

# The Messenger

December 2020

Volume 85, Issue 12

## What's Inside

### New and Noted:

- From our Pastor
- Coronavirus: Will We Shut Down
- Advent Morning and Evening Prayers Cancelled
- Advent Coin Folders
- Hanging of the Greens
- Office Closed for Holidays
- Blue Christmas
- Christmas Worship
- Year-End Contributions
- Financial Update
- Project Generosity
- Reformed: Always Reforming
- Welcome a New Council Member
- 2021 Altar and Columbarium Flowers
- Coronavirus Q and A
- Recent Funerals

### Social Ministry/Giving

- Good Shepherd Request
- Second Mile

### Birthdays/Anniversaries

Come let us  
*Adore*  
Him



## From our Pastor

### Advent: While we wait

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I come to you in the name of the One who was, who is, and who is to return again. Amen.

The message that you usually hear from the church as we begin the Advent season is that this is a season of expectation, a season of waiting, a season for stillness as we contemplate the mystery of God preparing to come into this world as a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, a season to call out to God our invitation to come back again.

The church enforces that waiting — even though the culture around us is already celebrating Christmas even before the Halloween pumpkins are put away — by delaying our singing of Christmas hymns until, well, Christmas. We wait until the fourth Sunday of Advent has passed before we put out the trees and the wreaths and the candles and the poinsettias and the greenery.

But this year, in this year of pandemic when all things are different and all bets are off, I'm noticing that people are taking even greater comfort in the trappings of Christmas. They're decorating early. They're switching their car radios to the Christmas music channels. They're indulging in Hallmark movies. (And I'm tuning in to Christmas movies, too!)

I think we all need a little Christmas. Right this very minute.

So, dear church, indulge, and do it without guilt.

We will still hear all of the familiar Advent lessons that give us the promise of a Savior, and the story of John the Baptist, and the story of Mary saying "Yes!" to God's invitation that she be the one to bring forth God's son into this world. We will still

hear language about waiting, about longing, about hope that the One who came once will return again.

But living in this season of pandemic, let us remember in this season of Advent that our hope is not in vain, because the One who came once is with us still in these in-between times, carrying us through these days.

We wait for Christ to come again, but we also remember that Christ is with us even now full of grace and truth, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, in the Word we hear and in the meal of bread and wine, body and blood.

Emmanuel. God with us.

Pastor Brenda +

## Coronavirus: Will We Shut Down?

With the rapid increase in new cases of COVID-19 that we are currently experiencing in Mercer County and in Greenville, we would like to offer the following updated guidance for our congregational family, based on lengthy discussion by our church council in November.

At this point, we will remain open for in-person worship for our Saturday night and Sunday morning services, as well as our Wednesday evening and Thursday morning Eucharists. At this point, we continue to plan for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship in person.

Until the current wave of infection passes, those 65 or older and those with underlying medical conditions are encouraged to consider whether they feel safer participating from home via livestream, or shifting attendance to the Wednesday or Thursday services, which are limited to 15 participants. (Remember if you plan to attend one of these services to call the church office.)

Since we opened the church in late June, our procedures were designed to protect participants assuming that any participant might be a silent carrier of the virus. We have trusted in these procedures. However, the rising rates of the virus make it more likely that someone attending worship will actually be carrying the virus, and it may be prudent for at-risk individuals to refrain from in-person worship or shift to our weekday services with lower attendance.

Second, to increase our vigilance in protecting one another, it is important that those of us who do attend church in person adhere to the procedures we have in place as a congregation. These include keeping our masks secured up over the mouth and nose throughout our time in the building. We also remind you to sit only in the pews marked with the white ribbons. We will also try to better dismiss rows to receive communion in a way that does not cause a “traffic jam” at the time of reception.

Third, we remind you that those with any symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home, consult with their doctors, and, if advised, seek to be tested for the virus.

