybe we went to the local bakery earlier or made some small batch of baked items or confections ourselves. And, of course, we could have the tea service ready to go in the room in which we expect to spend time visiting. Maybe a pot of coffee would be more appropriate, especially if the bakery purchase included donuts. In either case, we would probably make sure hot water for either service was maintained as such, ready to hand a steaming cup to our guest once we were seated. If we wanted to discuss other events in the





**Council**

- President** – Rob Ludwig
- Vice President** - Carolyn Adelman
- Treasurer** - Sharon Heyman
- Secretary** - Jennifer Miller
- Christian Ed** – Monica Barman
- Youth** - Jennifer Miller
- Parish Life** – Cindy Schuller
- Worship/GIFTS Team** - Carolyn Adelman
- 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** - Linda Myers
- Pastor** – Rev. Dan Pennington  
Phone: 567-333-6451  
Email: dan@pastorpennington.org

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world, perhaps we would take time to read the daily news or listen to it on the radio. As these preparations are made with great expectations for the visit, perhaps we would keep an eye on the approach to the house that we might meet our guest in a timely fashion at the door to properly convey our interest, even our casual excitement, in their expected company.

How might we prepare for the return of our Lord and Savior, whom we not only expect to return, but who is watching how we *prepare* for his return. By faith we know that we have already been judged by our visitor as forgiven sinners chosen for everlasting life, even though we were sinners who had only prepared ourselves for eternal condemnation. We know that only his visitation makes us worthy. What might we do out of gratitude as we wait for him?

Maybe we should reinvite him into our lives through prayer and discipleship. Maybe we should do our best to understand his love by loving our neighbors as he first taught us. Maybe we should honor his Father by honoring him, knowing that such honoring can only be accomplished by telling and showing others how important he is to us *and* to them. Most importantly, let us not wait for “the Day of the Lord” fretfully and with great anxiety. Instead let us remain assured that Jesus has chosen us as his disciples and promises us eternal life, a promise which he enacted 2,000 years ago and which he maintains for us through his gift of faith to us in him.

Merry Christmas!

**Church Council Minutes: November 8, 2023**

- Present:** Rob Ludwig, Carolyn Adelman, Bret Gfell, Monica Barman, Pastor Dan, Lorie Pierce, Jennifer Miller
- Absent:** Dan Smith, Cindy Schuller, Gary Underwood

Pastor Dan opened the meeting with a prayer and devotion on Luke 14:25-25.

The Treasurer’s Report, Investment Report, and Minutes from October were reviewed. Carolyn made a motion to accept, Bret seconded the motion, motion carried.



**Property and Planning Team:** Bret reporting. Two out of the three thermostats have been installed. Dave is looking at getting a different thermostat for the Sunday school wing. Dave Krueger looked at the furnaces, he recommended having them serviced. The furnace in the Sanctuary was installed in 1999, maybe a good idea to plan to get it replaced.

**Mission Team:** Lorie reporting. Nothing new to report at this time.

**Gifts/Worship Team: Carolyn reporting.** Things are going well. Preparing for Advent season. There will be 3 midweek services on Wednesdays, soup at 6 and service at 7. A discussion was had on Christmas Eve services. Christmas Eve Day service at 10:30, no Sunday school. Christmas Eve service at 7pm.

**Christian Education/Youth:** Carolyn reporting: Lots of things coming up for the kids. On December 17<sup>th</sup> kids will sing in church, January 14<sup>th</sup> Ice Skating, February 10<sup>th</sup> a family game night, February 11<sup>th</sup> Mystery Friend reveal, March will be Bring a Friend a Month. Youth club went well, we had about 20 kids attend. There have been some issues with vandalizing the items in the Blessing Box. The police have been notified and will keep an eye out for us.

**Parish Life:** Jenn reporting. Soup suppers for Advent on Wednesdays at 6 pm. We will have three of them this year, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, and Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. We are serving cookies and hot chocolate for The Journey again this year. A sign-up sheet will be going around for cookies.

**Pastors Report:** Mike Schmidt of the NALC has reached out and is willing to come visit and explain and answer questions about the NALC 2020 Vision on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Discussion was had on whether we should do this. We will have a potluck after service on November 19<sup>th</sup> while Mike Schmidt is visiting. Pastor Dan discussed the importance of committee members bringing financial needs or concerns in regard to their committees to the November council meeting it can be put into the next year's budget.

