

CHRISTMAS 2015

Volume 16, Issue 6—November 27, 2015

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Grace to you, and Peace, from God and our Lord Jesus, the Christ.

I am writing from the Pittsburgh Airport, where I am waiting for a flight for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Just over a week ago, there were a series of terrorist attacks in Europe and the Middle East. The U.S. has travel warnings for anyone traveling overseas....and the arguments continue here in the U.S. about our government's abilities to contain threats and protect us from all who would harm us.



The reactivity among people is understandable....we have seen the death and havoc that terrorists create. Fear is natural. It is a protective device wired into our bodies when we feel threatened...the fight or flight response is powered by a release of chemicals that flows through our veins, putting our bodies on "high alert." Just take a moment and listen to your body the next time you watch a show on TV that has you "on the edge of your seat." Unfortunately, these reactions can also wreak havoc on our bodies, our psyches, and our relationships when it is sustained for a period of time.

Men and women who have served in battles in war, those who have survived a traumatic experience or who have survived a bout of cancer, all know the cost of being under the constant stress of a threat – it is exhausting! Our generation is not the first to know this stress. However, with the constant din of TV, social media, and our computers, we are surrounded by the news of threats 24/7. It isn't healthy for us.

I would encourage you to “unplug” regularly, give yourself a break from the relentless threats, and immerse yourself in things that calm you, give you joy, and help you to relax. Take a few minutes a day to breathe deeply, clear your mind, and be present in the moment of time God has given you.



Throughout the story of God’s people, God sends messengers (we call them angels) and their first words are “Fear Not!” Jesus told his followers, “Do not be anxious” and when he appeared to them after his resurrection, his words were “Peace be with you.” God knows how stress can affect us, how fear can disable us and God longs to give us that “Peace that passes understanding.”

As you enter into your holiday season, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, take care of yourself and those around you. Unplug regularly, turn off the voices of relentless threat, and turn to God, who sends you his own Son to bring Peace. It isn’t the peace that the world can ever give, it is the Peace of knowing that no matter what may come, we are safe and secure in our Heavenly Father’s keeping. The Peace that comes from knowing that nothing can ever separate us from the Love of God, which is ours in Jesus Christ.

Our God chose to come to us in the form of a babe, vulnerable to the hatred of the powerful who threatened him with harm. He grew up in a poor, migrant family, who sought refuge in a foreign land, and his own people did not recognize him and would not receive him. Join us for worship, study and prayer, on Sunday mornings as well as the special days of the season.

May we be open to whatever way our God chooses to come to us this holy season. May we recognize that God occasionally sends us messengers of peace when we least expect it, through the unlikely people we might label “strangers” or “aliens.”

May the Peace that passes all understanding give you Joy in the midst of grief and pain, Confidence in the midst of fear and anxiety, and Agape Love, which holds all things together, in Him who is Love.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2015

- ▶ Special gifts in lieu of poinsettias will be given to the Somerset Food Pantry this year.
- ▶ Linda Himes, Chris Lloyd, and Jim Baker will explore options to create an electronic, emailed Church newsletter.
- ▶ Ann Persun will take the minutes at the Congregational Meeting on November 22.
- ▶ Motion approved to give \$1,800 from the Endowment Fund Interest for Social Ministry and Mission to the Allegheny Synod.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

H Y R G T F U C L E M A C L T
 P R W M U Q L H S T A B L E B
 E A M U Q T Q R N I Z Y H J B
 S M J Y T I V I T A N O B E H
 O T E I O F R S O Z R F T A O
 J W S O K E N T J S A H A O B
 X R U C Z F K M E W L P O N Z
 U I S E N C U A K E Z P X S T
 K U I V G E R S H I W E C W E
 Y C A I M R M E R D S P U Q W
 M N S J E C M E L T Z A L L Y
 K S R G N G U B S R W X B Q B
 X Q N P M X A O A I K Z O X T
 D A C O W T K T E D W A E O J
 M P S G H V S K I U M D H B R

BABY
 BETHLEHEM
 CAMEL
 CHRISTMAS
 COW
 HORSE
 INFANT

JESUS
 JOSEPH
 MANGER
 MARY
 NATIVITY
 STABLE
 STAR

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

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

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

After prayerful consideration, I've decided that I will be ending my time here on Sunday, December 20. Words cannot express how much my time here has meant to me. It has been such a wonderful experience serving with and among you all. I've learned so much in my ministry and sense of call. It's been wonderful to see how the Holy Spirit is working in this congregation.

