



*The
Newsletter of
Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church*

Worship Services

Saturday 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

Sunday 11:00 am

Sunday School 9:45 am



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The Trumpet

JANUARY 2024



*From the pen
of Pastor Mark*

Christmas 2023

Thanks to all who helped make this Christmas week truly special. We may have had a new record number of worship services for a Christmas week, with a total of 7 services in 7 days! We began with a memorable Longest Night service on Wednesday, followed by a heartfelt prayer and praise on Friday, to Saturday and Sunday morning's 4th and final week of Advent with the Love candle filling our Advent wreath, to our joyous celebration services for Christmas Eve at 5 pm, 8 pm, and 11 pm. If you missed any services, they are available online and highly recommended! We also had a beautiful lessons and carols service with Pastor Tom on December 30th and 31st. The feedback was very positive all around, both from members and from our many guests too. Let's continue to shine the light of Christ as we turn the corner into Epiphany and serve as God's witnesses and stewards for the revealing and making manifest of God's light and truth through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As of this writing I don't have final figures for *Our Christmas Gifts* to the Lord over and above giving, and of course not everyone who gave extra used envelopes for our tracking. However, what I can say from our financial records is that we went from a deficit of around \$28,000 as announced going into November, to finishing the year in the black with total offerings exceeding total expenses. Thanks so much for your gracious generosity and strong giving to finish the year! We ended up rebuilding a bit of buffer into our bank account while also increasing ARF (our Asset Replenishment Fund) and decreasing the mortgage. Thanks also for your gracious stewardship of support and faithful work in the many ministries of Holy Trinity that reach beyond our walls both to the community and to the world. We are truly a giving and serving church together.

2024

As in each recent year since COVID, 2023 has had its fair share of bumps along the way, and 2024 may well have more to come. But let's not forget all the miracles, all the healing and new life, all the ministry, and all the mission along the way. We have so many blessings to count and much gratitude to share and remember. Whatever may come, we have Emmanuel, God With Us. The light shines even in darkest night, and darkness has not and will not overcome it. This is our Good News to treasure and to share with a nation and a world that needs hope, faith, and God's love right now.

Looking forward, I have one resolution in mind that I invite you to share as well. As you've heard in various sermons and as I've heard re-affirmed in the fellowship hall, in brown bag lunches, and in Sunday School, etc., we put God first here in this place and we do not define our faith identity in terms of politics. Yes, we should be faithful citizens, and this reflects how we live in the world, including involvement in the process of democracy. However, the First Commandment holds steadfast for us in terms of any other "god" or ideology. Our identity as Christians comes from God, and not from any human political belief. Remembering Commandment #1, it is our *faith* that helps us form any sense of ideology, not ideology informing and shaping our faith, for we are followers of The Way.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Loving, Living, Serving, Giving, in God's Name



It's hard to believe that we are already entering a new year. I hope that your holidays were filled with peace and joy. I want to thank all the musicians, worship leaders, lay servants, and staff who helped make our Christmas services memorable as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior.

I am honored to be serving as your council president this year. I also know that I cannot do this alone. I have the support of all the wonderful council members who will be serving with me.

For those that do not know me, I am a long-time member of Holy Trinity, joining in the late 80's. I have served in various capacities over the years, most recently as Council Secretary and Sunday Worship council representative. I am a member of the Kings Ringers handbell choir and Altar Guild chairman.

I challenge all members this year to find your place – look for a volunteer position or join a committee. Serve during a worship service. Holy Trinity relies on our volunteers to keep it moving forward. Even if you only have an hour a week, we can find a spot to volunteer.

I want to close with a quote from Vince Lombardi: “The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have.” Please make Holy Trinity a priority in your life, and give back to God all that He has given to you.

