



# the Trindle Trumpeter

DECEMBER 2024

TRINDLE SPRING LUTHERAN CHURCH | 14 STATE ROAD, MECHANISBURG PA 17050

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## Message from Pastor Aaron Erdley

Friends in Christ,

I know that we have barely had any frost on the ground yet this fall, but believe it or not, Advent is right around the corner. For many of us that means that our decorating at home has already begun. We've taken the tree and ornaments, the garland and lights, the Santas and nativity scenes out of storage for the season to begin. In my family the tradition of decorating all together is a long-standing one. It is a family affair to put the ornaments on the tree and get the house into the Christmas spirit.

In the church we also have long-standing traditions of "hanging the greens." In the next couple of weeks, the sanctuary will be decorated with wreaths of evergreen, trees and chrismons, candles, and the Advent wreath. The color of the parament will change to Advent blue and our countdown to Christmas will officially begin.

There are four words that have been part of the church's Advent preparations and time of waiting for a long time: hope, peace, joy, and love. Each week as another Advent candle is lit, we think on one of these words, and what it

*"They are a way of life; they are the way of faith."*

means as we prepare our hearts to hear the good news of Christ's birth once again.

Our Advent theme this year is called "More than words." It is put together by a group called Barn Geese. What we will be focusing on this Advent season is that these are more than just words that we hear or say during the Advent season. They are a way of life; they are the way of faith. These words go along with our normal Sunday morning scripture readings, and they will help us focus on what it means to receive the good news of Christ's birth once again. So, this Advent, be with us in worship on Sunday mornings, come to Sunday school, grab a devotion book to ground yourself in

The December 2024 Newsletter is dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marlin E. Wood, by his family.



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*Continued from page 1*

faith, join us for Midweek Advent services, and hear more about the words Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. But know that they are more than words.

Yours In Christ,

*Pastor Aaron*

**ARTICLE ANYTHING TO ADD HERE??**

**ARTICLE**

## Council Meeting Highlights

OCTOBER 15, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Motions passed to send to the congregation the following:

1. 2025 Capital Improvement to replace the concrete by the handicapped entrance for estimated cost of \$22,000.
2. Pre-approval for replacement of A/C units in East Wing, Fellowship Hall and/or West Wing and Furnace replacement up to cost of \$150,000 in the event of catastrophic need as determined by 2/3 vote of church council with notification to congregation.
3. Purchase of Beverage Air 26 cubic foot commercial freezer at cost up to \$6000. To be covered by memorial funds including Wicht, Yerkes and general memorial funds.

Ministry Enhancements requests from the committees for purchase of office refrigerator, meeting "Owl", Outreach donation center, silk flowers and Grief Ministries books for a total estimated cost of \$4200. To be covered by various memorial funds.

Approved Dr. Jennifer Ness-Myers, Christine Mulgrew, Eileen Turnbach, and Bobbi Shearer to be received into membership of TSLC on November 17, 2024.

## Welcome, new Church members! Joined Sunday, November 17, 2024

Dr. Jennifer Ness-Myers



Ei-



Christine Mulgrew



leen  
bach

Turn-  
Bobbi



Shearer



## Income & Expenses

### OPERATING FUND YTD 2024

#### INCOME

Offering	\$370,412
Misc. Income*	\$1,640
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$372,053</b>

#### EXPENSE

##### Ministry to Others

Outreach	\$30,635
Evangelism	\$1,419
Parish Life	119

##### Ministry within Congregation

Christian Ed	\$9,689
Fellowship	\$2,917
Keeping Our Church Safe	--
Stewardship	--
Worship & Music	\$5,462
Youth & Family	\$545

##### Administration

Archives	\$227
Property Maint.	\$80,894
Office Mgt.	\$17,258
Salary/Support	\$228,148
Vision of Ministry	(0)

**Total Expense** **\$377,312**

**Net Income** **(\$5,260)**

\* Includes Thrivent Choice, Community Aid, Building Use, Donations, etc.

