



**November 2023**



*If you would like Pastor to visit,  
please contact him at  
412-841-9359  
or call the church office.*

## **ALL SAINTS DAY**

November 1, 2023

**Remembering the  
Saints we have lost since  
last November**

Ed Flurschutz  
Jane Wood  
Bob Willetts  
Sandra Ramsey  
Rita Sick  
Kelly Monroe  
Carol Green-Peck  
Francis "Buzz" Pathas  
Dorothy Herke  
Becky Wright  
Lou DiStrola  
Clair Heysham  
Jacqueline (Shear) Allen  
Jon Ebeling  
Norma Bartlett



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Election Day

### **SAUERKRAUT SUPPER**

TICKETS

\$10.00 EACH

November 7, 2022

6:00 PM



# Pastoral Letter for November

Dear Trinity Church Members and Friends,

Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday, Dear Martin Luther, Happy birthday to you!

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in the town of Eisleben, which is part of modern Germany. His mother's name was Marguerite. In English her name would be Daisy. His father's name was Hans. Hans had been a copper miner and worked his way into the middle class. His dream was that Martin would grow up to be a lawyer and support him in his old age. He was disappointed that Martin became a monk and priest. German parents, especially in that period of history, were known as strict disciplinarians, and Martin's parents certainly were that. Perhaps that added to his feelings of sinfulness and guilt as a young man, his *anfechtung*, that motivated his search for a loving, forgiving God.

It was customary at the time to baptize a baby as soon as possible after birth. Typically, that was the next day and Martin was baptized on St. Martin of Porres' Feast Day, November 11. Obviously, Martin was raised in a pious and religiously observant home. In Germany at that time. St. Martin's Day was considered the end of fall and the harvest season, and the beginning of winter, a time of reveling. The festivities included bonfires, parades with lanterns, and children going door-to-door to receive candy, kind of like our Halloween Trick-or-Treating. How appropriate that Luther's later insights and his re-discovery of the gospel would lead to much joy and rejoicing.

Martin was a bright and precocious child. As was often done among families that could afford it, at an early age Martin was sent to a boarding school where he received a classical education. He was well trained in the wisdom of the day. He also had musical talent and sang in choirs at school. This would serve him well later in life when he wrote hymns and liturgies.

We can see many God-ordained things working together in Martin Luther's young life that helped prepare him to the Great Reformer he became as an adult. What trajectory might God be creating for you in your life? What positive influence might you have on a young person that helps prepare him or her to be all that God intends for that person to be? These are good things to meditate upon on these autumnal days.

**Readily available positions that are:**

- **Less demanding than making burgers at McDonalds...**
- **Less stressful than serving food at the Texas Hot ...**
- **Less noisy than chasing tots at a daycare ...**



**These positions have fantastic benefits:**

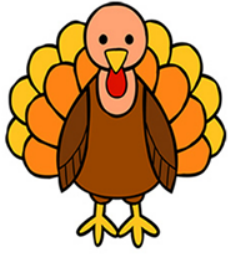
- **Helping your fellow mates**
- **Feeling some inner satisfaction from doing your part maintaining OUR congregation**
- **Using your talents and being involved in OUR Lord's mission**

**Requirements:**

- **Commit to attending 10-11 monthly church meetings annually**
- **Interact with others in offering suggestions, making decisions, and carrying out tasks in order to accomplish the necessary business of our congregation**
- **Support our Pastor as he leads us with God's greater mission**

**Kindly and in prayerful consideration render forth with your name to Pastor or Carol E. or any current member of your Church Council.**

**Keep in mind: Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's – and unto God all that which is within God's greater realm.**



# Thanksgiving Word Scramble

ntnkavshgiig \_\_\_\_\_

utraiedtg \_\_\_\_\_

sevhtra \_\_\_\_\_

lssesgbni \_\_\_\_\_

orcoucniap \_\_\_\_\_

ndiinsa \_\_\_\_\_

rlipsimg \_\_\_\_\_

oembenrv \_\_\_\_\_

pkpmnui \_\_\_\_\_

snftgfui \_\_\_\_\_

hftnkual \_\_\_\_\_

tratdiino \_\_\_\_\_

rkteuy \_\_\_\_\_

fstea \_\_\_\_\_

ahgetr \_\_\_\_\_



# Council Highlights

October 30, 2023

Attendance was 100% at this October meeting - and with our usual two guests, Tom and Judy Brainard. Business was brisk, much of it pertaining to our fiscal affairs, yet as you will discover in this article, Council embarked on a most insightful conversation that must be continued in the near future.

