

# JANUARY

## “BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING”

**Dear Friends,**

As I write this I am still pondering and celebrating last night's St. Nicholas Party for children at Alpine Crest Elementary School. I still see the smiles of children as I welcomed them and told them about the gifts and stockings and other goodies they would be receiving thanks to your generosity.

At the same time, I grieve the loss of our TLC children's program which came to an end last month because our staff had taken new jobs. Alas, with only 5 children in the program it seemed prudent to bring the program to a close rather than seek to acquire and train new staff.

I realize that life is like this. That some doors close and other doors are opened to us. Many of us have especially been mindful of this during this time of COVID. Stores, restaurants, events we once frequented have permanently closed. While at the same time, new places and activities have arrived in town or have been introduced in our lives.

Which brings us to a new year – 2022 is arriving! It is an opportunity as a congregation for us to discern; to discern what might God have in store for Trinity Lutheran Church in the year to come and in the years to come. In Isaiah 43:19 we find these words, *“Behold I am doing a new thing; it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”* This pandemic has left us feeling like we have been in a wilderness, a desert that seems endless. But over the months the waters of hope have begun to rise-up from the wasteland of this pandemic. The emergence of vaccines and boosters, as well as medicines and other treatments for those who have been diagnosed with COVID have provided the possibility that like the flu, we will be able to live with COVID going forward in ways that seemed prohibitive at its onset.

Which means we have the opportunity to ponder and reflect on what possibilities might God be calling us to ministry in a post-pandemic world? Will it include more outreach beyond our building like the St. Nicholas Party, food vouchers and our new ministry to the homeless of our community? Will God be calling us to find ways to demonstrate our care for one another like the God Squad ministry? Will God be calling us to partner with others in our community to begin new ministries? And what about our building? How might we re-purpose the TLC room? What renovations to our youth room will help us to better support the growing children and youth of our congregation? God is in our midst of doing a new thing among us. Our challenge is to prayerfully discern it as we find ways to care for one another and our community in a post-pandemic world. I believe this is our task in the coming year.

In Jeremiah 29:11 God says, *“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* As this year begins let us with hope, prayer and conversation begin to boldly go through the doors that God has opened for us as the people of Trinity!

**Blessings for a Joyful and Hopeful New Year!**  
**Pastor Stan Combs.**

# OWLS

(Older, Wiser, Lutheran, Seniors)

## January OWL Birthdays

- 13 – Bud Mayfield
- 21 – Gene Haar
- 27 – Kaaren Mayfield
- 27 – Bill Buelow

## Jan. OWL Anniversaries

(none)

Well OWLS, hope you had a glorious Christmas and are ready for a new year full of blessings. January is your month to rest up for future OWLS meetings. Although we do not meet in January, but be assured we are planning fun times in the months ahead.

Keep watching this space, as well as our Facebook page. If you are not on the OWLS HOOT email list, please call the church office and ask Laura to add you.



## **January**

No Meeting

## **February**

Good things come to those who wait

**Thanks, and blessed Christmas and joyous New Year!  
Susan**

# January Birthdays

James Craig	1/1	Rex Smith	1/8	Anja Utt	1/20
Linda Doll	1/1	Kristiina Braden	1/9	Gene Haar	1/21
Molly Iles	1/2	Gloria Rawlston	1/9	Emily Barajas	1/22
Kayla Kecy	1/4	Boge Wurcipto	1/10	Virginia Kohl	1/22
Clay Seneker	1/4	Theresa Bowman	1/14	Steven Wixson	1/22
Barb Bakkom	1/7	Allen Cain	1/14	Christian Woodfin	1/22
Oliver Nichols	1/7	Susan Gilbert	1/16	Joe Kecy	1/26
Grant Yelliott	1/7	Daniel Ortega	1/16	Jim Faller	1/29
				Margaret Jones	1/31

**SEW EASY WORKSHOP**— Come lend your hands **Saturday, January 22, 2022**, to making cuddle quilts for the children who are guests at the Chattanooga Ronald McDonald House while being treated as out-patients at Erlanger Children's Hospital. If you have sewing skills and a machine, please bring them. All materials will be provided in pre-cut kits. Non-sewers will fill vital jobs like ironing and knot-tying. The cause is worthy. The fellowship is excellent. Take part in a feel-good day to begin your New Year. This marks the 5th year of our Sew Easy Workshop. Over 100 quilts have been donated as a result of our combined efforts. Work will commence at 10:00 and continue until 2:00 in the Paul George Room at Trinity. Come for an hour or all day. Refreshments will be provided. Bring daughters, granddaughters and nieces. It's a great time to introduce them to charity work. **Sign up in the Welcome Center. Call Ginny Minninger with questions at 423/332-0227. See you on the 22nd!**

