

2017 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

ADVENT – The Season of Waiting

No one likes to wait, right? Young Children can't wait to eat their Halloween Candy...Older Children can't wait for Christmas to arrive....neither can Adults! Every year, the four weeks before Christmas become unbearable to some of our members...they want to hear Christmas Hymns and Carols IN the church, not just on the radio and at the Mall! Our culture has adopted some aspects of the Christmas celebration – but NOT the tradition of WAITING for the Holy Child to be born. For those of you whom this describes – TAKE HEART!



This year, due to the changing of the Christmas Eve services to accommodate the Children's Pageant, we have joined the last two Sundays of Advent into one Sunday, December 17th - It will be celebrated as Advent III AND Advent IV. Only three weeks of waiting, this year, not four! With Christmas Eve on a Sunday, our schedule has changed...Please make note, and tell others who might not realize the change! (No 7:30 a.m. service on Sundays, December 24 or 31.)

CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24:
A Festival Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Service at 10:00 a.m.
The Children's Old Fashioned Christmas Pageant
at 3:00 p.m.
A Brief Holy Communion at 4:00 p.m.
A Festival Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy
Communion at 8:00 p.m. (Music begins at 7:30 p.m.)



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Somerset PA
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501

(Address Service Requested)

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2017 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Somerset, Pennsylvania
Permit No. 149

Changing things! Isn't that exactly what happens when folks are expecting a baby? A guest room becomes a Nursery! Cupboards and closets are emptied to make room for baby paraphernalia! And the actual birth, although anticipated – always seem to come with some surprise! The Greek New Testament has two different words for TIME. One is Chronos – from which we get chronology... time that is marked by calendars and clocks, months and minutes. But another word for TIME is used in Luke 2:6 – "...the *time* came for [Mary] to deliver her child." This word is Kairos – as in Right moment for something to happen...when all is prepared, the time has come....like the time to call everyone to the Christmas table, for the meal is ready. It refers to God's time-li-ness, when everything is complete.

My prayer for all of us this season is to recognize that we wait for God's Time – not a date to begin singing Christmas carols...but for the great and glorious day of God's Kingdom Come in its fullness! In the meantime, we wait...we watch... we prepare... living as if that Kairos moment is just about to happen!

Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, November 12 after the 10:00 worship service. The following are results from that meeting:

- ▶ Approved the 2016 Annual Report.
- ▶ William Carroll, Christopher Lloyd, Julie Mitchell, and Meagan Richter were each elected to Council for three-year terms. Douglas Hoehn was elected to Council for a two-year term.
- ▶ Edward Bowersox was elected to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Fund.
- ▶ The 2018 Annual Budget was approved.
- ▶ Appreciation and thanks to our outgoing Council members: *James Baker, Linda Himes, and Karen Long-Walat* and to *Travis Anderson* who held a one-year term. Our special thanks to *Christopher Lloyd* for agreeing to serve again on our Council.

(Copies of the 2016 Annual Report and the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting Report are available in the Information Center, blue Chapel Kiosk, or in Trinity's Office if you missed the meeting.)



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

MEMBERS RECEIVED BY TRANSFER:

November 16 Meagan Rose (Griffith) Richter and her baptized children, Isaac Reed Richter and Grace Marie Richter received by letter of transfer from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church; Donegal, Pennsylvania

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

Email: trinluth918@verizon.net

Check out our Website: www.trinitysomerset.org

www.facebook.com/TrinitySomerset



A VIEW FROM THE LOFT

Good King Wenceslas

The beloved Christmas Carol, “Good King Wenceslas” is well known by many. However, unlike most Christmas Carols, it does not have any references to the birth of Jesus. The song is not included in our hymnal because the basis of the tune is a folk tale about the Catholic Saint Wenceslaus I, the Duke of Bohemia who lived 907-935. I often teach the tune and history to my piano students and thought I’d share it here.