Fourth, while we will continue to keep our schedule of offering four worship services every week, we will NOT be offering Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer services during Advent. We may record Evening Prayer services during Advent and offer them on our website, YouTube channel and Facebook page. We will provide information about the availability of any recorded worship.

Through these past months, our procedures, though not perfect, have thus far served to protect the most vulnerable and make it safe for as many people as possible to return to worship with

relative peace of mind. As a result, many of us have been able to share in word and sacrament.

We will try to increase our vigilance to remain open as long as it is safe to do so, but will continue to monitor guidance from our public health officials.

We ask for your prayers for our public officials and health care workers, as well as our congregation and the community.

We especially ask you to look out for one another, and if you see anyone with a need, please contact the pastor or the church office.

## Advent Morning Prayer and Advent Vespers Cancelled Due to COVID-19

In an effort to keep our members safe and contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Council voted on Tuesday, November 17 to cancel all Advent Morning Prayer and Wednesday Advent Evening Prayer services for this year.

### Advent Coin Folders

**Advent Coin Folders** are available for pick up in the narthex for anyone interested in keeping this tradition. There is a basket in the narthex where you may return your folder



### Hanging of the Greens

This year the “Hanging of the Greens” will take place on **Sunday, December 20 following worship**. Join in this time of fellowship and preparedness for the upcoming Christmas liturgies. Remember, many hands make light work for all.



### Office Closed for Christmas and New Year's

The Church Office will be closed **Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25 and Friday, January 1** so staff may enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Christmas blessings to all.

# Blue Christmas: How to Celebrate When You Don't Feel Like It

December can be a really difficult month for some of us, especially those of us who have experienced a recent loss, or for those of us who experienced a long-ago loss that still dampens our holidays.

Whether the loss is the death of someone you care about, changing life circumstances in relationships or with the economy or with illness, the feeling of an empty nest while remembering holidays past ... all of these things can make it hard to find the joy in the season.

**By Sunday, December 15, we will post a recorded** Blue Christmas liturgy on our website, YouTube channel and Facebook page, for the community to have a time to spend in sacred space, sing, hear God's word, hear that it's OK to feel out-of-step with everyone else at this time of year. There can be healing in the experience.

We invite you to join us, tell friends and family who you think might benefit, and discover how a babe born in a manger can bring wholeness to our sometimes-broken lives. Because Christ was born for this.

## Christmas Worship

The wonder, the mystery, the joy of our Lord's birth is the message and meaning of Christmas. The Twelve Days of this season spread across December 25 through January 5. To gather and adore Christ in worship is the highlight of this holy time.

**Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**  
**7:00 p.m. Holy Communion**

**11:00 p.m. Festival Holy Communion and Candle Lighting** (gathering begins with Special Music for the Holy Night at **10:45 p.m.** Worship concludes as we leave the church in the first minutes of Christmas Day.)

**Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day**  
**10:45 a.m. Holy Communion**

**Sunday, December 27, First Sunday of Christmas**  
**9:30 a.m.** (No Sunday Church School or Confirmation Class.)

## Good Shepherd December Request

The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **December is boxed or canned meals.** Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister.

Please note that **Hand Sanitizer, masks, and wipes** are also requested by the Good Shepherd Center.

# Second Mile Giving For December – Focus On ELCA Youth Gathering

After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

To learn more about the postponement and the 2022 Gathering, please visit: [elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19](https://elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19).

All Second Mile contributions received during the month of October will be given to the designated cause.

## Year-End Contributions to Holy Trinity - Important Notice: Friday, December 25 Deadline

All contributions to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - whether cash or stock - in order to be recorded as being given in 2020 need to be into the church office no later than **Friday, December 25 or mailed to the church with a postmark no later than December 31.**

A reminder: the date of a check is not the determining date. What counts is either the date on which the church receives a check or the date on which a mailed check is postmarked.

