

ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS 2016

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO
MATTHEW

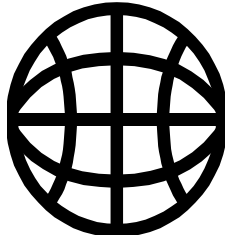
We begin the Year of Matthew this month, just in time for the Birth Narrative to be told from a Jewish point of view. Matthew's Gospel was once my favorite. I loved how the prophecies from the Old Testament were each fulfilled in Jesus' coming. There was something about how the stories of the Old Testament were linked to the New Testament that appealed to me. People's names, the names for special places – everything has meaning!

Don't we long for loose ends to be tied up neatly in a bow? Don't we want questions answered? Matthew might appeal to you! Then, there are the mysterious interventions – the peculiar dreams, the angel visitations, and the messages they bear. Matthew is organized - truly, a Teacher's Gospel! Jesus is the new Moses – the one who redefines the Law of God.



Lutherans emphasize both Law and Gospel. The Law convicts us, by holding a mirror up to our faces – and we flee from it. But where can we go? Only to Christ Jesus, who fulfills the law on our behalf, and offers us Grace abundant, undeserved and unreserved.

There is something in me that wants God's People to see themselves more clearly, in order to see the Grace of God more clearly too. For instance, I would love to



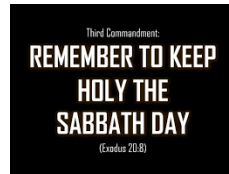
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
918 Tayman Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501
(Address Service Requested)

TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 4:00 AND
8:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW
YEAR'S DAY SERVICES WILL BE ONE
SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 A.M.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2016

Non-Profit Organization
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Somerset, Pennsylvania
Permit No. 149

see people take more seriously, the Third Commandment – to Honor the Sabbath. We all love to experience the sanctuary filled on Christmas Eve – but why not every Sunday? God is pretty clear about it: The Sabbath is for rest from our labors and is to be used to Worship God, to Study God's Word, and to return Thanks to God for all our many blessings.



Yet, many folks treat Sunday as the day of rest in order to focus on themselves. By ignoring the Sabbath call to Worship, we disrespect God and miss out on the messages God longs to speak to us. We miss the fellowship with other believers, we exclude ourselves from the work of the community at prayer, and we exchange the Holy Meal for food that does not satisfy. Why?

This week I received a very nice note from folks who visit us a few times a year. They have a timeshare nearby and come to Trinity whenever they stay the weekend. In the note, they mention how very much they enjoy coming to Trinity and how God speaks to them every time they attend. They wish they lived closer, so they could attend more often. Wow, isn't that something? It warms my heart. But it also pains me to know, that many of our folks at Trinity who need to hear God's Word each Sabbath, go hungry instead.

Come, Let us Worship the Lord! Let us enter into the courts of the Lord with Thanksgiving!

Faithfully yours,

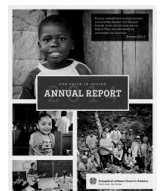
Pastor Linda M. Thomas

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, November 13 after the 10:00 worship service. The following are results from that meeting:

- ▶ Approved the 2015 Annual Report.
- ▶ Melanie Miller, Deborah Stewart, and Sue Weimer were each elected to Council for three-year terms. Roger Bailey and Chad Mosholder were each elected to Council for two-year terms.
- ▶ Ann Persun was elected to serve a three-year term on the Endowment Fund.
- ▶ The 2017 Annual Budget was approved.
- ▶ Congregation approved the Proposed Changes to Trinity's Constitution.
- ▶ Appreciation and thanks to our outgoing Council members: *John Cascio and Karen Frantz* and special thanks to *Roger Bailey, Chad Mosholder, and Sue Weimer* for agreeing to serve again on our Council.

(Copies of the 2015 Annual Report and the November 13, 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting Report are available in the Information Center, blue Chapel Kiosk, or in Trinity's Office if you missed the meeting.)