The hymn was written in 1853 by John Mason Neale. It was set to an old Finnish tune (Tempus adist floridum, “The time is near for flowering”) from the 13th century. It first appeared in a published songbook in 1582. Ironically the original tune was used in a song about the coming of spring. The first verse of the hymn we know is clearly not about springtime:

*¹Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.*

For the early church, the feast of Saint Stephen took place on December 26, and therefore the carol became associated with Christmas. Saint Stephen is regarded as the first Christian martyr, his stoning is documented in scripture. The only source we have about Stephen is in the book of Acts. In Acts 6, Stephen is one of the seven deacons appointed by the Apostles to distribute food and charitable aid to poorer

members of the early church. It is this mission of caring for the poor that draws parallels with Wenceslaus I. This is told in the second and third verse:

²*"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain;
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."*

³*"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither:
Thou and I shall see him dine, when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament and the bitter weather."*

In the Catholic faith to be canonized a Saint, a person must meet certain criteria. First, the person must have two verifiable miracles associated with them. Second, evidence of having led an exemplary life of goodness and virtue worthy of imitation, having died a heroic death (martyrdom), or having undergone a major conversion of heart where a previous immoral life is abandoned and replaced by one of outstanding holiness. For Wenceslaus I, martyrdom came in the form of betrayal. In September 935, he was invited by his younger brother to commemorate the feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian at his brother's castle. Upon his arrival Wenceslaus was, "run through by a lance" by his brother (for those Game of Thrones fans think, "the Red Wedding" type deal).

As far as miracles, it is said that during a rebellion by an opposing count, Wenceslaus challenged the opposing count to a single combat to avoid bloodshed. When the opposing duke approached him for the duel, two angels appeared by the side of Wenceslaus ordering the duke to "Stand off!" Thus, the opposing forces prostrated themselves and the rebellion was ended with no bloodshed.

Another miracle attributed to Wenceslaus is that on cold winter nights those who are doing God's work of distributing food to the poor will be kept warm and safe from the elements. A young boy is supposed to have experienced this miracle. This miracle is chronicled in the final two verses of the song:

⁴*"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, good my page. Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."*

⁵*In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing."*

Christian charity is a common theme in both Wenceslaus I and Stephen's life and therefore the two are often associated. Because of the references to winter and the fact that the Feast of Stephen is on December 26, in the minds of Americans, "Good King Wenceslas" is a Christmas carol. The feast of Wenceslaus is celebrated on September 28. In the Czech Republic, there is a legend that in a time of great need Wenceslaus will rise from his grave and summon his army of holy knights to defend the homeland.

Nicholas Carroll
Director of Music
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Somerset PA
(814) 233-2093

GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS IN GRIEF

Secret Anniversaries of the Heart

*"The holiest of all holidays are those
Kept by ourselves in silence and apart;
The secret anniversaries of the heart...."*

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The Holiday Season is particularly difficult for us and many of our friends and neighbors, when we are grieving the loss of a loved one. There is no timetable on grief. There is no particular way any of us should grieve. It may be a lonely time...but WE ARE NOT ALONE. Join us at Trinity Lutheran Church at 918 Tayman Avenue in Somerset:

Sunday, December 3 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Getting through the Holidays in Grief

Caring Conversation and Sharing of Coping Strategies
Join us in the Parlor – and bring a friend!

**4:00 p.m. Service of Remembrance/
Healing Eucharist**
Remembering, Healing, and Hope in the midst of Grief.

The Healing Service in the Chapel will include a time to remember our loved ones, light candles, pray for Comfort and the Peace that passes all understanding in Christ, our Lord. Please call 445-5446 with any questions.



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday. Join us for fellowship, food, and study each week.



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN the Monday Morning Bible Study group. We meet at 10:30 a.m. **Monday mornings** in Adult III across from Trinity's Office, and finish our study around noon. (We will not meet on Mondays, December 25 and January 1.) Join with us for study of the upcoming Sunday texts and good discussions!

TRINITY'S MEN'S GROUP meets every **Tuesday** at McDonald's near the Turnpike entrance at 9:00 a.m. We welcome any men that would like to join us for this coffee fellowship.



THE MARYS AND MARTHAS study group will meet on **Wednesday, December 13** for a Christmas dinner at Lana Miller's home at 5:30 p.m. The group uses the ELCA women's magazine, Gather. Copies are available in Trinity's Office, Chapel Kiosk, and the Narthex Information Center.

TABLE TALK will take a holiday break for December and January and will reconvene in February. Watch the bulletin for further details.