# Ask Pastor Clay

**“Pastor, why did Jesus become baptized by John?”**

We find the story of John, Jesus’ cousin, coming out of the wilderness, preaching a message encouraging people, generally men, to turn their lives around and away from sin. He attracts large crowds, baptizes many people in the Jordan river, and condemns the ungodly behaviors of those in leadership position. Jesus’ ministry has not yet begun and we hear that he goes to John and is baptized.

For us, this raises a number of questions. Why does Jesus feel that he should repent of his sins? Are there other factors in this baptism story that we need to hear and consider?

One noted theologian reports that never before the coming of John had any Jew submitted to being baptized. The Jews knew and used baptism, but only for proselytes who came into Judaism from some other faith. No Jew would ever think that he, a member of the chosen people, a son of Abraham, assured of God’s salvation could ever need baptism, for baptism was for sinners, and Jews did not see that in themselves. This may be the reason John’s preaching created such a stir, because his message touched a nerve. But what about Jesus? He was a Jew, and the scriptures remind us that Jesus was without sin.

Did Jesus become baptized for reasons other than sin? We really do not know Jesus’ reasons, but more was going on here in this baptism event than someone simply acknowledging their failures in their relationship with God. We hear God’s acceptance of Jesus as his Son, and as someone God is especially pleased with. We hear other messages in this story that are important for the people of God. This baptism, according to Mark, takes place in the Jordan River close to the entry point of the Israelites re-entry into the Promised Land following their 40 years wandering through the wilderness. This was an important point in the history of the Israelite relationship with God. And maybe, in a sense that river crossing was a type of baptism for all those Israelites as well. Remember that this baptism story follows the stories of the trials and temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. Some think the Gospel is structured this way to encourage the Jews to relate Jesus to Moses through parallel connections in the stories of the Israelite escape from Egypt and their troublesome journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. It is something to think about as you study the Bible.

What does being baptized mean? It does mean turning away from the brokenness of our relationship with God? It is a reminder of God’s love and grace given to us not because we have done anything, but because Jesus has done something for us at great cost, and He did it for you and me.

**Happy New Year, Pastor Clay Seneker**

**Hello Trinity family!**

The TLC Preschool has been a blessing in many lives including my own. It is with a heavy heart that I must announce that due to low enrollment since Covid and a full time job opportunity that will greatly benefit my family, the preschool is closed as of December. We deeply appreciate all of the support the church has offered to make the preschool possible over the years. The children and I have taken away great memories and experiences. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church.

**Shannon Smith**

# Prayer List

Shawn & Mark (Marlene Hiltunen)  
Katy Allison  
Bruce & Amy Annear (Fran Balsis)  
Lynn Ayers (Cree Giesel)  
Scott Baily (Fran Balsis)  
Alice Barnett  
Colin Bakse (Sondra Hart)  
Bill Balsis  
Eileen Bither (Debbie Greiner)  
Theresa Bowman  
Robert Burns (Carol Hayde)  
Martha Caldwell  
Gene & Laura Cline  
Kathleen & Jamie Craven (Fran Balsis)  
Joyce Davis

Tommy Dixon (Dale Elmlade)  
Linda Draeger  
Betsy Fryar (Julie Sosebee)  
Paul & Phyllis Giesel (David Giesel)  
Barbara Haar  
Doris Harsman  
Gary Hayde  
June Hoover (Fran Balsis)  
Steve Jackson  
Rebecca Krause  
Andy Kunz (Sharon Will)  
Joshua Lewis (Laura Dahlke)  
Sandy Maddox (Joyce Davis)  
Sherry McKinney (Fran Balsis)  
Britt McPherson  
David Miller (Dale Elmlade)  
Art Minninger