In His name,

Sabra Black

Council President

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: FROM THE PEN OF PASTOR MARK BEATTY

This is especially important in the New Year as 2024 will likely be more polarizing for many in America both leading up to and following the presidential election in November. ***So let's be gentle with each other, gracious with each other, and encourage and entrust each other to put God first in all things, who is our source of connection and community.*** Let's stay connected as *church* through all of this, no matter who is elected. Finally, here's the specific resolution I'd like to make. With the election being so far away still, and given ongoing uncertainties regarding *any* of the candidates at this point, let us commit now to pray for whoever is elected, especially through the first 100 days in office, that God lead, guide, and inspire our president-elect, whoever that may be. By bringing this up now, it precludes a potential pretense toward any one party or candidate. In so doing, we engage in the civic process while also putting God first. Granted, this invitation is pretty far ahead on the calendar, and goes into 2025. However, through the course of 2024 and even starting today, if our mindset is reaffirmed to intentionally put God first, with the commitment to pray together for God's guidance and will for our next elected president (and current president and world leaders too for that matter), this also helps keep us together in community during the journey of 2024.

In the meantime, Happy New Year! We have a newborn king to celebrate and the light of Epiphany to receive and share. Especially in this New Year, may he truly be for us our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (from Isaiah 9:6-7); and may we be the faithful family of God together, gathered and united as the one body of Christ our Lord has called us to be.

In the love of Emmanuel,

Pastor Mark

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ISAIAH 9:6-7 NRSV

Stewardship



A Message from Your Stewardship Ministry Team:

“Together With God” & “Our Christmas Gifts to the Lord” Stewardship Appeal Updates

Happy 2024 to All! We look forward to another blessed year together. I wanted to give you an update on our two Stewardship Appeal Programs we ran throughout the Fall. First of all, thank you for your generous gifts for the Advent “**Our Christmas Gifts to the Lord**” appeal to specifically honor various church ministries and groups. Our goal was to erase the \$24,000 deficit. Because of your generosity, your gifts **DID erase the deficit** and also gave us a cushion going into this year, exceeding that goal! You did it and we thank you again!

Here is the update on our “**Together With God**” annual stewardship appeal program for our ministries and programs for this year. We appreciate the Intent Card responses so far. As of the end of December, we have received 100 intents totaling just over \$450,000. While this is quite a bit less than previous years responses, there is still time to mail your 2024 Intent Card to the church office or place in the box on the Council Table in the Fellowship Hall. Additional Intent Cards can also be found there.

In pledging for this year, please remember that all we are and all we have are first and foremost gifts from God. Part of this wonderful relationship of love with God is in how we share the gifts we've been given. Our faithful stewardship is an act of love, bringing us closer in our relationship with God and to us all through the intentional giving of our time, our hearts and our financial resources. In your intent responses, we have asked that you prayerfully consider how important Holy Trinity is in your life this coming year to meet our financial obligations.

This is my last message to you as Stewardship Chair as my time on Council has come to an end. I have appreciated all the support from you over the past four years. Kip Johnson will be taking over the reins as the new Stewardship Chair. Please welcome and support Kip in this important church role.

I thank you for all you do to bless this congregation. Thank you for considering how you can grow in generosity in 2024 as we work together in relationship, lifting high the cross in what we do and in who we are here at Holy Trinity!

In God's Peace,

Bill VanBuskirk

Stewardship Committee Chair

Mark 1:14-20



HT Finances	Nov. 2023
MTD Income	\$ 64,567
MTD Expenses	\$ 54,488
MTD Net	\$ 10,078
YTD Income	\$715,663
YTD Expenses	\$729,931
YTD Net	(\$ 14,269)

January Gospel Readings	
Jan 7	Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 14	John 1:43-51
Jan 21	Mark 1:14-20
Jan 28	Mark 1:21-28



Youth + Children + Family Ministries



The children from Sunday School collected offerings this fall semester to donate to Gods Global Barnyard. They collected a total of \$375 and decided as a group which animals to buy with their offerings. They were able to donate a fish farm, goat, pig, rooster, bees, and chicks!

HOLY TRINITY FIRST STUDENT LED PRAISE AND PRAYER NIGHT! SO IMPACTFUL!



The Cub scouts did a great job cleaning up all the leaves in the field in the back after Christmas. They really help keep our Church looking so nice.



Dear Holy Trinity friends,

I am excited to announce a new musical opportunity at our church. We will be launching a new intergenerational group of handbell ringers for beginners meeting weekly on Tuesday nights. Once we have a good group assembled we can discuss a start date.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thomas Eisnor
Director of Music Ministry



GRINCH PHOTOBOMB!

