

2015

Volume 16, Issue 2—April 24, 2015

EASTER II

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

**Celebrating the Past...and at the same time...**

**Looking ahead to what God has planned for us!**

In May we will be kicking off our season of Celebration of 225 Years of Ministry here at Trinity! Wow 225 years! It is hard for me to get my brain wrapped around that!



The beginning of our celebration, May 24, has more to do with an opening in the Bishop's schedule than anything else, yet it is absolutely appropriate that we kick start our celebration on Pentecost, which is often called the "Birthday" of the Church.

When the Holy Spirit visited the disciples at Pentecost, they had been gathering for some time, waiting for the promises of Jesus to be fulfilled. He had said that he would send them a partner in ministry, who would provide all that was necessary for them to fulfill the Great Commission: to go out and proclaim the Good News of God's Love in Jesus Christ, to Baptize and Teach all that Jesus had commanded them. They were to go out from Jerusalem to the four corners of the world....

In the same way, folks had been gathering for some time as Lutherans in Somerset, at multiple preaching points, including our sister congregation in Friedens. At one point, perhaps because of a recorded Baptism, a notation in an official record or an article in the newspaper, the year 1789 was adopted as "the birthday" of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Somerset, even though Lutherans were gathering in the area, for a number of years.

It is hard to imagine what life might have been like at the time. There was no larger Lutheran organization like the ELCA to assist with a mission start. No analysis of growth potential, no specialized pastors or funding that could purchase the first property or keep a mission start going through the early years.

Churches were begun because someone in Germany thought it was important to send out missionaries into the new territories in the fledgling United States. Someone in this little hamlet gathered a few of their German Lutheran friends together to listen to a preacher coming through town. They rejoiced to hear the Gospel. Perhaps they took up a collection to have a Lutheran pastor come back, to preach, teach, baptize, commune, marry, and bury folks in the Lutheran tradition. Eventually, a regular worship schedule was established and the first of several buildings to house the young church, was built...and the rest, they say, is history! As St. Paul said it, "there is a great cloud of witnesses who have come before us" and to whom we owe a great debt."

We will be exploring the 225 year history of this congregation over the next few months. I hope to learn more about what life was like for those establishing a new church in a rugged country that was Somerset so many years ago! I am looking forward to hearing more about the history of our town and this congregation through Sunday School programs, special events for the whole community, worship services, and dedicatory events. I hope that YOU will become involved in this celebration!

For, we have inherited a great history. We are called to be faithful in our time, and eventually, to pass it on to those who will come after us! So, let's Celebrate the past, but also, look ahead to what God is doing here!!

Faithfully yours,  
Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas

## AN INVITATION . . .

Bob and I just returned from a vacation trip to Mexico. It was warm and welcoming but also, a bit daunting, to travel where we didn't know the language. Fortunately, many of the native folk also spoke English and took good care of us. We had a lot of help, and that made all the difference in the world!

When we don't know the language we miss out on opportunities, we feel uncomfortable and vulnerable – there are so many ways that others could take advantage of our situation! We miss social cues, have difficulty communicating our needs, and our intentions. Misunderstandings are common, and it is frustrating to accomplish the simple tasks of getting transportation or making purchases.

You may be aware that we have in our larger community, a number of Hispanic folk who have limited ability to speak English. Some work in local restaurants and others are working on area farms. Not being able to speak English leaves a person vulnerable in a number of ways and limits their ability to participate fully in our community. It is isolating and challenging to navigate the basic activities of life when you cannot understand the language.



Fortunately, there are teachers available, and students who are anxious to learn. Making sure that folks have access to classes is a challenge – and I am making an invitation to Trinity members who might like to help, to let me know. Some students are out on Somerset County farms and need transportation in to take a class. Some of these young people are living isolated lives, working long hours. If you would be willing to help provide some help, I would be happy to help coordinate. YOU can make a real difference in someone's life simply by offering a ride to and from a class once or twice a month. Just let me know!

Pastor Linda

# VIEW FROM THE LOFT

## Whistle Down the Wind

I recently got ahold of the original cast recording of the musical, "Whistle Down the Wind." I had been trying to obtain this for quite some time as it was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jim Steinman, the latter being one of my favorite composers/lyricists of all time (commonly known for writing most of Meatloaf's material and famous songs like "Total Eclipse of the Heart"). However, when I listened to the musical, I was surprised to find it to be quite a thought provoking sacred work.

The libretto is based on a book by Mary Hayley Bell. The show takes place in Louisiana in 1959. The story is focused on a fundamentalist church-going family. The children of the family are all named after birds, and we soon find out that their mother passed away recently. The first scene takes place just after church, and it is close to Christmas. The children sing a song, "I Never Get What I Pray For" which expresses the way children view church teachings differently than adults. The song takes on a serious topic in a humorous way:

"I never get what I pray for,  
I can pray for less or a whole lot more,  
it don't ever matter, it's a sure bet!  
That I never get what I pray for...  
An end to the horrors of the atom bomb,  
or a dance with Ricky Nelson at the homecoming prom..."

After the song, the children meet a group of strangers to their small town who say they have come for a "revival meetin'" on Christmas Day. The leader of the traveling groups tells the children, "You gotta be ready, to wrestle with the devil in a heartbeat!"

When the children go home, their father informs them to stay away from the newcomers because "Some folk have some funny ideas on how to test their faith in Jesus including wrestling with serpents." The next day the town is informed by the sheriff that there is an escaped convict on the loose and the state police will be coming to town after Christmas to look for him. In the meantime, everyone must be very careful. Swallow, the oldest girl of the children, goes to the barn to tend to the animals only to discover a strange man hiding in the barn. When she sees the man she cries, "Who are you?" In surprise and alarm that he has been discovered the man attempts to cuss exclaiming "Jesus Christ!" However, the sheltered and innocent Swallow takes him literally and believes he is Jesus as she has heard every week at church that Jesus will be returning soon. The man says, "Don't tell anyone I'm here; they'll kill me!" Swallow says, "I know... just like how they crucified you!" So she agrees to shelter him.