Elfie Owen  
Sandy & Michael Pell (Joyce Davis)  
Gigi Penticuff  
Laura Peucker  
Apryl Reno (Carol Bell)  
Elaine & Judy Schoeller (Anne Cain)  
Ida Seneker  
Karen Smith  
Leon & Pat Stonecipher (Joyce Davis)  
Maureen Turner (Carol Bell)  
Troy Varner (Jodi Doss)  
Eleonore Williams

**Please, update the office.**

## Military Prayers

**PV2 Barrett Brown** - Iowa Nat'l Guard—Tacy Gorton's grandson

**T/Sgt. Dillon O. Cole**, Marines, son of James M. Cole and Grandson of Jim

**Airman Nicholas A. Cyr**, USAF—grandson of Art & Ginny Minninger

**Pfc Owen Dobbins**, Army—Great-nephew of Mary Jenkins

**John Matthew Gray**, Master Chief Petty Officer John Gray, U.S. Navy – son of John & Diane Gray

**Harris Looney**, US Navy, friend of Diana Kreider

**Matthew K. Lynch**, USMC Reserve - grandson of Carol Bell

**Ryan Lynch**, USAF Reserve - grandson of Carol Bell

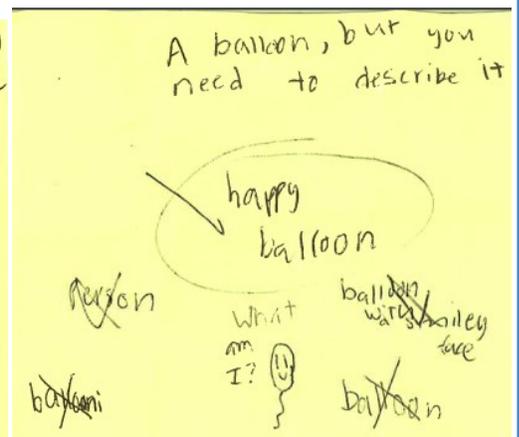
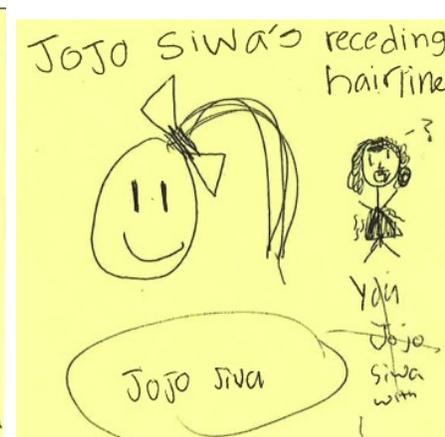
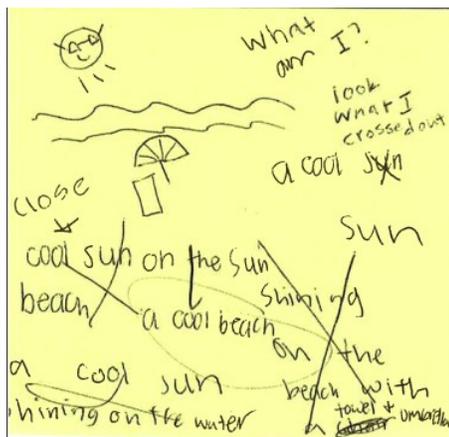
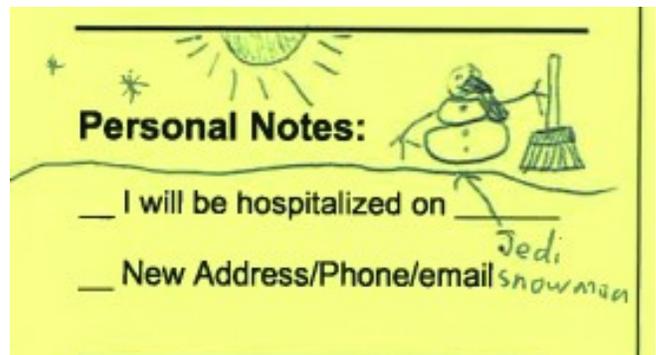
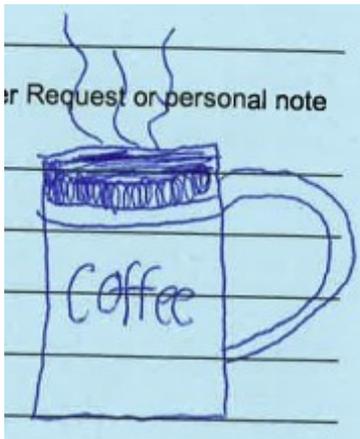
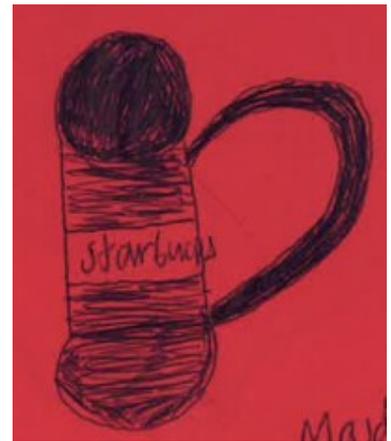
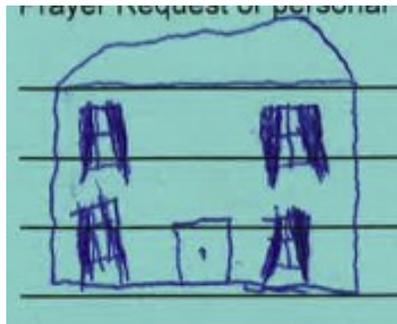
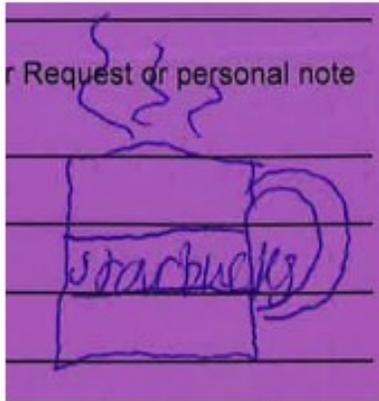
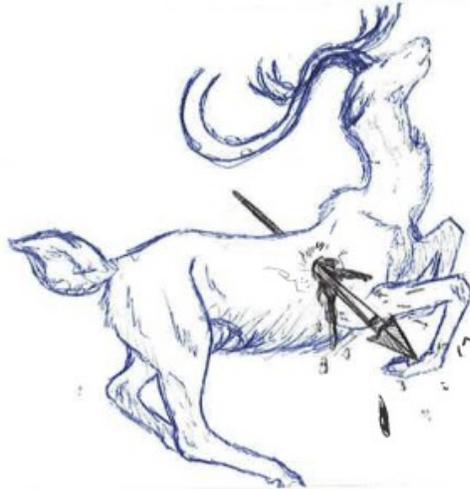
**Ryan Morgan**, Marines - great nephew of Carol & Herb Burhenn