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This Advent, we will gather as a community of faith to encounter the age-old themes of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE from a new perspective. We will ask God to help us see these as more than just words, but as signs of the working of the Holy Spirit. Below you will find all the ways in which you are invited into this holy season of Advent, to join us as we reflect on these important words. We hope you will set aside time to participate in all the ways that are meaningful to you. We pray that as we work together to reflect on these words, they will challenge us, comfort us, equip us, and inspire us so that they will be more than words: they will be the Word, incarnate in Christ's body and Christ's

church.

## ***Advent Worship:***

On Sundays, we will gather at 8am and 10:30am as a community. We will light the Advent wreath, reflect on the theme word for the week through scripture, sermons, and song, and share Holy Communion. On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, and Wednesday, December 11, 2024, we will gather at 7pm for Holden Evening Prayer.

## ***Advent Devotions:***

Three different options for Advent devotions will be available at the church. They are:

1. ***More Than Words*** - a daily devotional that corresponds with the themes of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE that you will be hearing about in worship. This includes daily readings, reflection questions, and prayer. Suitable for ages 12+.
2. ***Advent Wreath Devotions*** - a weekly devotion, intended to do in conjunction with lighting your Advent wreath, that corresponds with the themes of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE that you will be hearing about in worship. This includes a bible reading, age-appropriate questions, and prayer. Suitable for families with children in elementary school or younger.
3. ***Praying in Color Advent Calendar*** - a daily devotional for the doodlers among us! There will be two different "coloring" pages to choose from, each having a space corresponding to each day in Advent. We will also have a page with ideas of how to incorporate this type of prayer and devotion into your Advent observance. Suitable for ALL AGES!

## ***Longest Night Service:***

When we think of our theme words - HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE - the connotation is usually a joyful one. But almost no one enters the seasons of Advent and Christmas with only joy. Many find themselves feeling pain, loneliness and sadness during the holiday season. We want to provide a space to acknowledge these feelings, bring them to God, and pray that we would find a light in our darkness. All are welcome to join us for our Longest Night Service on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 7pm.

## ***Share Christmas Special Offering:***

The Outreach Ministry Committee has decided that this year's SHARE CHRISTMAS appeal will be directed to "City of Refuge." Please see the article on page 9 for more information and pray about what you can contribute to this project!

## **Christmas at Trindle Spring**

### *Christmas Eve Worship & Fellowship:*

**3:30pm** - Intergenerational Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight

\* This service is aimed at providing a meaningful and accessible Christmas Eve worship service for all ages. We will tell the Christmas story in some unique ways, enjoy a choir that includes people of all ages, and share in Holy Communion and the candlelit singing of "Silent Night." Prelude for this service will feature some of our younger members sharing their musical talents!

**4:30pm** - Hot Chocolate & Cookies

\* All are welcome to join us after the Intergenerational Worship in the narthex. We will enjoy some hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, and great fellowship.

**5:30pm** - Potluck Christmas Eve Dinner

\* Join your church family for Christmas Eve dinner in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, as are friends and family! Whether you are catching a meal between services, don't want to eat alone on Christmas Eve, or simply don't want to have to make a mess in your kitchen, we hope you will join us. Please sign-up on the board outside the church office so we know how many to set up for!

**7:30pm** - Festival Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight

\* A traditional service with well-loved scripture readings, beautiful music by our various musical ensembles, carol singing, the sharing of Holy Communion and the candlelit singing of "Silent Night." Don't miss the prelude that will feature both our talented organist, Ann Kopacko, and our TSLC Orchestra!

### ***Christmas Day Online Devotional Video:***

Since attendance at our Christmas Day Worship has greatly decreased in recent years, we are going to try something a little new. Instead of an in-person worship service, we are creating a Christmas Day devotional video that will go live on Christmas morning that families can enjoy from their home at their convenience. It will be posted on the church's social media outlets as well as the website. We will be recruiting members of all ages in the coming weeks to help record portions of this video - so be ready! Anyone who would like to help sing a few of the Christmas carols to be recorded for the video is invited to gather in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 15, 2024, during the Sunday School hour. We hope you and your family find this new offering meaningful!

