

2016 PENTECOST II

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

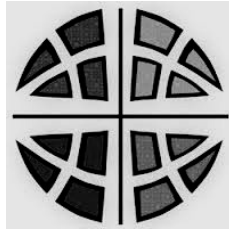
Have you ever gone back to reread something that you loved when you were younger and have rediscovered the JOY it gave you the first time?



When I was a younger teen, I was involved with a Baptist Bible Study each week led by other High School students. We opened scriptures together – most were familiar to me, but became new, as I was hearing them differently. I was becoming a different person, reading them with new eyes. Reading those familiar words with other young people gave me new insights and studying them with folks from other Christian traditions helped me see how the same text could be interpreted differently. This is one reason I have appreciated that here at Trinity. We have folks from different age groups and different religious traditions at every one of our Bible Study gatherings. As we look at scripture we have read in the past, we discover and rediscover them all over again - together!

God continues to speak to us both in scripture and in the writings of our church fathers and mothers. Are YOU participating in one of our education groups? If not, this is the time to begin! And as you do so, pray that God will reveal, teach, and guide you – to give you JOY!

This coming year, we will read a selection of the writings of Martin Luther in many different forums where we gather – and for me, it is a joy to share some of my favorite Luther quotes and observations. When I was a doubting, troubled teen, struggling with questions of faith – my Pastor did something that few might have done. He gave me a copy of his



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Trinity's Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 13, 2016 after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Congregational Meeting Reports and 2015 Annual Reports are available in the Narthex Information Center, Chapel Kiosk, and Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 30.

2016 PENTECOST II

Book of Concord, the collections of writings from the Reformation. Marked were sections of the Large Catechism for me to read. It was a gutsy move on his part, but he was so right to challenge me that way!

I drank deeply from the well I found in the Large Catechism. It addressed SO MANY QUESTIONS I had been asking! As it turns out, Luther had dealt with some of the same issues! I believe they are doubts and questions that ALL of us face at one time or another in our faith lives.

Plan to participate in some of our gatherings – where the theology of the Reformation will be rediscovered for OUR time! If you would like to have your own copies of some of these texts, or borrow them, visit the **Reformation Bookstore** in the Vicar's Office. Sign up to purchase or sign out the books you borrow – you won't be disappointed! It is a bold and gutsy thing to do, but I am convinced this congregation will discover some of the joy of our heritage!

We are SO BLESSED to have God's Word in our own language, so accessible and discussed in so many different kinds of gatherings. We are blessed with a rich heritage of theologians - some of whom were willing to die for how they read scripture! We honor their gifts to us when we read them – and rediscover them again!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas



VIEW FROM THE LOFT

An Expectation of Perfection

One of the greatest challenges facing Christians is the decreasing number of millennials and younger people attending worship. Many don't want to be part of what they call "organized religion." Many of these people claim they are spiritual, religious, or even Christian but feel that the organizations representing religion are too worldly and corrupt. This made me think about the expectation of perfection that most millennials have in all aspects of their lives.

One of the first things millennials do when they need to make a purchase or even need to go out to eat is to look online for reviews. They are in pursuit of the perfect product or the perfect restaurant. I myself am very guilty of this, and in many ways, reviews and accountability are very valuable for consumers and providers alike. For example, when I needed to purchase a lawn mower, this method was extremely valuable. The issue is...can this outlook translate to how we view people in addition to products? I think a lot of people are attempting to do just that. As Christians, I think we need to consider this lens which we are being viewed from.

Many times user reviews are quite unscientific. One great example is the online merchant, Amazon. Comparing the number of five-star and one-star reviews on a product is very telling. Also if there are only a handful of reviews, the overall rank of a product can be very misrepresented. As they say, "A bad apple spoils the bushel." Let's look at the product "The NRSV Lutheran Study Bible," published by Augsburg Fortress (now called 1517 Media) as an example.



(This is the Bible I personally use and very much like.) This product has 3.7 overall stars and has 71 reviews. Let's look at a few of the one-star reviews:

John in Arizona writes, *"This is a bible published by the liberal branch of Lutheran churches, the ELCA. For a much better, conservative Bible, get the one by Concordia House (the publishing arm of the LCMS)."*

Jeffrey Shaffer writes, *"Appalling, terrible, dreadful, just plan[sic] awful. I was very disappointed in the Augsburg Fortress edition of the Lutheran Study Bible. I own several resources from Augsburg Fortress that I have been pleased with in the past. This however will probably hit the trash can before it's over with."*

Ray Eaton writes, *"NOT CONSERVATIVE, AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO SEE TEXT CRITICAL ISSUES LIKE TRITON-ISAIAH INCLUDED IN THE NOTES. IT JUST WAS DISAPPOINTING IN ITS APPROACH TO THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE."*

Keep in mind that to help prevent an unfair review process, Amazon puts a note by the review that says, "VERIFIED PURCHASER" if the person writing the review actually purchased the item. It is actually pretty rare for a one-star review to have the Verified Purchaser label. Obviously reviewing something you don't own and have never read/used adds to the bias. Let's read some five-star reviews to compare:



Todd, VERIFIED PURCHASER, writes, *"Very informative sections at the beginning of each book with History and time book was written. Good study bible and good bible to read for information i.e., you can look up different times in the year and also times of life of the bible. This is just an excellent bible for a study group or individual reading."*

Ryan, VERIFIED PURCHASER, writes, *"This is one of my favorite Bibles because it is NRSV, which is a very faithful translation, and has some of good Lutheran background--I just wish there was more. The study notes are great but is a bit too brief. It's also great at meeting people on all levels--from beginners to life-long Bible studiers (which is very important according to Luther)."*

David Russell, VERIFIED PURCHASER, writes, *"As a pastor, I have lots of Bibles, but the Lutheran Study Bible has come to be my standard. The notes are as help - or much more helpful - than I have found in any other study Bible. If you're really conservative in your theology, you probably will not resonate with the notes in this Bible, but, if you want some helpful notes that come from a good, scholarly background, this Bible may well be for you. Additionally, I found the articles about the Bible from a Lutheran perspective to be icing on the cake. I used the New Oxford Annotated Bible for years, and I still like it, but the Lutheran Study Bible, in my opinion, is a better replacement."*

In general, for any product the five-star reviews address actual content of the item and generally even contain some critical aspects. The total number of five-star reviews is 49% and one-star reviews are 17%. With only 71 total reviews, this leaves the Lutheran Study Bible with a score of 3.7 stars. Also of note is that most products have mostly either five-star reviews or one-star reviews. It is rare to have middle ground ratings (like four stars or three stars). For comparison's sake, the most recent Harry Potter book has over 8,000 reviews and therefore would have a more fair and scientific total score.