Swallow cannot resist telling her brothers and sisters about "Jesus." The children begin discussing what it would mean if the mysterious man really was Jesus Christ, and what a difference it would make to their lives. They sing the song, "Long Overdue for a Miracle."

The rest of the show continues with many plot developments, but depicts in a powerful way how the idea of Jesus being back changes the behavior and lives of all around. At the end of the show, the sheriff discovers the secret and informs the town. The townspeople gather having just attended the revival meeting exclaiming, "We gotta be ready to wrestle with the devil in a heartbeat!" When the townspeople get to the barn, they find it surrounded by the children who are determined not to let them hurt "The Man." Swallow is trapped in the barn with him, and he says he will take her

hostage, but quickly changes his mind and instead pushes her out of the barn to safety. Left alone, he sets fire to the barn, so that when Swallow manages to get back in, there's no trace of him left. Swallow is convinced he hasn't left for good, saying, "He'll be back...I just know he will." Her father tries to make her see that he wasn't Jesus. She still isn't completely convinced, asking, "But how do you know?" Then the final and most famous song from the musical, "No Matter What," is sung:

"No matter what they tell us, no matter what they do  
 No matter what they teach us, what we believe is true.  
 I can't deny what I believe, I can't be what I'm not.  
 I know this love's forever, I know no matter what.  
 I can't deny what I believe, I can't be what I'm not.  
 I know this love's forever,  
 that's all that matters now no matter what."

The play itself never really truly tells the audience if "The Man" was the convict or if he was really Jesus or maybe even an angel. I found the story to be quite thought provoking and the music to be top notch. I wanted to share the story as this musical is not one of the more famous ones, but it is one of my personal favorites.

Nicholas Carroll, Director of Music

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2015

- ◆ Outdoor service and 225th community celebration lunch will be August 16 with a rain date of August 23.
- ◆ Approved the new phone system for \$32,170 and cabling for future security use for \$1,495.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### BAPTISMS:

April 4

Leah Marie Hoffer

**LEAH MARIE HOFFER**, daughter of Nathan Dean Hoffer and Anja Renee Troy was received into Trinity's family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on April 4.



April 12

Reese Olivia Sanner

**REESE OLIVIA SANNER** was received into Trinity's family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on April 12. She is the daughter of Anthony Adams Sanner and Carissa Lauren Hay.

### MEMBERS REMOVED BY DISMISSAL:

March 27

Michelle Denise (Harkcom) Serafini and her baptized son, Nico Louis Serafini were dismissed to House of Prayer Pentecostal Church, Inc.; Somerset, Pennsylvania

### MEMBERS REMOVED BY DEATH:

February 5

James Frederick Custer

February 6

Albert F. Sprock



### PASTORAL ACTS

March 25

Jessie (Levering) Fike

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jennifer (Dick) and Christopher Hair upon the birth of their son, Christopher Maverick Hair, born on Wednesday, March 4. He joins his sister, Dahlia, age 3 at home. Proud grandparents are Gretchen and Harold Knupp!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Krystal Shaffer (our Child Care Director) and her husband, Kevin on the birth of their son, Kaison Landry Shaffer, on Thursday, March 26.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Meagan (Griffith) Richter and James Richter upon the birth of their son, Isaac Reed Richter, born Saturday, April 4. Proud grandparents are David and Sandy Griffith!



## NEXT STEP CENTER

- ➔ Through the end of 2014, the Next Step Center has housed a total of 838 guests (including 191 children) since opening its doors November 2002.
- ➔ Construction was completed on the three transitional housing units in June 2014. Units are fully furnished. Work still needs to be done to bring the handicapped apartment up to code.
- ➔ For more information, visit our website at: [www.nextstepcenter.org](http://www.nextstepcenter.org)

## TRINITY MEETINGS/EVENTS

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Join us each Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for food, study, discussion, and fellowship!

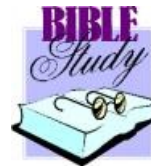
**May 3**—Somerset Hospital and Hospice  
Chaplain Brenda Benner

**May 10**—Birthright (Karen Long-Walat)

**May 17**—Camp Sequanota (Kayla Crist)

**May 24**—Brunch with Bishop Rhyne—225th Anniversary

**May 31**—Trinity Sunday (George Kaufman)



**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN** the Monday Morning Bible Study. We meet at **10:30 a.m. Monday mornings in Adult III** across from Trinity's Office and finish our study around noon. Join with us each Monday for study of the upcoming Sunday texts and fellowship!

**TRINITY'S MEN'S GROUP** meets **every Tuesday** at McDonald's near the Turnpike entrance at 9:00 a.m. We welcome men that would like to join us for this coffee fellowship. Contact John Minnich at 445-7660 if you have any questions.

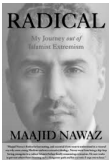


**THE MARYS AND MARTHAS** will meet on **Wednesdays, May 6 and 20** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. The group uses the ELCA women's magazine, Gather. Extra copies are available in Trinity's Office, the Chapel kiosk, and the Narthex Information Center. Join us for study and fellowship!

## TRINITY MEETINGS/ EVENTS (CONTINUED)

### 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

**SCHOOL:** We offer gathering music, a lesson from the SPARK Bible, a craft, and playtime for children 2-4 years old the **2nd and 4th Sundays** beginning in the Chapel (**May 10 and 24**) at 8:45 a.m. Teachers in the upstairs play room are Kelsey Lloyd and Brittany (Lloyd) Pizer. Parents of children this age and other family members are invited to attend. Helpful information and conversation on issues for parents of preschoolers is presented by Pastor Linda and/or Karen Frantz in the Parlor. Please join us!



**LOVING JESUS STUDY GROUP** will meet on **Thursday, May 21** (attendees usually bring a lunch) to begin a new book, Radical: My Journey Out of Islamist Extremism at noon in Adult III. Our next book will be Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis.