Offerings placed in the offering plate on January 1 must be counted as contributed in the new year. Begin using new offering envelopes only on or after January 1, 2020.

If you have any special circumstances or questions, please contact the congregation's treasurer, Tammy Daniello.

## Financial Update as of October 31, 2020

### Planned & Non-planned Giving

Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$ 188,040
Received Year-to-Date	\$ 182,730
Shortfall Year-to-Date	<b>\$ 5,310</b>

### Congregational Growth Fund

Annual Budget	\$ 12,000
Received as of 9/30	\$ 2,994
Remaining Amount Needed by 12/31	\$ 9,006

# Project Generosity

Generosity is all around us. It is so common that we often miss it. Each month for the next year, as we talk about stewardship and generosity, we will try to highlight for you how generosity blossoms and spreads, how a small act can inspire more generosity.

This was so true in September when our congregation participation in God's Work Our Hands Sunday, and some members of our congregation sent to Main Street to weed the borough's planting areas in the downtown.

While they were doing that, several restaurants brought out drinks and snacks to share. When the Rotary Club saw that the planting areas were cleaned out, Rotary members planted mums along the street. The act of generosity multiplied.

If you see an act of generosity, please let one of our stewardship committee members know, so that we can highlight it here. Committee members are Linda or Barry Oman, Judy Leary, Tammy Williams and Pastor Brenda.



## Reformed: Always Reforming Committee Begins Its Work

What will the ministry of Holy Trinity look like 10 years from now, or 20? What will the congregation of Holy Trinity look like for the next generation and the one after that?

These are some of the questions that are central to the work of our Reformed: Always Reforming committee that is beginning to look at the current ministry of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and what it means to our community of faith and what it means to the larger Greenville community.

The committee held its first meeting in November, and began to dream about what this congregation might look like in the future, how to strengthen it for the future, how to continue to do God's work with our hands not just now but for generations to come.

The committee will not be doing this dreaming and planning in isolation, but will also establish a process that will involve all of us, working together. The committee is chaired by Don Achenbach, and includes Mike Balas, Mike Bradley, Bob Gargas, Chuck Lanning, Olivia Martin-Call, Catherine Mott, Jill Murrin, Patricia Roth and Barbara Swartz.

Please hold this group in prayer as they lead us toward reformation.

# Welcome a New Council Member

We welcome Chuck Lanning to church council. He was appointed to council to take a vacant seat, and will serve until June of 2023.

Chuck is no stranger to church council, having served in the past. He also serves on our property committee and is a worship leader by serving as a liturgical deacon on Sundays.

We welcome him to this position of leadership in the congregation.

## Thank You

Dear Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for the care package you sent. It was very thoughtful of you, and I appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

Julia Mozes



## Bethesda Christmas

Just a reminder that all gifts need to be returned to the church by Monday, December 14. Please return the *unwrapped gift* to the church *with the tag attached to the gift* and *in a plastic bag*.



## Altar and Columbarium Flowers for 2021

The sign up sheet for Altar and/or Columbarium flowers is up in the Narthex if you are interested in signing up for the coming year.

We will not have any flowers during Lent which is February 21 through March 21 so the sign-up sheet will look a bit different.

If you have a standing order and would like to make a change, now is the time to do so.

With many members worshipping from home via the internet, if you want to sign up for flowers, make a change to your standing order, or to cancel a standing order, please contact the office to do so at 724-588-8870 or [hollytrinitygreenville@verizon.net](mailto:hollytrinitygreenville@verizon.net)

**The cost is \$22.50 for Altar vase or \$45.00 for both. The cost is also \$22.50 for each Columbarium Vase or a total of \$45.00 for both.**

As always, you will be billed direct from the florist.



# Coronavirus Q&A

## **About worship**

We will continue to worship on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. in Trinity Hall downstairs, and on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. both in person in our nave and online. While we are back in the building on Sundays, we continue to offer live-streamed worship on both our website, [www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com](http://www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com), and our Facebook page. [https:// www.facebook.com/ HolyTrinityGreenville](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreenville) for those who don't yet feel safe in returning to in-person worship.