Whether the Lutheran Study Bible is a good Bible or not becomes lost when reading some of the critical reviews. Many one-star reviews are simply angry and immature with little to no reason given for the poor review other than, "I hate

it!” If this mentality is applied to human systems (like religious organizations) and people themselves, it is easy to see how someone might become disenchanted and upset due to the sheer number of negative things one sees and reads about Christians in the media.

Another example of expectation of perfection is the presidential election. In the area of the anonymous internet, anyone and everyone has a voice to express their personal opinions as a fact. The line of fact versus personal feeling has been blurred in general in our society.

As a Christian church, it is surely evident how a general unchurched millennial would be able to look online and form a negative outlook of Christians in general. How can we fight against this expectation of perfection? What about the gross generalizations? Because some bad things (like the Spanish inquisition) have earned Christians a “one-star review,” how can we show that Christianity as a whole is not to be written off entirely?

I wonder often what I can do in my daily life to combat this negative review we are fighting against. My personal feeling is that all we can do is make our presence more known and make it clear we do not condone or participate in some of the things that the average person sees in the media as associated with us. When a restaurant receives unfair negative reviews on Yelp!, they often give free samples to show that you should judge their food for yourself...how can this translate to churches?

FREE
Samples

Recently I invited one of my wife’s coworkers to attend church, and his feeling was, “Lutherans are just “Catholic-lite” and all those Catholic priests abused children in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. I just don’t think church is right for me.” Clearly this is an unfair generalization, but it still exists whether it is fair to us or not. My personal feeling is that on

our new upcoming website, we need to make it clear what we DO stand for and WHO we really ARE. We should give out our “free samples” and encourage people to think for themselves and not blindly listen to what other impressions or poor past reviews of Christians in general say about us. I leave you with a quote from Jon Steinbeck’s great book, East of Eden: “*And now that you don’t have to be perfect, you can be good.*”

Nicholas Carroll
Director of Music

MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

MEMBER REMOVED BY DEATH:

September 13 James Clair Spangler



CONGRATULATIONS

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to *Christopher and Stephanie Lloyd* upon the birth of their first child, a son, *Cole Michael Lloyd* on **Saturday, August 27**. He weighed 3 pounds, 7 ounces and was 16.25 inches long. Chris and Steph would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support! “The prayers are definitely helping, so please continue to pray for our family.” In October, Cole now weighs 8 pounds!



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF 2016-2017

Classes begin at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday except for the Toddler group. (Children begin in Adult III, across from Trinity's Office.) Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall. There is a class for everyone—so come learn about God's love for US!



The Leaders/Organizers of each group are:

Toddler Sunday School (November 13 and December 11)

2-4 Year Olds Kelsey Lloyd, Brittany Pizer

Kindergarten-Grade 3 Allison Walter, Kelly Thompson

Grade 4-Grade 6 Andrea Weimer
Misty Demchak

Adult Class Frank Kyle, Kathy Mitchell,
George Kaufman, Pastor
Linda, and others

Music and Opening Nicholas Carroll,
Pastor Linda

Snacks Travis and Beth Anderson

Assistants for one month for craft boxes or a ten-week period for various classes are needed. Please see Pastor Linda or a teacher if you can help!

GEO THERMAL UPDATE

Update on the Geothermal Project:

Four Loan Withdrawals	\$158,000
Authorized Transfers from Various Savings	70,861
Gifts Received through October 23, 2016	<u>198,419</u>
(These are both one-time special gifts and payments towards pledges)	
Total Cash in Hand	\$427,280
Payments made :	
(July 2015 - October 23, 2016)	<u>(415,742)</u>
Balance—Cash on Hand	\$ 11,538

[We pay \$1,100 per month on our loan.]

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 2016

- ❖ Trinity has been named as a beneficiary in the Estate of Lois Countryman.
- ❖ Grief Sharing Group books will be purchased with Memorial Funds.
- ❖ The Personnel Committee conducted performance reviews with staff members and reviewed their job descriptions. Krystal Shaffer (Child Care Director) has reduced her hours from 40 to 30 to have more family time.
- ❖ Set Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 13 after the 10:00 a.m. worship service in the Nave.



SUNDAY WORSHIP AT TRINITY

- 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 Adult III
- 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 (November 6 and December 4)



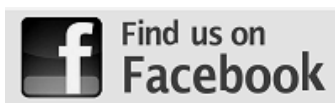
HOW TO CONTACT US

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Check out our Website: www.trinitysomeset.org

www.facebook.com/TrinitySomerset



EDUCATION - HERE, WE GROW!

We are remembering aspects of the Reformation and our faith heritage throughout the next year, for the 500th Anniversary, October 31, 2017. You will have lots of opportunities to learn, remember, and appreciate – please try one out! The Adult Class offers classes in church history, the Bible, and programs to help you grow in faith and discipleship.

Adult Education

Adult Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and class at 8:45 a.m.

Adult
Sunday
School

George Kaufman gave a great overview of the Roots of the Reformation and introduced key persons in Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and other Protestant circles. Join us in October and November, as we put that knowledge to work in watching parts of the Luther! film, and look more closely at the 95 Theses, and Scripture passages important to the Lutheran Reformation and as we consider, “*What was the fuss about, anyway?!?*” and where are we today?