Can you believe it? Grinch made another visit to Breakfast with Santa and caused havoc as always!!

The breakfast was hugely successful even with the Grinch.





HT Men's Ministry Bible on Tap

*Called to love, serve
and give through faith.*

Come join us twice a month for devotion, food, fellowship and planning the 2nd Saturday at noon and 4th Tuesday at 6:00 pm. In between we are doing projects as service to others as God calls us to do.

SUBSCRIBE to:
BOT.HolyTrinityMarietta@gmail.com

For additional information about this ministry, please email the above address or call: Dave Tester 678-410-9224 or Chris Winkler 770-565-6635.



Women, Wine and Word

Look for an email regarding future events. If you are not on our mailing list, please email swimmomblack@yahoo.com.

Thanks, Sabra and Leigh

The Envelope of the Month for January



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR is a social services outreach ministry of the ELCA, giving support world-wide and responding to human needs following a disaster.



Matthew 2:1-12

*This is the day that
the Lord has made...
and we are grateful
for it!*



If you heard the chatter and the laughter and smelled the freshly brewed coffee... and you happened to be in our educational building on Monday Morning, January 8th around 9:30 am... then you surely know that Monday School is back in session... AND... we would love to have you join us! The only problem you might have in this group is if you are allergic to hugs... but that can be controlled. We are excited as we will be reading and discussing a new book by one of our favorite authors, Max Lucado. It is titled "Help is Here" and it is a beautiful study about the importance of "The Holy Spirit" in our lives and in our hearts... it is our Triune God speaking to us... one on one... through the whispers of the Spirit. Our book can be purchased on Amazon or Christianbook.com. Please consider joining us at our rectangular circle of Sisters in Christ if you have any questions, please contact: Marcia Heinzer at 404-405-1853; Patti Ritter at 770-597-5520 or Alice Rohrbach at 770-973-7205.

Looking forward already to welcoming you...



**Lutheran Coalition
For Habitat**

NW Metro Habitat for Humanity is planning their Spring 2024 builds. The Lutheran Coalition for Habitat will be participating in the build at 106 Griggs Street, Marietta, GA. This is very near the Marietta Square.

The Lutheran Coalition for Habitat will be assigned several slots over many Saturdays for this build. We need volunteers. No real experience is necessary. I am sure most of us can swing a hammer and pound a nail. Or, use a paint brush and paint roller. If you like to plant bushes or do landscaping, those skills are also required. The Saturdays for the Lutheran Coalition designated work days are still being determined. The first nail date is February 24, 2024.

We usually work from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Volunteers should bring their own lunches.

NW Metro Habitat-for Humanity online volunteer sign up website Link- <https://habitatnwma.org/lutheran>
Password- **LUTHERAN**

Thank You!



Georgia Department of Human Services
Aging Services | Child Support Services | Family & Children Services

Candice L. Broce
Commissioner

December 27, 2023

Dear Friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

Secret Santa 2023 successfully provided Christmas gifts for well over 600 children. Although this year had a few different struggles, we came out on top! So many wonderful donors and volunteers made for a very smooth event this year. I am so proud of the opportunity to organize and work with each one of you.

Every year I love listening to the stories of volunteers, donors, foster parents, and case workers on the impact the Secret Santa program has on the children and families. This year I heard stories of families getting adopted and going to Disney, with each child receiving great gifts to enjoy on their trip. Families volunteering on Bag and Tag day every year as a great family event. Donors calling to make sure they get the perfect thing for the child they are sponsoring. What an amazing community to work with!

Please know how grateful I am to have your support for our Secret Santa program this year. You have helped a great cause and ensured the children of Cobb DFCS all received great gifts for the holiday. Thank you!!

Sincerely,
Samantha Hassler
Volunteer Resource Coordinator



MUST Lunches

We served 88 hungry members of our community in December at the MUST lunch at the Hope House. Many second helpings were also served! This is the most we have ever served.

We always need more volunteers to provide food and to join our team! If you would like to pay for a casserole, purchase peaches, salad fixings or cookies, please let me know.

