

# TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

January 2026

The monthly newsletter of  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Greencastle, PA



REMEMBERING  
2025  
AT TRINITY



*"Spirit!" he cried, tight clutching at his robe, 'hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse...I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.'"*

- Ebenezer Scrooge, A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens

Family in Christ,

The New Year has dawned. With the New Year come the resolutions that people make to change something about themselves. These resolutions are usually hastily made and ill-conceived or are made in earnest but quickly broken. In the above paragraph from Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol," Ebenezer Scrooge through the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, begins to see not only the hardships that he endured, but also the hardships that his selfishness, and meanness caused. In affect he bargains with the Spirit of the future but in a way is making a resolution to be a better, more understanding person. He also confesses (in a way) that finally he knows that the true meaning of Christmas is love of one another, and care of one another. While not an overly religious book, the Christian overtones and symbolism are there. It is a useful book and there is much to be learned from it.

It is so easy for us to "resolve" to do something and then not do it without another thought. If there is anything that I hope for in this New Year for all of us is a bit of a troublesome Spirit, one that nags us to do better by God, be better for God and for the sake of the world. I hope for a conscience for us all that tells us to stop complaining and start doing, for the responsibility of the faith falls to all of us, not just a few. It falls not just on the old but on the young and the in-between too. I am proud of what went on in the last year here at Trinity. I am proud of our committees and how they work tirelessly for the good of Trinity and our community. I am proud of our Outreach Committee and how they organized and carried out our two baked potato suppers, Trunk or Treat, S'mores gathering as well as the reception for new members and Heritage Christmas. I am proud of our Operations Team that sees to the finances of the church but also deals with property issues. I am also proud of our congregation Council that makes faith-based decisions, cares for one another, and respects one another. We have a dedicated music director who brings us a wealth of musical expressions of our faith and song leaders who help us to lift our voices to God. I am proud to have a dedicated and faithful adult Sunday School teacher and class that I hear so many good things about. I am proud that we have a dedicated Tech Team, a Women's Bible Study Group, and Bible and Brew. There is also the 100th Anniversary Team that will help us to celebrate this year. There's so many more that I give thanks for but are too numerous to name here. Yes, we are not like the mega churches, and no, we cannot provide everything like they do, but in our own way we are a dedicated group, a good group, a meaningful group and most importantly a faithful group. Can we do more? Of course we can! Everyone can always do more, but we can't do it without your help.

In this New Year, make a resolution to be more involved. Make the resolution to be a changed person, a kinder and gentler person, a person of faith filled with the love of Christ. Make the resolution to build people up not tear them down.

"Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the good old City new, or any other good old city, town, or borough in the good old world... and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!" – Dickens So may it also be said of us, and all of us, that we carry the Spirit of Christmas with us in this New Year. Resolve to do that in all aspects of your life, but most especially in your faith life. May it be said of us as it was said of Scrooge, he indeed was a changed man, a transformed man. And as Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us, Every One!

In Christ,  
*Pastor Denise*

# JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 AA 7PM	3
4 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	5  Scouts 6:30PM AA 7PM	6	7  Bible & Brew 6:30PM Worship & Music 7PM	8	9  Den Meeting 6PM AA 7PM	10
11 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	12  Scouts 6:30PM AA 7PM Outreach 7PM	13  Operations 7PM	14  Council 7PM	15	16  AA 7PM	17
18 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	19  AA 7PM	20	21	22	23  AA 7PM	24
25 Sunday School 9AM <i>Worship in Sanctuary and Facebook Live 10:15 AM</i>	26  Scouts 6:30PM AA 7PM	27	28  Scout Mtg 7PM	29	30  AA 7PM	31



# January Worship Assistants

	JANUARY 4	JANUARY 11	JANUARY 18	JANUARY 25
Assisting Minister	Scott Valentine	Ella Swart	Charlie Ford	Don Swart
Communion Assistants	Dave Wolfe Mary Thomas	Wendy Hall Carol Swart	Donna Wolfe Kevin Dagliano	Sue Wunderlich Mary Thomas
Communion Cups	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas	Josie Thomas
Greeters	Sally Funk	Shirley Freeman	Sue Wunderlich	Norra Swart
Ushers	Charlie Ford	Don Swart	Darrell Swart	Norra Swart
Singer	Matt Cessna		The Choir	
IT Ministry	IT Team	IT Team	IT Team	IT Team
Communion Preparers	Charlie and Beth Ford	Don and Carol Swart	Donna Wolfe Sue Wunderlich	Scott Valentine



## Food Pantry Needs

### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Barbara Grane at the Greencastle Food Pantry is asking for our help to stock the shelves. To help us focus our efforts, each week we'll assign a food item. Please bring the assigned item when you come to worship to place in the box in the Narthex or to the church on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings. *These are only suggestions! Any non-perishable food item you can donate is needed and would be appreciated.*

January 4 – Canned fruit  
January 11 – Soup  
January 18 – Toilet paper  
January 25 - Pasta

### SPECIAL APPEAL

The Special Appeal for January is the Franklin County Homeless Shelter located on S. Main Street, Chambersburg. It is a low barrier emergency shelter which serves mainly individuals who are experiencing homelessness. Families are also served as space is available. An individual or family's stay is brief, typically 14 - 30 days and those staying at the shelter will be focused on finding affordable housing. The shelter is run by the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP). If you desire to make a donation, please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal".



Thank you, members of Trinity, for the generous Christmas gift. I truly appreciate your kindness and generosity. Blessings to you all in the New Year and always.  
– Pastor Denise

Thank you so much for the generous cash gift presented to me Christmas Eve! My prayer continues to be that though "darkness ...cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples, (may the Lord ) rise upon (Trinity) and His glory...appear upon (Trinity)." (Isaiah 60:2)

–Saundra Wingert

Thank you for your gift of \$350.00 to Lutheran World Relief. Your compassion changes lives in so many ways. Thank you for changing lives with your generosity.

- Daniel V. Speckland  
President and CEO

## ONLINE ELECTRONIC GIVING GIVING MADE EASY

eGiving makes it simple for you to give exactly how and when you want. You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts using your bank account or credit card.

There are several methods for electronic giving. Use the one that is most convenient for you:

1. Fill out a Simply Giving Form (on the table in the Narthex) to select the funds and how often you wish to contribute from your *bank account*.
2. Visit [tlcgreencastle.org/give/](http://tlcgreencastle.org/give/) to select your funds and how often you wish to contribute using a *bank account or credit card*.
3. With your smart phone. Download the "Vanco Mobile" app from the Apple and Google Play Stores and enter Trinity Lutheran Church Greencastle PA and follow the prompts to make a donation via *credit card*,
4. Use the QR code found in your pew and follow the prompts to make donations via *credit card*.



## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Members of the Congregational Council for 2026 are:

Darrell Swart  
Matt Cessna  
Beth Ford  
Charlie Ford  
Wendy Hall  
Denise Nerenhausen  
Sue Snyder  
Mary Thomas  
Don Swart  
Ella Swart (Youth Representative)

Non-Voting Members:

Brian Hall - Financial Secretary  
Carol Swart - Treasurer