Since I started here in July of 2014, I have experienced so much with you all. It's been such a sacred and humbling experience being with all of you in your times of joy and sadness. I've enjoyed working in the many ministries of this congregation. It's been wonderful to see a congregation that works together to care for those not only in the congregation, but also in the community and the world. One of your biggest gifts that the spirit is working through you in is hospitality. Your hearts are open and full for all God's people. This is evident on Sunday morning, as people greet one another; and in how you warmly welcome anyone who comes through the doors. I have felt greatly welcomed since the start, and I hear of many visitors that have had a similar experience. You care for one another in sending cards, bringing soup and cookies, and holding each other in prayer. I pray that God will continue to work through you all to share love and kindness to others.

I want to thank Pastor Linda, the rest of the staff, and all of you for the many ways you have allowed me to use and further develop my gifts for ministry. As the years go by, I will look back fondly on our time together; I trust the same will be true for you. I will hold the experiences I've had and all of you close to my heart as I continue my ministry. I sincerely appreciate the continual love, care, support, and prayers. I look forward to spending the Christmas holiday with my family as I wait for a call.



Blessings to all of you during this holiday season as we await the coming of Christ and celebrate the arrival of our dear Lord Jesus, who was born to live among us, God's people, to be the savior of all nations.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,

Vicar Jennifer Soltis

DECORATING THE TREE



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Join in the Trinity Family Christmas preparations by helping to decorate the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary with the chrismons. The more the merrier! Please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446 to let us know you intend to help!

VIEW FROM THE LOFT

NIGHT OF PEACE

I am very excited to share with everyone a new choral piece I call, "Night of Peace." I finished composing this piece in August. I was inspired to write this piece in response to the chaos that seems to have overtaken our world. I wanted to express my feeling that the peace of Christmas is needed now more than ever.

The peace we need is not just the opposite of war, but also peace from the hectic overbearing 24/7 days the era of the internet and social media has brought us. Personally I have been trying to refrain from looking at my Facebook more than once a day. Longing for a simple time when the end of the day was a time to wind down, not a time to catch up with all the emails and posts I missed while I was teaching. This phenomenon called "FOMO" (fear of missing out), by the internet community has caused so many people to overload their lives with information. FOMO is what you feel when you see someone else on Facebook doing something you wish you were (in essence so-and-so got to go see such-and-such movie and I still haven't). It is also the impression that by not checking up on our email, texts, and network feeds, we have missed something important as it was happening. This constant state of urgency has overtaken our peaceful lives. I wanted this piece of music to reflect the peace I long for from our temptation to try and take on all the problems of the world ourselves. We are only human and too much is too much. I look forward to sharing this music with you, which I feel is one of my best (of course all composers say that of their newest works!) For the lyrics, I used a combination of original words and adapted parts from famous Christmas carols to create a medley of sorts that sticks to the overarching theme of peace.

The other inspiration for this work was the Christmas armistice of 1914, when British and German troops sang carols together between the trenches of the Great War. I hope you enjoy the words:

Night of Peace

By Nicholas Carroll

How beautiful this night of peace; how beautiful.
 Our long awaited song of light we finally sing.
 A blanket of stars now wraps the earth, this night of peace.
 Come witness the darkness start to flee, the darkness flees.
 The stars shine before him, light of light eternal.
 Come, Emanuel and show us the way.
 The King of creation come down now to save us.
 Now, the victory feast has started.
 Not as a Conqueror; bearing our forgiveness,
 Tonight is the night our world begins anew.
 Sing with all the angel chorus
 Go tell all the Savior's here.
 Winter wind and summer rain;
 The seasons call his name.
 Hail the newborn Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
 For to us a child is given, wonderful counselor, mighty Lord,

Born to raise each child of earth,
 Born to give us second birth!
 On this night of peace.
 Silent night, holy night.

Narrator: On December 24, 1914, British and German troops along the western front met in between the trenches to share rations and sing the Christmas Carol, "Silent Night." Christmas armistices have occurred throughout history at many other important moments. Let us remember this night of peace as our own.

Sleep in heavenly peace.
 This night of peace
 On this night of peace
 How beautiful this night of peace, this night of peace.

Warmest wishes for Christmas peace,
 Nicholas Carroll, Director of Music

CHILD CARE NEWS

Hi,
 I hope everyone is going to have a pleasant holiday season full of love, family, peace, and great food in the coming months. The Child Care is busy helping and teaching children to grow in their development. We are still enjoying the days we can be outside due to the nice weather. The children have been loving that and the staff too. We currently have 13 staff and about 60 children enrolled. If anyone could donate the following items it would be greatly appreciated: glue sticks, feathers, googly eyes, and colored pencils.
 --Krystal Shaffer, Child Care Director

ADVENT MESSAGE

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior. (Luke 1:46b-47)*

Friends,

Grace and peace to you as we move into the season of Advent and walk toward the celebration of the birth of our Savior. This is the time of year when we remember the great gift that Jesus Christ is to us. He was born among us to save us from sin, death, and the devil and to bring us into Christ's eternal life. In the tender compassion of our almighty God, our Lord has come to bring us to himself. In mercy, charity, and love our Lord Jesus gives us his life.