Please let Trinity's Office know if you want to participate in either of these book studies, and we will order a book for you.

**BISHOP MICHAEL RHYNE** will be with us for worship for Trinity's 225th Anniversary Celebration kickoff on **Pentecost Sunday, May 24** (which is also Memorial Day weekend). We will have one service only at 10:00 a.m. with a brunch before worship. Please mark your calendars!

## EASTER MESSAGE

*"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them." (Mark 16:8)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Gospel of Mark ends abruptly. The women came to the tomb to care for the body of their friend and Lord. They expected death. Seeing the stone rolled away, they entered the tomb; they entered into death. They didn't find Jesus. Instead, they saw a young man, who told them not to be amazed, that Jesus had risen. This same stranger told them to tell the disciples and then head to Galilee. Is it any wonder that terror and amazement seized them?

We are on the other side of the first Easter. We have grown used to the story of the resurrection. The good news brings hope and comfort. It brings freedom and joy. But I don't think it causes terror and amazement. Maybe we are missing something. The Greek word for amazement, "ekstasis," means "change of place." And that is what has happened to us and all of creation because of the resurrection. Before Easter, we stood in a place of sin and death. After Easter, we stand in a place of forgiveness and life. Everything has changed. We are not the same. The world is not the same. The deadly, but familiar, way of the world can no longer be counted on. This new reality of forgiveness, life and salvation is and should be unsettling. Terror and amazement indeed!

The world is turned upside down. It might look the same, but we are standing in a different place. Christ is risen. We are risen. Alleluia!

Blessed Easter,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## VOLUNTEERS/ITEMS NEEDED

### TRINITY'S CHILD CARE AND LEARNING

**CENTER** needs new or good used outside riding toys such as Big Wheels, tricycles, bikes with training wheels, plastic scooters, etc. for children ages 3-5 years old. If you have any to donate, please drop them off weekdays at Trinity's Office. Many thanks!



**WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE** in the "Week of Christian Service" **May 16-24** by the Allegheny Synod. Over these two weekends and week between, culminating on Pentecost Sunday, con-

gregations are invited to work to help their neighbors and communities. What kind of projects can you get involved in? Anything that helps people beyond the church walls, such as: cleaning up parks and playgrounds; writing letters to our soldiers; baking cookies for the local Fire Departments or Emergency Personnel; planting a community garden; helping your elderly neighbors with yard clean up; or going to sing at nursing homes. Use your imagination! If people ask why you are helping, the simple answer is: "Because we follow Jesus and He loves you!" Send stories of what you have done or pictures to share with other congregations to:

[service@alleghenysynod.com](mailto:service@alleghenysynod.com)

### WE HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO

**NEEDS A CAR.** If you have a used car you could donate or sell to Trinity for a nominal cost or know where we could obtain one, please contact Trinity's Office at 445-5446.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**STORYTELLERS ARE NEEDED** to join the rotation for Sunday mornings during the sermon time. Everything is provided for you. Please call Andrea Weimer to volunteer (926-2770).



**SYNOD ASSEMBLY CHOIR NEEDS VOICES!** The 2015 Allegheny Synod Assembly's Opening Worship Service with Bishop Michael Rhyne will be held at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1401 Twelfth Avenue in Altoona, on **Thursday, June 4**, at 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals will begin in May with 50-55 singers. Rehearsals will be held in three places: Grace Lutheran Church, State College; Zion Lutheran Church, Hollidaysburg; and St. David's Lutheran Church, Davidsville. Please let the Director, Laurel Sanders, Worship and Music Coordinator at Grace Lutheran Church in State College know if you would like to participate and location where you would rehearse, and she will send you details and rehearsal times. You may contact her by phone at (814) 238-2478 or email her at [sanders.laurel@glcpa.org](mailto:sanders.laurel@glcpa.org). Thank you for considering singing!

### ANNUAL 5K/10K DAILY AMERICAN

**WALK/RACE:** This year, the money raised through the Fitness Challenge and the race goes to the **Sipesville Volunteer Fire Department, Special Olympics, and Weekend Backpack Program.** We need team members for the race,



which is **Saturday, June 13**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Somerset High School Track. Please see or call Sally Miller if you are interested in being in the race by calling (814) 395-5593.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A MONEY COUNTER,** please contact Ann in Trinity's Office at 445-5446. Counters are needed throughout the year.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held on Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31. Trinity will again be joining with St. Peter's Catholic Church. Brittany Pizer and Kelsey Lloyd have volunteered to be Co-Directors.

Please mark your calendars and call us if you are interested in helping. Due to the new laws for volunteers working with children, everyone working with Vacation Bible School must have the three clearances as listed below. Please apply for your clearances now as it can take about two or three months to receive them.

### CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCES

**NEEDED:** As of January 1, 2015, **ALL** church staff and volunteers working with children and youth are

required by Pennsylvania law to have three clearances on file (Criminal Record Check, Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, and FBI fingerprinting). This includes anyone working in the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, working with Acolytes, Child Care Workers, etc. If you already work with children through your job and have any of these clearances, please forward a copy of them to Trinity's Office as soon as possible. Clearances must not be more than three years old. We want and need you to volunteer at Trinity, so if you need help financially getting these clearances, please call us at 445-5446.

**Who needs child abuse clearances?**

## FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

***Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!***

Easter is not a day, but a season of the year, a seven-week season. Easter Sunday begins a season in the church year that ends with Pentecost Sunday, the day Christians remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the earliest believers in Jesus. More on that later.



Throughout the season, there are some obvious signs we are still in Easter. For one, the paraments stay the color of bright gold. And we try to keep the Easter lilies around for as long as we can. We sing Easter hymns throughout the weeks of the Eastertide. The ELW, and other resources, have so many amazing Easter hymns, and we get to enjoy them for seven weeks! It may feel weird to sing, "Christ the Lord is Risen today" in May, but I think living in this Easter season for so long enables us to reflect on what Jesus' resurrection means to us.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! On Easter Sunday, we celebrate this good news, rediscovering for ourselves what the earliest followers of Jesus realized on that first Easter Sunday. Yet this is big stuff to try and ponder for one day, so we have weeks to do so!