VIEW FROM THE LOFT

Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella

I was teaching the carol, *Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!* to a student of mine this week and thought I would share the history and story behind this lesser known carol with Trinity as well. The tradition it is based around has always intrigued me. First let's look at the first stanza:

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to the stable call
Christ is born. Tell the folk of the village
Jesus is born and Mary's calling.
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the Mother!
Ah! Ah! beautiful is her child!

Firstly, contrary to popular belief it is Jeannette *and* Isabella, two different girls... not one girl named Jeannette Isabella. The tune to the hymn, *Un Flambeau*, originates from a 14th century dance. It likely became paired with its current lyrics around 1550 as it first appeared in a compilation of Christmas music, *Cantiques de Premiere Advenement de Jesus-Christ*, published in 1553 by a wealthy French count whose hobby was the collection of Christmas music. Most musicologists believe the hymn inspired a famous painting, *The New-born Christ* (c. 1648), painting by Georges de La Tour, which depicts two young women holding baby Jesus.



According to the French legend which inspired the hymn, Jeannette and Isabella are the daughters of the innkeeper who put Mary and Joseph in his stable for the night. The legend likely developed in the Province region of France where

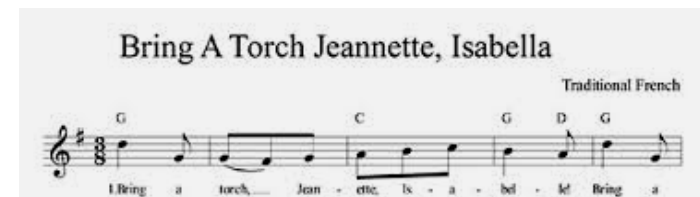
to this day it is a tradition that before Christmas Eve Mass the daughters of the village go door to door with candles or in some cases even Advent wreaths on their heads, and spread the news that Jesus has been born. Many of the women even dress up like milkmaids or shepherdesses. In some cases, gifts are even exchanged as the news is spread...kind of like reverse trick-or-treat. This goes along with stanza two of the hymn:

Who is that, knocking on the door?
Who is it, knocking like that?
Open up, we've arranged on a platter
Lovely cakes that we have brought here
Knock! Knock! Knock! Open the door for us!
Knock! Knock! Knock! Let's celebrate!

Though the carol, "*Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!*" is not in our Lutheran hymnal, we do have a Christmas hymn that uses the tune "*Un Flambeau*." Our hymn, ELW #292, is called, "*Love Has Come*" and is more thematically relevant for us but still gives a "nod" to this classic carol.

Nicholas Carroll

Director of Music





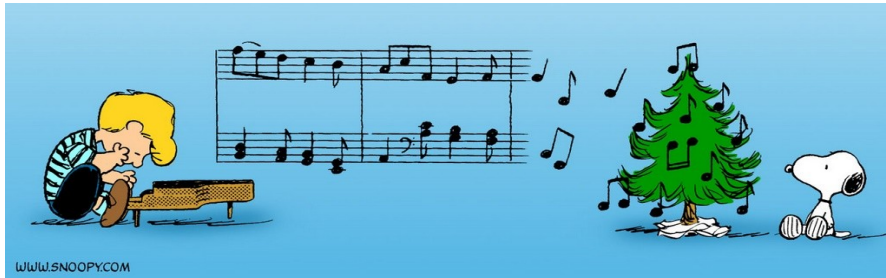
Trinity Lutheran Church



Cordially invites you to this free concert:

“A Charlie Brown Christmas!”

and other jazzy Christmas carols
performed by
Nicholas Carroll, Pianist



Friday, December 2, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Join us in welcoming this season of LIGHT!

918 Tayman Avenue, Somerset

Bring a friend!