**Tonya Morgan Le & husband Viet Le**, Army & Air Force—niece of Carol & Herb Burhenn

**Sam Thompson**, USMC - nephew of Diana Kreider



# Fun things found in the pews:



I truly enjoy and collect these all year. They hang in my supply closet until I clean them out.

# Memorials

***Donations to the Waddell Scholarship by Mary Carlson-Waddell:***

In memory of Rae Logan.

In memory of Nancy Gubish.

In honor of Klaus Peucker for service to our country.

***Gifts given in memory of Janet Wixson:***

Art & Ginny Minninger

***Gifts given in memory of Rae Logan:***

Ann Bartlett

Our **ONLINE CALENDAR**  
and **ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY**  
can be found on our website @ [chattanooga.lutheran.org](http://chattanooga.lutheran.org).

No need to find your newsletter  
or carry around the bulky pages of member addresses.  
Simply go to our website.

The CALENDAR is located on the **CALENDAR** page.  
The DIRECTORY can be found on the **LINKS WE LIKE** page.  
Please e-mail or call the office for the DIRECTORY CODE. It only needs to be entered once.

**New Addresses: (please note in your  
directory for future use)**

**The Veale Family**  
8659 Rambling Rose Drive  
Ooltewah TN 37363

**Jeff & Vicki McGuire**  
5775 Amber Valley Lane  
Hixson TN 37343

# Eucharistic Ministry

**Eucharistic Ministry Visitor** opportunity will resume in the new year. Please consider participating in this blessing to members of Trinity. Contact Carol Burhenn for more information.



## **What does the word Eucharist mean?**

The word Eucharist is Greek for “thanksgiving”. It is a term for Holy Communion. This title for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper has been used by the Church since the first century.