The season of Easter gives us a chance to reflect more broadly and deeply on the complex meaning of the resurrection of Jesus. Our readings for each week help us to do this. We hear about the first apostles that experienced the resurrected Christ. We read about their fear, their confusion, and how experiencing the risen Christ changed their lives and sent them out to proclaim the good news. We hear the story of Jesus as the good shepherd, confirming the promises that Christ lays down his life for all of us. We learn that Jesus is



the vine, and we are the branches; as disciples, we bear much fruit. Jesus tells us to keep God's commandments, and gives us his commandment: to love one another as I love you. And in the last week of Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension.



The next week we celebrate the day of Pentecost. Pentecost is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." Therefore, Pentecost is the day on which the church was started, or the church's birthday.



The event of Pentecost is recorded in the Bible, the Acts of the Apostles. Chapter 2 begins, "And when the day of Pentecost had come, [the first followers of Jesus] were all together in one place." (2:1) All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven, like a strong wind, filling the house where the people had gathered. Something like tongues of fire rested on their heads. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak."

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on individual followers of Jesus as they were gathered together in Jerusalem. This gathering became the first Christian church. New believers in Jesus were baptized as they joined this church. They shared life together, focusing on teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They shared their belongings so that no one was hungry or needy. They lived out their new faith together.

So what does Pentecost mean to us today? Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord, empowers us to serve God, binds us together as the body of Christ, helps us to pray, and even intercedes for us with God the Father. The Spirit guides us, helping us to live like Jesus.

Pentecost presents us with an opportunity to consider how we are living each day. Are we relying on the power of God's Spirit? Are we attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Most Christians try to live in the presence and power of the Spirit, but only to an extent. We are limited by our fear, our sin, and our low expectations, not to mention our tendency to be distracted from God's work in us. Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failure to live by the Spirit and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with his power.

The spirit was poured out on the followers of Jesus when they were gathered together. This emphasizes the centrality of the church in God's work in the world. The Holy Spirit is given to individuals, as well as to a gathered people of God. The community of God's people is central to God's work in the world. Pentecost invites us to consider our own participation in the fellowship, worship, and mission of the church. It is a time to renew our commitment to live as an essential member of the body of Christ, using our gifts to build the church and share the love and justice of Christ with the world. We are to be a community in which all people are drawn together by God's love in Christ. We are all one in Christ Jesus. Each person matters and contributes to the health and mission of the church. The Holy Spirit is given to all people, empowering us to minister to the world. We work together to be the hands that do God's work in the world.



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

—Vicar Jennifer Soltis

## WE'LL SING ON

**TLC CHOIR WILL PREMIER A NEW PIECE OF MUSIC** on Pentecost Sunday, May 24 written by Nicholas Carroll entitled, "We'll Sing On." It is inspired by Psalm 90 and was written for this occasion. The lyrics follow:

**Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another  
before the mountains were brought forth  
or our cities and spires were born  
from age to age you are God.**

Refrain:

**For a thousand years in our time  
is like yesterday in Your sight  
and the sound of your thunder  
and lightning lit up the sky.  
The earth quaked with a consuming fire  
but we dwell in the shelter of the Lord.  
And by Your grace, You lead us along  
through the raging silence of death.  
We'll sing on.**

**Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.  
I'll declare the mysteries of ancient times  
to the children yet unborn. Refrain**

**Your love is a mighty fortress  
within You we can be strong.  
Even in our fallen world  
there will always be a song.**

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Rebecca Hersh           |                        |
| 2 Martin Siemon III       |                        |
| 4 Brandon Rhodes          | 19 Olivia Spochart     |
| 7 I. Frederick Brubaker   | 20 Aimee McNaul        |
| Trisha Miller             | John Minnich           |
| Jonathan Walter           | Anja Troy              |
| 9 Patricia Cascio         | 21 Barbara Coonahan    |
| Anne Frantz               | Jack Hess              |
| Valerie Kleinert          | William Kuhlman        |
| Claire Zufall             | Danielle Lloyd         |
| 10 Jill Glessner          | Luther Shaulis, Jr.    |
| Daniel Woy, Jr.           | Brooke Spangler        |
| 11 Shelby Bailey          | Noah Spochart          |
| Charles Mitchell III      | 22 I. Richard Adams    |
| 12 Sara Gibbs             | 23 Robert D. Christner |
| 13 H. Joyce Barrett-Jones | 24 Julia Matheny       |
| Donna Jacobson            | 25 Robert Holt, Sr.    |
| 14 Judy Trent             | 26 Robert P. Harrold   |
| 16 Maxine Lape            | 27 Anthony Sanner      |
| Goldie Beals              | 28 Jean Otto           |
| 18 Billye Kyle            | 30 Kenneth Walker      |
| Douglas Shaffer           | Robert Weimer          |
| Ryan Spangler             | 31 Nicholas Anderson   |
|                           | Ty Trent               |



## BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

- 1 Erin Gibson
- 2 Janet Fetterolf  
Scott Lloyd
- 3 Amanda Rugg
- 4 William Peck
- 5 Bruce Rhodes
- 8 S. Raymond Wissinger
- 9 Evan Walter
- 11 Evan Fetterolf  
Zeke Pizer  
Kathy Mitchell
- 12 Jennifer Rice
- 13 Samantha Hause  
Allison Harrold
- 14 Shirley Gibson  
Bonnie Rice  
Diane Wagner  
Andrea Weimer  
Nathan Weimer
- 15 Emily Lloyd
- 16 Abigail Bokros
- 17 Pamela Croyle  
Aaron Swanson
- 18 John Centi  
Lori McNelly
- 19 Betty Hunter
- 20 Madelyn Mitchell
- 21 Judy Greig  
Jonathan Jacobs  
Paul Urbain



- 22 Donna Cascio
- 24 R. Michael Cascio  
Ian Fetterolf
- 27 Ruth Nicholson
- 28 Taylor Demchak  
Alyssa Morocco  
Janet Morocco  
Walter Rose
- 30 Kathy (Lloyd) Johnson



## KENYA MARCH NEWSLETTER

### Women's Sunday

Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation (NILC) had an absolutely wonderful Women's Sunday worship celebration on March 1st!

