

LENTEN 2017

Volume 18, Issue 1—February 3, 2017

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Oh God, “you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless,  
until they find rest in you.”

- St. Augustine

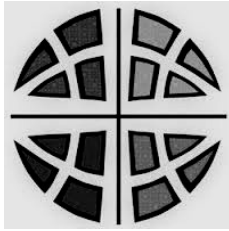


Grace and Peace to all of you!

Despite his mother's prayers for many years, that he would respond to God's Love in Jesus Christ, the man we know now as St. Augustine spent most of his younger years in a desperate search for fulfillment: excessive pleasures, false religions, philosophy, and many distractions. Finally, he came to the point of asking: “How long, O Lord, how long?” After that cry, the Lord led him to a passage in Romans... convicted him of his need for Christ and he was baptized. He became a great theologian in the early church.

A decade later, he recorded his faith journey in a unique autobiography called “The Confessions” – it was the testimony of a soul that had finally found rest in its Creator. **“You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you.”** (Thank you to Dan Graves for this abbreviated biography.)

I suspect there are many of us who, like Augustine, spend a lot of time and energy searching for fulfillment in the goals we have set for ourselves. All too often, we don't obtain them - or even if we do, we find them lacking. We aren't satisfied. It is no surprise that I would say that is because we are, as the song says, “Looking for LOVE in all the wrong places.” We are like puzzle pieces, each of us shaped and fashioned differently from one another, and each of us part of God's big



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

Join us on **Saturday, March 25**  
for our Lay School of Theology:  
Holy Communion taught by  
Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian in Trinity's  
Sanctuary.  
(See pages 26-28 for all of the details.)

# LENTEN 2017

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picture. But we are not “at home” until we find our place in God – like the satisfaction that comes from finding the place that “fits” as if we have been “made for it.”

I believe that also refers to finding our “place” in the Body of Christ in the world – the church! I am a respecer of the many different churches available to choose from in our community and in our world. For a time, we might find our best “fit” in one tradition, but later, find that it no longer fits as well. It may be that our life circumstances dictate being active in one faith community when our children are young, but at another time in our life, another community fits a bit better... and then, sometimes we are torn between communities we love. All of these scenarios are uncomfortable.



I respect an honest struggle when folks are sensing a change is needed - and I pray for them. When our family in faith experiences conflict or a change in pastoral leadership, folks look for a quiet and safe harbor in the storm. When folks come to Trinity in that circumstance, I encourage them to stay awhile, be refreshed, but to return to their family of faith when they are strengthened, not to avoid the challenges of community life. The same is true, I hope, when folks are conflicted about what is happening at Trinity and seek refuge elsewhere for awhile.

I HOPE and PRAY that folks will HONESTLY wrestle with their concerns...and NOT escape dealing with them...that they will keep communications and relationships open and work for a resolution. “Silently” or not so silently slipping off to another church is not helpful – for us individually or for community life. For the community we leave, it feels like “the silent treatment” or rejection; it sows seeds of discontent and

doubt about the love we felt for one another, the fellowship we enjoyed. And the one who leaves without saying a word misses an opportunity to grow, to forgive, or to be genuine.

Our life together is a delicate ecosystem, and changes can be disruptive. One of our dear elder members used to tell me, “My church has changed!” Yes. This is true. We miss our friends who have died or moved, the liturgy or hymnody we grew up with, the preacher we loved – we miss the “fit” and “comfort” we used to know.

It may be helpful to remember that our TRUE LIFE is found in Jesus alone, and no human community is a perfect fit for anyone. The perfect fit is found in God, alone. So, if you feel that something is missing – Go first, to the One who has made you, named you, and claimed you. PRAY for discernment, then, talk with your brothers and sisters in faith. Try to be patient in our life together and consider the challenges we face as opportunities to fashion us more and more into the community that God desires.

**PERFECT FIT**

Let’s remember too, that there are many of our neighbors who have been seeking fulfillment and have only found disappointment – some have been “looking for Love in all the wrong places.” Some have been hit hard with losses and disappointments. Here, at Trinity, we proclaim the God who cares so much for the lost and grieving, that he sent his Son... we proclaim Him among us each and every Sunday morning for our “happy hour” of worship... we listen for His Word for us in Worship and our wide variety of Education classes, we celebrate His presence in our Fellowship and Service opportunities. We grow in faith together.

Our congregation is a welcome place for others seeking refuge, hope, and a Peace that passes understanding. Our life together is a healthy balance of *rest for the weary* and *energizing exercise of Faith for the Faithful*. Participate! In Lent, we will be looking at the faith stories that teach us more about the journey of Faith (see the Education article on page 8). "Come and See" said the early disciples.... that's our invitation too!

Faithfully yours,  
Pastor Linda McElroy Thomas

## ANOINTING SERVICE

**PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19** at 2:30 p.m. at The Patriot in Somerset for a **COMMUNION AND ANOINTING SERVICE**. Our communion and anointing services will be held in area Nursing Homes instead of the 4:00 p.m. Chapel Service in February and March. If you have family or friends residing in any of the nursing homes, please join them for the service. Everyone is welcome!

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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Check out our **NEW** Website: [www.trinitysomerset.org](http://www.trinitysomerset.org)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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

## 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. Beginning Sunday, February 5, George Kaufman will provide a study of **The Jewish World of Jesus**. Please see page 8 for more details on the Adult Sunday School classes for the winter.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN** the Monday Morning Bible Study group at 10:30 a.m. in Adult III. 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 all men that would like to join us for this coffee fellowship.