It was suggested that the TLC Constitution should be reviewed and revised so that procedures are documented correctly, and we are following those procedures. A motion was made to create a Constitution Revision Task Force, motion was carried. The task force will consist of Pastor Dan, Carolyn, and one other person to be asked.

It was suggested that we create a task force for worship space renovations. This task force will bring ideas and suggestions to the council on what we can do to renovate the worship space such as new carpet or moving the altar. Motion made to create a task force; motion carried. It was suggested that the following people be on this task force, Gary Underwood and Missy Kluding.

The charger is working great! Sharon gave copies of the utility bills so that Pastor can compare them and can see what the change is, if any.

Presided over one Baptism for Evelyn Tonelli, and memorial services for Yvonne Henkle and Rick Gfell.

**New Business:** Discussion of the proposed 2024 budget. Bret made a motion to increase Julie to \$90, Carolyn seconded, motion was carried. A motion was made for the 3.2% increase for Pastor Dan, motion was carried. Carolyn made a motion to approve the budget with changes, Lorie seconded, motion carried. A motion was made to set the congregational meeting for budget approval on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, motion was carried. The Internet for the computer in the church is still not working – Pastor Dan will look at it and get it fixed.

**Old Business:** More discussion was had about having two services. Monica shared the survey she created.

Motion made to adjourn by Carolyn. Seconded by Lorie. Motion carried.  
Prayed the Lord's Prayer and said Good Night.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jennifer Miller*, Secretary of Council



**Keep the following in your continued Prayers**

Juanita Wingate, Carol, Betty Moltz, Jim Graffice, Sue Graybill, Ila, Debbie Moltz, Josh Roeder, Natalee Newland, Wanda McLaughlin, Bonnie McQuillen, Bob Reynolds, Don Gurney, Jeff & Judy, Dan Clinker, Jerry Neuberger, Pat McDonald, Dorothy Kreigland, Olivia, Connie Myers, Barb Good, Mary Lynn & Tom Sutter, Tyler Palmer, John Hartman, Chris Griffith, Chase Battillene, Mark, Nicole, Marcus, and Anthony Corbin.



**Christmas Poinsettia Orders**

**If you would like to order a Poinsettia for Christmas – please call/ mail information or stop into the Church Office.**

**Deadline to order is December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Poinsettias are \$14.00/each  
Come in an 8” pot**



11/17/23

Dear People of God at Trinity,

Your ongoing monthly support is very much appreciated. We are very thankful for your partnership and prayers. Please share this with your congregation.

We have been blessed with much growth because of partners like you!

Very Sincerely,  
Jan Fisher, Treas.

Thank You

# TLC Youth Happenings

## November Attendance Basket Winner



Kaylee Roeder



Join us on December 17<sup>th</sup> as our younger youth will be singing some Christmas songs for us during children's time.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



- 6<sup>th</sup> – Soup Supper / Advent Service
- 10<sup>th</sup> – The Journey to Bethlehem
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Soup Supper / Advent Service
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Children singing during church
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Soup Supper / Advent Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service @ 7pm



- 14<sup>th</sup> – Ice Skating in Fremont



- 10<sup>th</sup> – Family Game Night
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Mystery Friends Reveal / Valentines party

Trysten will be a part of the *Christmas Carol* put on at Bellevue Society for the Arts.

December 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9



## DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Lector	Greeters/Ushers	Acolyte
December 3	Angie Swanbeck	Candi Kinn	
December 10	Jeff Reineck	Jeff & Sara Anderson	
December 17	Candi Kinn		
December 24	Bonnie Gfell	Bret & Bonnie Gfell	
December 31	Daniel Clinker		

Altar Workers for December: Sue Underwood & Jennifer Miller

### DECEMBER COFFE HOST

December 3     Steve & Donna Colvin  
 December 10   Rob & Debbie Ludwig  
 December 17   Beth Smith  
 December 24  
 December 31

### NOVEMBER OFFERING

11/05:                 \$3032  
 11/12:                 \$2329  
 11/19:                 \$4233  
 11/26:                 \$2770  
 E-giving:              \$366

We need **\$2410** each week to make our budget. Thank you for continuing to faithfully support the Lord’s work. We are behind by **\$2234.88** for the year so far. 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>

