

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MONROEVILLE, OHIO

“For I know the plans I have for you...” Jeremiah 29:11

Important Reminders!

Red Cross Blood drive at TLC, is January 5th. Please log onto www.redcrossblood.org, to schedule your appointment to give blood.

Sewing Group Wednesday
January 3rd & January 17th

Christian Ed. Meeting
Wednesday Jan 3rd @ 5:30_{pm}

Council Meeting Wednesday,
January 10th @ 5:30_{pm}

Family & Friends Skating
Sunday January 14th 12-1:20_{pm}
Fremont Rec Center

Youth Club Session #2
Tuesday's February 6, 13, 20, 27

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Pastor's Letter

Why Are We Singing That!?

Folks often make requests of me for particular worship music for particular seasons and occasions, and this I encourage. But many times, there are hymns more obscure that I choose for a particular Sunday to tip us out of our comfort zone just a bit. When I do this, musicality comes to mind, that of our musicians, that of our congregation, and even my own. If the tune is not only difficult but also uniquely obscure, I usually drop it. If the tune is catchy in any way, the lyrics will often grab my attention for delivering the gospel in a pointed way which my sermon (or that of a supply preacher) may not illuminate.

Hymns I chose for this Christmas season beyond the old, familiar carols included *Of the Father's Love Begotten; Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming; and Cold December Flies Away*. Musically and lyrically, they are simply beautiful. Theologically, and with great imagery, they point beyond the instance of the worldly birth of the only Son of God, Jesus Christ, to the purpose of his coming into the world and why his arrival points to the culmination of his earthly ministry for us—everlasting life with him beyond our lives in this world.

Timeliness and context were the key for my clerical choice this year. If you hadn't noticed this year, many folks were completely done with saying "Happy Holidays" for fear of offending others, and most were greeting each other with "Merry Christmas". Even decorative symbolism in front yards was turning away from a secular Santa Claus and an over-televised green Grinch of mayhem and re-turning to the reason for the very name of the celebration, "Mass of Christ," "Nativity of our Lord," and "Christmas." Sometimes it is good to ride the pendulum swing back to group repentance as the whole body of Christ, and this was one, small way to participate.





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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So please, continue to gift others the way the magi from “the East” gifted our Lord and Savior while reminding your children that Christ was, is, and always will be the gift to us which matters the most. Wish your neighbors and customer service people “Merry Christmas” instead of the recently popular “Be safe” which was inspired by recent years of idolatrous fear of the new and unknown. Be blatantly courageous with signs, symbols, and speech which point to your hope and faith in our Alpha and Omega known as Jesus Christ such that your community will see the Christian love in your invitation rather than “pious” judgment of their personal accountability of which they no longer keep track (and probably for more than one reason.) And continue to pray without ceasing for all of our neighbors with the impossible hope which could only have begun with the birth of the Word made flesh 2,000 years ago. May you take these disciplines into 2024 every one of its days.

Grace and peace, always,

Congregational Meeting December 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Rob Ludwig.

The 2024 Budget was passed out to everyone. This budget ends up being a \$66/week increase from last year's budget. There was a question about the mileage allowance for the new budget. This question was addressed.

Thank you to Carolyn Adelman for serving on council, her term is up, and we will be voting on one new council member. Carolyn Adelman nominated Missy Kluding. Missy Kluding accepted the nomination. Lorie Pierce and Jennifer Miller have both agreed to stay on for another term (3 years).

Ballots were passed out for the voting of the 2024 budget and council members. 51 votes were received. The three council members on the ballot and the 2024 budget passed.

Pastor Dan presided over a quick installation of council members, voted on and appointed, for the 2024 year.

Rob Ludwig thanked Bruce and Sharon for their time and great work with our financials and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jennifer Miller*, Secretary of Council

Church Council Minutes: December 13, 2023

Present: Pastor Dan, Dan Smith, Jennifer Miller, Bret Gfell, Rob Ludwig, Gary Underwood, Monica Barman, Carolyn Adelman, Cindy Schuller.

Absent: Lorie Pierce

Pastor Dan opened the meeting with a devotion on Romans 8:14-28.