**MARYS AND MARTHAS** Bible study group for women of all ages meets **Wednesday February 15** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. During Lent, Marys and Marthas will meet on **Mondays, March 6 and 20** at the Lutheran Commons at 443 Berlin Plank Road in Somerset at 7:00 p.m. Deb Stewart and Alice Fritz will host. The group uses the ELCA women's magazine, Gather. Extra copies are in the Chapel Kiosk, Trinity's Office, and Narthex. (Join us for study, refreshments, and fellowship!)

## BIBLE STUDY (CONTINUED)

**LOVING JESUS** study group meets on **Thursday, February 9** at 11:00 a.m. in Adult III. (Bring a lunch.) The class will be discussing the book, Your God Is Too Small. If you need a copy, please pick up one in Trinity's Office.

**TABLE TALK! 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday night each month—February 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Pine Grill in Somerset.** (Meeting locations vary each month. Watch for the March 13 meeting location!) 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 food and drink, fellowship, and a bit of theological conversation as seen through a Lutheran lens.

## TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL

**TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The class for 2-4 year olds and their parents will meet on **FEBRUARY 12 and 26** and **March 12**. They meet in the Nursery at 8:45 a.m.



**TODDLER SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS' GROUP** – During Toddler Playtime, the parents are invited next door (to the Parlor) for a cup of coffee and conversation. Karen Frantz and Pastor Linda are willing to meet with parents to talk about parenting issues. 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! So come and help develop YOUR parenting skills.

## ADULT EDUCATION FOR WINTER 2017

**8:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall**

### February: The Jewish World of Jesus

For the month of February, we will take a short break from our study of the Gospel of Matthew. We have already discussed how the Gospel of Matthew was written so as to persuade those with Jewish background that Jesus IS THE MESSIAH!

*George Kaufman* will provide a study of “**The Jewish World of Jesus**” for February. We will be exploring Jewish History and the Political Realities of living under Roman rule, Temple Worship practices and Jewish Sects at the time of Jesus. “Who ARE those Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees?” - all the Jewish influences that can help us understand Matthew's Gospel.

**March 5:** Council and Finance will share information and get feedback with regard to the congregation's Financial health.

**For Lent, March 12-April 9:** We will be examining the Biblical stories in the Lenten Lectionary and how they can help us reflect on parts of Luther's Catechism:

Genesis 2-3	Adam and Eve and Sin – What is the role of the Law?	+ 10 Commandments
John 3:1-17	Nicodemus – What to believe?	+ The Apostle's Creed
John 4:5-42	Woman at the Well – Talking to Jesus	+ The Lord's Prayer
John 9:1-41	Man Born Blind – Receiving New Life	+ Baptism
John 11:1-45	Lazarus Restored – a Foretaste of the Resurrection	+ Holy Communion

## ECUMENICAL WORSHIP

**AN ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE REFORMATION 500<sup>TH</sup> YEAR** hosted by our Allegheny Synod will be held on **Sunday, February 26** at 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church at 1401 12th Avenue in Altoona. The preacher will be *Bishop Donald McCoid* (former Bishop of Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, and former Chief Ecumenical Officer—ELCA). A reception follows the service. All are welcome!

## ALLEGHENY SYNOD

**Allegheny Synod's 50,000 Can Challenge ends Sunday, February 5:** Your donation of non-perishable food items (cans, boxes, etc.) to the 50,000 "Can" Challenge benefits Somerset's Food Pantry directly. Please bring in your food items to Trinity's Office or place in the boxes located throughout Trinity. As of February 1, the current count is **26,174 food items** from our Synod's churches.

**"SOUPER BOWL" OF CARING:** Please bring in canned soups, especially those with protein, for **Super Bowl Sunday, February 5** for our Somerset Food Pantry. Please place in the boxes designated for the 50,000 Can Challenge as the cans will count towards that goal as well. Trinity receives food all year for the Food Pantry. Please continue to give even after the challenge.



## COUNCIL RETREAT

**THE WINTER COUNCIL RETREAT** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 18** at 9:00 a.m. in Luther's Lounge. Guest speaker is Pastor Glenn Ludwig.

## VIEW FROM THE LOFT

CHRISTIAN EDM (ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC):  
THE NEW CHRISTIAN CONTEMPORARY?

There is no debating that the rapid spread of technology has changed our world. Most of us are only beginning to notice just how profoundly the technological renaissance has changed our lifestyles. One area that has changed meteorically is, of course, music. To delve fully into the effects of these changes could fill a book, possibly even multiple volumes of thick books, so I will be brief here attempting to focus on technology's effects on Christian music in a very bare-bones way.