We will continue to offer weekday Eucharist services in small groups of no more than 15 people for those who wish to return to the sacramental life of receiving Holy Communion without the risk of a larger gathering. Each week, we will worship on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Please call the church office to schedule a time.

## **About singing and music during worship**

Sadly, we are unable to sing at this time because the risk is too great.

However, Maidene has lined up cantors who will sing two hymns on Sunday mornings while we meditate on the words. We are thankful to those singers for adding to our worship in this way.

While the choir is unable to meet, Maidene has also sent the church's handbells to the manufacturer in Philadelphia to be refurbished, and will be putting together a handbell choir to occasionally play during worship. Please see Maidene if you would like to be a part of this group.

Hymns are the song of God's people, and God's people have been lifting their voices in praise, prayer and lament for thousands of years. (Think of the psalms, the sung prayer of the ancient people of faith!) We look forward to the day when we can return to singing together safely. Until then, we thank Maidene for being creative in the use of cantors and handbells to lift up our song when we can't use our voices.

## **Would you like to receive communion at home?**

While many in our congregation have returned to in-person worship and the sacramental life, we know that some of you do not feel the situation is safe enough for you to attend.

We are working on ways to bring the sacrament to your homes so that you can also return to the sacramental life. If you are interested in having the bread consecrated during our weekend liturgies dropped off at your house, along with a sheet of paper that contains the words you say, please let Tammy know in the church office. We are compiling a list of people who would like to receive communion in this way.

## **Worship in our church building**

We continue to use the best possible guidance from the CDC and our state health department to manage the risk as we gather in person.

Masks (except while communing) and social distancing will be required at all services during the week.

The liturgy at this time will be spoken only. There will be communion. There will be music, but we will be cautious and follow health guidelines about singing. If there is any singing, it will be minimal.



Other details for how we'll worship on **Sundays**:

- We ask you to use the front entrance to the church. Doors will be open so that door handles will not have to be touched. We ask that only people who need to use the lift or who need the smaller set of stairs use the Clinton Street entrance.
- We will use full-service bulletins. Hymnals and all other materials have been removed from the pews.
- There will be a location to place your offering as you enter the building.
- We will keep a record of everyone in attendance so that if someone becomes exposed to the coronavirus, you can be notified and we can give information to health officials for proper contact tracing.
- We ask that if you attend a service and become ill, you notify us and health officials immediately.
- One restroom, by the drinking fountains, will be available for use, and will be wiped down after each use.

Other details for how we'll worship on **Saturdays**:

- We ask you to use the office entrance to the church and use the rear staircase to go down to Trinity Hall. We ask that only people who need to use the lift use the Clinton Street entrance.
- We will use full-service bulletins.
- A basket will be placed near the entrance to the room for your offering.
- We ask you to use the restroom near the rear office door if needed.
- We will keep a record of everyone in attendance so that if someone becomes exposed to the coronavirus, you can be notified and we can give information to health officials for proper contact tracing.
- We ask that if you attend a service and become ill, you notify us and health officials immediately.

We continue to watch how the COVID-19 infection rates move in Mercer County with the opening of many offices, stores and restaurants, and we will adjust how we worship to minimize health risks as much as possible.

**Weekday communion services**

For those who do not feel safe being in a large group but want to return to receiving Holy Communion, we will continue offering weekday services at which we will celebrate the sacrament. Services will be about 25 minutes. No more than 15 people can be in attendance at a service.

We ask that you call Tammy in the church office, 724-588-8870, to reserve a slot, so that we can keep the number of those in attendance below 15.

As with the Sunday gatherings, in accordance with the CDC and other health guidelines, masks (except while communing) and social distancing will be required.