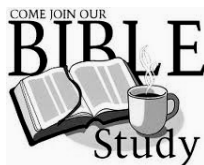
The New Church Year begins with Advent I on Sunday, November 27 - The Year of Matthew! To help us listen more closely and appreciate the unique voice in the Gospel of Matthew, we will use the four weeks of Advent for an introduction and look at the Texts that establish Matthew's themes for the next year.

Marys and Marthas Bible Study – Women of all ages are invited to attend the open Bible discussions, faith sharing, and prayer with this group that normally meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights of the month at 7:00 p.m. We use our Bibles and the *Gather* magazine.

November 2: “When God Chooses the Unlikely” – The life and learnings of St. Paul (Acts 7:58-8:3; Acts 22:6-21; 1 Corinthians 1:25, 2:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

November 16: “Paul and the Power of Failure” – Broken Vessels

Monday Morning Bible Study – Using the upcoming Sunday Bible texts, we explore themes that we may hear in worship, ponder the Bible readings and how God is speaking to us today, and share our joys and sorrows as fellow pilgrims on the way. We meet in Adult III (across from Trinity's Office) from 10:30 a.m. to noon.



Loving Jesus Book Group – For those up to a challenge, this group reads one book a month and meets for discussion (normally) the first Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. over lunch. (In November, they will meet on November 10.) For this Reformation Anniversary Year, we have begun with some of Luther's most well-known works. In October we began with The Freedom of a Christian and in November, we explore To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation – material that got Luther in trouble in the first place! The beginnings of the Protestant Reformation are in these pages – set in a historical time, but not unlike our own either! The economic structures of the feudal system were crumbling, people resented paying taxes, folks didn't trust those who governed them, young men were being conscripted for war, and the threat of foreigners terrorizing the countryside was ever-present! Anything sound familiar? You might be surprised to find some gems in Luther's writings that speak to our own time as well! Join us for a lively discussion!

Parents Group – Once a month, the 2- and 4-year olds gather in the Nursery for a short class and during playtime, the parents are invited next door (Parlor) for a cup of coffee and conversation. Parenting changes as your child grows – what works at one point doesn't work at another. Karen Frantz (a counselor by profession) is willing to meet with parents to talk about parenting issues and share resources she can offer. It is a gift to connect with other parents and share our joys and sorrows, gifts and resources! Being a parent is a vocation – a way to exercise our Baptismal gifts – but most parenting skills don't come naturally, some have to be developed!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Toddler Sunday School – Children as young as 2-4 years old have a class at Trinity! They meet once a month in the Nursery, after the Sunday School opening at 8:45 a.m. (**November 13 and December 11**)



Kindergarten through Grade 3 and Grades 4 through Grade 6 are using the Whirl! curriculum. They meet for an opening in Adult III at 8:45 a.m., and their classes focus on the lessons for that Sunday!

Confirmation Class is meeting each Sunday, this year, focused on the Bible.

Classes for older youth are scheduled at times when they are available such as special events, service projects, weekend retreats, and overnights. Some of our events (like Movie Night) are intended for the whole family. Speak to Pastor Linda if you and your youth would like to take part!

It doesn't matter what your age – we are always Growing in Christ!

For All the Saints

Page 15



November 6, 2016

Members of Trinity who have died this past year:

<i>Mary Elizabeth (Von Moose) Hamilton</i>	<i>October 29, 2015</i>
<i>Ronald William Fait, Sr.</i>	<i>November 4, 2015</i>
<i>Samuel Raymond Wissinger</i>	<i>November 17, 2015</i>
<i>George E. Baumgardner</i>	<i>January 1, 2016</i>
<i>Thomas John Anderson</i>	<i>January 12, 2016</i>
<i>Clair Willard Wilson</i>	<i>February 5, 2016</i>
<i>Patricia A. Gross*</i>	<i>March 14, 2016</i>
<i>Christa Ilse (Beyermann) Pyle</i>	<i>April 18, 2016</i>
<i>Lois Jean Countryman</i>	<i>May 12, 2016</i>
<i>Althea (Pile) Lutz</i>	<i>May 31, 2016</i>
<i>Dorothy L. (Weicht) Brubaker</i>	<i>July 10, 2016</i>
<i>Alverna Ruth (Mostoller) Custer</i>	<i>July 17, 2016</i>
<i>David Eugene Adams</i>	<i>July 22, 2016</i>
<i>Neil Robert Miller</i>	<i>August 3, 2016</i>
<i>Mary Belle (Gable) Meyers</i>	<i>August 9, 2016</i>
<i>James Clair Spangler</i>	<i>September 13, 2016</i>

**Non-Member*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. (Matthew 5:3-4, 12)*

OTHERS WHO ARE REMEMBERED:

Craig Barron	Albert and Martha Reed
Jon Charles Frey	Judy Tallentire
Charles Kimmell	Howard and Elizabeth Trexel
H. Wayne Miller	Susan White
Mike Ohler	Lloyd Younkin

Mary Kimmell Younkin

Page 16

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS NOVEMBER 13, 2016

WE WILL HONOR OUR VETERANS on Sunday, November 13 at both services. Please call Trinity's Office (445-5446) with the name of your living veteran and branch served if it is not listed or it is incorrect below:



Robert Armstrong	Army
Pauline Baker	Army Nurse Corps
Stephanie R. Barnett	Army
William G. Barnhart, Jr.	Air Force
Timothy J. Bence	Army
Arnold N. Benford	Navy
David H. Bowers	Air Force
J. Robert Brougher	Army
I. Frederick Brubaker	Army
William R. Carroll	Army
John M. Cascio	Navy
John R. Dick	Marines Corp
Paul E. Eicher	Navy
Eugene E. Fike II	Army
Ellsworth E. Flyte	Coast Guard
C. Gregory Frantz	Air Force
Ralph W. Friedhofer	Navy
Clarence S. Greig	Army
Jack Hess	Marines Corp
Robert C. Holt, Sr.	Army
Randy L. Hoover	Army