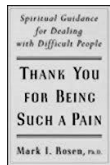
BIBLE STUDY (CONTINUED)

LOVING JESUS STUDY GROUP meets for about an hour and a half once a month at 11:00 a.m. in Adult III. Everyone is invited to join us in reading, discussing, and growing in faith! Bring your lunch! Bring your thoughts and questions too! Trinity's Office will order new or used books online for those who want to purchase them (445-5446). Dates and books being studied follow:

No meeting in December

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Thank You for Being Such a Pain
by Mark Rosen



SAM ADVENT SERVICES

SOMERSET AREA MINISTRIES 2017 COMMUNITY ADVENT SERVICES will be held at 12:05 p.m. at First United Methodist Church **each Wednesday in Advent**. A half hour of music precedes the service. The schedule of dates, preachers, and the churches providing lunch are:

November 29—Rev. Barry Ritenour
Bethany United Methodist

December 6—Rev. Dr. Tony Myers
St. Paul's Presbyterian

December 13—Rev. Rich Helsel
Pleasant Hill United Methodist

December 20—Father Lenny Anderson
St. Francis Episcopal

DECORATING THE TREE



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING is scheduled for **Sunday, December 3** after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Join in the Trinity Family Christmas preparations by helping to decorate the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary with the chrismsons.

TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL

TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL: The class for 2-4 year olds and their parents will meet on **Sundays, December 10 and January 14**. They meet on the second Sunday of each month in the Nursery, after the Sunday School opening at 8:45 a.m. in the Adult III classroom.

TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS' GROUP – During playtime, the parents are invited to the Parlor for a cup of coffee and conversation. Parenting changes as your child grows – what works at one point doesn't work at another. Pastor Linda will lead a video series, Holding Your Family Together over the next 6 months partnering with Karen Frantz. Class for **December 10** is "Share Highs and Lows" and **January 14** is "Read Scripture Together." It is a gift to connect with other parents and share our joys and sorrows, gifts and resources! Please come and learn with us.

HOMEBOUND COOKIES

COOKIES FOR THE HOMEBOUND ARE NEEDED! By dropping the form below in the offering plate, please let us know how many dozen homemade cookies you can provide for our homebound members for their enjoyment this Christmas. We need approximately 70 dozen. **Please pack the cookies 4 per plastic bag.** Thank you for your time, donation, and support! Cookies may be brought to Trinity's Kitchen on Friday, December 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Cookies will be packed the morning of Saturday, December 16 beginning at 9:00 a.m.**



COOKIE DONATIONS FOR HOMEBOUND

I will provide _____ dozen homemade cookies for the homebound boxes for Saturday, December 16.

Name _____

Phone _____

(Form Deadline: Tuesday, December 12)

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

CAMP SEQUANOTA'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA is scheduled for **Saturday, December 9** from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cost is Adults \$8, Children \$5, which includes a photo with Santa. Phone (814) 629-6627 or you may email them: contact@sequanota.com with questions or to let them know you plan to attend.

SHOPPING TRIP

CHILDREN'S AID HOME SHOPPING TRIP: Volunteers will be needed for the shopping trip on **Saturday, December 9**, 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, as there are 15 youth this year. To contribute, make your check payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church," with "Children's Aid Home" on the offering envelope line.



SHOPPING TRIP!

TOYS NEEDED

IF YOU HAVE NEW OR SLIGHTLY USED TOYS OR GIFTS for children and youth (ages birth to age 18) to donate for the upcoming Food Pantry Toy Drive, **please bring them to Trinity's Office by Monday, December 11 or earlier.**

Gifts and used books for older teenagers; 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 to serve, 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 13** 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; put batteries in toys; help parents choose toys for their children; and/or wrap the toys on the 13th.



Calling All Angels, Wise Men, and Shepherds

The Children of Trinity Sunday School and Child Care will present "An Old Fashioned Christmas Pageant" at 3:00 p.m. on **Christmas Eve**. It will be a celebration of the Nativity by retelling the story of Christ's birth with narratives, costumes, and singing traditional carols. Students ages 2 through Grade 12 are invited to participate. Adult volunteers are also needed. If interested, please call **Meagan (Griffith) Richter at (814) 445-7429** as soon as possible – because the "clock" is ticking.



Christmas is coming soon!!!!

Rehearsals are as follows:

Every Sunday 8:45-9:00 a.m. (In Adult III)

Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. (In the Church)

Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 a.m. (In the Church)

Saturday, December 23 10:00 a.m. (In the Church)

Grandparents are welcome!!