To understand technology's effect on music, we must first learn about some terms, without which we cannot understand the topic. Technology and the people using it *love* acronyms. The first we need to know is EDM, or

edm

"Electronic Dance Music." This is music made solely on a computer using no "real" instruments. EDM is focused on providing a song or "track" to dance to; as such the core of the song is the "four-on-the-floor" drum beat. It takes no musical study or ability to make, but requires only rudimentary knowledge of song structure and a computer with the proper programs. Another term to know is DAW, or "Digital Audio Workstation." This is a computer program used to create digital music. DAW's have existed for a long time, but used to be so expensive that only very successful musicians had access to their capabilities (think Michael Jackson types). Today DAW's are readily available and anyone with a laptop and the desire can make "professional" sounding tracks recorded using our next term, VST's. A VST or "Virtual Studio Technology" is the way a DAW makes your computer into a

real life recording studio. For example, it used to be that you required a stack of “electronic boxes with dials” (such as compressors) to implement pitch correction onto a vocalist. Now using VST, anyone with a DAW can make themselves sing perfectly on pitch without taking a trip to Abbey Road or having to sing multiple “takes.” Using MIDI, or Musical Instrument Digital Interface, a person can directly record from an electric piano keyboard a song that could then be played by a computer using samples of Virtual Instruments. (VI’s are studio-recorded samples of real actual acoustic instruments packaged on a hard drive to make the basic keyboard sound like any other instrument.) This is a great method for someone like me to record because the quality of the sample from a VI is much better than if I used a microphone and my piano as it eliminates all background noise and gives me the benefit of very expensive pianos and microphones without having to own them. However, in recent times MIDI has fallen to the side in favor of loops and sampling programs. These programs allow a person to play common chord progressing without knowing anything about those chords or how to play them by simply pressing a computer key. In fact, Sony has created an AI (Artificial Intelligence) that can “write” pop songs after analyzing song structure. This has all contributed to the rise of the “Age of the DJ.”

In Christian Contemporary music, it was long “cool” to make it clear that Christian music could be played on popular mediums such as electric guitars, basses, and drum sets with the Praise Leaders being akin to rock stars. Today, the difference is: rock stars are no longer “rock stars” in secular culture. For example, in 2016 the highest earning musician was likely Calvin Harris, a DJ who earned around \$67 million playing “raves” and “dance parties” alone (EDM does not use the word concert). Comparatively, Bruce Springsteen, one of the most popular rock concert tours of the year, made

about \$60 million. Keep in mind Bruce Springsteen is 67 and Calvin Harris is 32. Springsteen is a well-respected guitar player who began playing guitar at age 7 and developed his skills over a lifetime. Harris began “making demo tracks” in his bedroom at age 18 on his computer. I don’t mean to criticize EDM and computer music itself but simply point out that it takes much less skill to earn much more than a traditional musician.

For me the key of any art, especially music, is the human element - the self-expression of the musician, the composer. This is often lost in music that is made solely on computer algorithms. However, its popularity has influenced sacred music. There are many Christian EDM tracks and even Christian Worship that involves a EDM “rave” or “dance party.” Some examples are DJ Disciples, Salt of Sound, Raze, World Wide Message Tribe, Mad at the World, Guvna B, and many more.



Those who haven’t heard EDM might not know that many EDM tracks do not have lyrics, and if they do they are very basic. For example the lyrics to World Wide Message Tribe’s track, “The Real Thing:”

I've got the real thing  
 I've got the real thing  
 I've got the real thing  
 Woh, woh, woh, woh  
 I've got the real thing  
 I've got the real thing  
 I've got the real thing  
 Woh, woh, woh, woh



You lift me up  
 Into the higher places  
 Give me joy  
 Like I've never known  
 You lift me up  
 Into the higher places Give me joy  
 Like I've never known before

How does this type of music change the dynamic of self-expression through music? Is there a place for this type of music in worship? The answers to these questions obviously depend on the individual, however objectively it seems that the tie to the word of God is lost with no lyrics or overly simplistic lyrics. The most important thing to remember is that the world and especially the way we make music is always changing and God's church must be aware of the trends. Many people are threatened with the notion that computers can play music perfectly instantly that would take a human years and years to master. However, if we know innately that the "human" element of music, the self-expression is what really makes music meaningful, I don't believe computers will be replacing us in the world or worship anytime soon. Computer music actually makes us more aware of the need for a human element. I'll leave you with a quote from one of my favorite bands, "Rush." In their song, "The Spirit of the Radio," they state:

"All this machinery  
 Making modern music  
 Can still be open-hearted  
 Not so coldly charted  
 It's really just a question  
 Of your honesty, yeah your honesty"

Nicholas Carroll  
 Director of Music

## FUND RAISERS

### A HOSS'S STEAK AND SEA HOUSE

**COMMUNITY NIGHT** is being held on **Sunday, February 19 (all day)** to benefit members attending the July 2017 WELCA Triennial Gathering. Cards are available in the Chapel, Narthex, and Trinity's Office. One card is good for all persons in your party, and 20% of your guest check gets donated back to Trinity (if we reach \$300.00 in sales). Mark your calendar for future fund raiser dates for Hoss's: Sunday, April 23 and Monday, June 12. See you there and bring your friends!



### NYG PIZZA HUT "FUN-RAISER: On Monday, March 6,

we will have a fund raiser from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to benefit Trinity's members attending the WELCA Triennial Gathering. Coupons (one per party) for 20% of your guest check to be donated to Trinity will soon be available in the Narthex, Chapel kiosk, and Trinity's Office. Delivery and carryout count, too. (FYI: The pizza/pasta buffet is available only at lunch time from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Mark your calendar for the next fund raiser dates for Pizza Hut: Monday, May 15.

## JOIN NOW!!!

**TRINITY'S COMMITTEES** are being formed for 2017. If you would like to serve on one or more of them, just call Trinity's Office at 445-5446. Share your talents with us in any of our various ministries!