On behalf of Stewardship, Dick presented a proposal for investing \$95,000 of the ERTC monies as staggered term CDs. The interest rate is currently at or slightly above 5% vs. under 1% in the current money market account. Keeping our principal is guaranteed with a CD as compared with our other investments which seem to be a roller coaster ride of ups and downs. This motion was easily passed.

The initial phase of the roof project is now starting with Shea's realigning the positions of the rooftop drains. The roof company has somewhat modified their part and will do a short term fix, but we will be doing much more come spring by adding a tapered concept.

Marvin is looking into adding an automatic soap dispenser to the dishwasher as that will regulate the soap usage with less wasted soap. Past Sauerkraut monies will pay for this.

The proposed budget was thoroughly discussed line by line. Some adjustments were recommended for payroll, but actually totaling a slight decrease in overall payroll related expenses. Elders' requests are up slightly; most of their budget refers to altar supplies, monies to the Eastern District, bulletins, copyright fees. Office supplies are a slight increase. Paper and postage have become more costly. As of this perusal of this first draft, there likely will be a shortfall of approximately \$45,000 during 2024. Diminishing investments is the concern.

This probable deficit sparked a more in-depth dialogue leading to the need of a serious conversation about the future in terms of finance, facility, education.... all of our programming. What are our priorities? Is there an alternative source of funding? Could we rent the basement? Where are people capable and willing to fill positions for the business end of church operations?

Continued on next page...



# Council Highlights

Continued from previous page.

Our by-laws appear dated to the 1950s and are limiting to the current large number of positions. Considering our attendance and availability of able and committed souls, it seems the number of leadership positions: committee members, needed choir members, readers, ushers, altar assistants, Men's Club, and Ladies Aid attendees outweigh the available persons.

Pastor, in his numbers' example, started with 75 potential active members, as if all were present on the same Sunday, quickly reducing it by about 25 children, very elderly, and shut-in persons, further eliminating 25 or so simply not interested in participating in various capacities, and ending up with about 25 who might be interested, capable, and willing. Of those final 25, many wear several hats. We have one who sings, manages sound, makes CDs, is on Elders, attends Bible class; there are others who are very similar. One cooks, provide music of various sorts, supervises large meal gatherings, participates in Ladies Aid, etc. Many of our people are most dedicated and are very busy in a variety of capacities. No one person is being singled out; they are many within this smaller group - and we are thankful for all of them!

Times have changed. Maybe it is time for us to rethink our operations structure; i.e. downsize the number of elected positions; have fewer obligatory meetings... Such was Council "off 'on a tangent", brainstorming, thoughtful conversation. Food for thought for a future meeting.

The proposed budget will be shared with all in mid-November. New officers are needed unless the current ones choose to continue -this is the hoped-for outcome.

**Needed: Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Properties, and Elders.**

(Hint - Hint - Hint..... Twist a few arms-those belonging to current officers Carol Barnes, Rich Shear, and Linda (Linda currently has only has one arm - somebody get after her!) New blood is most welcome. Speak to Pastor or Carol E.

Once again it was a productive meeting, lively, and even with some good laughter.

**The next meeting is November 27 at 6 PM.**



# *November Celebrations*

## **Birthdays**

2 Haylee Helmer  
3 Carol English  
5 Diane Vossler  
7 Barry Gridley  
9 Matt Gridley  
11 Justine Willson  
12 Sandra Vossler  
19 Fred Dannheim,  
Marge Vossler  
24 Peter Mangels  
28 Carole Aldrich,  
Virginia Vossler  
29 Rosemary Vossler  
30 Rachel Mangels

## **Anniversaries**

6 Ludwig and  
Barbara Delity

*Happy Thanksgiving!*  
*May God bless you*  
*and yours.*

## **FREE COVID Tests available**

Beginning September 25, 2023, every household can again place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home. Visit [special.USPS.com/testkits](https://special.USPS.com/testkits).