Laurie Johnson
laurasiebertjohnson@gmail.com



John 1:43-51



MUST Update

Generous donations throughout 2023 filled the MUST grocery cart every week. The Undies for MUST drive collected an amazing 340 undergarments from September through December. Thank you to all who have donated throughout the year. Please continue to contribute food, clothing, household goods, and incontinence supplies as you are able. Your generosity makes a difference in many lives.

Birthday Cake Kits for MUST



Holy Trinity is launching a new project for the new year to bring a little joy to families in need throughout the year: Birthday Cake kits! Each kit will contain a cake mix, frosting, sprinkles, birthday candles and a can of soda. Why a can of soda? Turns out, a 12-oz. can of soda can substitute for the oil, eggs and water called for on the box. If the family has oil and eggs on hand, they can simply drink the soda.

MUST Ministries will distribute the kits to their Client Services Pantries in Canton, Marietta and Smyrna, where needy families are able to shop for groceries at no charge. We would also like to donate birthday-themed paper plates and napkins (think Dollar Tree), although they will not be part of the kit itself. No balloons, please.

Please stop by the Ministry Station in the Fellowship Hall to see a sample kit. There will be a specially marked bin near the "MUST corner" where you can donate items for the kits. Watch for BOGO sales on cake mix and frosting when you do your shopping. For more information, contact Jane Langdon at (770) 971-8768 or grandmalanel@comcast.net.

Looking ahead at your 2024 calendar...



ANNUAL ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER
Wednesday, February 14th at 6:00 pm in the Upper Room



A variety of homemade soups, grilled cheese sandwiches and desserts will be available before the 7:30 pm service to support our 2024 efforts.

Soup and dessert donations accepted!



Circle of Women Committee
Contacts



SHERRILL MCGRAW SL.MCG71@YAHOO.COM 770-597-1480
 NICOLE WINKLER NNWINKLER@COMCAST.NET 770-565-6635

Women of the ELCA Circles . . .

If you would like to join one of these groups, Circle Leaders are listed below.

<p><u>CIRCLE OF PEACE</u> met on Monday, January 8th. Next meeting is Monday, February 12th at 12:30 pm in room 7/8. For more information call Joy Schill at 770-639-7209.</p>	<p><u>GOD'S GRACE CIRCLE</u> Epiphany Brunch will be January 14th at Provino's after 11:00 am service! Starting in February, we will meet the third Wednesday at 10:30 am in room 7/8. Any questions, call Sherrill at 770-597-1480.</p>	<p><u>TENDER LOVING CARE CIRCLE</u> Join us on January 16th from 10:00 am to 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Any questions, call or text Annette Rhadans at 404-493-4449.</p>
<p><u>RAINBOW QUILTERS</u> met Tuesday, January 9th. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 13th at 9:00 am in room 7/8. Please join our smiling hearts and faces as we produce quilts for our LWR Quilt Ministry. Call Joy Schill at 770-639-7209 for more information.</p>	<p><u>PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY</u> Next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30 pm in EB Room 7/8. For more information, call Pam Stack at 770-975-8675.</p>	

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (W-ELCA)

W-ELCA IS THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA. HERE, YOU WILL FIND: SUPPORT OF YOUR FAITH JOURNEY; OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD; AND A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN WHO PRAY TOGETHER, SHARE IN BIBLE STUDY, AND EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF GROWING IN FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP. HOLY TRINITY'S W-ELCA PROVIDES GROUPS, KNOWN AS CIRCLES.



Well, a spontaneous "let's meet for coffee" turned into Advent Brunch for God's Grace on December 6th! We met at Debbie Benson's house, enjoyed a potluck brunch, Devotion and short meeting. It was lovely day with 13 in attendance.

Spontaneity, what a nice gift!

TLC Sisters enjoyed an awesome Christmas brunch at J. Christopher's on Roswell Rd...



2023 Cookie Sale Update



You did it again!! The amount of baking our Holy Trinity family worked on was beyond expectations! A wonderful variety of delicious treats were donated, then purchased by those at church after the services on December 9th and 10th. Your generosity will go on to support HT's 2024 Women's Scholarship program. Thank you!

Happy New Year to all, hoping you enjoyed those delicious cookies throughout the holidays!

The Holy Trinity Quarterly Birthday Celebration ...

