

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MONROEVILLE, OHIO

*“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.” John 15:12-13*

### Important Reminders!

**Red Cross Blood drive** at TLC, is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please log onto [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), to schedule your appointment to give blood.

**Sewing Group** Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup> & February 21<sup>st</sup>

**Christian Ed. Meeting** Wednesday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30<sub>pm</sub>

**Council Meeting** Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30<sub>pm</sub>

**Ash Wednesday Service** Wednesday Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 7<sub>pm</sub>

**Lent Services**  
**Soup @6<sub>pm</sub> ~ Service @7<sub>pm</sub>**  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>

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## Pastor’s Letter

### *A Time to Heal*

We had a successful year as a congregation in 2023, if our success is measured in faithfully spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed. I leave the details of this success to our 2023 Annual Report, which may be found on our website, or you can get a copy from Tonia or Jenn.

One not-so-pleasant side effect of lots of activity within our faith community has been the transmission of illness. Now many of us have had our own health setbacks with regard to cancer, neurological disorders, and muscle tears. But on top of that we seem to have been passing around the flu, pneumonia, and COVID, none of which are any more fun with the other disorders (think coughing and sneezing.) It is high time we concentrated on healing and for reasons beyond the obvious physical benefits.

Why did Jesus heal those in need of healing? Was it simply so they could feel better? If that’s the case, why might he send them on their way with “Go and sin no more”?

There is a goal in Jesus' healing: to return those who are suffering to their community. According to Romans 12 (and 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4, etc.), we are only complete in Christ as a body with each member contributing their gifts. If a member of our faith community’s body is down and out, the whole body suffers when the gifts from the separated member are no longer being contributed to the work of the body. And make no mistake, we are called to



**Council**

- President** – Rob Ludwig
- Vice President** – Bret Gefll
- Treasurer** - Sharon Heyman
- Secretary** - Jennifer Miller
- Christian Ed** – Missy Kluding
- Youth** - Jennifer Miller
- Parish Life** – Cindy Schuller
- Worship/GIFTS Team** – Monica Barman
- 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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work for Christ. He even admonished his disciples in this way: “So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’” (Luke 17:10)

But there is more healing than just Jesus cleansing lepers so society might again include them. Jesus, even more so than John the Baptizer, calls us to repent. If we do not actively engage in our relationship with God, in essence refusing to stop doing the things that draw us away from God, how can we remain in the community of faithful without being in community with God? And we need help to do this because our own self-will is always focused towards our own benefit ahead of our relationship with God and our neighbors.

Let’s take time to consider what focuses our relationships with each other on God and Jesus Christ. Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to act upon us and through us to re-engage with each other as God’s chosen children. Let’s seriously consider how the one who heals us wants us to receive his healing with a graceful response. And let’s re-imagine our faith community completely centered in Christ. He chose us, he gets us, he heals and forgives us, and he really wants us to live with him forever.

Thanks be to God!

*Pastor Dan*



**Church Council Minutes: January 10, 2023**

**Present:** Pastor Dan, Jennifer Miller, Bret Gfell, Monica Barman, Missy Kluding, Bruce Kinsel

**Absent:** Lorie Pierce, Dan Smith, Rob Ludwig, Gary Underwood, Cindy Schuller

Due to not having a majority (6) of members present, a motion was made to adjourn until next Wednesday, January 17 at 5:30pm. Bret and Monica seconded the motion, motion was passed.

Meeting adjourned, until January 17, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jennifer Miller*, Secretary of Council

**Emergency Council Meeting: January 14, 2023**

**Present:** Pastor Dan, Bret Gfell, Monica Barman, Missy Kluding, Gary Underwood, Lorie Pierce, Dan Smith

**Absent:** Jennifer Miller, Rob Ludwig, Cindy Schuller

Pastor Dan called this quick meeting to get approval for new members, set a congregational meeting date, and approve a fundraiser.

Pastor Dan made a motion to accept Ken & Deb Underwood, Andrew Tommas, and Jason Nuhfer as members of Trinity Lutheran Church. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to hold the annual congregational meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> with a potluck after service. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made that we do the Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser again this year and use the earnings to put towards helping the Chikoti family visit us in August. The motion was seconded and passed.

Monica made a motion that we participate in a fundraiser for shoes that grow for Malawi. These are shoes that have expandable straps to grow with them. The cost is \$20/pair. The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully Submitted, *Jennifer Miller*, Secretary of Council

**Church Council Minutes: January 17, 2023**

**Present:** Jennifer Miller, Dan Smith, Missy Kluding, Bret Gfell, Gary Underwood, Monica Barman, Cindy Schuller, Lorie Pierce, Bruce Kinsel

**Absent:** Rob Ludwig, Pastor Dan

The meeting was opened with Bruce presenting the year-end investment report.

The Treasurer's Report and Minutes from December were reviewed. Bret made a motion to accept minutes, Cindy seconded the motion, motion carried. The 2023 yearend audit will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**New Business:** The Congregation Council Code of Conduct was handed out for members to review and sign for the 2024 year.