A little background: The Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), the ELCA's companion church body, designates the 1st Sunday in March as Women's Sunday in concert with the global ecumenical celebration of the World Day of Prayer. We adapt the liturgy and theme from the World Day of Prayer and work to make it informative and relevant to our setting.

This year's theme was the Bahamas, and we learned about the beauty of those islands, the special needs that Bahamian women have, and how the people of the Bahamas are striving to care for their precious natural environment.



This was our 3rd Women's Sunday here in Kenya. At the first, we had a regular worship service led by the male pastor with a woman preacher. At the second, an ELCA seminary educated female Kenyan pastor took a strong lead and organized and led the service. This year NILC women were firmly and wonderfully in control of both planning and execution: leading the liturgy, saying the prayers, doing the children's message, and having the sermon by a local woman leader of International Bible Study Fellowship.

The women read through the liturgy which was provided by KELC's Women's Desk, and it was exciting to see that one woman especially wanted to pray for the preservation of the Bahamian seas; while another woman wanted to pray for health care of Bahamian girls and women; while yet another woman wanted to pray for women and children, particularly single women raising children, and so on. It was our sense

that these NILC women felt a sisterly closeness to the concerns for which they were praying on behalf of people, especially women, in the Bahamas.

A key goal of ours as we serve at NILC and with KELC is to transition the congregation to local leadership after many years of leadership by Americans. Women's Sunday was not only a terrific celebration for, of, and by women at NILC but it was also a striking moment of leadership by strong local women. Thanks be to God!

Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation – NILC

Rev. Michael G. Fonner, Th.D. and  
Leslie Weed-Fonner, M.S.W

## Trinity's New ELCA Missionaries serving with Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church

**TRINITY'S NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:  
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015**

## 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](mailto:trinluth918@verizon.net)

Check out our Website: [www.trinitysomeset.org](http://www.trinitysomeset.org)




[www.facebook.com/TrinitySomerset](http://www.facebook.com/TrinitySomerset)

## NYG FUNDRAISERS

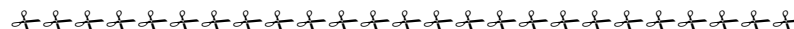


**HOSS'S STEAK AND SEA HOUSE COMMUNITY NIGHTS** are being held to benefit Trinity's 2015 National Youth Gathering (NYG) on **Sundays, April 26 and June 14** (all day). Cards are available in the Chapel, Narthex, and Office for April 26. One card is good for all persons in your party, and 20% of your guest check gets donated back to Trinity. See you there, and bring your friends!

**NYG PIZZA HUT “FUN-RAISER:** On **Monday, May 11**, we will have an all day (11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.) fund raiser for the NYG youth. Coupons (one per party) for 20% of your guest check to be donated to Trinity’s youth are available in the Narthex, Chapel kiosk, and Trinity’s Office. Delivery and carryout count, too. (FYI: The pizza/pasta buffet is available only at lunch time from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

The Pizza Hut logo is located in the bottom right corner of the page. It features a red, stylized pizza hut shape with the words "Pizza Hut" written in a white, cursive font across it. The logo is set against a black background.

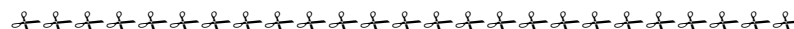
**NYG BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** will be served by the NYG youth and their families on **Sunday, May 24** from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will be taken with proceeds benefiting the youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July. Call the Office at 445-5446 or sign up below if you plan to attend.



*We plan to attend the NYG Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 24:*

Adults Children

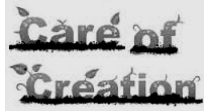
Name \_\_\_\_\_



## CARING FOR CREATION

*What can we do to care for creation?*

Jesus was asked by the Pharisees what was the greatest commandment? He replied: Love God above all else, and love your neighbor as yourself. Some things we can do to care for God's creation include using water wisely and recycling. We can learn about caring for God's creation and caring for our neighbors through food pantries, meals on wheels, free clinics, and safe houses.



Over the next few weeks, the Builders' Class will be talking about caring for God's creation and caring for each other. We've already heard from Larry Mazer, who talked about his time in Kenya. Tracy Shultz talked with us about the book and program, Bridges Out of Poverty: A Discussion on Generation Poverty.



Here are the following discussions coming up in May: Chaplain Brenda Benner, from Somerset Hospital and Hospice, will visit and talk about end of life care. She will offer insight into dying with peace, for those who are ill. We will then turn back to new life, where Karen Long-Walat will come in and talk about Birthright. We will also hear from Camp Sequanota and how they care for the Camp and those who visit and attend Camp. There will be a break in the Builders' Class with Bishop Michael Rhyne's visit on May 24. The next week, George Kaufman will talk about the history of Trinity as we kick off our celebration of Trinity's 225th Anniversary.

We have a full and exciting schedule! Come join us for learning, fellowship, coffee, and donuts!

—Deb Stewart

## COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

**TRINITY PLAYERS**, a theatrical group from Laurel Trinity Lutheran Church, will present a play called **Acting Can Be Murder**, written by Eddie McPherson, a backstage mystery-comedy which spoofs the styles of Agatha Christie and Alfred Hitchcock. All performances will be held at the Mountain Playhouse. Donations will be accepted at the door. All proceeds benefit Laurel Trinity's Senior Youth Group attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit. Dress warmly for the performance, as the theater is sometimes chilly this time of year. Dates are **Friday, May 1** at 7:00 p.m.; **Saturday, May 2** at 7:00 p.m.; and **Sunday, May 3** at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. For more information, please contact Randi Newlin at (814) 279-0591.