**Sunday, December 29, 2024, at 9:15am ONLY: Service of Lessons and Carols**

### ***Intergenerational Choir:***

If you are planning on coming to the 3:30pm Christmas Eve Worship service and love to sing, you are invited to join our choir for the evening! This choir will consist of all ages—everyone is invited! The song is easy to learn and will only take a few rehearsals. These times will be set by the group once we know who all will be singing. If you are interested, please let Danielle Erdley know by 12/5/24.

### ***TSLC Orchestra Rehearsal Dates:***

- Sunday, December 1, 11:45-12:30pm
- Sunday, December 8, 11:45-12:30pm
- Sunday, December 15, 7:00-8:00pm
- Sunday, December 22, 11:45-12:30pm

**Please see Danielle Erdley if you would like to play and don't have music yet!**

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## **Music at Trindle Spring Presents St. Thomas Gospel Choir**

The next Music at the Spring concert will be on **Sunday, December 1, 2024**, and will feature the St. Thomas Gospel Choir. The choir was founded in 1991 at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, PA. In addition to singing for worship regularly, they have also performed at such events as the installation of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry at the National Cathedral and at unveiling of the original Emancipation Proclamation, as well earning several awards at regional and national competitions.

The concert will begin at 6:30pm. If you would like to attend the concert but are concerned about driving at night, please contact Danielle Erdley as the Music at the Spring board is

## **Preparing for Advent & Christmas**

### **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Please join us to help decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. We will gather on **Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 6:30pm**. Many hands make light work! This is a great way for children to learn about how we prepare for Christmas in church, so families are encouraged to come! Please sign up on the sign-up sheet outside the church office to let us know how many people to expect. If you have any questions, please see Sally Keister.

### **TSLC ORCHESTRA**

Now a staple of our Christmas Eve worship, the TSLC Orchestra is once again preparing to bring a little extra joyful news to our celebrations. If you play an instrument - whether on a regular basis or just a few times a year - we hope you will join us. The music is appropriate for all those who have had at least 3 full years of instruction on their instrument. Please contact Danielle Erdley if you are interested or have any questions!

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH SPECIAL MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

For our 3:30 pm Intergenerational Christmas Eve service, we are hoping to have children and youth supply the prelude music. If you have an instrument you would like to play (even if it's just a simple melody because you've just started learning!) or a song you'd like to sing, we want you to help make the prelude for this service joyful! Please contact Danielle Erdley and she can answer any questions and help you find music if necessary.

### **EPIPHANY CELEBRATION**

Please join us on **Sunday, January 5, 2025**, for our Epiphany Celebration in the Fellowship Hall during the Faith Formation/Sunday School hour. There will be activities for all ages and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome so we hope to see you there!

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## THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Have you seen t-shirts advertising for Thrivent? They are so soft that we love wearing them all the time, but have you wondered what Thrivent is all about? **Thrivent** is the original purpose-based company for financial planning, including investments, banking, and insurance needs. Thrivent's purpose is to empower lives of service and faith. It is no surprise that the Thrivent shirt has new designs almost every year, but that their motto, "**LIVE GENEROUSLY**" remains the same. They encourage members to live that motto by promoting Action Teams, which can get up to \$250 towards an event to help encourage others to live generously.

If you are a member of Thrivent, and would be willing to help the church utilize an Action Team card, please contact Tina Gordon (717-226-0454) to show you how easy it is to apply! It is totally free and members have 1 or 2 cards available per year depending on your plan. She can walk you through the whole process in a matter of 5-10 minutes. Thanks for your assistance!

## ALTAR FLOWERS UPDATE

The flowers that we see each Sunday in front of the candelabra are important to our members for many reasons. They are most often sponsored by a member to celebrate an important family event or in memory of loved ones. They also remind us of the beauty of God's creation and create a link to the creations and works of beauty that we offer in return to God. Over the past few years, there has been a steady rise in the cost of these flowers and decline in the members sponsoring them. After much discussion on what we can do to preserve this tradition in a meaningful way, the Worship and Music Committee recommended that we purchase four (4) sets of silk flower arrangements (one for each season) to be used on the Sundays where there is no sponsor. These arrangements will be acknowledged in the bulletin as a thanksgiving for all that the Lord has given to us. Special occasion baskets and the use of poinsettias, lilies, tulips and geraniums will remain unchanged. - Joanna McIntyre

## WIGGLES IN WORSHIP

To parents and grandparents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's House.