Election of officers took place. Brett made a nomination for Rob to continue as the president, Rob previously verbally accepted the nomination. A motion was made for Rob as President, Gary seconded the motion, motion passed. Monica nominated Bret for Vice President, and Lorie nominated Gary. Gary declined the nomination, and Bret accepted. A motion was made for Bret as the Vice President, Gary seconded the motion, motion passed. Bret nominated Jennifer to continue as Secretary. Jennifer accepted the nomination. A motion was made for Jennifer as Secretary, Lorie seconded the motion, motion passed.

A motion was made to move to the selection of committee members. The election of committee members are as follows: Property & Planning- Gary Underwood, Bret Gfell, Dan Smith; Christian Ed – Missy Kluding, Jennifer Miller; Gifts/Worship- Monica Underwood, Bret Gfell; Mission- Lorie Pierce; Parish Life- Cindy Schuller.

**Old Business:** A question was asked about the status of the Task Force Committees for the Worship Space Renovation and TLC Constitution Revision. This was tabled until the next meeting so we can discuss further with Pastor Dan.

Monica asked about the status of sending out the survey regarding two services. This was tabled until we can discuss further with Pastor Dan.

**Property and Planning Team:** Bret reporting. There was some discussion on TLC becoming a warming shelter. We are still waiting for more information on this, but all members agreed that it would be a good idea if needed for our community.

**Mission Team:** We will be participating in a Shoe Fundraiser for Malawi Kids. Shoes are \$20/pair. We are waiting for more information and a flyer to get out to members who wish to donate towards this fundraiser.

We will be doing the Super Bowl sub fundraiser again this year. The money from this will be put towards helping the Chikoti family visit TLC this summer.

Lorie will keep reaching out to Habitat so that they are aware that we are willing to help with the new house that is being built in Monroeville.

**Gifts/Worship Team:** Monica reporting. Looking forward to being involved in this new role. The worship sign-up will be passed around again at church this Sunday as we need greeters, and lectors for February. Bible study with Pastor Dan is still going on.

**Christian Education/Youth:** Missy Reporting. Ice Skating had to be canceled due to the cold weather. We will try to reschedule this. Family Game Night at White’s barn will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> and a Valentine Theme Mystery Friend Reveal will be on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Parish Life:** Cindy reporting. Congregational Meeting Potluck will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>. We provided cake for the affirmation of baptisms for new members. Wednesday evening services for Lent will be quickly approaching with the first one on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm.

**Pastors Report:** Nothing to report. Pastor Dan was at the Pastor's Retreat.

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

Respectfully Submitted, *Jennifer Miller*, Secretary of Council

**Advent Season Dates:**

**Ash Wednesday: February 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**

**Lent Services: Soup @ 6pm, Service @ 7pm  
February 21, 28, March 6, 12, 20**

**Maundy Thursday: March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday: March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter: March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Keep the following in your continued Prayers**

Juanita Wingate, Carol, Betty Moltz, Jim Graffice, Sue Graybill, Ila, Natalee Newland, Wanda McLaughlin, Bonnie McQuillen, Bob Reynolds, Don Gurney, Olivia, Tyler Palmer, Chase Battillene, Paula Underwood, Leslie Warnke, Jay Thurston, Terry King, Connie Brown, Jan Fisher, Peggy, Phillip Smith, Laura, Andrea Walker, Luke & Sharon Jackson, Tom White, Carter Anderson, Bill C, Don Pennington, Gary Frysinger, Patty Anderson, Sara, Sherry, Keith Deeter, JoAnne, and Kathy Lavalley.

*Military Personal:* Anna Little, Owen Roeder, Isaiah Fowler

# TLC Youth Happenings

Even though the weather forced us to cancel our January event of Ice Skating the kids still had fun learning in Sunday School.

## January Attendance Basket Winner



Lilly Fleming



## February EVENTS

- 10<sup>th</sup> – Family Game Night
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Mystery Friends Reveal / Valentines Party
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Lent Service: Soup @ 6pm, Service @ 7pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Lent Service: Soup @ 6pm, Service @ 7pm

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Lector	Greeters/Ushers	Acolyte
February 4	Candi Kinn	Charlene Henney	
February 11	Carolyn Adelman	Charlene Henney	
February 18	Miriam Tommas	Don & Jan Weltin	
February 25	Angie Swanbeck	Don & Jan Weltin	

Altar Workers for February: Kathy Pocock

### FEBRUARY COFFEE HOST

February 4	Beth Smith
February 11	Steve & Donna Colvin
February 18	Tom & Mary Lynn Sutter
February 25	Cindy Schuller

### JANUARY OFFERING

01/07:	\$2582
01/14	\$1670
01/21	\$1869
01/28	\$2119
E-giving:	\$501

We need **\$2477** each week to make our budget. Thank you for continuing to faithfully support the Lord's work. We are behind by **\$1167** 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>