RECOGNITION OF VETERANS (CONTINUED) NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Peter C. Jacobson	Air Force
William D. Johnston, Jr.	Army
E. Charles Kaufman	Army
Joseph W. Kennick, Jr.	Marines Corp
James G. Knepper, Sr.	Army
James Franklin Kyle, Sr.	Air Force
Theodore F. Kyle	Navy
Philip Lantz	Army
Sarah Lantz	Army
William R. Lloyd, Jr.	Navy
Larry L. Mazer	Army
James H. McElroy	Army
John E. McNaul	Navy
William G. McNelly	Army
Floyd R. Miller	Army
Glenn E. Miller, Sr.	Army
Frederick K. Morocco	Navy
Jack E. Mosholder	National Guard
David E. Nicholson, Sr.	Navy
Garry L. Pryce	Army
Craig M. Rosman	Army
Bruce E. Rhodes	Navy
John S. Ross	Army
Kimberly J. Ross	Army
Harry R. Sandusky	Navy
Kenneth E. Saylor	Army and Korean War
Luther J. Shaulis, Jr.	Air Force



RECOGNITION OF VETERANS (CONTINUED) NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Larry H. Stahl	Air Force
George P. Stein, II	Army
Aaron R. Swanson	Navy
Amanda L. Swanson	Navy
Kenneth L. Walker	Army
Nathan P. Weimer	National Guard
Gregory M. Widmann	Marines Corp
Zachary D. Zufall	Army



VOTE ON TUESDAY, **NOVEMBER 8**.
ALL OF OUR VETERANS HAVE
FOUGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS TO
VOTE AND TO LIVE IN A LAND OF
PEACE. IT IS YOUR RIGHT, DUTY, AND PRIVI-
LEGE TO VOTE!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will follow the 10:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, November 13**. We will elect five Council members/one Endowment Fund member; vote on the 2017 Proposed Budget; and approve the 2015 Annual Report and ELCA Amendments to Trinity's Constitution. The 2015 Annual Reports and the Congregational Meeting Reports will be available at the Narthex Information Center, Chapel Kiosk, and Fellowship Hall for your review on **Sunday, October 30**. Please bring these copies back with you on November 13 for the meeting.



COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR 2017 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

below. Nominees must be active voting members of Trinity—a confirmed member communing and contributing of record in the current or preceding year. Election to be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, November 13** after 10:00 worship. This is a 3-year term that begins on January 1. Council usually meets the fourth Thursday of every month, and duties include meeting with at least one Committee per month. The following Council members finish a three-year term in December: John Cascio, Karen Frantz, and Sue Weimer. Roger Bailey and Chad Mosholder held a one-year term and have agreed to remain on Council. Deborah Stewart has agreed to serve a three-year term if elected. We thank them all for their service! Current Council members will contact all persons nominated. **DEADLINE: Monday, November 7.**

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Please provide the names of those whom you think have the gifts that we need on the Congregational Council:

*Please prayerfully consider our request
if you are asked to serve!*



STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE

Two years ago, at the Congregational Meeting, leadership was asked to provide a synopsis of giving to the General Fund on a quarterly basis. Our Finance Committee has faithfully provided a quarterly report and has provided the congregation's spending as well. Perhaps folks felt that if we were informed, members would respond accordingly. If we knew we were running a deficit, folks would come forward to make up the difference.

This reminded me of a story I was told when I came to Trinity 12 years ago. As I recall, Trinity would pass a mission spending plan for the year and near the end of that year, when it was possible to project the end of year numbers – a certain member of the congregation would come into the church office and ask, “What do we need to balance the books for the year?” Then he would write out a check for that amount! For many years, Trinity essentially “balanced” the books this way. It was a gift to have such a generous person in the congregation – someone who had the resources and wanted to help the congregation meet its mission goals! Thanks be to God!

How Much?

Unfortunately, that individual died before I came to Trinity, and no one has taken that person's place! Maybe, that is a good thing. I say this because in truth, it is ALL of us who should take seriously the concern about a spending deficit. Two years ago, we looked at how our shrinking resources were being gobbled up by growing utility costs – the result was to invest in our Geothermal heating and air conditioning system. GOOD NEWS! Our utility costs have shrunk – even exceeding our best hopes! (We still have a loan to pay off, but we are making good progress there as well!) Using our land to help us heat and cool – NOW, THAT IS GOOD STEWARDSHIP!

In 2016 expecting that it would be difficult to meet our budget, we did not give our staff a raise. This was a stop-gap measure and truthfully, we cannot expect to hold on to good staff this way. For the past two years, we have asked all the committees to delay or reduce spending, to keep the deficit as low as possible. We have used existing funds to pay for some expenses. GOOD NEWS! - Our efforts can be seen in the numbers – spending is down! But, it still isn't enough to make things balance. Leadership agrees: drawing on savings is okay for a time but not for the long-term.

In 2017, we will have a larger discussion about our mission and ministry – and you will hear more about this at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 13. In the meantime, I would ask you to consider completing a financial gift form for 2017 so we know what to expect and can plan accordingly. If you are able, consider making an additional gift to the General Fund this fall. Pray for our leadership as they consider options and plan for 2017. Prayerfully consider our priorities in ministry – what is most important to our mission? How can we best support it, together?

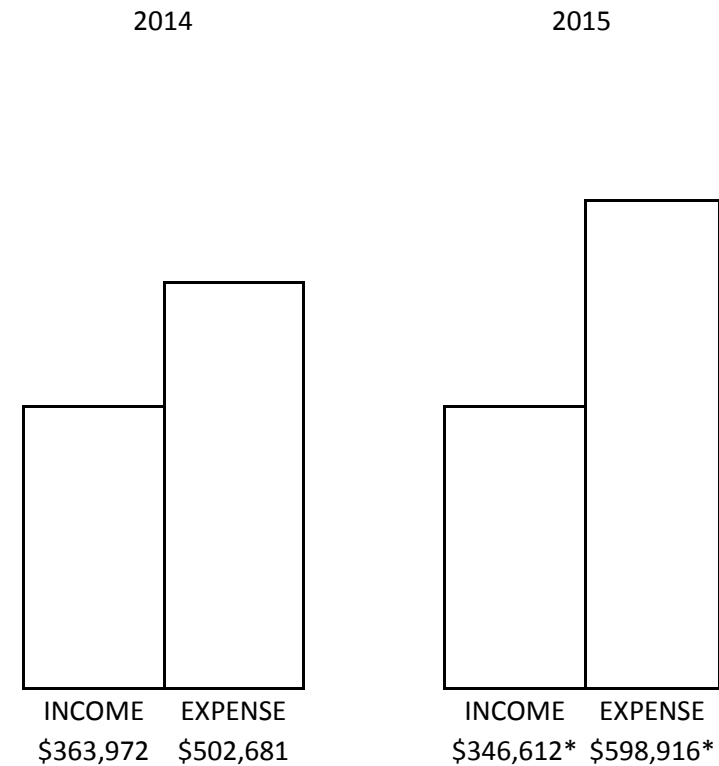
We may not have the resources to pay off the deficit with one check, as a generous member did in the past - but together, we can balance the budget – this year and every year! God never asks us to do more in mission than the resources to do it. Those resources are in our hands – yours and mine.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Linda

