

Trinity's Trumpet

The Monthly Newsletter of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
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December Newsletter

Vol. XXXVI No. 12

The spirit of the season hadn't caught up with me, even though cars packed the parking lot of our Houston area Target Shopping Center. Inside the store, it was worse. Shopping carts and last minute shoppers jammed the aisles. Why did I come today? My feet ached almost as much as my head. My list contained names of several people who claimed they wanted nothing, but I knew their feelings would be hurt if I didn't buy them anything. Between the difficulty of choosing a gift for someone who had everything and the high cost of certain items, I considered gift-giving anything but fun.

Hurriedly, I filled my shopping cart with last minute selections and proceeded to the long checkout lines. I picked the shortest, but it still looked as if it would be at least a 20 minute wait. In front of me were two small children – a boy of about 10 and a younger girl about 5. The boy wore a ragged coat with enormously large tattered tennis shoes which jutted far out from in front of his much-too-short jeans. He clutched several crumpled dollar bills in his grimy hands. The girl's clothing resembled her brother's. Her head was a matted mass of curly hair and reminders of an evening meal showed on her small face. She carried a beautiful pair of shiny gold house slippers. As the Christmas music sounded in the store's sound system, the girl hummed along off-key but happily.

When we finally approached the checkout register, the girl carefully placed the slippers on the counter. She treated them as though they were a treasure. The clerk rang up the bill. "That will be \$6.09," she said. The boy laid his crumpled bills on top of the counter while he searched his pockets. He finally came up with \$3.12. "I guess we will have to put them back," he said bravely. "We will come back some other time, maybe tomorrow.

With that statement, a soft sob broke from the little girl.

"But Jesus would have loved these shoes," she cried.

"Well, we'll go home and work some more," her brother said as he attempted to reassure his sister.

"Don't cry. We'll come back," he added.

Quickly, I handed three one dollar bills to the cashier. These children had waited in line for a long time. And, after all, it was Christmas. Suddenly a pair of arms came around me and a small voice said, "Thank you so much".

I asked the little girl, "What did you mean when you said, 'Jesus would like the shoes'?"

The boy answered, "Our mommy is sick and going to heaven Daddy said she might go before Christmas to be with Jesus."

Then the little girl spoke, "My Sunday school teacher said the streets in heaven are shiny gold, just like these slippers. Won't mommy be beautiful walking on those streets with these gold slippers?"

My eyes flooded as I looked into her tear streaked face.

"Yes," I answered, "I'm sure she will."

Silently I thanked God for using these children to remind me of the true spirit of giving.

Christmas is not about the amount of money paid, nor the amount of gifts purchased, nor trying to impress friends and relatives. Christmas is about the love in your heart to share with those as Jesus Christ has shared with each of us. Christmas is about the Birth of Jesus whom God sent to show the world how much he really loves us.

Peace,
Pastor Rich



Joy to the World



Board Meeting

The November 10th meeting of the Church Council was called to order by the President, Bob King. Following devotions by Pastor Rich, the secretary's report was approved following one correction and the treasurer's report was approved as written.

Old Business:

Pastor Rich reported that new members, Warren & Jane Seifert and Louise Hough will be joining Trinity on Sunday, November 13th.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on November 13th. Agenda will be adopting the 2012 budget and election of new Council members. Katie Gentzler and Mac McMaster are eligible for re-election and Jasmine Livingston has been nominated for the open seat.

Ministry Reports:

Learning & Youth ~ Bob reported that the Gingerbread House project will take place on November 27th @ 7pm. A sign-up sheet has been posted for participants and donations of ingredients.

Finance ~ Mike reported that the Endowment Fund lost money at the end of September report.

Outreach ~ Katie reminded us that the last Sunday of the month is Food Pantry Sunday, and to bring items to donate. Reminder cards will be handed out to remind members.

Parish Life ~ Ruthann reported that on December 4th there will be a meal served at the York Rescue Mission. We will meet at the church at 7pm. A sign-up sheet for food donations has been posted and volunteers are needed.

Property ~ Mac reported that the painter is nearly finished. Mac & Les completed the bell tower and rerouted the downspout on the East side of the church.

Stewardship ~ Jack will hold a temple talk about Simply Giving. The 2012 church envelopes will include lines to designate where our contribution will go.

Social Ministry ~ Karen reminded everyone of WELCA's pie sale on November 17 & 18. Shoebox

ministry deadline is November 20. We will start a new project 'God's Global Barnyard' on November 27th. WELCA's annual Christmas Party will be held on December 6th at the home of Louise Boyer at 6pm.