## **What is Trinity’s Eucharistic Ministry?**

The Eucharistic Ministry brings the comfort and promise of Christ in the form of the bread and wine to those who cannot physically share in Holy Communion at church.

## **Why is the Eucharistic Ministry important?**

It is important that members who cannot attend church have the opportunity to be united to the Body of Christ present in the Trinity community.

## **How will I know what to do?**

The pastors will provide an instructional class and give each visitor a Communion kit which is resupplied on a regular basis by the Altar Guild.

## **How will I know what to say? I haven’t been to seminary.**

At the pastors’ training you will be given a printed bulletin that walks you through the service. You will find that the service is very familiar to you.

## **What is the time commitment?**

A Eucharistic Minister commits to visiting a member at least once a month at a time convenient to the visitor and the member.

## **What else do I need to know?**

Being a Eucharistic Ministry visitor will be a blessing not only to the person you visit but also to you. The very act of personally sharing the Eucharist with another child of God can be an over-whelming personal blessing to you.

# Social Missions

Many city-wide programs have been changing how they serve our community and the food voucher program through the Chattanooga Food Bank is one of them. **The biggest change is that they have decided not to hand out vouchers at churches anymore** but to do so at the food bank. This change started as a COVID precaution, but it seems like this change will continue.

Trinity has been supporting those food vouchers over the last year and a half (we even increased the amount we sponsored by 100%!) and **will continue to sponsor food vouchers for people to use at the food bank.**

## FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry has been an important part of our voucher program for years. It has been a great way to provide those in need with a box of food to tide them over in times of emergency. With our food voucher program changing to being donation based we had to decide what to do with our pantry.

**We will continue stocking our pantry to serve those who come to our doors in need of food,** but we will also start taking the food directly to those in need! **Pastor Elise will start taking volunteers out on Wednesdays to distribute food boxes to the homeless of our city.** We'll be calling this ministry "Food Box Wednesdays"! This will change what kinds of items we collect from month to month as well. We will put a list together and publish it in the announcements as well as share a link to an amazon wish list on our Facebook pages.

If you are interested in helping with social missions' projects, including Food Box Wednesday please contact **Pastor Elise @803-730-2466** or email her at [pastoreliseanderson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreliseanderson@gmail.com).

She will be serving as the interim head of social missions while we restructure and rebuild our mission and interaction with our community! New ideas and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged!

<b>Those</b>	<b>who serve in</b>	<b>January</b>
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>January 2nd</b>	<b>8:15</b>	<b>11:15</b>
Altar Guild	XX	XX
Asst. Minister		
Lector	Kathy Behling	
Greeters		
Counters	XX	XX
<b>January 9th</b>	<b>8:15</b>	<b>11:15</b>
Altar Guild	XX	XX
Asst. Minister		
Lector		Alan Crews
Greeters	Kathy Behling	
Counters	XX	XX
<b>January 16th</b>	<b>8:15</b>	<b>11:15</b>
Altar Guild		
Asst. Minister		
Lector	Herb Burhenn	Janet Hope
Greeters		Fran Balsis & Kim White
Counters	XX	XX
<b>January 23rd</b>	<b>8:15</b>	<b>11:15</b>
Altar Guild		
Asst. Minister		
Lector		Mary Ann Shuey
Greeters	Kathy Behling	
Counters	XX	XX
<b>January 30th</b>	<b>8:15</b>	<b>11:15</b>
Altar Guild		
Asst. Minister		
Lector	Kathy Behling	Alan Crews
Greeters		
Counters	XX	XX

# January 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>EVERY Sunday</b> 8:15 Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 10:15 Bible Study 10:30 Handbells 11:15 Service	<b>EVERY Monday</b>	<b>EVERY Tuesday</b> 6:00 Scouts	<b>EVERY Wed.</b>  5:30—Handbells & Choir Practice	<b>EVERY Thursday</b>	<b>EVERY Friday</b>	<b>EVERY Saturday</b> 1  Happy New Year!
2	3	4 9:30 PEO (chapel) 10:30 OWLS	5 10:00 Pastors' Mtg 12:00 Staff Meeting	6 10:00 Quilters	7	8 10:00 Knitters 10:30 SESLYO Board Meeting 11:30 Ladies' Lunch Out
9 12:15 Evangelism	10	11	12 10:00 Pastors' Mtg	13 10:00 Quilters  6:00 Exec Committee	14	15
16	17 OFFICE CLOSED 	18	19 10:00 Pastors' Mtg 12:00 Staff Meeting	20 10:00 Quilters  6:00 Council	21	22 9:00 Confirmation Retreat 10:00 Quilting Workshop 10:00 Knitters
23 2:00 German Club	24	25	26 10:00 Pastors' Mtg	27 10:00 Quilters  5:30 Rose Society	28 Church Council	29 Retreat Weekend
30	31					