Let me know if your grandchild would like to participate in the Pageant. All are welcome to join the fun!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, December 3 (1st Sunday of Advent)

- 7:30 a.m. Chapel Communion Service
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 3:00 p.m. "Getting through the Holidays in Grief"
Caring Conversation in the Parlor
(see page 9 for more details)
- 4:00 p.m. Service of Remembrance/Healing Eucharist
in the Chapel to remember our loved ones,
light candles, and pray

Sunday, December 10 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

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

Sunday, December 17 (3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent)

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



Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

- 7:30 a.m. No Chapel Communion Service
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Adults
(No Children's Sunday School)
- 10:00 a.m. A Festival Christmas Eve Holy
Communion Service
- 3:00 p.m. The Children's Old Fashioned
Christmas Pageant
- 4:00 p.m. A Brief Holy Communion
- 8:00 p.m. A Festival Christmas Eve Candlelight
Holy Communion
(Music begins at 7:30 p.m.)

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

No Worship Services Scheduled

Sunday, December 31 (1st Sunday after Christmas)

- 7:30 a.m. No Chapel Communion Service
- 8:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Adults
(No Children's Sunday School)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
Lessons and Carols

(Post this at home or give to a friend and invite them to come.)

2017 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:**

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

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

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

Please make checks payable to: *Trinity Lutheran Church*

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12



(Please do not forget to pick up your flowers after

the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve

on Sunday, December 24 or the week after Christmas.)

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

2017 SPECIAL GIFTS

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

our special gifts will go to:

_____ *Trinity's Youth Ministry*



Amount \$_____ Envelope #_____

Please make checks payable to:

Trinity Lutheran Church

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

HOLIDAY CONVERSATIONS

Navigating Treacherous Waters

Tuesday, December 12 - 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Between the political atmosphere, the #MeToo movement, sexual and race relations, environmental challenges, health care and tax reform – there are landmines everywhere, as our families gather at Holiday tables! How do we navigate these difficult waters, these challenging times? What if a family member says something X-phobic and you feel you must say SOMETHING ...BUT WHAT??

As God's People, we ARE called to speak up when others are demeaned, degraded, or derided. Prejudices are part of our family and community life – and we ARE expected to speak up for the most vulnerable in our community and the world. But just how to DO THAT, without stirring up World War III?

We will explore some strategies, experiment with some phrases, and talk about how to make a difference in your family's experience of the Holidays. We ought not to compromise on necessary things, but how do we know what is necessary and what is not? How do we Speak Truth in Love? How do we choose the right time and place for difficult conversations? Join Terra Setzler and Pastor Linda for an informal workshop, and bring a friend or co-worker! Call Trinity's Office 445-5446 to let us know you plan to come

.... And God Bless your Difficult Conversations in Love!

CHRISTMAS RECITAL

NICHOLAS CARROLL PIANO STUDIO
CHRISTMAS RECITAL is **Sunday, December 17** in the Nave at 1:30 p.m. Nicholas and his students will be performing a variety of Christmas favorites. All are welcome to attend this free event!



TAPERS NEEDED

MORE TAPERS/SOUND SYSTEM TECHNICIANS are needed for 2018, especially for January through April. If you would like to help with this worship service task, please see *John Minnich* (445-7660). With sufficient volunteers, the rotation schedule would be about once a month. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry to our homebound!

CHILD CARE WORKERS NEEDED

The Child Care is looking to hire new staff. If you know of anyone interested or looking for work, please send them to us.

CHILD CARE WORKER – A high school diploma or a GED certificate and 2,500 hours of documented child care experience is required. State Police, FBI, and Child Abuse Clearances are a plus. Mail resume and references to: Trinity Lutheran Church; 918 Tayman Avenue; Somerset.

VOLUNTEERS - Need to have State Police, FBI, and Child Abuse Clearances, along with a health assessment and two letters of reference.

ADVENT MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and make you aware of his constant presence as we enter this season of Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* which is usually translated as 'arrival.' But this word also has a richer meaning that referred to the triumphal and glorious entry of a general or emperor into a city. The word Advent therefore, not only points us to the fact that our Lord Jesus has arrived at his nativity but that Jesus Christ is the Lord and king we were waiting for.



It is also important for us to remember that Jesus came to save us because he is merciful, loving, and good. Nothing forced or compelled our God in Jesus Christ to act in this way. Jesus came to save us because we cannot save ourselves. Jesus chose to take on a human body (for the purpose of giving it up later on the cross) so that we would not be swallowed by sin, death, and destruction. Jesus loves you and will not lose you.