**JOIN A  
 COMMITTEE**

## LENT

The term LENT comes from “Lengthen” and refers to the lengthening of the day throughout this Season. We move from Darkness to Light (the theme you will hear in Wednesday evening services.) We move from little knowledge of God, to God revealed in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. We journey from the mountain top of the Transfiguration to the valley of death during Holy Week, then to the Garden in grief and in the Joy of the Resurrection.

Throughout our Lenten Journey, we remember what Jesus taught and how he lived. We remember how we are joined to him in our Baptism, and we discover anew how our Baptism gives us a new identity – we are Beloved Children of God and made Brothers and Sisters in the family Jesus creates. We gather to hear Jesus in the Word of God proclaimed, and we receive food for faith at the table of Grace. Then, we are sent out to live out our Baptism in many and various vocations. These will be some of the themes of Lent this year. In many ways, these are the basic themes of our Christian Faith.



## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

### Grace and Ernest Go to Church

Join us as these two “new folks” ask questions and explore the Christian faith with us.

5:30 p.m. **SOUP SUPPERS** have been our practice, providing fellowship time over a simple meal of soup and bread...this year, a coloring table with Lenten themes will be available for the younger participants... adding their art to the Chapel as we journey through Lent.

7:00 p.m. **EVENING PRAYER** follows in the Chapel, with simple messages in the form of a continuing conversation between ERNEST and GRACE – two new members who are asking questions about the faith - a lighthearted but “earnest” exploration of God’s Grace and Love.

**LUTHERAN BASICS** – a class for New Members and seasoned members who want to explore how THIS congregation lives out its Baptismal Identity, Mission, and Ministry. Speak to Pastor Linda about this class, as she will be scheduling sessions around the participants this season.





## LENTEN SERVICES

### Wednesday, March 1 (Ash Wednesday) - Lent Begins

7:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service in the Nave

We are marked with the Cross of Christ forever at our baptism, but the cross with which we are marked this day reminds us of our frail humanity and our need for God's saving grace.



### Sundays in Lent (March 5 through April 2)

7:30 a.m. Chapel Communion Service

8:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:00 a.m. Communion Worship Service in Nave



### Midweek Lenten Worship Services Wednesdays

(March 8 through April 5) - See page 19

5:30 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper in Adult III

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Service in the Chapel with "Grace and Ernest" as the theme.

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS



**FREE INDEED: DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2017** are available in the Narthex, Adult Class, Trinity's Office, and blue Chapel kiosk. Please take one for your family's Lenten devotions.

## SAM MIDWEEK SERVICES

**SOMERSET AREA MINISTRIES MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES** followed by a luncheon will be conducted at the First United Methodist Church on Patriot Street in Somerset at 12:05 p.m. on Ash Wednesday and all Wednesdays in Lent:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 1  | Rev. Matt Deal<br>St. Paul's United Church of Christ<br>(Ash Wednesday) |
| March 8  | Rev. Jeffrey Popson<br>First United Methodist Church                    |
| March 15 | Rev. Daniel O'Neill<br>St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church                |
| March 22 | Rev. Arnie McFarland<br>Calvary United Methodist Church                 |
| March 29 | Rev. Rick Helsel<br>Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church               |
| April 5  | Rev. Eric Raygor<br>Grace United Methodist Church                       |
| April 14 | Good Friday Service<br>(No Lunch This Day)                              |



## SOUP MAKERS NEEDED

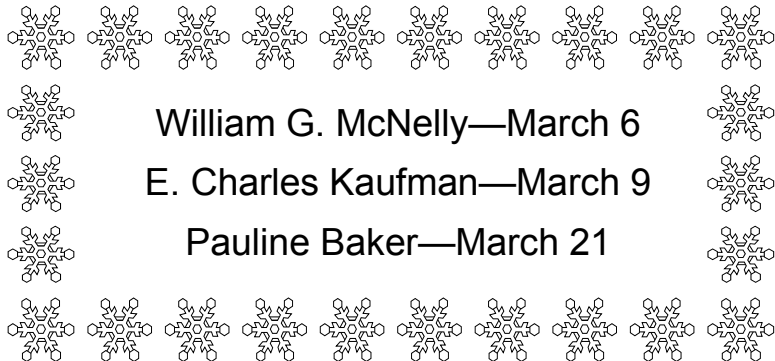
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER** to make a crockpot of soup for the Wednesday evening Lenten meals, please call Trinity's Office (445-5446). We will need volunteers for each of these Lenten Wednesdays: March 8, March 15, March 22, March 29, and April 5.



**MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES** will be held in Trinity's Chapel each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. beginning **March 8** with the theme, "Grace and Ernest." A Soup and Bread supper precedes each service in Adult III across from Trinity's Office at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to come and share the communal food and fellowship before worship.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