LRPC—Long Range Planning Committee  
 OWLS—Older, Wiser, Lutheran, Seniors    BMRG—Building, Maintenance, Renova-

Copies of the full, council minutes are available to the congregation upon request and are kept in the church office.

**Your 2021 Council Members & Staff are:**

**Gloria Rawlston, President**      **Ingrid Fortuna, VP**      **Jessica Hackathorne, Secretary**  
Beth Painter, Treasurer, Allen Cain, Cathy Dahlman, Gary Hart, Molly Iles, Dean Lanternier,  
Dennis Luker, Danielle Nichols, Vicki McGuire **Staff:** Pastor Anderson, Pastor Combs, Laura  
Dahlke, Carol Doucette, & Jim Faller

**Committee Liaisons:**

Stewardship: Allen Cain	Finance: Molly Iles
BMRG: Dean Lanternier	Hospitality: Dennis Luker
Children and Youth: Gary Hart	LRPC: Gloria Rawlston
Columbarium: Cathy Dahlman	Social Missions: Pastor Elise
Endowment/Waddell Scholarship: Ingrid Fortuna	Worship and Music: Danielle Nichols
Evangelism: Vicki McGuire	

**Treasurer's Report**

**November 2021 Financial Report**

TLC monthly budget is \$34,283; \$20,789 was received. \$4,581 was given to dedicated accounts (ie Neighbors in Need, Waddell Scholarship, Youth Fundraisers, Memorials etc) . Year to date receipts were \$311,414 with an additional \$32,718 was given to dedicated accounts.

Monthly loss (General Fund Income less Ordinary Expenses) for November is \$4,491. YTD gain is \$1,458.

Monthly receipts of \$305 were received for capital campaign pledges. Year to date capital campaign receipts were \$4,475. There were no gifts given to the modernization project. The amount owed on the LOC was paid in full December 31, 2020.

**A full set of Financial Statements are available upon request, or are available in the 2020 Annual Report outside of the church office.**

If you have an announcement you would like in the bulletin, newsletter, or on the Trinity Website, please fill out an announcement form OR E-mail the office.

[tlcadmin@lutherantrinity.com](mailto:tlcadmin@lutherantrinity.com)

**NEXT NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE is:  
January 24th**

**Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,  
Monday through Thursday.**

If you need to come in at another time, you may make an appointment by calling the church office, 870-1236.

**Pastor Anderson** will be in the office  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 1:30,  
and any other time by appointment.

**Pastor Combs** will be in the office  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 - 1:30,  
and any other time by appointment.

If you missed church on Sunday,  
Sermon videos are now available  
on our Website and Facebook!

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**Welcoming people to Christ for over 60 years...**

8:15 Traditional Service w/ Communion  
& Facebook Live @ Trinity Lutheran—Worship Central

9:30 Contemporary Service (Gym) w/Communion

10:15 Sunday School

11:15 Traditional Service w/ Communion

**Pastor Stanley Combs**

**E-mail:** revstan@comcast.net

**Phone:** 717-578-6851

**Pastor Elise Anderson**

**E-mail:** pastoreliseanderson@gmail.com

**Phone:** 803-730-2466

**Laura Dahlke—Administrative Assistant**

**E-mail:** tleadmin@lutherantrinity.com **Text:** 423-834-4337

**Jim Faller, A.I.M.—Organist and Choir Master**

music@lutherantrinity.com

**Congregational Council**

council@lutherantrinity.com



**Visit our website at**  
**[www.chattanooga.lutheran.org](http://www.chattanooga.lutheran.org)**

*~ Through the Love of Christ ~*

*We are an exciting, welcoming, and growing community of  
Christians sharing in God's love with one another,  
the Chattanooga area, & the world.*