This salvation in Jesus Christ is all we need. It is all sufficient. Because of Jesus, we do not have to worry if we are good enough or have done enough good to merit eternal life with God. The truth is on our own we would never be able to earn, merit, or deserve our life in Jesus Christ. But we do not do it on our own because at our baptism Jesus Christ has made us his own. We are not worthy but Jesus Christ makes us worthy. Jesus saves us because we can't save ourselves, and for that we should say – Thanks be to God!

So as we walk through this Advent, let us all remember how blessed we are by the Lord who loves us and claims us. This is the Lord who saves us from death and brings us into his eternal life. He does this out of his mercy and goodness. When we can offer him nothing, he offers us everything. We have been blessed by the gift of Jesus. May we be led by him to be a blessing to our communities and to this world.

Have a Happy and Blessed Advent 2017
 † Bishop Michael Rhyne

CAN CHALLENGE

ALLEGHENY SYNOD'S 40,000 CAN CHALLENGE

from Advent to Super Bowl Sunday **December 3, 2017 to February 4, 2018**: Your donation of non-perishable food items (cans or anything you buy in a grocery store) to the 40,000 "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, December 3**. Results of how Trinity and other churches in the Allegheny Synod are doing with this challenge will be updated in the bulletin.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST-NOVEMBER, 2017

→ A new portable sound microphone was purchased.

→ Birthright of Somerset Giving Tree – Permission to place in Fellowship Hall for donations.



→ Motion by Jim Baker/Sue Weimer to approve Meagan Richter as a member received by transfer. Motion carried.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF SOMERSET COUNTY, INC.

Are You Interested in Sponsoring or Providing
Snacks for the Boys & Girls Club?

Then check out our

Food for Thought Program



Snack donations are also always welcome! We need:

- Cheese Sticks
- Yogurt
- Juice Boxes
- Snack Mix
- Graham Crackers
- Fruit
- Veggies
- Bottled Water

Did you know?

The Boys & Girls Club is able to provide snacks for just \$70 a day. For that price, your organization could feed our whole club!

For more information about this program, or to arrange a donation, please contact the Boys & Girls Club at (814) 444-7252.

DECLARATION ON THE WAY: CHURCH, MINISTRY, AND EUCHARIST

As part of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, it is helpful to look at the progress that has been made through the Ecumenical Dialogues between Lutheran and Roman Catholic theologians over the last 50 years. Declaration on the Way is a resource that helps us to explore the results of these dialogues and invites both our communions to affirm the unity we have already achieved through the existing agreements. In addition, it provides a framework for understanding how the Dialogues will continue, reflecting our growing relationship, across the great divide created at the time of the Reformation.

Declaration on the Way offers conversation points that our lay members can discuss together! It is my hope that members of Trinity Lutheran and our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters will be able to meet just after the New Year, to explore the agreements already achieved and those yet to be resolved. This is an exciting time to be the church – and to take steps toward greater unity. Look to the bulletin for further announcements and invite your Roman Catholic friends and relatives to join us!

If you would like to order the resource Declaration on the Way, call Trinity's Office (445-5446). A bulk order will be processed after January 1, in preparation for these conversations.



COMMUNITY NEEDS

BIRTHRIGHT OF SOMERSET will soon deliver to Trinity's Fellowship Hall a handmade poster-sized Christmas tree adorned with paper ornaments during the holiday season for their annual 2017 Giving Tree Drive. The ornaments have the names of inexpensive baby items such as tee shirts and sleepers that they place in their layette boxes for women and babies in need. Please consider supporting their drive when you are doing your Christmas shopping by purchasing one or more of the ornament items to brighten a new mother's life. Please place your **unwrapped** gifts in the bin under the tree.



SALVATION ARMY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

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

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



FRUIT BASKETS

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



Large Baskets are \$24.00
(Includes 3 Grapefruits, 5 Oranges, 5 Red Apples,
4 Golden Apples, 4 Pears, and 3 Bananas)

Small Baskets are \$17.00
(Includes 1 Grapefruit, 2 Oranges, 3 Red Apples,
3 Golden Apples, 2 Pears, and 2 Bananas)

Please call Rob Stemple (814) 233-8826 to order.