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



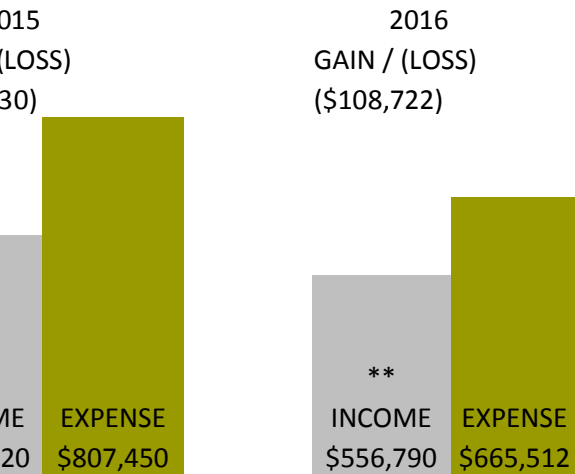
## RECAP OF INCOME & EXPENSE

2013 GAIN / (LOSS)	2014 GAIN / (LOSS)	2015 GAIN / (LOSS)
\$27,938	(\$30,037)	(\$165,200)
<div> <div>INCOME \$682,218</div> <div>EXPENSE \$654,280</div> </div>	<div> <div>INCOME \$636,905</div> <div>EXPENSE \$666,942</div> </div>	<div> <div>INCOME \$642,200</div> <div>EXPENSE \$807,400</div> </div>
AVG WKLY ATTEN- DANCE 130	AVG WKLY ATTEN- DANCE 130	AVG WKLY ATTEN- DANCE 128
ACTIVE ENVELOPES 214	ACTIVE ENVE- LOPES 213	ACTIVE ENVE- LOPES 201
INCOME FROM GF GIVING \$397,555	INCOME FROM GF GIVING \$371,301	INCOME FROM GF GIVING \$366,500

The above numbers represent Gross Income/Gross Expense (not net income in 2016, Council has adjusted our spending plan down for February 5 starting at 11:10 a.m. and again on March 5 during the

2-Feb-17

## EXPENSES 2013 - 2016



\*2015 includes  
\$40,505 from  
designated savings

\*\*2016 includes  
\$7,769 from  
designated savings

**WEEKLY**  
**ATTENDANCE**  
111

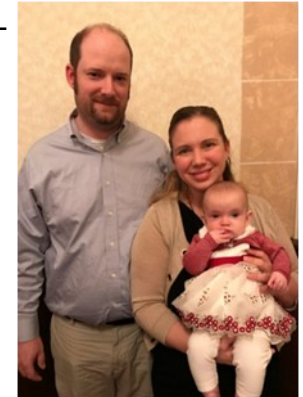
**ACTIVE**  
**ENVELOPES**  
189

**INCOME FROM**  
**GF GIVING**  
\$274,938

(including Geothermal) for the past 4 years. Because of our shortfall in 2017. We will review these changes after the church service on Sunday, Sunday School hour in the Builders' Class.

## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW CHILD CARE DIRECTOR

I am excited and honored to introduce myself as the new Director of Trinity's Child Care program. My name is Jody Jurgeovich. I grew up in Shanksville attending St. Mark Lutheran Church with my family. After graduating from Shanksville High School, I attended Harding University in Arkansas. I received my early childhood degree with a minor in special education from Harding. I then moved back here and started working as a preschool teacher. I have since worked as a preschool teacher for over six years, spent three years in the schools as a substitute teacher, worked as an evaluator, and a swim instructor.



As the proud parents of our new daughter, Liliana, my husband (Joe) and I love our time with her. I hope to share my passion and love for the development of children working here. I believe it is a calling of mine to work with young children, and I am grateful for this opportunity.

Please feel free to contact me or come visit me with any questions. I will be here Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Jody Jurgeovich  
Child Care Director

## 2017 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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chad@mosholderinsurance.com

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2016-JANUARY 2017

- ❖ The Allegheny Synod sent a letter approving the Constitution and Bylaws revised November 13, 2016 at Trinity's Congregational Meeting.
- ❖ Krystal Shaffer resigned as Trinity's Child Care Director effective December 23, 2016.
- ❖ 2017 Council Officers:  
President - Christopher Lloyd  
Vice President - Dale Kriner  
Treasurer - James Baker  
Corresponding Secretary - Michael Mitchell
- ❖ Available Council members and Finance Committee members will meet at 9:00 a.m. on January 29 in Luther's Lounge to discuss possible revisions to the budget.
- ❖ Elected Members of the Endowment Fund:  
Ann Persun – Term expires 12/31/19  
Larry Mazer – Term expires 12/31/18  
Ed Bowersox – Term expires 12/31/17  
  
2017 Council Appointed Endowment Fund Members:  
Dale Kriner - Council Representative  
Robert Thomas - Congregational Representative
- ❖ Chris Lloyd will begin to explore Cyber Security issues.
- ❖ Council Retreat to take place on Saturday, February 18 at 9:00 a.m. in Luther's Lounge with a snow date of Saturday, February 25. Pastor Glenn Ludwig from Gettysburg Seminary will also be presenting.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Angela Miller       | 20 Stephanie Barnett |
| 2 Sharon Barnett      | Beth Mayer           |
| P. Michael Jacobson   | Emily Miller         |
| Sadie Snyder          | Jacob Miller         |
| 5 Emma Fanale         | 21 Pauline Baker     |
| Heather Fanale        | 22 Susan Centi       |
| 6 Brett Christner     | Mark Menser          |
| Cole Christner        | 23 Robert Thomas     |
| William G. McNelly    | 25 Robert Jasper     |
| Lauren Miller         | Lana Miller          |
| Patricia Widmann      | Kelley Thompson      |
| 7 Timothy Bence       | 26 Garry Pryce       |
| Greta Carroll         | 27 Ann Persun        |
| Brian Gary            | 28 Rebecca Kennick   |
| 8 Alexendra Swanson   | 30 Gordon Centi      |
| 9 E. Charles Kaufman  | Rebecca Minnich      |
| 11 Travis Anderson    |                      |
| J. Franklin Kyle, Sr. |                      |
| 14 Ann Voytish        |                      |
| Larry Mazer           |                      |
| 15 John Barndt        |                      |
| Lillian Mostoller     |                      |
| Norma Perks           |                      |
| 17 Nathan Rininger    |                      |
| Ashley Rosman         |                      |
| Gregory Widmann       |                      |
| 19 Robert Carouse     |                      |
| Linda Siemon          |                      |
| Barbara Swanson       |                      |



## LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

### HOLY COMMUNION - THEN AND NOW

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**

(Snow/Ice Date: April 1, 2017)

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(Registration from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.)