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** on **Thursday, May 7** is being observed on the steps of the Somerset County Courthouse from noon to 1:00 p.m. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, the observance will be held across the street at the Somerset Anglican Fellowship Church.

### TRINITY WINS THE TROPHY AGAIN!

Over 88 people attended the Wacky Bowling held on Saturday, March 14 at the Terrace Lanes to benefit Camp Sequanota. Trinity again had the most participants (about 30) and won the trophy! Great Job Trinity! Even more importantly, \$1,250 was raised for the Camp!



## COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

**AN ASCENSION EVE CELEBRATION** with Holy Communion will be held on **Wednesday, May 13** at 7:00 p.m. at Friedens Lutheran Church. A meal will be served before the service at 6:00 p.m. You are invited and encouraged to attend!



**NICHOLAS CARROLL PIANO STUDIOS RECITAL** is scheduled for Trinity's Nave on **Sunday, June 14** at 1:30 p.m. The recital is free and open to the public. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL** will be "**Telling Amy's Story**" in a powerful video presentation about domestic violence entering the workplace and a special presentation by Katelyn Clem of the **Women's Help Center**. The intent is to be able to change outcomes for the millions of victims, survivors, and loved ones affected by domestic violence every day. See this powerful story at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays**:

**May 12** at Community Arts Center  
533 Williams Street, Confluence or  
**June 16** at Coal Miner's Café, Jennerstown

There is no charge to attend, but seating is limited and a light dinner will be served. **Please register one week prior to the showing you wish to attend by emailing [sisomerset-county@soroptimist.net](mailto:sisomerset-county@soroptimist.net) or you may call Sandy Berkebile (443-4705) or Lori Hogan (445-3501).**

## ALLEGHENY SYNOD NEWS

### ALLEGHENY SYNOD KENYA MOTORBIKE CHALLENGE:

This summer, a group from the Allegheny Synod is going to visit our companion synod, the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC). Our brothers and sisters in ministry recently expressed the need for motorbikes to enable congregational workers efficient transportation on the dirt roads of Kenya to outlying congregations. Some parishes in rural Kenya are comprised of 12 congregations! The estimated cost of a motorbike is \$5,000. Bishop Rhyne, along with the Global Ministries Team, lifts up the "Kenya Motorbike Challenge" to raise funds for at least one, if not two, motorbikes. If each congregation in the Allegheny Synod could raise at least \$50, we could purchase one motorbike. Imagine what could happen if we raised more! The Challenge begins on Easter and runs through the Allegheny Synod Assembly on June 4-6.



## LAY SCHOOL

**2015 GETTYSBURG SUMMER LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY** at the Gettysburg Seminary will be offered **Sunday, July 26 through Saturday, August 1** with the theme "*Traveling Grace: Land and Spiritual Geographies.*" Early Bird registration ends Friday, June 12, and registration deadline is Friday, July 10. The Rev. Dr. Martin Zimmann and Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmann are among the presenters. A full schedule is available on May 15 at:

[www.Ltsg.edu/academics/lifelong-learning/lay-school](http://www.Ltsg.edu/academics/lifelong-learning/lay-school)



## ALLEGHENY SYNOD NEWS

**OUR JUNE SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES** are ***Carlton Jacobson, Chris Lloyd, Deb Stewart, and Pastor Linda***. We thank them for giving their time to attend this important Synod event. The Opening Service is at First Lutheran Church in Altoona on Thursday evening, **June 4** at 7:30 p.m. The Assembly takes place at The Blair County Convention Center **Thursday, June 4 through Saturday, June 6**. The theme is "We Are the Church." The Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens, an Associate Professor in the Arthur L. Larson position of Stewardship and Parish Ministry, as well as Registrar at the Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary, will lead the Bible Study.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### HONOR GRADUATES

Sunday, June 7

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 27 through Friday, August 31

### TRINITY'S CHILD CARE BASKET PARTY

Sunday, August 9

### TRINITY'S OUTDOOR SERVICE AND COMMUNITY PICNIC CELEBRATION OF 225 YEARS

Sunday, August 16

Rain Date: Sunday, August 23

## NOTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOMERSET AREA FOOD PANTRY

The financial health of the Somerset Food Pantry is excellent. During the past year, the Pantry has had receipts of \$151,909.66 and total disbursements of \$219,902.91. The current balance is \$133,532.35.



The disbursements were almost completely for food purchases, with minimal costs for administrative expenses, tax preparation, and filing fee. Our receipts consisted of cash contributions, increase in the value of stocks held, interest, and dividends. Approximately \$11,000 of income came from Pennsylvania State and approximately \$67,400 in donated food.

### People Served in the Past Year: (April 2014–March 2015)

5,017 families representing 2,462 individuals (Children, adults and seniors)

Total served since the start of the program:

84,704 families representing 215,275 individuals

These families and individuals have come from Somerset County: Hollsopple to Markleton and Stoystown to Champion.

The Food Pantry is able to operate only because of the valuable service of all its volunteers! We have 73 volunteers that serve in the following capacities: Board of Directors, Site Director and Assistant, Interviewers, and Packers. Those who keep inventory, order food, do the loading and unloading of supplies, organize the shelves, and keep statistics --- these volunteers work all week long, not just on Wednesday mornings.



At the Annual Meeting and Luncheon, on Wednesday, April 8, the Board members heartily thanked the Volunteers for their hard work. TOGETHER, we make a valuable contribution to the health and welfare of our fellow citizens here in Somerset.

Trinity is well represented among the volunteers: George Stein (Site Director), Bill Kuhlman, Bob Thomas, and Ann Persun serve on the Board. Interviewers and Packers include: Tom Anderson, Deb Stewart, Flor Hernandez, Don Voytish, Barb Swanson, Sue Weimer, and Jim Baker. By virtue of their normal responsibilities as well as volunteering their own time, our staff members provide additional support: Ann Voytish, Darlene Schafer, Doug Fanale, Frank Kyle, Vicar Jen Soltis, and Pastor Linda.