At this time of year generosity, charity, and love are on our hearts. Many of you will support the ministries and organizations that help care for people in our communities and in our world (ministries such as our partners ALSM and Camp Sequanota) as we move toward the end of the year.

I write to ask you to remember a place that continually reaches out to your community, that shares the love and mercy of Jesus, and works to bring hope and comfort to this world: your congregation. Your congregation is a place where Christ Jesus has called you into community, and week after week Jesus is with you as you gather to worship and celebrate the meal that our Lord gave us.

As you enter into this time of year when you are supporting organizations and ministries that do good and worthwhile work, please remember your congregational home. Consider making an additional Advent or Christmas gift to the mission of your congregation. You could decide to increase your weekly offering \$10, \$25, or \$50 a week during Advent. Or you could make a special Christmas gift to the congregation of \$100, \$250, or \$500. Any gift will go toward continuing the ministry and outreach of your congregation. These gifts are all about helping us to reach out together to share the love of Christ with the world around us.

May God continue to bless you in the seasons of Advent and Christmas. May you have safe travels. May you be comforted by the presence of our Lord Jesus and by those you love.

Happy Advent and may Christ's blessings be with you,
†Bishop Michael Rhyne

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

OUR YOUTH attended the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Rise Up Together." Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas, Kathy Mitchell, and Flor Hernandez led our group this year. The event dates were Tuesday, July 14 through Sunday, July 19. Those who attended and presented what they learned at the Gathering at the worship service on Sunday, November 15 included:

Michael Beeman
Elliott Dick
John Dick

Madisyn Mostoller
Seth Shaffer

Once again, our grateful thanks for attending fundraisers and supporting our youth for this important life-changing journey! Your prayers were much appreciated!



The themes for the Gathering included:

Wednesday, July 15	Rise Up Together
Thursday, July 16	Bear Burdens Our day for proclaiming Justice...
Friday, July 17	Build Bridges Our day for proclaiming Community...
Saturday, July 18	Break Chains—Our day for proclaiming God's and Our Story...
Sunday, July 19	Bring Hope—Our day for Worship and Sending Out...

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, November 22 after the 10:00 worship service. The following are results from that meeting:

- ▶ Approved the 2014 Annual Report.
 - ▶ Dale Kriner and Michael Mitchell were each elected to Council for three-year terms. Council will appoint two more people for a three-year term.
- (If you are interested in serving on the Council, please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446.)
- ▶ Council will appoint one person to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Fund.
 - ▶ The 2016 Annual Budget was approved.
 - ▶ Appreciation and thanks to our outgoing Council members: *Gretchen Knupp, Larry Mazer, Shelby Rhodes, and Deborah Stewart.*

(Copies of the 2014 Annual Report and the November 22, 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting Report are available in the Information Center, blue Chapel Kiosk, or in Trinity's Office if you missed the meeting.)

**Congregational
Meeting**

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Donald Lee Brady, Jr. was baptized at Trinity (he is Deb Keller's son) and grew up in Rockwood and Shanksville. He attended Forestry School and is now driving for Hogan Trucking. He loves to hunt and enjoys time with family. He and Lisa were married here in September, and between them have several children, most of them now adults. Donald brings his interest in woodworking and construction and is interested in Bible Study and hosting meals at the church!

Lisa J. (Beeghly) Brady was born in Somerset and attended High School here, then went on to Nursing School. She comes to Trinity out of the Roman Catholic tradition and has been attending Trinity with her new husband, Donald Brady. Lisa works at Conemaugh Hospital, and you may see her with her two youngest children, Caitlyn and Andrew. She enjoys gardening, cooking, and plans to invest time in Bible Study. She was inspired by the sharing at the 225 Dinner to volunteer her organizational skills and interest in cooking by hosting meals for the congregation!

Sandy Harvey was born and educated here in Somerset. She went on to study nursing at Pittsburgh's Southside Hospital. She works as an RN at Somerset Hospital in the Surgery Unit. She is part of the Woy Clan and grew up at Trinity. She married her husband, John, and their son, Andy, was baptized here at Trinity. When she and John moved to their house in Friedens in 1993, they became members at Friedens Lutheran, where it was convenient for Andy to be involved. Andy is grown now and has moved out of Friedens, so the Harvey's have decided to return to Trinity again, to join other family members here (the Carroll's).

NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

John Harvey was also born and educated here in Somerset. He was raised at Somerset Church of the Brethren and joined Trinity Lutheran when he married Sandy in 1986. John attended Taxidermy School (at Ebensburg) and continues to enjoy taxidermy as a hobby. He works as the Investigator for the Somerset County Office of the Public Defender. He loves to hunt and fish, and he and Sandy enjoy being outside, especially their daily walks on the back roads with their dogs. Their son Andy lives in Fayette County, where he is a Wildlife Conservation Officer.