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

DEATH:

October 31, 2016 Sondra Lee (Baird) Spruell

WEDDING:

November 25, 2016 *Kristi Anne Jacobson*
 Daniel J. Brant
 (Married in Gatlinburg, Tennessee)

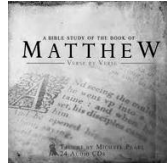


COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 2016

- ⇒ Approved Constitutional Amendments to be presented at the Congregational Meeting on November 13, 2016.
- ⇒ Special Gifts in lieu of poinsettias will go to the Food Pantry.
- ⇒ Permission to place Birthright of Somerset Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall for donations.
- ⇒ Nicholas Carroll to create a new website for Trinity using Sharefaith website building service. Nicholas Carroll will continue this process in consultation with Carlton Jacobson, Chris Lloyd, Pastor Linda, and others who want to assist in the recreated website and maintenance.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45 a.m. We began the Year of Matthew on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27). The Gospel of Matthew will be the subject of our Adult Class off and on for the next few months. Occasionally, a special class will be offered on other topics that have been requested.



- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| December 4 | Trinity's Website – Your Input is Needed! –
Nicholas Carroll and Carlton Jacobson |
| December 11 | Matthew's Unique Perspective – Jewish
Prophecy Fulfilled
Pastor Linda M. Thomas |
| December 18 | Matthew's Birth Narrative – Joseph's Point
of View
Pastor Linda M. Thomas |
| December 25
and January 1 | No formal Sunday School
Fellowship Time and "Christmas in
Europe" video with Rick Steves |
| January 8 | The Electoral College – How does it work?
And Why Do We Have One?
Becky Minnich |
| January 15, 22,
and 29 | Matthew – the Teacher's Gospel!
Pastor Linda M. Thomas |
| Looking ahead | George Kaufman will be teaching in February
from the Great Courses! |

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS



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.

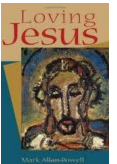
Join with us for study of the upcoming Sunday texts and good discussions! (No class on Mondays, December 26 and January 2.)

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.

LOVING JESUS STUDY GROUP meets on **Thursday, December 8 (note the new date)** at 11:00 a.m.

in Adult III. Bring a lunch. We continue our study with the Letter to the German Nobility/95 Theses.

Looking ahead to January 5, we will study the Preface to Romans and later the Sermons on the Catechism.



MARYS AND MARTHAS Bible study group for women of all ages normally meets the **first and third Wednesdays** of each month at 7:00 p.m., usually in the Parlor. The group uses the ELCA women's magazine, Gather, with extra copies being in the Chapel Kiosk and Narthex. In December, they will have one meeting on **December 14** at 6:00 p.m. for dinner at Lana Miller's home. January's meetings will be determined by the weather on the first and third Wednesdays. Feel free to join us!



BIBLE STUDY (CONTINUED)

TABLE TALK! 2nd Monday night each month (December 12) at 6:00 p.m. (Flyin' Lion in Jennerstown). One of the most interesting writings in Luther's Works is a collection of his conversations with his Seminary students about God, theology, and life, where they enjoyed many hours outside the classroom over meals discussing the day's events in public and private life...with a theological twist! Join us for dinner or a beverage and conversation linking our everyday life with God and Scripture, as seen through a Lutheran lens.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



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 list of weekday dates/times suiting you for the sessions. Pastor Linda will then set them up for the whole group.

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. The room is open Sunday mornings or by request to Trinity's Office. 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.

DECORATING THE TREE



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING is scheduled for **Sunday, December 4** after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Join in the Trinity Family Christmas preparations by helping to decorate the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary with the chrismons. The

more the merrier!

TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL

TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL: The class for 2-4 year olds and their parents will meet on **Sunday, December 11**. They meet once a month in the Nursery, after the Sunday School opening at 8:45 a.m.

Toddlers

TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS' GROUP – During playtime, the parents are invited next door (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. 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!

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 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Cookies will be packed the morning of Saturday, December 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m.**



COOKIE DONATIONS FOR HOMEBOUND

I will provide _____ dozen homemade cookies for the homebound boxes for Saturday, December 10.

Name _____

Phone _____

(Form Deadline: Tuesday, December 6)

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

CAMP SEQUANOTA'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA is scheduled for **Saturday, December 10** from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Cost is Adults \$10, 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.