- ◆ Children's Worship Bags are available in the Narthex. Feel free to allow your child to make use of them during worship.
- ◆ Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little one(s) to engage.
- ◆ Explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastors, musicians, and leaders.
- ◆ Sing the hymns, pray, and say the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you. And, hearing the voice of a child saying the Lord's Prayer with the rest of the congregation is absolutely precious!
- ◆ If you have to leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."



Thank you, Robin Cleaver, Chris. Ed Chair

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## Youth and Family Ministry News

### **YOUTH – ELEMENTARY YOUTH GROUP (K-5)**

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

We have our next elementary youth group meeting on **Sunday, December 22, 2024**, from 12-1pm (lunch provided)! Come out to eat, play games, and learn more about God!

### **YOUTH – Jr. /Sr. High YOUTH GROUP (6-12)**

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

We have our next youth group meeting on **Sunday, December 22, 2024**, from 5-7:30pm, and dinner is provided! Come out to eat, play games, earn Swedish fish in a competition and deepen your relationship with God! The theme for this year is “You were born for this” with the overarching scripture from Esther. Tonight’s meeting looks at how God Equips the Called.

### **RETREAT**

**6-12th Graders - December 6-8, 2024**

This is a youth group retreat located at Nawakwa. 6+ local youth groups from this area will be teaming up to participate in lessons/activities together throughout the weekend. Retreat is about learning how to be closer to God as well as each other. The retreat theme this year is Advent. We will be staying in Zinntozer Lodge. The cost will be \$90/person. In order to attend the retreat, we will need a medical form (attached) and a check for \$90 made out to the church with “Youth-Retreat” in the memo line.

### **WINTERFEST - January 3-5, 2025**

Winterfest gathers high school aged youth and their congregational advisors for a weekend immersion in Christian community, focused around a central theme. Large group gatherings feature keynote speakers and live music that introduce the theme, and help inspire youth and young adult attendees to think critically about how the theme intersects their daily lives. Small group conversations allow participants to go deeper, and to explore the ways God may be speaking to them through the theme and the surrounding Christian community.

We are definitely taking a group to Winterfest (9th-12th) this year! We will register our church as one group so all registration paperwork and the check payment can come to Casey and I’s mailbox! We will want everything by December 1st to register the group. Here is the link to the website with all the registration forms and event information! <https://www.lss-elca.org/winterfest/>

#### **Winterfest last year.**



The **four** things we will need in the Youth Directors mail from this website are:

-Information Collection Sheet -Youth Covenant -Medical Form -The check can be made out to the church for \$225 with “Youth-Winterfest” in the memo line.

## Save the Dates

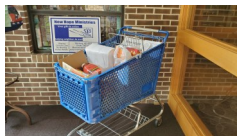
December 6-8, 2024	Retreat 6-12th graders
December 22, 2024	Elementary Youth Group (12pm)
December 22, 2024	Middle/Senior High Youth Group (5pm)
January 3-5, 2025	Winterfest



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## Outreach Committee



See shopping carts in both entrances (East/West) for your donations. Our collection amount this month: 95 lbs. *Thank you church family!*

**New Hope Ministries Update:** New Hope Ministries is going strong! In the last 3 months, they have served over 3,000 families and over 9,000 individuals. Thanks to the support ours and other congregations in the area provide to them.



### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE FOR NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

The Outreach Committee has a **Christmas "Giving" Tree** in the narthex with suggested items to be donated to families in need this holiday season. If you are able to donate this year, please choose an ornament (s) from the tree and return "unwrapped" item (s) (with ornament (s) attached) to bins placed by the tree. Anyone interested in volunteering at New Hope Ministries for the Christmas Blessing Express, go to their website to sign up. <https://nhm-pa.org/>

**The deadline to return gifts is by Friday, December 6, 2024. Any questions, contact Carlotta Strohl.**

## Share Christmas

This year's SHARE CHRISTMAS appeal will be directed to "City of Refuge Evangelism" (C.O.R.E.) Those of you who attended this summer's VBS program may remember this as the group that provides showers to the homeless community in Harrisburg. Money will be collected throughout Advent. Additionally, the following items can be donated and will be collected in the narthex starting **Sunday, December 1, 2024:**

- Insulated men's and women's gloves
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Single use hand warmers
- Chafing dish fuel (sterno)
- Men's and women's winter boots

The Outreach Ministry Committee asks that as we approach the season of Advent, you will prayerfully consider supporting this year's SHARE CHRISTMAS appeal. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support of this worthwhile ministry!

For more information and pictures, <https://cityofrefugeevangelism.org/>  
Facebook @ City of Refuge Evangelism (C.O. R. E.)

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## Fellowship Events

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will be bringing Christmas Cheer to our homebound members when we go caroling on **Sunday, December 15, 2024**. We will be meeting after the late service for lunch which will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. After lunch, we will divide into groups and head out to bring holiday cheer to TSLC members that are not able to join us in worship on Sundays. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Any questions, contact Deby Lefin (717) 385-7807.

### HERSHEY BEARS HOCKEY

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a night out with the Hershey Bears **Saturday, February 1, 2025, 7:00 pm**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the office. **Deadline for sign-up and payment (\$17/ticket) is January 12, 2025**. See Lee Yohn with any questions and payment.

## Save the Dates

### LOOKING AHEAD

November 15	Family Bowling 7pm
November 22	Dietrich Bonhoeffer Movie
December 1	2025 Supper-Club Sign-Up deadline
February 21-23	TSLC Congregational Retreat

### 2025 TSLC CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT CAMP NAWAKWA.

The Congregational Retreat will be held starting Friday evening February 21, 2025, and concluding on Sunday afternoon February 23, 2025 at Camp Nawakwa. **Registration is available online at [bit.ly/TSLCretreat](https://bit.ly/TSLCretreat)** - please fill out one form per camper. It is not necessary to have attended the retreat in a past year to fully experience and enjoy this upcoming weekend. If you cannot attend the entire weekend, day campers are welcome too! There will be activities for all ages. A Children's Ministry with programming for the younger campers is available as well. We will have devotions and worship during the weekend. There will be time for games, sessions of learning, and plenty of free time to relax. As always, there will be plenty of food with special dietary options available.

Get to know other members of the congregation. Spend time with others or with the Lord. There are places where you can be quiet or talk with others or play games. If you have any questions regarding the accommodations, cost, menu, transportation, or any other aspect of the retreat, please feel free to give Charlie Bender a call/text at 717-706-2204 or email at [CharlieB1414@gmail.com](mailto:CharlieB1414@gmail.com).

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## Parish Life Ministries

SECOND SATURDAY SUPPER  
DECEMBER 14, 2024, 4-6PM

### MENU:

- Chicken Cordon Bleu/Mustard Sauce
- Choice of: Candied or Baked Sweet Potatoes
- PA Dutch Style Stuffing
- Broccoli/Cauliflower/Carrot/Squash Medley
- Waldorf Salad
- Assorted Muffins, Breads, Rolls
- Assorted Desserts
- Hot and Cold Beverages

For any questions contact Deb Bender to offer your help on Second Saturday and to help at other Parish Life events.

## Communion Elements & DVDs/ CDs of Sunday Service Available

Communion elements are available in the church office for those still communing at home. You can either pick up or we will drop off. Gluten-free is available. DVD's and CD's are available for the 10:30 a.m. service. Contact the church office to have one delivered to you every week with a bulletin.

The congregation offers their congratulations to Cody & Caitlin Eppley, on the birth of their daughter, **Collins Nolan (Eppley)**. Proud grandparents are Mark & Dallas Eppley.