Orders are due by 3:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 13**.
Fruit baskets must be picked up on Thursday, December 21
(11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) at the Daily American building
located at 334 West Main Street in Somerset). Delivery is
available for 10 or more baskets.

FREE CONCERT

ALLAN SCOTT FREE CONCERT is scheduled on **Friday, December 1** at 7:00 p.m. at Friedens Lutheran Church. Call (814) 445-4627 to get your free tickets. A free-will offering will be received to benefit the Salvation Army.



IMPORTANT DEADLINES/DATES

Christmas Poinsettia Orders
Tuesday, December 12



Special Gifts for
Trinity's Youth Ministry
Tuesday, December 12



Poinsettia Pick-up:
After the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
Service or Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 to
4:30 p.m. on the Working Sacristy side



Trinity's Office and Child Care Closed:
Monday, December 25
Monday, January 1

Adult Sunday School Social Hour 8:45 a.m.
No Children's Sunday School:
Sundays, December 24 and December 31

Year-End Gifts/Contributions:
Friday, December 29

February Newsletter Deadline:
Monday, January 22

Year-End Financial Reports Due:
Tuesday, February 13

GEOHERMAL PROJECT UPDATE:

ORIGINAL GEOTHERMAL PROJECT TOTAL	\$400,612
GIFTS FROM MEMBERS TO DATE	\$212,824
CURRENT BALANCE OUTSTANDING LOAN (MIF)	\$146,785
CURRENT MONTHLY PAYMENT	\$ 1,100

SAVINGS SO FAR GEOTHERMAL HVAC VS. ELECTRIC HEAT \$15,667
 (Please continue to give when possible as we try to reduce this debt)

IMPORTANT DEADLINE

FINANCE
COMMITTEE

























THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS SET Friday, December 29 as the deadline for donations to be credited to your account for 2017. Your year-end gift and gifts throughout the year are always needed and very much appreciated!

PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENTS

PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENTS will be available in Trinity's Narthex to pick up on **Sunday, January 28**. If you can take statements to your family members and neighbors, that would be appreciated to save postage.

CONGRATULATIONS!

TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)

	
	Arnold Benford—January 2
	Myra Braeseker—January 2
	Betty Gorman—January 2
	David Nicholson, Sr.—January 17
	
	Nellie Stahl - February 1
	Joan Wheeler—February 8
	Jewel Shumaker—February 13
	Catharine VanGilder—February 18
	Fred Morocco—February 20
	Tomalee Holt—February 21
	Lerene Murray—February 23
	Ruth Coleman—February 27
	Ilelen Harrold—February 27
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

GOD'S WORK - OUR HANDS

Good Gift Catalogues are available for Christmas Gift Giving. Stop by the Global Barnyard Tree outside the Chapel to get an Ornament and make a donation!

**Good
Gifts
Catalogue**

Dilma is a farmer in Honduras, the second poorest country in Latin America. Two thirds of the country's people struggle to feed their families year round. Women are particularly vulnerable because they lack the resources to earn income, invest in education and health care – and are often the ones caring for children and the elderly in their families. Dilma is one of those whose life can be changed simply with a few hens and chicks. For \$40, she will be able to feed her family and provide for their future. Chicks provide a sustainable income for many years to come... giving them not just food for the day, but good work for a lifetime! This is the gift for some of us who have all that we need!

Recently we witnessed the devastation in the Virgin Islands and know that it will take months and years to recover. In the meantime, we know that CLEAN WATER is something no one can live without. With the Good Gifts Catalogue, in addition to Barnyard Animals, seeds, and training in farming and irrigation techniques, you can now purchase an Emergency Water Filter system, for \$190. This is the gift of life for many families waiting for clean water to be restored after a disaster.

Also available: Smokeless cookstoves, Medical Supplies, Farming Equipment, and so much more! Your gifts are carefully stewarded to make the largest impact in areas of the world where our ministries are partnered with folks on the ground – who know how best to spend resources to benefit the whole community! Join with other Lutherans around the world doing God's Work – with Our Hands!