MISSION
Ministry

RECAP OF INCOME & EXPENSES



*We have not included any income or ex

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS is on **Sunday, November 6** at 7:30 a.m. (Chapel); 10:00 a.m. (Nave); and Chapel Communion Healing Service at 4:00 p.m. all with Communion. Please fill out your loved one's name and return the form on page 24 to Trinity's Office by Tuesday, November 1 if your loved one's name is not on page 15 already.



SERVICES HONORING VETERANS will be on Sunday, **November 13** at both services. Please call Trinity's Office (445-5446) with the name of your living veteran and branch served if it is not listed on pages 16-18 of this newsletter.

Christ the King Services on **Sunday, November 20** with Eucharist at 7:30 a.m. (Chapel) and 10:00 a.m. (Nave) with Touch of Brass. This day offers all an opportunity to prepare for the Advent Season.



**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
IS NOVEMBER 27!**

CHILD CARE NEWS

Hello Everyone,

Hope all is well with your friends and families. The Child Care is enjoying fall weather and excited for the Halloween season.



The start of our new school year is going well with new lessons, crafts, and friends. We currently have 13 staff and 54 children with a few more still to join us.

Watching the children grow in their development is a true blessing to be a part of and watch.

Take Care,

Krystal Shaffer, Child Care Director



TRINITY'S CHILD CARE is in need of two DVD players with remotes and the ability to hook them up to a television. If you have any to donate, please call Trinity's Office at 445-5446 or bring them in!

OUR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

VOLUNTEERS/ITEMS NEEDED

If you are interested in ringing bells for the **CANTERBURY RINGERS**, please let *Nicholas Carroll* know (233-2093) so that you can be notified when rehearsals are scheduled. Rehearsals are based on the season and availability of the participants.



A COORDINATOR is needed for Acolytes and Crucifers. If you are willing to do scheduling for these, call Trinity's Office 445-5446.

DRIVERS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS in December are needed. If you can help, please call Trinity's Office 445-5446. Thanks!

BAPTISMAL NAPKINS are needed by the Altar Guild. If anyone has any at home, please return them to the Working Sacristy or to Trinity's Office.

CHILDREN'S AID HOME SHOPPING TRIP:

Volunteers will be needed for the shopping trip on **Saturday, December 17**, 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* (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/offering envelope line.

**SHOPPING
TRIP!**

CONGRATULATIONS!

TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)

Doris Rayman—November 8

Alice Fritz—November 21

Elizabeth Urbain — December 1

Barbara Smith—December 3

Lois Brougher—December 6

Virginia Holland—December 7

J. Robert Brougher—December 21

LUTHERAN BASICS

ANYONE INTERESTED IN "LUTHERAN BASICS," an overview of our Lutheran beliefs and church practices (special invitation to those who plan to become members), should contact Pastor Linda or Trinity's Office (445-5446) as soon as possible with a schedule of weekday dates/times that would suit you for the sessions. Pastor Linda can then set them up to accommodate the group.



REFORMATION LIBRARY

REFORMATION BOOKS – THE VICAR’S OFFICE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A REFORMATION LIBRARY!

Augsburg Fortress, our Lutheran Publishing house, (now renamed 1517 Media) sent us a copy of each of their books on the Reformation – everything from an Atlas of the Protestant Reformations to Luther’s Works republished with commentary from leading theologians. Take a look at the display—the room is open on Sunday mornings or by request to Trinity’s Office during the week. You can take some time to sit and read the ones of interest to you or sign out the books to read at home for this year-long 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation Celebration: October 31, 2016 – October 31, 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAUREL HIGHLANDS CONFERENCE MEETING

Representatives from all the congregations met at Mt. Calvary Lutheran in Lavansville on October 18, 2016. Pastor Hammer presented for Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministry (ALSM): The Johnstown Lutheran Home personal care wing is being renovated (a two-year project) and more cottages are being built in Hollidaysburg. ALSM is offering an Advent Devotional to congregations.

Bishop Michael Rhyne brought updates from the Church-wide Assembly this summer:

- 1) “Declaration On the Way” – an overview of 50 years of Lutheran/Roman Catholic discussions was approved. (This can be found in Trinity’s Reformation Bookstore).
- 2) Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery was approved.
- 3) Consolidation of the three Lay Rosters to One Lay Roster, now called Word and Service.

Finally, the Bishop encouraged all congregations to find ways to remember the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation – several synod wide worship experiences will be provided in 2017: February 26, June 2, September 9, October 29, and October 31.

The Allegheny Synod will enter into a Year of Prayer – prayers to be provided for each week in bulletins and newsletters. In November, the emphasis is on the work of the Holy Spirit in the Allegheny Synod.

The Presiding Bishop is calling for an Emphasis on reading the Small Catechism this Year (Note: the Small Catechism can be found at the back of the ELW. There is an app for that to take it with you! Look at the Augsburg Fortress website for the free download.) As part of Trinity’s 500th Anniversary, the LARGE Catechism will also be part of our studies.