## Men's Monthly Breakfast

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024, 7:30AM

JOIN US AT **MIDDLESEX DINER,**

**CARLISLE**

*Any questions, contact Steve Vogelsong*

## Seniors Monthly Luncheon

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024, 11:30AM  
(THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH)

JOIN US AT

**HOSS'S STEAK & SEA HOUSE,  
61 GETTYSBURG PIKE MECHANICSBURG**

*Any questions, contact Irene Dillahey or  
Carlotta Strohl*

*(See the sign-up sheet on the board by the Ed. Wing)*

## The Shawl Ministry

JOIN US ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY  
MONTH AT 3PM **IN THE LOUNGE**

*Any questions, contact Lynne Neibert or  
Sandy Breech*

## Tithes & Offerings

- Go to our website:  
[www.trindlespringlutheran.org](http://www.trindlespringlutheran.org)
- Click on 'donate now'
- Login/create profile button
- Call the church office for any questions.

## Community Aid

- Trindle Spring Partner Number#**10139**
- Tags for your bags are available in the Outreach Corner in a basket.

## Newsletter copies

Copies are available for pick-up in the narthex. Would you like a pastoral visit and a newsletter brought along? Contact one of the pastors.

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## Did you Know?

Brian Keister, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday school teacher, goes twice a year to visit one of our members who is unable to attend church with us. He and Joy Grants' classroom has been doing these visits for 10+ years. They and 2 students, Caleb 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Caroline 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and Stefani the student's mom just visited one of those members, **Lynne Neibert**. Lynne has been an important part of our Sunday School program. While Sunday school coordinator, Lynne purchased the puppets and many other items we use in Sunday school each year. The students really enjoyed their visit as did Lynne, they played a game, the students against the teachers, Caleb was happy that the students took the competition. The group enjoyed snack and good conversation, learning at Lynne's immune system is weak the group wore masks during the visit. Brian says the reason they make these visits is to connect the students and the people at home that receive the cards the students in all the classrooms make and send each month. Please let these students and teachers know when you see them, what a wonderful act of kindness they are performing.



## December 2024 Birthdays

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM THE PASTORS AND STAFF!**

Kathy Seagrist	Diane Brevig	Hunter Clepper	Linda Stailey
Fiona Malloy	Carol Beal	Selena Mallios	Dan Placzek
Joanne Augustine	Cecelia Deyo	Joshua Kohler	Barbara Rider
Lois King	Elaina Deyo	Linda Glatz	Diedre Boarman
Karen Hale	Levi Allen	Vickie Kraus	Morgan Cupp
Rosalyn Malloy	Anna Nauss	Mary Clay	Virginia Vogelsong
Lenard Kirkman	Bryan Beane	Macie Pownell	Mary Bloom
Cayden Giordano	Kathryn Erdley	Callie Myers	Christina Harris Jones
Howard Hertzler	Nancy Rider	Emily Nilsen	Brandon Stauffer
Krista Hoffman	Oliver Shanabrook	Camden Mostek	Skyler Stauffer
		Emma Grigor	Dr. Jennifer Ness-Myers

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND A CARD AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE BIRTH DAY, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE MEMBER BIRTHDAY.**