Jodi Liston was born in Johnstown and grew up in Pocahontas. She enjoyed culinary school in Punxsutawney and has lived in a number of places in Western Pennsylvania. Just a few weeks ago, she moved from uptown Somerset to a house outside of town with her son, Ayden. She works part time for the Post Office and is excited to begin working with a new bakery opening in town, doing what she loves best--baking and particularly making candy. She and son, Ayden came to Trinity through her friend, Stephanie Lloyd. Jodi enjoys horseback riding, quad riding, baking, and spending time with her son. She looks forward to sharing her gifts in baking and hospitality and has already become involved in Bridges of Hope, our ministry with the Hispanic workers in the area!

Ayden Liston is 10 years old, was born in Pittsburgh, and grew up in Somerset. He attends 5th Grade at Maple Ridge. With his mom, he has lived in Pocahontas, Uniontown, Hollsopple, and Ohiopyle. He enjoys helping out on the farm, soccer, math, and expressing himself in artwork. He also enjoys testing the food his Mom bakes!

NEW MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Marci Miller is well known to the congregation, as she is married to Robert Snyder, and works as an attorney here in town. She and Robert were married and their two children have been baptized at Trinity. She is originally from Meyersdale, and her family now lives in Berlin. Marci graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and Duquesne University Law School. She is a sole practitioner in Somerset, and also has an office in Meyersdale. She first came to Trinity through friends at work fresh out of law school and sang in the choir for a time. Marci has a special interest in women's issues in law, plus she enjoys family time, work with the Soroptimists Club and Pius Spring Women's Club (Berlin), baking, gardening, and reading when she has time.



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

MEMBERS REMOVED BY DEATH:

October 29	Mary Elizabeth (Von Moose) Hamilton
November 4	Ronald William Fait, Sr.
November 17	Samuel Raymond Wissinger



NEW MEMBERS' ADDRESSES

Please place this sheet in your Church Directory
at home for our New Members received on
November 22, 2015:

Lisa and Donald Brady, Jr.
1104 Orchard Parkway
Somerset, PA 15501
(814) 443-3950

Sandy and John Harvey
167 Oak Hill Drive
Friedens, PA 15541
(814) 445-7164

Jodi Liston and Son, Ayden
541 Flannery Road
Somerset, PA 15501
(814) 233-0906

Marci Miller
757 Swallow Street
Berlin, PA 15530
(814) 267-4264

MARYS AND MARTHAS

The **MARYS AND MARTHAS** study group will meet on Wednesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor and Wednesday, December 16 for a 5:30 dinner at Lana Miller's home. We thank the Marys and Marthas for cleaning Trinity's kitchen cupboards the last few months. It is greatly appreciated!



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, November 29 (1st Sunday in Advent)

7:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion Service
8:45 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 6 (2nd Sunday in Advent)

7:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion Service
8:45 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
4:00 p.m.	Chapel Healing Service with Communion

Sunday, December 13 (3rd Sunday in Advent)

7:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion Service
8:45 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 20 (4th Sunday in Advent)

7:30 a.m.	Chapel Communion Service
8:45 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion



Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 p.m.	Family Worship Service with Communion and Children's Christmas Program
8:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service with Communion

Sunday, December 27 (1st Sunday after Christmas)

10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion Lessons and Carols
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(Post this at home or give to a friend and invite them to come.)

SHOPPING TRIP

CHILDREN'S AID HOME SHOPPING TRIP: Volunteers will be needed for the shopping trip on **Saturday, December 5**, and also donations for funding the trip. Donations and volunteers help the young people purchase gifts for their families, friends, and Aid Home Staff.

Call *Janet Fetterolf* at 442-1474 if you can help.

To contribute, make your check payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church," with "Children's Aid Home" on the memo line or offering envelope line.



MUSIC...MUSIC...MUSIC

A CONCERT, "SOUNDS OF STRINGS AND PIPES—THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT," will be presented in **Trinity's Nave** on **Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m.** It will be about an hour in length. The concert will feature guitar music by Don Robinson, Josh Dunmeyer playing carols on the piano, and Nicholas Carroll performing various selections for organ. A freewill offering will be taken to support the ongoing servicing of Trinity's pipe organ. All are welcome!



"CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR," a concert featuring songs for the holiday season, will be presented by *The Laurel Highlands Chorale* on **Sunday, December 6 at 3:30 p.m.** at the Somerset Church of the Brethren on Berlin Plank Road. Special guest performer is Luke Mitchell. Tickets are available from any chorale member or at the door. The Laurel Highlands Chorale is an affiliate of Laurel Arts.