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

Property and Planning Team: Bret reporting. Hartland serviced both the heating units. The railing outside the office door is ready to be installed.

Mission Team: Gary reporting. Shadreck and family are planning to come to the US next summer, in August 2024. If interested in visiting them they are asking for help w/ tickets for Shadreck and Yami to come to Mansfield. Gary will get more information on this.

Gifts/Worship Team: Carolyn reporting. All is going well. Thank you to all who have helped with the altar duties, reading, and greeting.

Christian Education/Youth: Monica reporting. Sunday school teachers got together and made gifts for the kids and their family. Children will be singing in church on December 17th. There will be no Sunday school on December 24th and 31st.

Parish Life: Cindy reporting. We made it through The Journey and had plenty of cookies that we were able to distribute the leftovers to the community. There were about 180 people who came through the Journey.

Pastors Report: Was able to get a copy of the utility bill to calculate the cost of charging. Last month comes to about \$42 to charge his car. Pastor will be attending the Clergy retreat.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

Motion made to adjourn by Carolyn.

Seconded by Cindy. Motion carried.

Prayed the Lord’s Prayer and said Good Night.

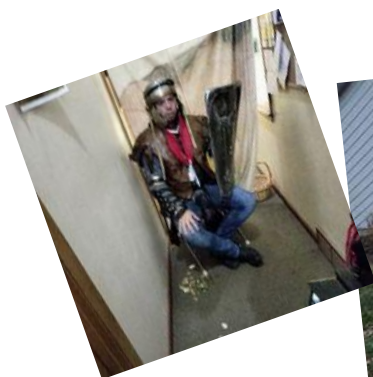
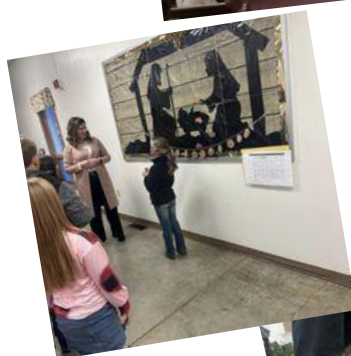
Respectfully Submitted, *Jennifer Miller*, Secretary of Council

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, Jerry Neuberger, Pat McDonald, Dorothy Kreigland, Olivia, Connie Myers, Barb Good, Mary Lynn & Tom Sutter, Tyler Palmer, John, Chase Battillene, Mark, Nicole, Marcus, Anthony Corbin, Paula Underwood, Leslie Warnke, Jay Thurston, Terry King, Cary, and Patty Smarr, Cary Garland and Jan Fisher..

TLC Youth Happenings

Pictures from our December events: The Journey, Children singing in Church, and Sunday School Christmas Fun.



UPCOMING EVENTS



14th – Ice Skating in Fremont



FAMILY & FRIENDS SKATE

January 14th

Fremont Rec Center 12 – 1:20pm

600 St Joseph Street, Fremont OH 43420

\$5.00/person

You can meet us there or we can carpool.
Any kids that need a ride let us know.
(we will have to sneak out of church early)

Dress warmly and wear tall socks!!



6th, 13th, 20th, 27th – Youth Club Session #2

10th – Family Game Night

11th – Mystery Friends Reveal / Valentines party

JANUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Lector	Greeters/Ushers	Acolyte
January 7	Sharon Gfell	Jim & Ramona Thill	
January 14	Candi Kinn	Barman's & Nuhfer's	Angela Appeman
January 21	Daniel Clinker	Jeff & Sara Anderson	Nathan Anderson
January 28	Candi Kinn	Carolyn Adelman	

Altar Workers for January: Bonnie Gfell

JANUARY COFFEE HOST

January 7	Tom & MaryLynn Sutter
January 14	Bob & Sue Underwood
January 21	Kathy Pocock
January 28	

DECEMBER OFFERING

12/03:	\$2855
12/10:	\$2290
12/17:	\$3827
12/24:	\$3827 & \$322
12/31:	\$1537
E-giving:	\$525

We need **\$2410** each week to make our budget. Thank you for continuing to faithfully support the Lord's work. We ended the year ahead by **\$760.12** 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>