We ask you to enter the church using the rear office entrance. Use the back hallway on the left (toward the sacristy) to enter the sanctuary. You will be directed where to sit. (We will be rotating where groups gather to make sure surfaces are cleaned.) If you use the elevator, we will open the Clinton Street door for any services for which the elevator will be needed.

Services have been scheduled for:

Each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and each Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

### **Where's the pastor?**

Pastor Brenda will be at the church on occasion, but will be working from home to isolate much of the time so that she can remain healthy for pastoral calls to hospitals or nursing homes or your homes if needed. If you need her, you can call, text or email. Her number is 814-881-8959 and her email is [bmartin983@aol.com](mailto:bmartin983@aol.com). If you need a pastoral visit for any reason, please call.

### **What about my offering?**

During this time of crisis, we are asking that the members of the congregation continue your faithful stewardship, as the work of Holy Trinity is changing, but not ceasing and we need your support. A plate will be placed in the narthex on Sundays, and in the sanctuary during weekday liturgies. We are exploring opportunities for online giving on our website, and there is also the US Mail.

### **Will the church office be open?**

Yes, we continue to be open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday but we ask that you come to the office sparingly as we try to keep Tammy safe and at work. Please call Tammy if you have any needs or questions.

### **Will the church building be open?**

Yes. But we continue to try to severely limit access to the building, to keep those safe who are at work. We ask you to follow the following protocols so that we can track where people are in the building, and clean areas as appropriate.

## **THE BUILDING WILL BE OPEN FOR PRAYER**

We want Holy Trinity to be a sanctuary for people who need sacred space where they can feel safe. We are allowing people into the building to pray as long as it's safe to continue this practice, but have established protocols to do this. The building is open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. If you would like to come into the church to pray, even if you have a key or fob, we ask that you call Tammy to tell her you'll be arriving. Ring the buzzer at the back and she will open the door. (Or you can use your key or fob, if you have one, to get in.) There will be a sign-in sheet at the back. Please sign in with date and time. There will be sanitizing wipes there as well. Please take one. (We know that you will want to go down the hall to say hello to Tammy. Out of an abundance of caution, we ask you to not do that.) Please enter the chancel area via the back hallway. Lights will already be on in the chancel. Sit in one of the choir pews or kneel at the altar. Take as much time as you need. Wipe down whatever surfaces you touch. We know that this might sound extreme, but we have many people in our congregation who are in high-risk categories, including those who are immunosuppressed. We want them to feel safe, as well, if they wish to come to the sanctuary for prayer.

## **IF YOU NEED TO DROP SOMETHING OFF**

If you have something to drop off at the church, please call Tammy and let her know your plans. She will buzz you in and have you drop something off at the back door, or she

will meet you to accept it.

### **THE BUILDING WILL BE OPEN FOR WORKERS AND STUDENTS WHO NEED WIFI ACCESS**

We know that many people are working from home or going to school from home. Sometimes our home WIFI suddenly goes out or isn't providing the bandwidth for the computer work we need to do. If that should happen, and you need quick access during office hours, we invite you to come to the church to use our WIFI for work or school. We will manage where you are in the building, so that you have privacy, but so we can keep those areas cleaned. If you need access, please call Tammy.

### **THE BUILDING WILL BE OPEN FOR OUR COMMUNITY GROUPS**

We have invited our AA groups to continue to use the building at this time, although they know this could change if we are directed in the future to close the building to all uses. Beginning in September, we will also be hosting a GED class twice a week, and beginning in October, we will host workshops about Medicare once a week for eight weeks. All of the groups using our building are following protocols that we established so that everyone can remain as safe as possible.