## DECEMBER CHURCH CALENDAR 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 ADVENT 1</b> <b>Worship 8am &amp; 10:30am</b> <b>Sunday School 9:15am</b> Meals on Wheel Cake Due TSLC Orchestra Rehearsal 11:45am Music at The Spring Concert presents St. Thomas Gospel Choir 6:30pm	<b>2</b> Zumba 6pm	<b>3</b> <b>Monthly Pot-Luck Luncheon 12pm</b>	<b>4</b> Zumba Gold 10am  <b>Holden Evening Prayer 7pm</b>  Sabbatical team 7:30pm	<b>5</b> Trindle Quilters 9am  Bell Quartet 6:15pm  Chancel Choir 7:20pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 ADVENT 2</b> <b>Worship 8am &amp; 10:30am</b> <b>Sunday School 9:15am</b> TSLC Orchestra Rehearsal 11:45am The Shawl Ministry 3pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Zumba Gold 10am  <b>Holden Evening Prayer 7pm</b>  Church Council meeting 7:30pm	<b>12</b> Trindle Quilters 9am  Bell Quartet 6:15pm  Chancel Choir 7:20pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Men's Breakfast</b> 7:30am Middlesex Diner  <b>Second Saturday Community Supper 4:00-6:00pm</b>
<b>15 ADVENT 3</b> <b>Worship 8am &amp; 10:30am</b> TSLC Orchestra Rehearsal 11:45am Youth- Christmas Caroling 12pm Christmas Day Video recording 9:15am January 2025 Newsletter article deadline	<b>16</b> Seniors Luncheon 11:30am Hoss's Zumba 6pm  Policy & Proced. Comm. 6pm	<b>17</b> <b>Worship &amp; Music Comm. 7pm</b> <b>Property Comm. 7pm</b>	<b>18</b> Zumba Gold 10am  <b>Longest Night Service 7pm</b>	<b>19</b> Trindle Quilters 9am  Bell Choir 6:15pm  Chancel Choir 7:20pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 ADVENT 4</b> <b>Worship 8am &amp; 10:30am</b> <b>Sunday School 9:15am</b> TSLC Orchestra Rehearsal 11:45am  Elementary Youth (K-5) 12-1pm Jr./Sr. High (6-12) 5pm	<b>23</b> Zumba 6pm  <b>January 2025 Newsletter emailed out, copies available in the narthex</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve Services</b> 3:30pm Intergenerational Service 4:30pm Cookies and Cocoa 5:30pm Pot-Luck Meal 7:30pm Candlelight Service* *Pick up your Poinsettias*	<b>25 Christmas Day (No Service)</b> <b>Special Christmas Video available</b>  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>26 Church Office Closed</b>	<b>27 Church Office Closed</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 LESSONS &amp; CAROLS</b> <b>Worship 9:15 am</b> <b>Council Corner 9:15am</b> <b>New Hope Food Blessing</b>	<b>30 No Parish Life Meeting</b>  Zumba 6pm	<b>31 Church Office closes at noon.</b>	<b>1 New Year's Day Church Office closed</b>			

# Clergy Sabbatical Frequently Asked Questions

Pastor Aaron will be on sabbatical from **July through September of 2025**. You may have questions about what a sabbatical is and what it means for Pastor Aaron, his family, and the congregation. We have plenty of time to talk in more detail about what will happen over his sabbatical, but below you will find a few frequently asked questions about clergy sabbatical.

## What is a Sabbatical?

Sabbatical or a time of sabbath, is Biblically based. A Sabbatical provides time to disconnect from the physical, emotional, and spiritual demands of 24/7 ministry. It allows the pastor time for rest, prayer, and reflection. As the rate of clergy burnout is extremely high, a time for a sabbatical helps to ensure longevity and vibrancy in ministry.

## Why do clergy take renewal leave or sabbaticals?

Research shows pastoral work is acutely stressful for clergy and their families.

Consider these statistics from Pastors:

- 94% say that the processing of extremes (deaths, pettiness, tragedies, etc.) is emotionally taxing.
- 91% have experienced some form of burnout, often working 60+ hours per week.
- 80% feel pressured to serve in ways that cause undue burdens on their families.
- 78% report having time off interrupted with ministry tasks and expectations.
- 52% feel they cannot possibly meet their church's expectations.
- 44% do not regularly take a day off.

## Does this mean Pastor Aaron is looking for a new church?

No, it is an intentional time of rest and renewal to continue in his current call. The TSLC Sabbatical Policy requires the pastor to remain in his/her call for at least two years following a sabbatical.

## Who will provide pastoral coverage while pastor is gone?

At TSLC, we are blessed with having two pastors. While Pastor Aaron is on sabbatical, Pastor Martha will be made full-time to provide worship leadership, education, pastoral care (hospital visits, counseling, and homebound visits), including special services such as funerals, weddings and baptisms.

## How does a sabbatical benefit church members?

During the sabbatical period, it is expected the congregation will be using the time for growth, renewal, and reflection as well as the rostered minister. Following a sabbatical the pastor returns reinvigorated for ministry, renewed from the personal and spiritual growth that comes from participation in an intentionally structured time away. The congregation benefits from their pastor being well-rested, refreshed in body, mind, and spirit and a deepening of their relationship with God.



## the Trindle Trumpeter

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