FOOD PANTRY TOY DRIVE

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 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 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 **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 help parents choose toys for their children and/or wrap the toys on the 14th.



AID HOME SHOPPING TRIP

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 offering envelope line.

**SHOPPING
TRIP!**

SAM ADVENT SERVICES

SOMERSET AREA MINISTRIES 2016 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. Lunch is served after each service. The schedule of dates and preachers is:

- November 30 Rev. Arnie McFarland
Calvary United Methodist Church
- December 7 Rev. Micaiah Van Evera
Somerset Alliance Church
- December 14 Rev. Mike Dunlop
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
- December 21 Father Lenny Anderson
St. Francis-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church

CAN CHALLENGE

Allegheny Synod's 50,000 Can Challenge from Advent to Super Bowl Sunday November 27, 2016 to February 5, 2017: Your donation of non-perishable food items (cans or anything you buy in a grocery store) 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 Trinity and other churches in the Allegheny Synod are doing with this challenge will be updated in the bulletin.



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, November 27 (1st Sunday in Advent)

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

Sunday, December 4 (2nd Sunday in Advent)

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

Sunday, December 11 (3rd Sunday in Advent)

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



Sunday, December 18 (4th Sunday in Advent)

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

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

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

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
Lessons and Carols

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

WORSHIP NOTES

OUR ANOINTING SERVICES will be held in area Nursing Homes instead of the 4:00 Chapel service over the winter months. Watch the bulletin for details for the January through March services. Everyone is invited and welcome!



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

DEVOTIONALS: *The Word in Season* (regular print) and *Christ in Our Home* (regular and large print) for October, November, December 2016 are available in the Narthex, Information Center, and Chapel Kiosk. We have also added a



new devotional called *Our Daily Bread* (regular and large print), for the months of December, January, and February 2016-2017. This is a new, additional devotional for Trinity. Please pick up a copy and let Trinity's Office (445-

5446) or a member of the Worship Committee member know which of the three devotionals you prefer. Worship Committee members are: Jo Balsley, Nicholas Carroll, Linda Himes, Lana Miller, Melanie Miller, Shelby Rhodes, Barb Swanson, Pastor Linda, and Bob Thomas.

There will not be Children's Sunday School or 7:30 a.m. worship on Sundays, December 25 or January 1. There will be a **Fellowship Time** and "Christmas in Europe" video with Rick Steves in the Fellowship Hall at 8:45 a.m. on both Sundays.

FROM OUR BISHOP



First Sunday of Advent 2016

Dear Friends,

God's grace and peace be with you. We are moving into the Reformation year as October 31, 2017 will mark the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. 500 years after Luther posted his 95 Theses in Wittenberg, Germany we are still seeing the Holy Spirit move and reform us and our church. God is active and moving here in our Allegheny Synod.

Our Synod Office has been focused this past year on working to better tell the story of what we do together as the people of God. Through the Lutheran Letter, our Allegheny Synod Facebook page, the Allegheny Synod weekly e-news, and the letters, emails, and other communications we send, we are telling the story of what God is doing through you in this Synod. If you want to be connected to these communications, call our Synod Office for more information.

There are wonderful things going on in the Allegheny Synod. We have congregations growing food for local food banks, thousands of quilts being put together to be sent to people in need, and our congregations reach out to help when there are needs in the community. As God's people, you faithfully minister and care for each other in times of joy and in sorrow. There is life and hope in our congregations because Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit is with us and reminds us that there is always work to be done. Thank you for the many ways you share the love of Jesus Christ with your neighbors and meet the needs of people around the world. You are faithful and are a blessing.

The Year of Prayer project is well underway. I hope you will join us in praying for God's will and work in this Allegheny Synod as well as using the prayer resource with Martin Luther's morning and evening prayer.