SAM ADVENT SERVICES

SOMERSET AREA MINISTRIES 2015 COMMUNITY ADVENT SERVICES will be held at 12:05 p.m. at First United Methodist Church **each Wednesday in Advent**. A half hour of music precedes the service. The schedule of dates, preachers, and churches providing lunch are as follows:

December 2—Prayer and Praise—S.A.M. Caters Lunch

December 9—Father Lenny Anderson—St. Francis Episcopal

December 16—Rev. Eric Raygor—Grace United Methodist

December 23—Rev. Jeffrey Popson—First United Methodist

FOOD PANTRY TOY DRIVE

IF YOU HAVE NEW OR SLIGHTLY USED TOYS OR GIFTS for children and youth (birth to age 18) to donate for the upcoming **Food Pantry Toy Drive**, please bring them to Trinity's Office by Monday, December 7 or earlier. Gifts and used books for older teenagers are always needed. For all ages, we need stuffed animals; dolls; trucks; and creative kits (PlayDoh, science, art, etc.) A \$10-\$15 gift is given to each child, as well as a book, stuffed animal, and a \$1-\$2 toy. **The toys will be given out on Wednesday, December 9 between 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.** Ann Voytish needs volunteers to set up toys in the rooms, help parents to choose toys, wrap gifts, check batteries in the toys, etc. If you have questions or can volunteer **ahead of time** or on December 9, please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446.



COMMUNITY NEEDS

BIRTHRIGHT OF SOMERSET, INC. has delivered to Trinity's Fellowship Hall a hand-made poster-sized Christmas tree adorned with paper ornaments during the holiday season for their annual 2015 Giving Tree Drive. The ornaments have the names of inexpensive baby items such as tee shirts and sleepers that they place in their layette boxes for women and babies in need. Please consider supporting their drive when you are doing your Christmas shopping by purchasing one of the ornament items to brighten a new mother's life. Please place your unwrapped gifts in the bin under the tree.



SALVATION ARMY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

- ▶ Christmas Bell Ringing/Service Clubs or Organizations
- ▶ Christmas cheer for nursing home residents
- ▶ Gift and food sorting
- ▶ Christmas distribution
- ▶ Food collections

If you can help with any of these projects, please contact the Salvation Army office (445-9232). Thank you and may God Bless!



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

HOMEBOUND COOKIES

COOKIES FOR THE HOMEBOUND ARE NEEDED! By dropping the form below in the offering plate, please let us know how many dozen homemade cookies you can provide for our homebound members for their enjoyment this Christmas. We need approximately 70 dozen. Thank you for your time, donation, and support! Cookies may be brought to Trinity's Kitchen on Friday, December 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Cookies will be packed the morning of Saturday, December 12 beginning at 9:00 a.m.**



COOKIE DONATIONS FOR HOMEBOUND

I will provide _____ dozen homemade cookies for the homebound boxes for Saturday, December 12.

Name _____

Phone _____

(Form Deadline: Tuesday, December 8)

SANTA BREAKFAST

CAMP SEQUANOTA IS SPONSORING "BREAKFAST WITH SANTA" from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 12. Cost is \$10/adults, and \$5/children, which includes a photo with Santa. At 10:00 a.m. the story of St. Nicholas will be told about living generously. Phone (814) 629-6627 to make your reservations.



40,000 CAN CHALLENGE

Friends,

Last year, working together, we did a wonderful thing to care for our communities and our neighbors in need. Together we participated in the 25,000 Can Challenge to gather food and items for our local food banks. Working together as the Allegheny Synod – you surpassed our goal gathering over 36,000 cans and items of food to care for our neighbors.

This year I would like to see if we can go even further. Since we gathered 36,000 – let us see if we can gather 40,000 this year. I am writing to invite you the members and congregations of the Allegheny Synod to participate in this year's 40,000 Can Challenge.

We will kick off the Challenge on the first day of Advent, November 29 and will conclude on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7. To participate you can gather cans, boxes, bags, bowls, and any kind of food or items to feed our friends and neighbors.

The cans and other items collected in our church will be donated to the Somerset Food Pantry here at Trinity. There will be boxes outside of the Chapel and in the Narthex during these weeks for the collections. Let us work together to help others and meet the needs of our neighbors!

Each week our secretary will call into the Synod Office and let them know how many cans/food items we received. Updates will be given through the bulletin on how the Synod is doing on the challenge as we are working together.



□ †Bishop Michael Rhyne

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Thursday, December 17



*Special Gifts for
Somerset Food Pantry
Thursday, December 17*

Poinsettia Pick-up:

*After the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
Service or after 10:00 a.m. Worship on
Sunday, December 27*



Trinity's Office and Child Care Closed:

*Friday, December 25
Friday, January 1*

Adult Sunday School Social Hour 8:45 a.m.