### *The Eucharist and the Reformation and The Eucharist and Challenges in the Contemporary Context*

The 2017 Trinity Lay School of Theology is scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> (snow/ice day: April 1). In keeping with our year-long preparations for the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, we are looking at aspects of our faith tradition as outlined in Luther's Small Catechism. Holy Communion will be our topic at the Lay School of Theology, our day of learning with a theological scholar – in our own hometown!

The Morning sessions will be: The Eucharist and the Reformation beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Afternoon sessions will look at Challenges in Contemporary Cultural Contexts and begin at 12:30 p.m. Holy Communion is central to the church's life together. In this meal we receive forgiveness of sin, food for faith, fellowship of the saints, and a commission to go out and share bread for the hungry. What did it mean at the time of the Reformation? How did Luther's Reformation Theology change the church's experience of this sacred meal?

Given our current context, for example, a population that increasingly does not know about scripture, Jesus' story, or

the meaning behind our rituals -- What does it mean to welcome others to the Table of Grace? What does Eucharistic Hospitality mean in our changing culture or when we travel or visit with other cultures? Come and learn! Come and ask questions!

Our guest presenter is The Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian who is Dean of the Seminary and H. George Anderson Professor of Mission and Cultures at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He is a Presbyterian of the Church of South India and has been Professor in the Department of Theology and Ethics at the United Theological College in Bangalore, India. He is the author of *Enlivening the Past: An Asian Theologian's Engagement with the Early Teachers of Faith*.



He and his wife, Dr. Mrinalini Sebastian are excited to be coming to a congregation that Father Heyer served (twice) as Pastor, in the 1820's and 1830's. Father Heyer is known throughout India as the missionary that not only planted Lutheran Churches, but also returned to India to serve as a medical doctor – so great was his compassion for the people of India and their need for Healing ministries. You will be inspired to meet the Sebastian's and hear about Father Heyer from them!

Please use the form on the next page to register for the Lay School of Theology at Trinity. Lunch will be provided for all preregistered persons.

PLEASE REGISTER ⇒ ⇒

## LAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please make your reservations for Trinity's Lay School of Theology on March 25 by placing the form below in the offering plate, dropping it off at Trinity, or calling Trinity's Office at 445-5446.

***The deadline for reservations is Thursday, March 23***



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check below all that apply to you for  
Saturday, March 25:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the morning session from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend lunch provided by Trinity from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the afternoon session from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

A freewill offering will be received to help defray costs for the program and lunch.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

IS MONDAY, MARCH 6!





## TRINITY'S CANCELLATION POLICY

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

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



## TURN CLOCKS AHEAD

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

begins on Sunday, March 12.

Don't forget to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour on Saturday night.



## CAMP SEQUANOTA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As you will remember, two years ago, we publicized the Capital Campaign for Camp Sequanota to raise money for capital improvements. Our congregation made a commitment to this campaign of \$5,000 for 3 years for a total of \$15,000. In order to meet our goal, I am asking that you consider making a contribution this winter/spring to the Camp Sequanota Capital Campaign in order that we as a congregation may meet our goal.

Some of the capital improvements made to the Camp so far are: substantial renovation and update of the swimming pool. It has received a new filter system; the asphalt ring around the top of the pool has been replaced; and it has had a handicap accessible platform installed including stairs and a chair to lower folks into the pool who need that assistance. New water lines have been installed. The newly renovated pool will be up and ready to go this spring with renovations that cost approximately \$350,000.00. Renovations to the Dining Hall included painting the interior, replacing appliances in the kitchen such as the walk-in freezer, dishwasher, griddle, and ice maker. The Bowersox Center has had a new coat of paint throughout as well as new furniture installed, and the entrance area is being renovated.

There are special envelopes in your offering packets for you to make your donation to the Sequanota Capital Campaign. If you prefer, you can make your contribution in a regular envelope simply marking on the "My Special Gift For" line that it's for the Camp's Capital Campaign. Together we can meet our goal! Thank you for your support of this important ministry of our wider church!

Robert E. Thomas

## WHEN MARKING YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES

Just a quick note about marking donations on your offering envelopes each week for anyone needing help:

**WHEN YOU MARK YOUR 2017 OFFERING ENVELOPE EACH WEEK**, please understand that if you mark the line labeled:

**MY WEEKLY OFFERING \$ \_\_\_\_\_** that this is **unrestricted** giving to Trinity...it can be used for **any need** Trinity has. This is **the most important giving** because it allows Trinity great flexibility on how the money is used. (This is also known as general fund giving and is very important because all of our day-to-day operations [bills, payroll] are paid by the General Fund account.)

If you mark the lines labeled:

**IMPROVEMENTS TO TRINITY \$ \_\_\_\_\_** or **GEOTHERMAL PROJECT \$ \_\_\_\_\_** that these are **designated** giving to Trinity...and **only** used for Improvements to Trinity or the Geothermal Project. (These are two of the many designated offerings you can make...again, these are used only for these specific purposes.)