Upcoming Events:

- 1) Transformational Ministry 2.0 Saturday, November 5 at Camp Sequanota
- 2) CTIM [Congregations Together In Mission] – March 11 at Mt. Calvary, Johnstown on Evangelism
- 3) 50,000 Can Challenge – Advent to Super Bowl Sunday
- 4) Ignite (formally Discerning Your Discipleship) NOT just for Lay Worship Leaders – programs to be provided in Johnstown!

THANK YOU to our members who attended: Roger and Shelby Bailey, Deb Stewart, Flor Hernandez, and Bob Thomas!

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 (All Saints’ Day) a brief Service of Remembrance will be held for anyone wanting to attend at Faith Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m.

REFORMATION

To All the Saints of the Allegheny Synod,

May the grace, peace, and presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you on this Reformation Sunday. As Lutherans, we understand that the Reformation was a time when the Holy Spirit moved in the church. The Spirit worked through Reformers like Luther to call us back to prayer, Scripture, and to a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus. The Spirit also used the Reformers to teach and remind us that our salvation is not something we do but is accomplished through and by the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the same time, the Reformation created divisions in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. For hundreds of years Christians defined themselves by our differences rather than by the many things that unite us and by our Lord Jesus who is our hope and our life. Thankfully, the Spirit of God has been alive and at work in this last hundred years building bridges between Christian traditions and bringing all of God's people closer together.

Now we are preparing for next year's 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The Holy Spirit continues to call us. First and foremost, the Spirit of God is calling us into deeper relationship with God and Jesus Christ through the study of scripture, prayer, and worship. God gives us the gifts of scripture, prayer, and worship to allow us to connect with God. I invite you to take a step deeper into these gifts from the Spirit in the coming year.

What better time than the lead up to a major anniversary to take stock and look at our devotional life. I invite you to deepen or take up the discipline of daily prayer in the coming year. If you don't do it regularly, devote yourself to reading the Bible daily. Bless yourself with the opportunity to worship and sit in the presence of God with your

**TAKE
STOCK**

church family. God gives us the gift of these blessings. I invite you to take this coming year to explore and take advantage of what God has blessed us with.

We also see the Spirit working to call all people together. I invite you to join me in praying for the unity of the church in this coming year. We have been divided for a very long time. Please pray with me that all Christians hear the call of Christ to see our unity in Jesus. The world loves to find differences upon which to divide us. Let us reach out and find the unity that we have because and in Jesus Christ. More importantly, pray with me that this unity will not simply be something theoretical but a unity which demonstrates the Love of Jesus to all of this world.

My prayer is that you may know that power of Jesus Christ that is alive and is with you. As we celebrate this Reformation Day, you may know that the Spirit is always about this work of reformation. It is reforming this world and re-forming all of us. God is making us into not what we think we can be, but what God intends us to be.

Please know that you are in my prayers, and I pray that as we walk through this year leading up to the 500th Anniversary, that you will be blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ and that the Spirit of God will deepen and strengthen your connection and dependence upon him.

May God bless you now and always,
Your servant in Christ,
+Bishop Michael L. Rhyne



**WE WISH EACH OF YOU A
BLESSED AND HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

**Trinity's Office and Child Care will
be closed on Thursday,
November 24 for the holiday.**

50,000 CAN CHALLENGE

Advent to Super Bowl Sunday
November 27, 2016 –February 5, 2017

Your donation of non-perishable food items (cans, boxes, etc.) to the 50,000 "Can" Challenge will benefit Somerset's Food Pantry directly. To participate, bring in your food items to Trinity's Office or place in the boxes located throughout Trinity beginning Sunday, November 27. Results of how the Trinity and other churches in the Allegheny Synod are doing with this challenge will be updated in the bulletin.



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 445-5446 with your information.

COLLEGE/TECH STUDENT ADDRESS/E-MAIL/PHONE

Student Name/Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Cell Phone _____

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Jennifer Prete | |
| 2 G. Edward Bowersox | |
| Michael Fetterolf | |
| 3 Brittany Mills | |
| 8 Claire Guzman | |
| Doris Rayman | |
| 9 Evan Cary | |
| James Walters | |
| 11 Eric Mostoller, Jr. | |
| Tammy Engleka | |
| Samantha Huls | |
| Barbara Kennick | |
| William Maranowski | |
| Alisa Murphy | |
| Vicki Stafford | |
| 14 Karen Frantz | |
| Paul Lenhart | |
| Molly Metzgar | |
| 15 Kristi Jacobson | |
| Michael Opp | |
| R. Inez Kyle | |
| | 16 Samantha Crouse |
| | Dennis Maranowski, Jr. |
| | Kathryn Maranowski |
| | 17 John J. Cascio |
| | Adam McNaul |
| | 21 Alice Fritz |
| | James Stoy |
| | 22 Mia Cascio |
| | 25 Rev. William Triebe |
| | Earl Wahl, Jr. |
| | 26 William Carroll |
| | Thomas Johnston |
| | Gregory Opp, Jr. |
| | 27 Linda Fetterolf |
| | Amanda Swanson |
| | McKenna Shaffer |
| | Cheryl Spangler |
| | 29 Gail Lambert |
| | Brandy Mills |
| | 30 Heather Marek |
| | Hope Miller |

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Elizabeth Urbain | 15 John Ross |
| 2 Daniel Bowersox | 16 Ella Thompson |
| Kristy Walker | 17 Kristie Shuller |
| 3 Clarence Greig | Jason Svonavec |
| Barbara Smith | 18 Erika Marek |
| 4 Zachary Bence | Stephanie Lloyd |
| 5 James Harrold, Jr. | 19 Jeanne Cascio |
| Terrell Ickes | Susan Weimer |
| Judith Mosholder | 21 David Bowers |
| 6 Lois Brougher | J. Robert Brougher |
| 7 Virginia Holland | Kelsey Lloyd |
| Jodi Liston | 23 Nicole Rininger |
| 8 Sammy Barnett | 25 Kristen Walker |
| Eugene Fike II | 26 Sarah Jacobs |
| 9 Sara Triebe | 28 Sandra Harvey |
| Jane Hilligoss | Jason Shuller |
| 10 Alicia Zimmerman | 29 Corey Barndt |
| 12 Barbara Harrold | Michael Cascio |
| Shannon McNelly | MaKayla Morocco |
| Iris Rice | 30 Joshua Lloyd |
| 14 Carol Whitfield | |



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Altoona, PA 16602-3010

814.942.1042
Fax 814.941.9259

www.alleghenysynod.org
office@alleghenysynod.com

Companions in Christ's Mission with the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church

To: The Saints of the Allegheny Synod
From: Bishop Michael Rhyne
Re: The Year of Prayer

Dear Friends,

Next year, on October 31, 2017, we will mark the 500th Anniversary of the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation. Our Allegheny Synod is hosting a number of worship services, programs, and event in the coming year to mark this momentous anniversary. Our Synod's 500th Anniversary Team has been hard at work putting together ways we can mark this time together.