### **How do I order free COVID-19 tests from USPS?**

When USPS starts taking orders for COVID-19 tests on September 25<sup>th</sup>, you'll only need to provide a few bits of information to get your kits. You won't be asked to provide any credit or debit card details, as both the tests and the shipping are free. Here's how to get your kits once the order process begins.

1. Visit [special.USPS.com/testkits](https://special.USPS.com/testkits).
2. Enter your contact details and shipping information.
3. Click **Check Out Now**.
4. Verify that your information is correct and select **Place My Order**.

All orders will be shipped via First Class Package Service.

People who can't access the website or who have trouble ordering online can call **800-232-0233** to order their free tests.

Before You Throw Out "EXPIRED" Tests: [Check to see if your COVID-19 tests' expiration dates have been extended](#).

Need a COVID-19 test right away?

Visit <https://www.covid.gov/tests> for available resources.



**Remember .....**

**<sup>to</sup>  
Vote**

**November 7**



## Ten Commandments for Hand Bell Ringers

1. Thou Shalt attend thy rehearsals with steady faithfulness.
2. Thou shalt not touch graven metal with thy bare hands.
3. Thy shalt not take thy sharps and flats in vain.
4. Remember thy performance dates and keep them holy.
5. Honor thy director that thy days may be long upon the land.
6. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's bell assignments.
7. Thou shalt not tap thy foot with exceeding loudness.
8. Thou shalt not steal thy neighbor's pencil.
9. Thou shalt return thy bells to their cases, shiny and unscathed.
10. Thou shalt return thy director to her car, shiny and unscathed.

Submitted by Pastor Ash





# Scout Adventures

These Scouts  
went white  
water rafting  
in  
Letchworth  
State Park.



Three boys earned  
their backpacking  
merit badge over the  
summer.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

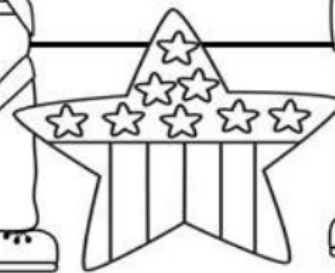


Paul Vossler won a first Junior Award at the Antique Automotive Car Club (AACA) in Hershey, PA on Oct. 6, 2023 for his 1931 Model A Roadster. It was his first entry for judging at a National Event, and a wonderful recognition for his many years of restoring the car. Here is a picture of his trophy being presented by the National AACA President!



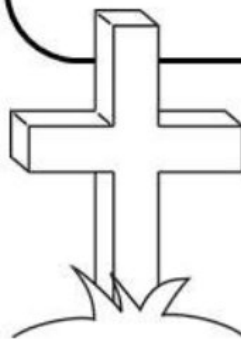
# Veterans Day

When is Veterans Day observed? Why do we observe Veterans Day?



What are the 5 branches of the military?

What kinds of activities do they use to observe Veterans Day in your area?







# It Takes a Village

Yes, it takes a village; more importantly **IT TAKES A CONGREGATION** working together with leading volunteers in order to thrive, grow, and nourish each other.

Several Council positions are open, waiting for YOU to step forth. Rest assured, Council meetings are of sensible length (short and concise), non-threatening, productive in outcome, with occasional humor with a sincere sense of collegiality

If you would like to get a gauge on such a meeting before committing, consider attending the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6pm. If you feel the urge to serve on a committee, consider Stewardship, Elders, or Properties.

Remember it takes ALL OF US rallying around together for our congregation – our village - to succeed!. It is NOT Pastor ALONE, but each and every person.



**First Trinity Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

470 N. Main Street  
Wellsville, NY 14895



**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
[trinitylutheranwellsvillenyny.org](http://trinitylutheranwellsvillenyny.org)



*Pastor: Rev. Dr. Eric D. Ash, Sr. (585) 593-3311*

*Daycare Director: Nancy Link (585) 593-3820*

*Director of Music: Carole A. Aldrich*



*Church email address:*  
**trinitywlsv@gmail.com**

*Church office hours:*  
**Monday– Thursday**  
**9 AM– 12 PM**

**NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