If you mark the line labeled:

**MY SPECIAL GIFT FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_** this too is **designated** giving. It is important that you also put a purpose on the line below for what you want your special gift to be used for such as Memorial Fund, Sequanota Capital Campaign, etc. so that I know what purpose you want for this gift. If you don't list a purpose, your donation goes into the general fund giving.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 445-5446 if you have any questions regarding your offering because it is greatly needed!

—Ann Voytish

Office Manager/Financial Secretary

## NEW WEBSITE FOR TRINITY

Trinity is proud to announce that it now has a **NEW** redesigned website which is now live at:  
[trinitysomeset.org](http://trinitysomeset.org)

If you haven't had a chance yet, check out the new site and share it with everyone! We have added some exciting new features, including online giving which is now active and ready for your use! (Click on "Give" to make a donation.)

Special thanks to Nicholas Carroll and Carlton Jacobson for their work on this project to help modernize our outreach.

Nicholas and Carlton will be handling all updates for the website as well as encouraging your suggestions. Please contact them by email or phone:

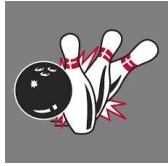
Carlton Jacobson 701-4250  
carltonjacobson@gmail.com

Nicholas Carroll 233-2093  
carrollpiano@yahoo.com



[trinitysomeset.org](http://trinitysomeset.org)

## CAMP SEQUANOTA NOTES



**WACKY BOWLING** for Camp Sequanota will be held at Terrace Lanes in Somerset on **Saturday, March 4** from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Donation is \$20 per person for 2 games. This event is a fun time of fellowship, prizes, and awards "where craziness is key to the fun!" Sign up on the sheet located in the Chapel or the Narthex.

**2017 CAMP SEQUANOTA SUMMER CAMP** brochures are in Trinity's Office. Register by **Friday, March 31** for the lowest, printed registration fee.



## GEOTHERMAL UPDATE

### GEOTHERMAL PROJECT UPDATE:

ORIGINAL GEOTHERMAL PROJECT TOTAL	\$400,612
GIFTS FROM MEMBERS TO DATE	\$203,038
CURRENT BALANCE OUTSTANDING LOAN (MIF)	\$151,791
CURRENT MONTHLY PAYMENT	\$1,100
SAVINGS SO FAR GEOTHERMAL HVAC VS. ELECTRIC HEAT	\$10,098

(Please continue to give when possible as we try to reduce this debt)

## LIFESTYLE OPPORTUNITIES

### Two Educational Opportunities

#### Spanish-on-the-Go

Flor Hernandez is willing to provide a few classes for members who want to learn sufficient Spanish to use in restaurants, on vacation, or when greeting one of our Hispanic visitors at worship! The class material and scheduling can be fashioned for the interests and knowledge of the participants. Call Trinity's Office, 445-5446 with your name, your learning goals, and scheduling preferences to sign up. A freewill offering will help to reimburse the church for use of the space and resources.



#### Music and Movement – Prayer and Yoga

Lent is a great time to refocus on our spiritual lives, our physical health, and heal from life's stressors and challenges. God's Presence is all around us, but we are often too busy and too stressed to experience it!

Stretching, breathing, movement, and music can help us physically, psychologically, and spiritually! Rachel Allen is willing to work with us on creating a unique class that fits our participants' goals. Rachel has been working in our region at various venues to create a healing environment by weaving together breath work, yoga postures, music, and meditation.



She and Pastor Linda are collaborating on a Lenten class dedicated to healing and wholeness – of body, mind, and spirit. Are you interested? Call the Trinity's Office with your top three preferences for scheduling: 445-5446.

Cost: freewill offering

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**MEALS ON WHEELS, INC.** is in need of volunteer drivers and carriers to deliver the meals and food packers who help in the kitchen getting the meals ready for those who deliver them. Most volunteers serve for only a few short hours one day per week. Meals on Wheels serves up to 200 client meals per day, and most volunteers find it fulfilling to help provide a low cost, hot, nutritious meal to those in need. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should Lori Nist (the Director) at **443-2787** between 6:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



## DAILY AMERICAN 10K

### ANNUAL 5K/10K DAILY AMERICAN RUN/RACE AND/OR FITNESS CHALLENGE:

The Daily American Fitness Challenge begins **Sunday, February 5** and runs for 12 weeks through Saturday, April 29. Registration forms and forms to keep track of weight and exercise will soon be available in the Narthex, Chapel, and Trinity's Office. **Sally Miller** is Trinity's Team Coordinator. This year, the money raised goes to the **Salvation Army, SOS Secret Santa, and St. Francis Sharing and Caring**. We need team members for the race also, which is **Saturday, June 10**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Somerset High School Track. Please see or call Sally Miller (814) 395-5593 if you are interested in being part of the challenge and/or race.



## ALL ANEW

*All Anew*  
**Women of the ELCA Tenth  
 Triennial Gathering**  
**July 13-16, 2017**



"I never knew the power and energy of women gathered... until my first Triennial Gathering" said Jessica Olsen Miller, who attended her first gathering in 2005 and has never missed one since. Newly pregnant at the time, Jessica said she was affirmed and encouraged during the Gathering.... "four days of heartfelt conversations, prayer, laughter, worship, praise, lament, challenge, and invitation – to be with women acting boldly on their faith."