One project we are doing in this build up to the 500th is called **The Year of Prayer**. I am inviting you, to use this year leading up to the Reformation Anniversary to pray for the mission and work of Jesus Christ in this world and to deepen our own prayer life and connection to our Lord Jesus. I invite you to join me in prayer in this coming year.

A monthly prayer theme from November 2016 – October 2017 has been chosen. Each week will have a focus that relates to the monthly theme. Your congregation will receive a monthly bulletin insert, which will list the monthly focus. Additionally, the prayer focus will be posted on our Synod Facebook page, be printed in the Allegheny Synod Connections E-newsletter, and be printed in the Lutheran Letter. My request is that as you do your daily prayers, you will lift up and remember these specific prayer focuses.

A resource on Martin Luther's morning and evening prayer will be sent to your congregations. This is a single folded piece of paper that shows you how Martin Luther prayed. Often times we are hesitant to pray because we don't know what to say. This resource makes it very easy and we are making that available to you.

Finally we will be posting a weekly short video clip on the prayer theme of the week on the Synod Facebook page. This short clip will invite you to pray along, and welcome you to use the weekly prayer in your individual devotions for the week.

The **Year of Prayer** is an invitation and an opportunity for us to pray together. We know that we will be lifting up the prayer themes. Some of us will be using Luther's daily prayers. Some of us will be using the prayers of the week. But the most important thing is that we are praying together. You will know that as your prayers ascend, our Lord is hearing your prayers along with those of your sisters and brothers across our Allegheny hills and valleys.

Prayer is a gift. God knows our hearts before we pray. God hears our prayers and gives us the ability and the opportunity to turn our lives to the Lord who made us. It is good for us to pray. I invite you to join me in praying this year. No matter if you a seasoned prayer warrior or someone who is just dipping their toe in the water of the discipline of daily prayer, it will be good for us to be praying together.

May God keep you now and always and I hope you will join us for **The Year of Prayer**.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you now and always,

+Bishop Michael Rhyne

+Bp. Michael L. Rhyne

YEAR OF PRAYER

In observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Allegheny Synod is seeking to engage our members in the spiritual practice of prayer. One way that the Holy Spirit continues to reform us is through prayer. Each month there will be a different prayer focus. Below are the prayers for November when the program begins. Join us in praying for our world, our nation, our congregations, and people everywhere:

IN NOVEMBER 2016 WE PRAY FOR:

The work of the Holy Spirit in the Allegheny Synod

Week 1: Our Congregations

There are 115 congregations in this Synod.

Week 2: Our Leaders

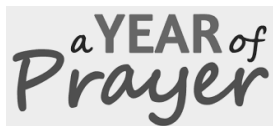
Pray for our pastors, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and lay worship leaders

Week 3: God's Mission in our Synod

Pray that we would continue to be open to listening to God's call

Week 4: The Deepening of our Faith

Pray that the Holy Spirit will ignite our hearts and minds in love and compassion for our neighbors



SALVATION ARMY

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER



November 24, 2016

St. Paul's UCC

202 West Union Street

Somerset

Serving 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

DO NOT BE ALONE ON THANKSGIVING

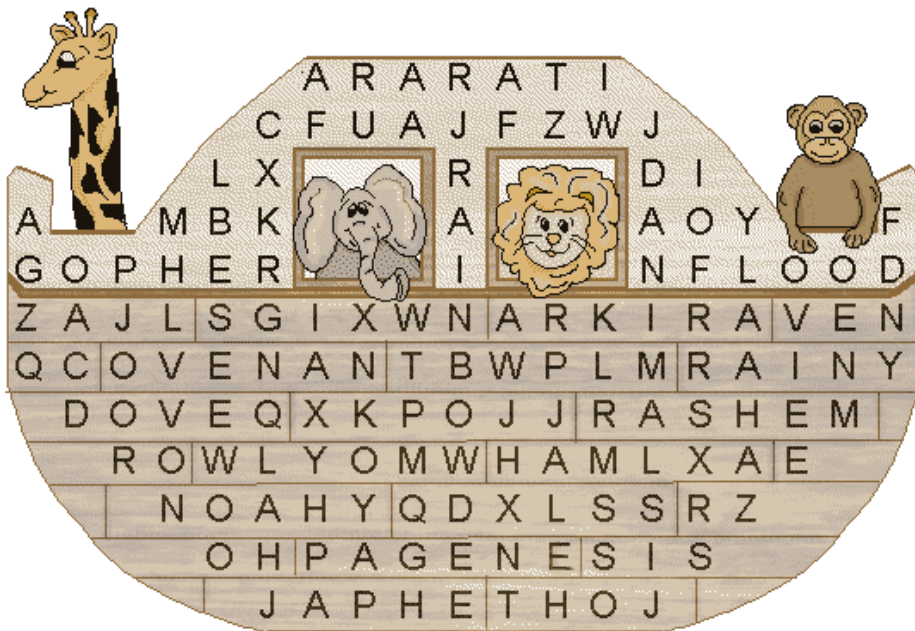
If you or someone you know will be alone on Thanksgiving Day, please join us for a Thanksgiving meal sponsored by The Salvation Army - Somerset Service Center. Donations and volunteers are from surrounding communities.