## **Recent Funerals from Holy Trinity**

### **Alice J. Ferguson**

January 11, 1937 – October 5, 2020

Service: October 9, 2020

### **Kenneth F. Black**

January 16, 1944 – October 3, 2020

Service: October 10, 2020

### **Ronald Carl Knapp**

February 20, 1946 – October 10, 2020

Service: October 15, 2020

### **The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris**

October 10, 1950 – October 16, 2020

Service: November 14, 2020

### **Steven L. Hively**

October 27, 1946 – November 12, 2020

Service: November 17, 2020



*Rest Eternal Grant  
Them, O Lord*

## December Birthdays

2	Judy Leary
3	Jennifer Martin
4	Dan Spence
6	Bob Dorfeld
	Elaine Wilkins
8	Easton Mozes
9	Catherine Snyder
11	Tris Hall
12	Kaitlyn McCann
13	Garrett Daniello
	Frances Wackenhut
24	Patricia Leax
25	Allen Davis
	Alyssa Martin
26	B. J. Mozes
	Jonathan Schultz
29	Margaret Callen
	Erin McKinney

## December Anniversaries

The following members of our congregation are celebrating anniversaries this month. Congratulate them when you see them.

Bill and Judith Bubeck	61 years	December 5, 1959
Chris and Judi Moinet	43 years	December 23, 1977
Mike and Mary Beth Bradley	32 years	December 27, 1988
Ken and Cathy Anderson	38 years	December 28, 1982
Jim and Jennifer Martin	31 years	December 29, 1989
Gene and Gretchen Minetti	59 years	December 30, 1961



## Adagio Health Mobile Unit

Greenville Moose Family Center # 276  
32 Shenango Street, Greenville, PA 16125

**First Tuesday of each month**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ADA Accessible

Available health care services include:

- Birth control - Provided on-site!
  - ⇒ Oral contraceptives (Pill)
  - ⇒ Depo shot
  - ⇒ IUD
  - ⇒ Implant
  - ⇒ Condoms
- STI & HIV testing
- PrEP (Protects against HIV)
- Gynecological exams
- Pregnancy testing
- Breast and cervical cancer screening
- Adult vaccines and immunizations
- Basic adult health screening
  - ⇒ Cholesterol, diabetes, and more
- Preconception health care