JANUARY 2018 BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Kathy Critchfield | 15 Jennifer Hair |
| Ricky DeWitt | Cyndi Pryce |
| 2 Arnold Benford | 17 David Nicholson, Sr. |
| Myra Braeseker | Sally Urban |
| Betty Gorman | 18 Teresa Polcha |
| 3 Nathan Barndt | 19 Brittany Bence |
| 4 Miles Gnagey-Davis | Chad Mosholder |
| D. Faye Ray | Barbara Davies |
| 5 Sally Hoffman | Kathleen Geary |
| Michael Marek | Alan Miller |
| Kathleen Triebe | 20 Drew Miller |
| Matthew Younkin | 21 Jill McNaul |
| 6 Deborah Keller | 22 Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas |
| Brady Meyers | Heather Spochart |
| Lana Householder | 26 Cody Leslie |
| 7 Laura Minnich | Bradley J. Walker |
| 8 Douglas Fanale | Luis Guzman |
| 9 Jennifer Harrold | 30 Jessica Miller |
| 10 Robert Gibson | |
| Betty Sloan | |
| Fletcher Stafford | |
| Dale Kriner | |
| 11 Dennis Zimmerman | |
| 12 Andrew Baker | |
| Michael Baker | |
| Dr. Peter Jacobson | |
| 13 Caitlin Barkman | |
| William Snyder, Sr. | |



FEBRUARY 2018 BIRTHDAYS

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

**ITS
YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

EPIPHANY PARTY!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
EPIPHANY PARTY!
AFTER 10:00 WORSHIP**



Did you enjoy the All Saints Gathering on All Saints Sunday? We had a great time!...so much so, that a few members wanted to make sure we have this kind of Fellowship opportunity more often! Plans are being made for seasonal gatherings around a meal, fellowship time, and a fun program for all ages.

Epiphany is normally celebrated on January 6th – but we are waiting til January 7. Why? You might ask...Well, one of the Wise Guys has gotten lost, on his way to see the new King, and he has gotten separated from the others!

Do you know enough of the Story to help him find his way? Join us for lunch, some King cake, and an Epiphany blessing for all ages! Who knows – YOU may end up being KING or QUEEN for the day! Sign up below, or call Trinity's Office (445-5446) to let us know how many to expect!



Yes! We plan to attend the January 7 Epiphany Party!

Name _____

Phone _____

Number attending: Adults _____ Children _____

Homemade Vegetable Beef and Chicken Noodle Soups will be provided. Additional menu items could include breads, rolls, sides, crackers, desserts, etc. If you would like to bring something, please call Angie Miller at 483-4881.

JANUARY 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 Educational Building
- 10:00 a.m. **Holy Communion Service** in Trinity's Nave

GRIEF GROUP MINISTRY: There is no timetable for grief—no one way to grieve—we ALL do it differently. Those experiencing the grief process are invited to come for study and support beginning Saturdays in January and February. The first class is **Saturday, January 6** from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in **Trinity's Parlor**. You may attend any or all sessions. (A free will offering is received to help defray costs.)

L.I.V.I.N.G.

For the past 12 years, L.I.V.I.N.G. (Love Initiated Ventures Investing in Neglected People) Ministries in Pittsburgh has hosted the ALIVE program at the Allegheny Commons Park on the Northside. At ALIVE 2017 held on Saturday, November 11th, they served over 200 of their homeless friends as they received warm clothing, a meal, haircuts, social services, praise and worship, a Gospel message, and altar call. Over 10 people came to know the Lord on this Saturday! Approximately 275 volunteers came together to share their love and hope with the homeless. The social services offered included Pittsburgh Mercy Hospital's medical van for people to get a general checkup, Mission Vision who gave free eye exams and free glasses, and Allegheny Link who assist the homeless in getting shelter. The L.I.V.I.N.G. Ministry team sends a big THANK YOU to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church for your continued support of providing warm clothing for this successful event!



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from
Trinity's Staff and Child Care:*

Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas
Nicholas Carroll, *Director of Music*
Ann Voytish, *Office Manager*
Darlene Schafer, *Part-Time Computer Secretary*
Douglas Fanale, *Full-Time Sexton*
Frank Kyle, *Part-Time Sexton*
Jody Jurgevich, *Child Care Director*
Valerie Christner, *Child Care Worker*
Becky Holt, *Child Care Worker*
Krystal Knupp, *Child Care Worker*
Stacey Law, *Child Care Worker*
Michelle Lensbouer, *Child Care Worker*
Mary Platt, *Child Care Worker*
Megan Salzer, *Child Care Worker*
Cheryl Shaffer, *Child Care Worker*
Amber Snyder, *Child Care Worker*
Eleanor Stutzman, *Child Care Worker*
Donna Updyke, *Child Care Worker*