"I now have a sacred pilgrimage every three years to this holy triennial gathering – *my soul needs it!*"

Flor Hernandez attended the last Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina along with Linda Himes, Deb Stewart, and Pastor Linda. They met up with Flor's Grandmother, (Pastor Linda's mother), making it a three-generation event! Flor discovered a rare fellowship among the other young women at the Gathering – there was even a special "Chocolate Café" for them – to meet Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. They discussed their experiences at their own churches, the common concerns they shared, and were empowered by the Holy Spirit to become more active in their churches and commit to reaching out into their communities.

*We have three Trinity women already registered, several rooms already booked, a special gift from members to supplement our costs, and we have plans to travel to the ELCA*

headquarters in Chicago on the way to Minneapolis. **We have room for one more!**  
*Perhaps YOU would like to come along?*



We promise! – YOU WILL BE EMPOWERED, ENCOURAGED, AND EXPERIENCE THE HOLY ALL ANEW!

Speak to Pastor Linda!... a Triennial booklet is available to read all about it!

## THRIVENT MEMBERS

A note to all Thrivent product holders: In 2016, our Trinity Lutheran Church was the recipient of \$1,766 in charitable outreach funding through Thrivent Choice Dollars. Many, but not all of you, have Thrivent products that generate Choice dollars, and you have the ability to direct those dollars to Trinity or a number of other local charities. If the product you have generates Choice Dollars, you would have been notified by Thrivent. You can visit the Thrivent website, [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com), or call 1-800-847-4836 to direct your dollars where you would like them to go. Your 2016 Choice Dollars expire on Friday, March 31, which, if not directed by you, will be donated to the default charity established by Thrivent.



Also, each Thrivent member (product holder) has the ability to complete two Thrivent Action Team Projects each year to help your church and/or your community. These projects provide \$250 in seed money for the project. Please take advantage of this. Call Becky Minnich at 445-7660 for more information on Choice Dollars or Action Team Projects.

## BIKING ACROSS THE USA

Sydney Bowersox is asking for prayers, safety, and support from Trinity's congregation. She is biking across the southern tier of the United States from San Diego, California to St. Augustine, Florida beginning March 9. She will be bicycling with 25 other women for 58 days (8 days are rest days) until May 4!! She signed up for the trip with friends Chris Fadness and Jenny Shank last March, and they have been training and anticipating this epic trip ever since.

The group is called WomenTours from Rochester, New York, and Syd bicycled with them in Death Valley last March and enjoyed their organization and expertise. She has volunteered to drive the support and gear SUV for 1 out of every 4 riding days needing to learn CPR and how to change flat tires as well!! So her trip will not be the entire 3,100 miles actually riding, but enjoying the entire trip just the same. She will experience all types of terrain and all types of weather.

Not only is this trip for enjoyment but also for a cause. The three friends have decided to ride to help local children purchase their own bicycles so have signed up with [newbikesforkids.org](http://newbikesforkids.org) for their fund raising efforts. There will be business cards on the narthex tables with the address for donations if you would like to contribute. Any amount would be appreciated. Pastor Linda can report from time to time as the Facebook stories come in to her feed. Encouraging comments will be appreciated!!



## LAUREL HIGHLANDS CONFERENCE A RE-FORMATION CONVERSATION

You are invited to join a conversation about the future of ministry in Somerset County:

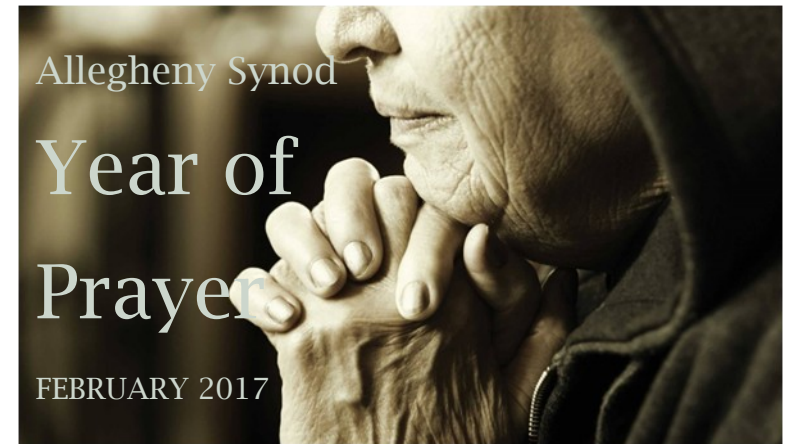
How does being Lutheran inform our ministry?  
How have our communities, the church, and the culture recently been changing?  
What do those changes mean for the ministry of congregations?

What might the future look like?

Your voice is an important part of the conversation.

1. Revealing Our Identity  
March 19, 2017  
Faith Lutheran Church  
6567 Glades Pike  
Somerset
2. Renewing Our Mission  
April 30, 2017  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
144 Jubilee Street  
Rockwood (New Centerville)
3. Reimagining Our Future  
May 21, 2017  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
100 Church Street  
Hooversville

All conversations will be from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and will include dinner and fellowship time..



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 poor, the hungry, and all those in need**

- Week 1: **Shelters, agencies, and food pantries that offer support**  
We pray for an end to the need for such agencies so that all have what they need
- Week 2: **The unemployed and underemployed**  
We pray for our economy and those seeking meaningful work.
- Week 3: **For a spirit of generosity and sharing our abundance**  
May the Holy Spirit compel us toward love for our neighbor
- Week 4: **For those without a permanent place to live**  
For shelter and a sense of stability