***Schedule today!***  
***814-676-1811***

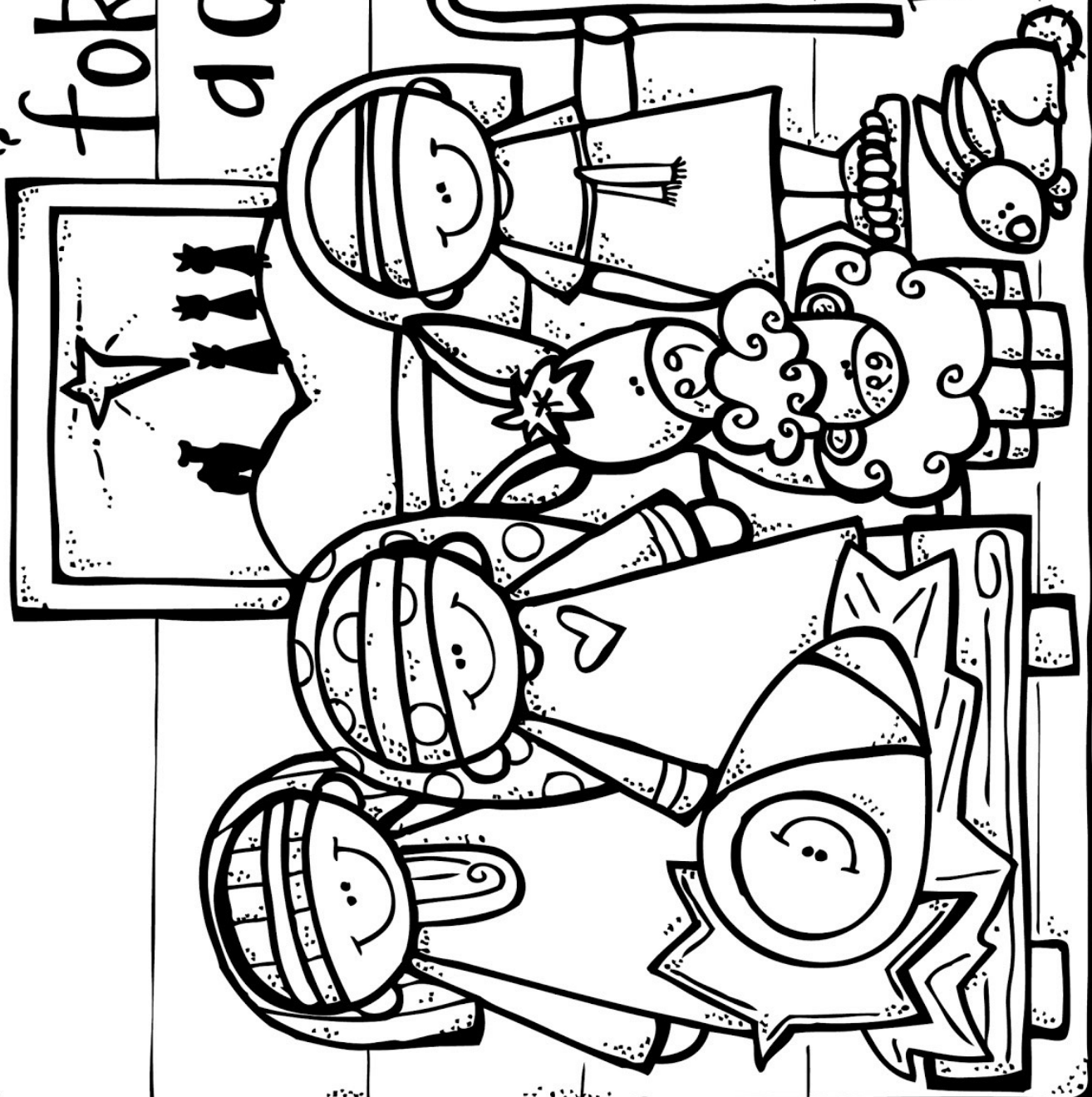
***Or simply stop by .***  
***Walk-ins welcome.***



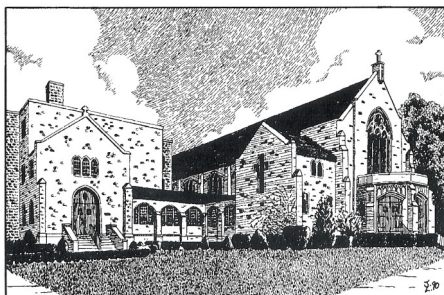
Learn more at: [adagiohealth.org/mobilehealth](http://adagiohealth.org/mobilehealth)

for untous  
a child is  
born...  
and his  
name shall  
be called  
Wonderful!

Isaiah 9:6



Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Trinity  
One Trinity Place  
Greenville, PA 16125



The Messenger is a publication of:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of the Holy Trinity  
1 Trinity Place  
Greenville, PA 16125  
724-588-8870

**Email address**

holytrinitygreenville@verizon.net

**Website:**

www.holytrinitygreenvillepa.com

**Staff**

**Pastor:**

Pastor Brenda Martin

**Director of Music:**

Maidene Hackett

**Office Administrator:**

Tammy Williams

**Sexton:**

Jonathan Oros

**Officers of the Congregation**

**Vice-President:**

Olivia Martin-Call

**Secretary:**

Marj Stubert

**Treasurer:**

Tammy Daniello

**Financial Secretary:**

Lana Mozes

**Council Members**

Linda Armstrong  
Mary Beth Bradley  
Tammy Daniello  
Debbie Faber  
Chuck Lanning  
Judy Leary  
Jim Martin  
Olivia Martin-Call  
Bob Massing  
Bob Olson  
Ed Pitcher  
Marj Stubert

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.