All Are Welcome



JUST FOR KIDS

Noah's Ark



animals
Ararat
ark
covenant
dove

flood
Genesis
gopher
Ham
Japheth

Noah
rain
rainbow
raven
Shem

© A Kid's Heart at akidsheart.com

THE HOLIDAY DOUBLE TIME

I always appreciate when I get a “Heads up!” – Something is coming!” So I thought we would give you a “heads up” for the holidays! This is one of those years that make it tricky to be a congregation faithful in its worship life – when Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday, and Christmas Day is a Sunday – and of course, that means that New Year’s Day is also a Sunday!



The third of the Ten Commandments tells us to ‘Remember the Sabbath and Keep It Holy.’ (We just discussed this commandment at Table Talk at our Octoberfest!) Martin Luther’s explanation is this:

“We are to fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching or God’s word, but instead keep that word holy and gladly hear it and learn it.”

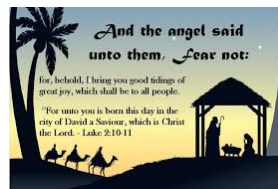
It is a blessing for me to serve with a congregation that honors that commandment, that is interested in making worship a good experience for everyone, anxious to include Everyone, and that enjoys praising God in a variety of ways (with a variety of music and liturgical styles). The Trinity community appreciates the preaching task and looks forward to learning something new each Sunday – and I am SO BLESSED as a Pastor to open the scriptures with you!

All that being said, I am not naïve. Christmas Eve is the culmination of many people’s hard work – and Christmas Day, at least at Trinity, has been a time for family, friends, and a well-earned rest from our labors. On these years, when Christmas Day is a Sunday, (and New Year’s Day is a Sunday) – we are tempted, I know, to take the day off. But, I cannot do that - WE cannot really do that.

Sunday is the Lord's Day – and even if there is a small number of folks who will come out, it is important that we honor the day. Christmas Eve will be filled with candles lit in the darkness, the pageantry of the Nativity story, and the crowd of folks we only see once a year, but Sunday morning will be a time to contemplate the Greatest Christmas Gift Ever - the infant Jesus – in the quiet of the morning light!

At our house, it would be too much of a scramble to open all our gifts before worship on Christmas morning – so maybe we will share a good breakfast and just one gift – treasure it, and open the rest in the afternoon. I can't imagine many families can do that – but that's how it will be at our house.

If you have trouble getting out at night, or are expecting family to arrive on Christmas Eve, maybe you can join us on Sunday morning, December 25, to celebrate Christ's Birth with a different Gospel reading. It will be a bit quieter, with fewer people, but just as much joy! Perhaps you won't be going out for a New Year's Celebration, but might like to start the New Year with giving thanks to God for the year past and prayers for the New Year just begun. I hope you will join us.



I anticipate one service at 10:00 a.m. for both Christmas Day and New Year's Day - as we have done in the past. I anticipate a small gathering for both – but I would love to see you! If you are needing to be attentive to family needs, traveling, or simply needing to take a breather that morning, know that we will be praying for you and with you. We are the Church – wherever we are. God Bless YOUR Holiday celebrations – be safe! And return to worship with joy to honor The Lord's Day as often as you are able!

Faithfully yours, Pastor Linda

TOYS NEEDED

IF YOU HAVE NEW OR SLIGHTLY USED TOYS OR GIFTS for children and youth (ages birth to 18) to donate for the upcoming Food Pantry Toy Drive, **please bring them to Trinity's Office by Monday, December 12 or earlier.** Gifts and used books for older teen-



agers; stuffed animals; dolls; trucks; and creative kits (science, art, etc.) for all ages are always needed. A \$10-\$15 gift is given to each child, as well as a book, stuffed animal, and a \$1-\$2

toy. With almost 300 children served, that is a lot of gifts to purchase! If you don't have time to shop but would still like to help, please donate to this loving cause by making your check payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church" designated for the Food Pantry Toy Drive. The toys will be given out on **Wednesday, December 14** during Food Pantry from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Please call Ann Voytish at Trinity's Office (445-5446) if you can volunteer to set up the toys in November; put batteries in toys; help parents choose toys for their children; and/or wrap the toys on the 14th.



THANKS! THANKS!

Thanks to everyone for their continued thoughts, prayers, and support. All of the cards, flowers, and visits have helped us to keep positive through the last few weeks. We are all doing well; baby Cole is growing. We are so thankful for our Trinity family through the last few weeks.



Love, Stephanie, Chris, and Cole Lloyd



Trinity Congregation,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, soup, visits by Pastor Linda, and well wishes shown to Kathy and me during the last few months. Being a part of the Trinity family is a true blessing. May God bless you all.

Bill Triebe

To My Trinity Family,

Words are not really adequate to express my heartfelt thanks to you for your financial support for the former Thrivent Potato Project. Because of your individual donations, over \$700, and those of many other churches and individuals, we have received enough funds to continue the project for at least another three years. This year's harvest yielded over 4.5 tons of potatoes, picked and bagged by 85 volunteers, and divided among the nine food pantries of Somerset County. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Becky Minnich

EVENT HAPPENING NOW!

Movie Night! LUTHER!

Sunday, October 30, 2016

4:00 P.M.

Everyone likes to eat popcorn, snuggle up with a pillow, and watch a good movie!

LUTHER! - This modern take on Martin Luther's life is a little like a book of snapshots – it explores specific events in his life and has a distinctively Hollywood vibe, but it gives us a good idea about what life may have been like for the reformer. Meet some of the characters that George Kaufman has been discussing in Sunday School (the villains and the heroes of the Protestant Reformation). Get to know the guy our church is named for! Get a better take on how his circumstances affected his (and our) theology!



Bring a favorite Halloween snack to share – some pizza snacks and popcorn will be provided! If you'd like, dress up as your favorite Saint or Sinner! (We are both!) Call Pastor (289-3140) if you plan to come, so we know which venue we can use at the church and how many drinks to provide.

For November – how about a Thanksgiving Family Comedy? Suggestions?

Pastor Linda