...was held December 17th for birthdays in October, November, and December. We had 21 people come and celebrate in the Fellowship Hall with cake and photos! For those born January, February, and March come celebrate the next round of birthdays on March 10th!



Carol Altgilbers, Kathy Seraphine



Sharon Kane



Ethel King-McKenzie



Kristin Dickerson



Mimi Jones, Shyla Files, Stella Blenner



Shayna Jones



Cassady-James Foran



Vickie Crean



Ralph Williams



Jerry Gorley



Lindsey Jones, Jennifer Cowan,
Carol Keith, Patti Ritter



Holy Trinity Member Milestones - January

Anniversaries

January 1st

1983 Steve & Patti Dotseth
1991 Evans & Pat Axsen
2011 Joshua & Lori Bates

January 9th

1982 Joe & Gail Carone

January 20th

1996 Luther & Patricia Fors

January 24th

1976 Mark & Pattie Burwick

January 29th

1973 William & Barbara Smyre

Birthdays

January 1st

Ben Lee
Dewey Staggs

January 2nd

Marge Boley

January 3rd

Patrick Hendrix
Elisabeth Vogt
Angela Mendez
Steve Somers

January 4th

Ami Lecke
Bob Augestad

January 5th

Greg Roush
Pat Nordin

January 8th

Libby Gordon

January 11th

Idamae O'Grady

January 12th

Emery Nottage
Lucilia Foran
Sherry Wright
Marilyn Paulo

January 13th

Matt Bomeisl
Barry Hall
Bert Blenner

January 15th

David McGraw
Charles Bachman

January 16th

Michael Poarch
Dorothy Miley

January 18th

Andrew Scott
Sandy Greening
Bob Stratton

January 19th

Ursula Higgins
Anne Churchill
Julie Walls
Stan Wise

January 20th

Donna Leidner

January 21st

Lori Bates
Dee Martin-Hughes
Steve Dotseth

January 22nd

Steve Kaiser

January 23rd

Duane Whitesel

January 24th

RaeAnne Forrest

January 26th

Eddie Astfalk

January 27th

Ryan Nottage

January 28th

Logan Coker

January 29th

Ian Ritter
Keri Wheeler
John Muhlhausen

January 31st

John Plumley



Holy Trinity Staff

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Senior Pastor	Rev. Mark Beatty	pastormark@holytrinitymarietta.org	ext. 106
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Financial Manager	Alec Barnes	abarnes@holytrinitymarietta.org	ext. 102
Director of Children & Youth Ministry	Sal Espino	sespino@holytrinitymarietta.org	ext. 103
Director of Music Ministry	Thomas Eisnor	teisnor@holytrinitymarietta.org	ext. 114
Saturday Worship Minister	Chas Childers	chazsongs@gmail.com	

2024 Council & Committees

Council Officers

President	Sabra Black	swimmomblack@yahoo.com	770-356-5311
Vice President	Paula Garcia	psgarcia@mail.com	404-317-0562
Secretary	Vickie Crean	florallovervlc@gmail.com	770-974-6873
Treasurer	Dan Formato	dformato@comcast.net	404-457-3266
Financial Secretary	Doris Beatty	dmbbeatty16@bellsouth.net	404-683-5529

Committee Leaders

Children & Adult Educ.	Meredith Kiefer	meredith.kiefer@gmail.com	517-449-9836
Evangelism	Paula Garcia	psgarcia@mail.com	404-317-0562
Financial Mgmt.	Mark Hinkson	mark.hinkson7@gmail.com	678-488-9948
Hospitality	Sharon Mazna	smazna1010@gmail.com	404-931-7313
Personnel	Vickie Crean	florallovervlc@gmail.com	770-974-6873
Saturday Worship	Chuck Gregory	gregorychuck@att.net	770-971-0779
Social Outreach	Karen Johnston	kkastj@bellsouth.net	770-579-6730
Stewardship	Kristofer Johnson	kristofer.johnson12@gmail.com	763-218-7053
Sunday Worship	John Pfalzgraf	johnpfalzgraf1@gmail.com	704-840-8454
Youth & Family	Linda Vogt	vogtlinda@gmail.com	678-525-6772



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January Trumpet submissions due by January 22nd. Email your articles to: dchavez@holytrinitymarietta.org.