Trinity provides a great deal of support by providing electricity 24/7 for the refrigerators and freezers, the Food Pantry storage room, the back hallway and use of Adult III for Interviews and overflow storage. Our staff fields requests for food throughout the week between Food Pantry days; answers questions via phone; assists in the loading and unloading of food donations from other churches, individuals, and organizations; and sets up and cleans up each week.



—Bob Thomas  
Food Pantry Board Member

TRINITY'S OFFICE AND CHILD CARE  
WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, MAY 25  
FOR MEMORIAL DAY!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)



I. Frederick Brubaker—May 7

Goldie Beals—May 16

Maxine Lape—May 16

Billye Kyle—May 18

Jack Hess—May 21

William Kuhlman—May 21

Robert Holt, Sr.—May 25

Jean Otto—May 28

S. Raymond Wissinger—June 8

Abigail Bokros—June 16

Betty Hunter—June 19

Paul Urbain—June 21

Ruth Nicholson—June 27

Janet Morocco—June 28

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION

TRINITY WILL HONOR ITS GRADUATES on

**Sunday, June 7** during 10:00 a.m. worship.

Please inform Trinity's Office by calling 445-5446

(or by filling out the form below) with the names

of the seniors in your family graduating from high school, college, technical school, or graduate school by noon on **Tuesday, June 2** so that they may be included.



Graduate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School/College Name \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, degree earned in \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



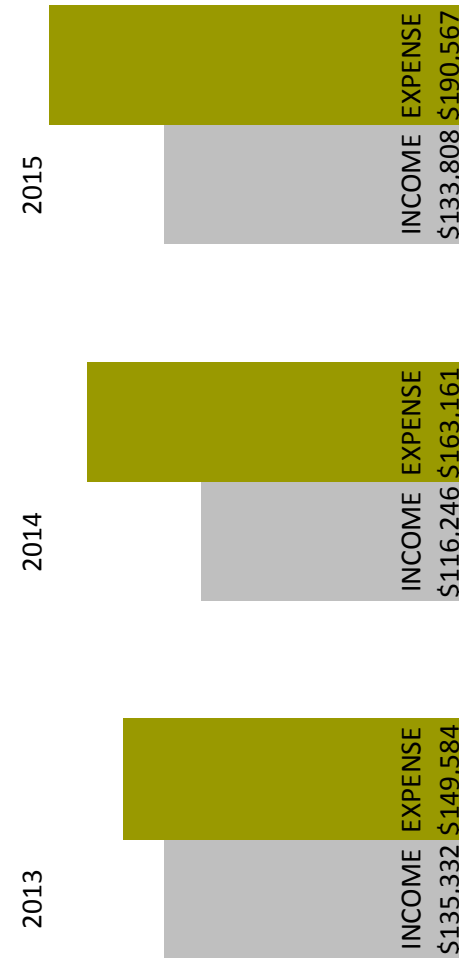
**ANY MEMBERS OR GROUPS** wishing to use Trinity's facilities or Pavilion should call Trinity's Office (445-5446) to schedule

the date and time for 2015, even if you have used it for the same date/event in the past. Sometimes we have multiple requests for the same date. Thank you!

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY** to all of our mothers who are living and those remembered in our hearts. Please remember to hug your mother on **Sunday, May 10** and every day!



## RECAP OF GIVING AND EXPENSES 2013 - 2015 PAST 3-YEARS 1ST QUARTER COMPARISON (JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31)



As requested, we are providing an overview of income and expenses each quarter and comparing it to previous years. This represents gross income and expenses. Each year is different and can be unpredictable. Example: 2015 winter expenses were significantly higher than 2013 and 2014. Also, Expenditures that have been planned over several years have come at once. Example: Installation of the new phone system and new internet wiring has begun - a project (\$33,665) two years in planning! Desperately needed brickwork is done! (\$15,000) Three years in planning! Thankfully, some have given faithfully to Improvements to Trinity and gifts given in the past can help us cover much of the deficit.

**CONSIDER: Has God been generous to you *precisely* so you can be generous to God's Church NOW?**

## CAMP SEQUANOTA EVENTS

**SPRING WORK DAY—Saturday, May 2** Help us get our facilities up and running for campers! Come yourself or bring your church group for a fun volunteer opportunity. Lunch will be provided. Projects will start at 9:00 a.m. and wrap up in the afternoon.



**ADULT DAY WORKSHOP—Thursday, May 7** with Pastor David Bowman from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The topic will be “**Practicing Discipleship.**” Bring a Bible, any translation, and a pen or pencil. Dress comfortably. Cost \$10/person with lunch.

### MOTHER’S DAY BANQUET—Sunday, May 10

Celebrate the women in your life with a lovely buffet-style lunch. We will be taking reservations. The meal is served in two seatings at 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Please call the Camp office to reserve a time and space for your group. A free-will donation may be given at the meal.



**SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE—Saturday, May 16** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. including lunch.

**Call Camp Sequanota (814) 629-6627**  
to make reservations

**OR email: [contact@sequanota.com](mailto:contact@sequanota.com)**

**For more information: [www.sequanota.com](http://www.sequanota.com)**

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Have you ever wondered about a tangible evidence of prayer? Many of us pray faithfully every day. Some of us even have a list of people we raise up in our times of prayer. Have you ever wanted to do more than pray for someone who is struggling?

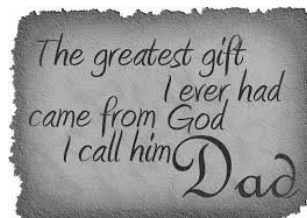
The answer may be in forming a prayer shawl ministry. I have been creating prayer shawls for special people in my life who have needed prayer. To date, I have knitted 2 shawls (just a beginning of this ministry!) I would like to invite any crafter, knitter, crocheter, and quilter types to join me in this ministry.



Some communities of faith meet and knit together weekly or monthly. As they knit, they pray for the people who will receive the shawls. If you are interested in joining me in this type of ministry, please see me after church on a Sunday morning, or call me at 442-1916.