No Children's Sunday School:

Sunday, December 27

Year-End Gifts/Contributions:

Thursday, December 31



February Newsletter Deadline:

Monday, January 25

Year-End Financial Reports Due:

Monday, February 8

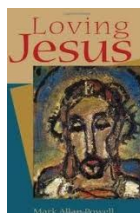
ANNOUNCEMENTS



SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will take place during morning worship on Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 a.m. This service uses the readings traditionally associated with Christmas celebrations through the years. Please plan to bring your family and invite your friends as we celebrate our Savior's birth together! (There will not be Children's Sunday School or 7:30 a.m. worship on the 27th. There will be a Social Hour for the Adult Sunday School Class at 8:45 a.m. on the 27th.)

THE THURSDAY BOOK STUDY GROUP

"LOVING JESUS" has read quite a few books in the last year. Some of the members who no longer need the books would like to share them with other "readers" in the congregation. They have been placed on the table in the Fellowship Hall for members to take or give to a shut-in or neighbor who likes to read. They do not need to be returned.

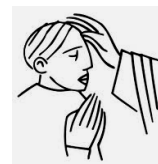


A BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER has been requested for Arnold Benford who will turn 90 years old on January 2nd, 2016. Please send greetings to:

Mr. Arnold Benford
400 Clocktower Ridge Drive
Apartment 10
Winchester, VA 22603

ANNOUNCEMENTS(CONT'D)

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS SET Thursday, December 31 as the deadline for donations to be credited to your account for 2015. Your year-end gift and gifts throughout the year are always needed and appreciated!



OUR ANOINTING SERVICES will be held in area Nursing Homes instead of the 4:00 Chapel service over the winter months. On January 31 the service will be held at Patriot Manor at 2:00. On March 6, the anointing service will be at Siemon's Lakeview Manor at 2:00. Watch the bulletin for details for the February service. If you have family or friends residing in the nursing homes, please join them for the service. Everyone is invited and welcome!

JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDIES

Monday Morning Bible Study—10:30 a.m. in Adult III (none on Monday, December 28)



Tuesday Men's Group—9:00 a.m. Turnpike McDonald's

Marys and Marthas—Wednesday, December 2 and 16 - see page 17 for locations and times

Thursday Loving Jesus—noon in Adult III (Beginning a new book, The Chosen by Chaim Potok on Thursday, December 3.)

RECAP OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

JAN 1 - SEPT 30, 2013 - 2015

2013		INCOME	EXPENSE
		\$366,358	\$468,067
2014			
		\$363,972	\$502,681
2015	(A) Brickwork		
	(B) Phones	\$346,612	\$598,916

- *We have not included any income or expenses for the Geothermal Project.
- (A) Brickwork—Paid by monies from Capital Improvement \$15,000.
- (B) Phone Project—Paid by monies from Improvements to Trinity \$14,110 and General Fund \$18,000 totaling \$32,110. (The Phone Project included: 24 Phones/internet capability in 8 areas of the buildings/coax cabling/and wiring for future security needs.

2015 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:

Give to Shut-Ins: () Yes () No

I Will Pick Up My Plant(s): () Yes () No

_____ Number of plants at \$8.00 each \$_____

Please make checks payable to: *Trinity Lutheran Church*

DEADLINE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17



(Please do not forget to pick up your flowers after the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 27.)

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

2015 SPECIAL GIFTS

This year, in addition to or in lieu of Poinsettias,

our special gifts will go to:

_____ *Somerset Food Pantry*



Amount \$_____ Envelope #_____

Please make checks payable to:

Trinity Lutheran Church

Deadline: Thursday, December 17

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

CANCELLATION POLICY



If for any reason, primarily due to weather, Trinity's worship services or events may be canceled or the times changed, you will have a number of ways to find out:

- ☒ The answering machine at the church will have a message about the change as soon as possible after the decision is made.
- ☒ Our Facebook page and Website will carry cancellations and changes, as soon as possible on www.facebook.com/trinitysomerset and the Website: www.trinitysomerset.org
- ☒ If the State, County, or Borough issues an advisory asking citizens to stay off the roads, our church events will be canceled or postponed.
- ☒ In the event of foul weather, worship services and events may be consolidated – for instance, the 7:30 a.m. service may be canceled, and all members are invited to attend the 10:00 service, presuming that roadways and our parking areas can be cleared by that time.

SINGERS NEEDED

Choir Practice



WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL SINGERS to join the TLC Festival Choir to sing special music at the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Please call Nicholas Carroll, Director of Music (233-2093) if you are interested in singing.