As we move into the Reformation Anniversary year, we will continue to find ways to worship Jesus with each other and our ecumenical partners. I invite you to three ecumenical services happening in the first half of the year. We will celebrate our annual ecumenical prayer services on January 22, 2017 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, and January 29, 2017 at Mt Calvary Lutheran in Johnstown. Both services are at 2:00 pm. These services are hosted by our Allegheny Synod, the Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, and the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. We gather with fellow Christians to pray together, to build bridges of friendship, and celebrate the unity we have in Jesus Christ.

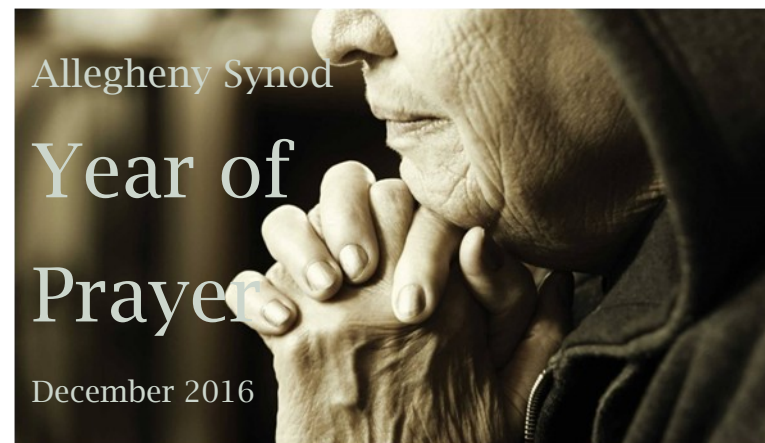
On Sunday February 26, 2017, we will have an additional ecumenical service as our first joint service of the Reformation year. The service will be held at First Lutheran in Altoona at 2:00 pm. We will welcome special guest preacher, Bishop Donald McCoid, formerly of the Southwest PA Synod, and former ELCA Director of Ecumenical Relations. Bishop McCoid will be sharing with us his experiences working on the task force for the new Ecumenical Document, "Declaration On the Way." We invite our partners of other Christian traditions to join us for this service.

Your ministry in these Allegheny hills and valleys is a blessing. I pray that you will continue to find ways to show the love of Christ to your neighbors. Know that Christ Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our congregations.

I thank God for you. Thank you for the way you love Jesus and the way you share that love. May God bless you now and always.

In Christ,

† Bishop Michael Rhyne
Allegheny Synod



The Allegheny Synod Year of Prayer is a year-long effort to engage our members in prayer for others and for the world.

**This month we pray for
The Holy Land and peace in the land of Jesus' birth**

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Week 1: | Peace Talks
Pray for the ongoing peace talks between leaders of nations that they might rule with equity. |
| Week 2: | Missionaries who serve in Israel and Palestine
Rev. Carrie Ballenger-Smith
Adrainne and Ben Gray
Revs. Colin and Jeni Grangaard |
| Week 3: | The Church of the Nativity
Located in Bethlehem, it is said to be the site of Jesus' birth |
| Week 4: | Peacemakers
Pray that the Holy Spirit will show you how to be a peacemaker in our hurting world. |

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 2016 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!



NOTICE FROM THE CHILD CARE COMMITTEE

With regret, the Child Care Committee received Krystal Shaffer's resignation recently. This is due to her husband's work out of town and their desire to raise their son together. She has been a fine Child Care Director, serving four and a half years. She has been instrumental in creating a calm, loving, and cooperative atmosphere among the staff – giving Trinity's Child Care a reputation for "being the best."

Krystal wrote, "Thank you so much for everything! I will always be grateful for this job and the opportunities it provided for me and my family. There was a long period of time when this work paid for the roof over our heads and put food on our table." Krystal's can-do attitude will be sorely missed!

The Child Care Committee is launching into a search for a new Director. In addition to administrative and interpersonal skills, with a calm demeanor, we are looking for someone who meets the DHS requirements as follows below. If you have an interest or if you know of someone you can recommend, please call Trinity's Office (445-5446) or speak to someone who serves on the Child Care Committee. Thank you for your help and your prayers!

Committee members are Benjamin Carroll, Jim Baker, Sue Weimer, and Pastor Linda M. Thomas.