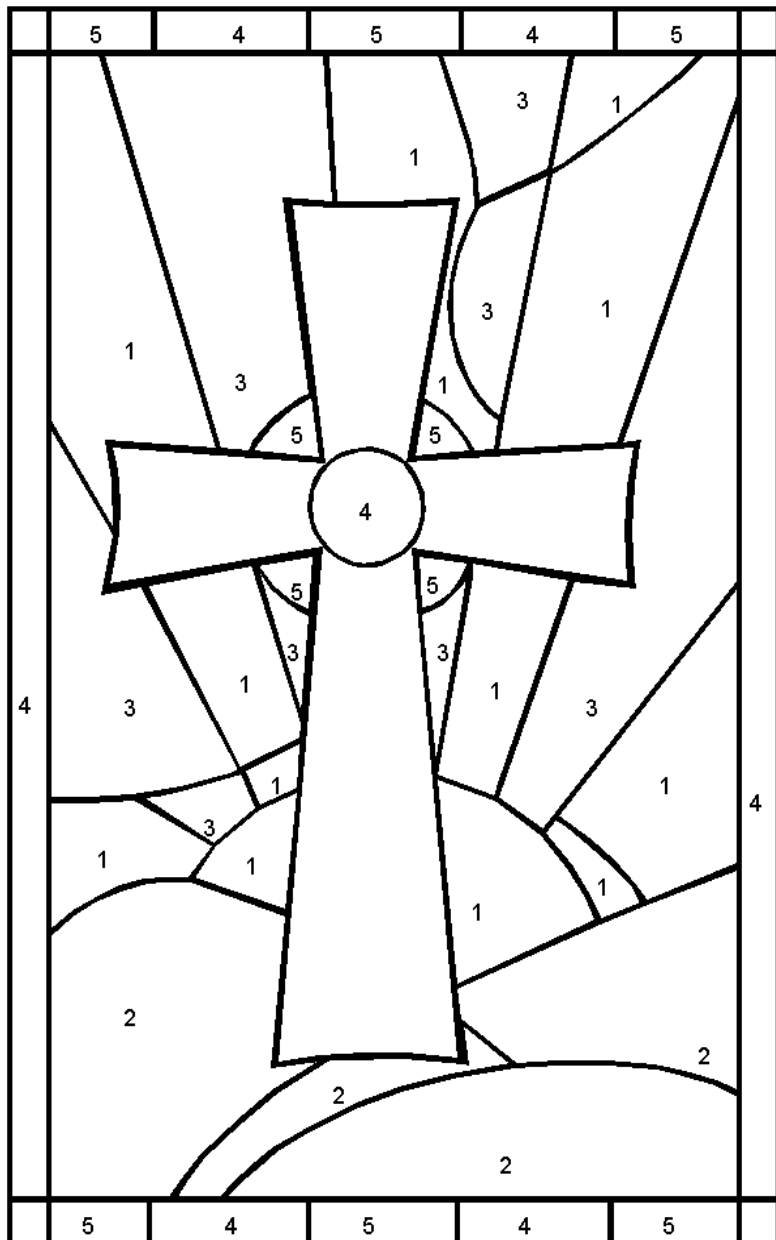
If interested, invite a friend. Participants don’t have to be members of Trinity and could come with any level of skill. I could teach basics in knitting, and quilters always need help tying knots in quilts. Thank you.

—Kathy Triebe



**HAPPY FATHER’S DAY** to all of our Dads who are living and those remembered in our hearts. Please remember your father on **Sunday, June 21** and each day!

## COLOR BY NUMBERS



- 1 – yellow
- 2 – green
- 3 – blue
- 4 – purple
- 5 – red

## MALARIA UPDATE

Lutherans are helping to change the world through a campaign that began in 2009 and will end on January 31, 2016... the \$15 million ELCA Malaria Campaign. Over \$13.5 million has been raised with amazing results in 13 African countries.

- ◆ Since 2000, global efforts to fight Malaria have slashed the death rate in Africa in half. In South Sudan even though they were struck by war and conflict in late 2013, the malaria program has been able to continue by providing insecticide-treated nets.
- ◆ Mortality rates are lower due to low-cost, high-impact measures of making mosquito nets and antimalarial drugs easier to access. Mosquito-breeding habitats are being removed. More than 100,000 people have been tested and, if positive, treated on the spot for malaria in Uganda.
- ◆ Education is teaching people symptoms of the disease and recognizing that seeking treatment early is imperative to prevent blindness. Nearly 2 million people in Tanzania have learned how to protect themselves and their families from malaria through education and awareness messaging.
- ◆ Five years ago, a child under 5 died from malaria every 45 seconds. Today one dies every 60 seconds—an improvement, but there is much to do.

**END  
MALARIA**

Continue to give throughout 2015 by marking your offering envelope, "Malaria" and being as generous as you are able.

## THANK YOU'S

Pastor Ed Hammett, Trinity's Visitation Pastor, would like to thank all of Trinity's concerned members and friends for the many prayers, beautiful cards, gifts, calls, flowers, and well wishes he has received during his illness. Pastor Hammett is now at The Patriot. Please send your cards to him there:



The Patriot  
Pastor Ed Hammett  
495 West Patriot Street, Room 362  
Somerset, PA 15501

Pastor Hammett said, "you can't believe how many people are thinking of me and praying for me." When I told him that he was so kind to people that they couldn't help but love him, he said that he knew he was well loved. He wanted me to be sure to thank all of you from him and Claragail. He said the well wishes are greatly appreciated.

—Ann Voytish

Dear Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the thoughts and prayers given to Linda K. Augustine through her long and difficult battle with pancreatic cancer. She went home to the Lord on March 16 surrounded by her loving family. We also appreciate Trinity allowing our family and friends the use of the Fellowship Hall for the meal following the funeral. We are truly blessed having a wonderful extended church family and friends.

Anthony Augustine, Sr. Family and Mrs. Dorothy Bennett