GEOTHERMAL UPDATE

Update on the Geothermal Project:

Two Loan Withdrawals \$120,622

Authorized Transfers from Various Savings 70,861

Gifts Received through November 22, 2015 172,313

(These are both one-time special gifts and payments towards pledges)

Total Cash in Hand \$363,796

Payments made (July - November 30, 2015) (361,225)

Balance—Cash on Hand \$2,571

Next Payment Due December 4 (\$34,750)

COLLEGE STUDENTS

A REMINDER TO ALL COLLEGE/TECHNICAL STUDENTS

AND/OR PARENTS...Trinity's Office needs your new school address, e-mail, and cell phone. Please mail the form below to Trinity's Office at 918 Tayman Avenue; Somerset, PA 15501; e-mail to trinluth918@verizon.net; or call us at (814) 445-5446 with your information.

COLLEGE/TECH STUDENT ADDRESS/E-MAIL/PHONE

Student Name/Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Cell Phone _____

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT TRINITY IN JANUARY, 2016

7:30 a.m. **Holy Communion Service** in Trinity's Chapel in the Educational Building

8:45 a.m. **Sunday School Classes** for all children and adults in the Fellowship Hall and Educational Building

10:00 a.m. **Holy Communion Service** in Trinity's Nave

4:00 p.m. **Healing Service with Holy Communion** in Trinity's Chapel 1st Sunday of each month (December 6, 2015). On January 31, 2016 the service will be held at Patriot Manor at 2:00.



HOW TO CONTACT US

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501
(814) 445-5446 (814) 445-3316 (Fax)

Email: trinluth918@verizon.net

Check out our Website: www.trinitysomerset.org

www.facebook.com/TrinitySomerset



CONGRATULATIONS!

TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT
BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)

Arnold Benford—January 2

Myra Braeseker—January 2

Betty Gorman—January 2

Patricia Arthur—January 8

David Nicholson, Sr.—January 17

James Spangler—January 17

Joan Wheeler—February 8

Jewel Shumaker—February 13

Catharine VanGilder—February 18

Fred Morocco—February 20

Tomalee Holt—February 21

Lerene Murray—February 23

Christa Pyle—February 24

Ruth Coleman—February 27

Ilelen Harrold—February 27

35,000 members, 116 Congregations, 7 counties...

We are the Allegheny Synod



We are a small congregation. We know we can't support a full time pastor. We are so thankful for the Lay Worship Leaders who come to serve us each Sunday. We know we are cared about and part of a community"

Class of 2015: (Back row L to R): Lori Dunkle, Jack Seymore, Bill Sulosky, Curt Wingert. (Front Row L to R): Linda Weko, Claudia Plows

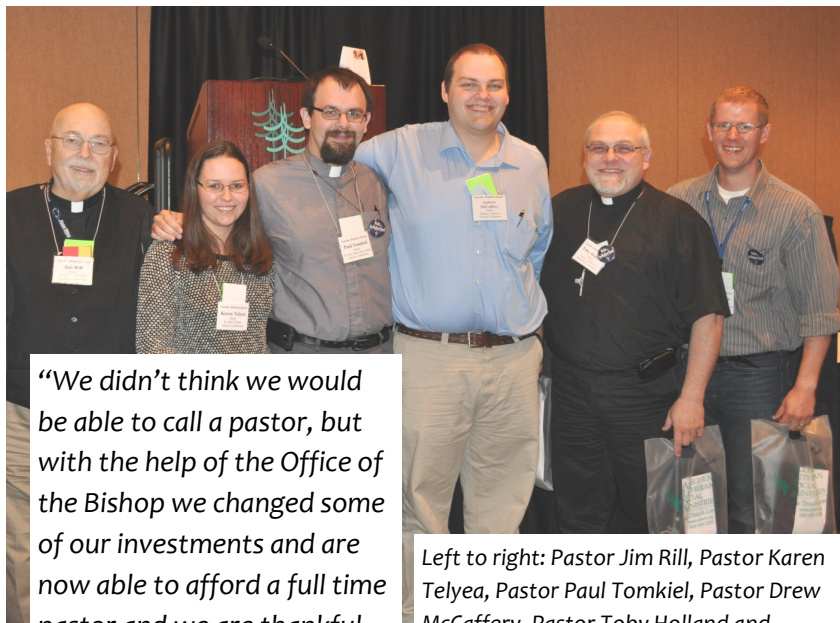
Lay Worship Leaders

The staff of the Allegheny Synod coordinates the more than 30 authorized Lay Worship Leaders in our Synod. Lay Worship Leaders are educated through the Discern Your Discipleship program offered each year. This session includes five lay people who are interested in lay worship leadership. Discern Your Discipleship is not just for Lay Worship Leaders. Any interested person can take any class offered. Registration forms and more information can be found on our Synod website—www.alleghenysynod.org

The Allegheny Synod
Office of the Bishop

35,000 members, 116 Congregations, 7 counties...

We are the Allegheny Synod



"We didn't think we would be able to call a pastor, but with the help of the Office of the Bishop we changed some of our investments and are now able to afford a full time pastor and we are thankful for this new ministry."