The DHS requirements for a Child Care Director are one of the following qualification levels:

- (1) A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in early childhood education, child development, special education, elementary education or the human services field and one year of experience with children.
- (2) A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, including 30 credit hours in early childhood education, child development, special education, elementary education

or the human services field and two years of experience with children.

(3) An associate's degree from an accredited college or university in early childhood education, child development, special education, elementary education or the human services field and three years of experience with children.

(4) An associate's degree from an accredited college or university, including 30 credit hours in early childhood education, child development, special education, elementary education or the human services field and four years of experience with children.

CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS to *Kristi Anne Jacobson* and *Daniel J. Brant*, who were married on **Fri-**

day, November 25 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Kristi is the daughter

of Dr. Peter and Donna Jacobson. May God bless the couple with love and faithfulness, that their marriage may be a sign of God's grace among us.



IMPORTANT DEADLINE

FINANCE
COMMITTEE

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS SET Friday, December 30 as the deadline for donations to be credited to your account for 2016. Your year-end gift and gifts throughout the year are always needed and very much appreciated!

IMPORTANT DEADLINES/DATES

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

Tuesday, December 13



**FOOD
PANTRY**

*Special Gifts for
Somerset Food Pantry
Tuesday, December 13*

Poinsettia Pick-up:

*After the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
Service or after 10:00 a.m. Worship on
Sunday, December 25*



*Trinity's Office and Child Care Closed:
Monday, December 26
Monday, January 2*

*Adult Sunday School Social Hour 8:45 a.m.
No Children's Sunday School:
Sundays, December 25 and January 1*

*Year-End Gifts/Contributions:
Friday, December 30*

*February Newsletter Deadline:
Monday, January 23*

*Year-End Financial Reports Due:
Monday, February 6*



GEO THERMAL UPDATE

Four Loan Withdrawals	\$158,000
Authorized Transfers from Various Savings	70,861
Gifts Received through November 20, 2016	<u>199,575</u>
(These are both one-time special gifts and payments towards pledges)	
Total Cash in Hand	\$428,436
Payments made :	
(July 2015 - November 20, 2016)	<u>(416,842)</u>
Balance—Cash on Hand	\$ 11,594
[We pay \$1,100 per month on our loan.]	

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

THE JOHNSTOWN SYMPHONY presents Joy for the Holidays—Handel's Messiah at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center on **Saturday, December 10** at 7:30 p.m. Go online or call for tickets at www.upjarts.org or (814) 269-7200.

ALSM'S SENIOR DAILY LIVING CENTER provides many services for families who are trying to keep their loved one independent and at home longer. It provides a warm environment and a break for caregivers who need some time for themselves, work, or appointments. ALSM offers drop-in hourly, partial day, and full day rates that are lower than the cost of in-home care services. There are financial aid programs available through the Office on Aging and the VA. There is a LPN on staff, meals and snacks, exercise and structured activities, cognitive fitness through computers, music therapy (iPods), personal care, and a fun and safe environment. The center is located at 231 Tabernacle Drive, Somerset. Call 445-8506 for more details.



WELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING

JULY 13-16, 2017 "ALL ANEW!"

The Women of the ELCA will be meeting for their Triennial Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota next summer. We had a group of four go to the last event in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was a wonderful gathering of women of faith! (Deb Stewart, Linda Himes, Flor Hernandez, and Pastor Linda attended.) **Early Bird Registration begins now through January 6, 2017** and is discounted to \$310, plus transportation and hotel accommodations. Pastor Linda would like to drive or take the train in order to visit sights along the way. If interested in going, speak to Pastor Linda, and a planning meeting can be arranged. It is an awesome event!

KIDS' HUMOR - PINTEREST

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo, while I asked, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

CONGRATULATIONS!

TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT
BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)

Arnold Benford—January 2

Myra Braeseker—January 2

Betty Gorman—January 2

Patricia Arthur—January 8

David Nicholson, Sr.—January 17

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

2016 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 13



*(Please do not forget to pick up your flowers after
the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or after the
10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 25.)*

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

2016 SPECIAL GIFTS

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

our special gifts will go to:

_____ *Somerset Food Pantry*



Amount \$_____ Envelope #_____

Please make checks payable to:

Trinity Lutheran Church

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Presented by _____

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT TRINITY IN JANUARY, 2017

Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day)

8:45 a.m. Adult Fellowship Time and "Christmas in Europe" with video with Rick Steves
No Children's Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and Lessons and Carols



Sundays, January 8-29

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

(Watch Sunday bulletin for nursing home schedule in place of 4:00 p.m. Chapel service.)

PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENTS

PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENTS will be available in Trinity's Narthex to pick up on **Sunday, January 29**. If you can take statements to your family members and neighbors that would be appreciated to save postage.

FUNDRAISERS FOR WELCA

FUNDRAISERS FOR THE WOMEN going to the 2017 WELCA Triennial Gathering will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, December 15 - Pizza Hut

Monday, January 9 - Pizza Hut

Sunday, February 19 - Hoss's

Monday, March 6 - Pizza Hut

Sunday, April 23 - Hoss's

Monday, May 15 - Pizza Hut

Monday, June 12 - Hoss's

PIZZA HUT "FUN-RAISER" is all day (11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.) Delivery and carryout count, too. (The pizza/pasta buffet is available only at lunch time from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for those of you who prefer it.) Coupons (one per party) for 20% of your guest check will soon be available in the Narthex, Chapel area, and Trinity's Office.



Hoss's also gives back 20% of your guest check to Trinity. Please support these fundraisers for Trinity's women going to the Gathering in July!

THANK YOU

Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas,

The family of Alverna Ruth Custer would like to thank you and all the people of Trinity Lutheran Church who supported our mother while she was a patient at The Patriot during the

past 12 years. Also, thank you for making arrangements for funeral services on July 21 at Miller Funeral Home with the interment following at Somerset County Memorial Park.



Pastor Larry Hoover provided meaningful services at the funeral and interment that were appreciated by family and friends.

Trinity Lutheran ministries provided spiritual support for Alverna while a Patriot resident that included many visits with prayers, communion, and small gifts for our mother.

Thank you,

The Alverna Ruth Custer Family
(Fred Custer, Joyce and Dick Rhea,
Roger and Marsha Custer, Jeff and Judy Custer)

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



FRUIT BASKETS

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



Large Baskets are \$24.00

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

Small Baskets are \$17.00

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

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

Orders are due by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16. Fruit baskets must be picked up on Wednesday, 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.

KIDS' COLORING PAGE



JANUARY 2017 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 Lloyd |
| 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 Patricia Arthur | Luis Guzman |
| Douglas Fanale | 30 Jessica Miller |
| 9 Jennifer Harrold | |
| 10 Robert Gibson | |
| Betty Sloan | |
| Fletcher Stafford | |
| Dale Kriner | |
| 12 Andrew Baker | |
| Michael Baker | |
| Dr. Peter Jacobson | |
| 13 Caitlin Barkman | |
| William Snyder, Sr. | |



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

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



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

Pastor Linda M. Thomas
Nicholas Carroll, *Director of Music*
Ann Voytish, *Office Manager*
Darlene Schafer, *Part-Time Computer Secretary*
Douglas Fanale, *Sexton*
Frank Kyle, *Part-Time Sexton*
Krystal Shaffer, *Child Care Director*
Valerie Christner, *Child Care Worker*
Emily Keister, *Child Care Worker*
Krystal Knupp, *Child Care Worker*
Stacey Law, *Child Care Worker*
Michelle Lensbouer, *Child Care Worker*
Marissa Mostoller, *Child Care Worker*
Mary Platt, *Child Care Worker*
Cheryl Shaffer, *Child Care Worker*
Mary Grace Shaulis, *Child Care Worker*
Amber Snyder, *Child Care Worker*
Eleanor Stutzman, *Child Care Worker*
Donna Updyke, *Child Care Worker*