Left to right: Pastor Jim Rill, Pastor Karen Telyea, Pastor Paul Tomkiel, Pastor Drew McCaffery, Pastor Toby Holland and Pastor John Telyea

Transition

The staff of the Allegheny Synod assists our congregations when there is a pastoral vacancy by finding interim pastors, vacancy pastors, and lay worship leaders to serve the congregation in its time of need. We meet with call committees and congregation councils to explain the transition process, help complete forms and profile information, and seek candidates whose gifts will complement the congregation's needs.

The Allegheny Synod Office of the Bishop

701 Quail Avenue; Altoona, PA 16602

814-942-1042

www.alleghenysynod.org + office@alleghenysynod.com

Find us on Facebook: Allegheny Synod 8C

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING on Friday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. All families and individuals are welcome to spread joy to our homebound. This is one way we can share the good news of Christ's coming with our congregation even those that can't be with us. Please call Trinity's Office (445-5446) if you can join us.

FRUIT BASKETS



HOLIDAY FRUIT BASKETS are available from the Somerset County Blind Association. They make great gifts and support the services of the Blind Association.

Large Baskets are \$24.00

(Includes 3 Grapefruits, 5 Oranges, 5 Red Apples, 4 Golden Apples, 4 Pears, and 3 Bananas)

Small Baskets are \$17.00

(Includes 1 Grapefruit, 2 Oranges, 3 Red Apples, 3 Golden Apples, 2 Pears, and 2 Bananas)

Call Rob Stemple to order at (814) 267-5702.

Orders are due by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11. Fruit baskets must be picked up on Tuesday, December 22 (11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) at the Daily American building located at 334 West Main Street in Somerset). Delivery is available for 10 or more baskets.

DEVOTIONALS

DEVOTIONALS: The Word in Season (regular print) and Christ in Our Home (regular and large print) for January, February, March 2016 are available in the Narthex, Information Center, and Chapel Kiosk.



THANK YOU'S

Thank you Trinity for your generous donations for turkeys/chickens as well as funds for the Food Pantry. With generous gifts from you, our Somerset Community, and a generous match from Somerset Trust, we exceeded our goal to provide "birds" for each of our clients at the Food Pantry. Thank you again for your amazing response!



Dear Trinity Lutheran,

Thank you for the invitation to join you for the celebration dinner at Camp Sequanota. It was a wonderful evening, and I thank you for allowing me to be with you.



I also want to thank you for your offering of \$500 to the Synod Support Fund. It goes a long way in helping us reach our goals. Thank you for your support of the ministry we do together.

In Christ,

☐ †Bishop Michael Rhyne

JANUARY 2016 BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Kathy Critchfield | |
| Ricky DeWitt | |
| 2 Arnold Benford | 17 David Nicholson, Sr. |
| Myra Braeseker | James Spangler |
| Betty Gorman | Sally Urban |
| 3 Nathan Barndt | 18 Teresa Polcha |
| 4 Miles Gnagey-Davis | 19 Brittany Bence |
| D. Faye Ray | Chad Mosholder |
| 5 Sally Hoffman | Barbara Davies |
| Michael Marek | Kathleen Lloyd |
| Kathleen Triebe | Alan Miller |
| Matthew Younkin | 20 Drew Miller |
| 6 Deborah Keller | 21 Jill McNaul |
| Brady Meyers | 22 Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas |
| Lana Householder | Heather Spochart |
| 7 Laura Minnich | 26 Cody Leslie |
| 8 Patricia Arthur | Bradley J. Walker |
| Douglas Fanale | Luis Guzman |
| 9 Jennifer Harrold | 30 Jessica Miller |
| 10 Robert Gibson | |
| Betty Sloan | |
| Fletcher Stafford | |
| Dale Kriner | |
| 12 Andrew Baker | |
| Michael Baker | |
| Dr. Peter Jacobson | |
| 13 Caitlin Barkman | |
| William Snyder, Sr. | |
| 15 Jennifer Hair | |
| Cyndi Pryce | |



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

1 Kayla Carroll	19 Lori Bence
Nellie Stahl	Madisyn Mostoller
3 Julie Christner	Julie Mitchell
William J. McNelly	20 Danielle McDonald
4 Paul Eicher	Frederick Morocco
7 Colin Anderson	21 Tomalee Holt
Thursa Crouse	Austin Ross
Randy Hoover	22 Sally Maranowski
Joseph Kennick, Jr.	23 Lerene Murray
Glenn Miller, Jr.	24 James Cascio
8 Joan Wheeler	Christa Pyle
9 Derek McDonald	25 Rebecca Hoffman
13 Jewel Shumaker	Jessica Ross
14 Linda Gould	27 Ruth Coleman
18 Benjamin Gary	Ilelen Harrold
Catharine VanGilder	28 Brennan Centi