Worship & Music ~ Mary reported on receiving New Members on November 13th, decorating the church on November 20th and the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 20th at Zwingli UCC at 7pm.

On December 9th Christmas Carols will be sung at Nell's Market and on December 11th we will decorate the Christmas tree and have an Advent Supper at 6pm.

On December 18th at 6pm we sing Christmas Carols throughout the streets of East Berlin followed by cookies and hot cocoa in the social hall.

On January 8th, a renewal of baptism service will be held and we will undecorate the church after the worship service.

Mutual Ministry ~ Judy reported that the committee met with Pastor Rich and worked on a job description for a future pastor. Council will work on it at a later date. Input will also be requested from Pastor Tom McKee.

Pastor's Report ~ Pastor went over his written report of activities for the past month and reported that there will be a baptism on November 20th.

New Business ~ Bob reported that he will be informing the congregation at the annual meeting that we will begin the call process in 2012.

A letter from Zwingli UCC was received congratulating Trinity on its 200th anniversary.

DVD players are being set up for our shut-ins and recorded services are being shared with them.

Next meeting will be held on December 8th @ 7pm.



Congregational Meeting

The November 13th meeting was called to order by the President, Bob King. Following devotions by Pastor Rich, a quorum was established and we were able to proceed with the agenda.

Jill Strek made a motion to accept the agenda and Ken Gentzler seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Council:

There were three open Council seats. The candidates were Mac McMaster, Katie Gentzler and Jasmine Livingston. Since no other nominations were forthcoming, Sherry Brown moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Sandy Boyer. Motion carried.

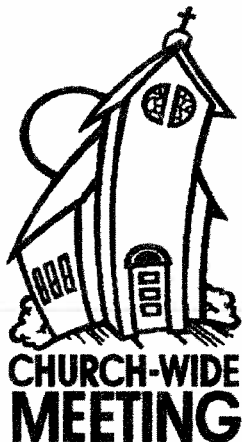
Budget:

Bob explained to the congregation why the budget was so much higher than last year. This year a figure was placed in the budget for a contribution to Synod and also a higher amount was presented to enable us to seek a full-time pastor. Motion was made by Jay Smith and seconded by Jack Hinkle to approve the \$179,278.00 budget for Trinity. The congregation approved the motion.

Pastoral Vacancy:

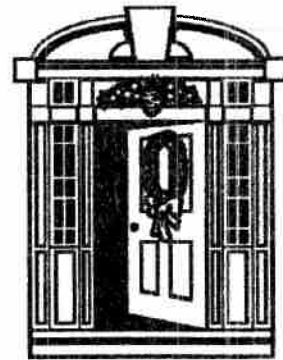
After the first of the year, the Council will begin the process of establishing a pastoral profile, contacting Synod and beginning the process of selecting candidates. A call committee will be formed consisting of four members from the congregation and one Council member.

A motion was presented by Jack Hinkle and seconded by Janet Bollinger to close the meeting. Motion carried



Adult Sunday school in January

In January, Pastor Rich will be leading a class on the ELCA Social Statement on Genetics which was approved at the Churchwide Assembly in Orlando this summer. The link to the 23 page document can be found at this link: <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues.aspx>. It would be helpful if you could download this document and read it before we begin our discussion on January 8th. If you wish to participate in this discussion but do not have internet access, let Pastor Rich know and he will get you a copy of the social statement.



Email or Facebook Names

Pastor Rich will be putting a sheet out upstairs on the green desk. I would like to begin to collect email addresses, and if you are on Facebook, I would like to be your friend. This will allow me to keep in contact with you and to pass along important information.



Music News!!

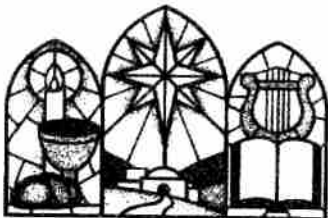
Advent season is upon us bringing many opportunities to celebrate with Trinity's church family. What a lovely blessing our own brass quartet had shared with Trinity on the first Sunday in Advent. Their music was joyous and uplifting. The guest French horn player, Jeff Bollinger will visit Trinity again on December 18th to play a solo and accompany the Chancel Choir. Many thanks to the families who light the Advent candle each week and read the blessing. Trinity's Chancel Choir, ever faithful in attendance to rehearsals, ready to share their joy in singing the anthems and leading our congregation with the hymns each Sunday – thank you very much.

The Sunday School Choir will again present a Christmas musical on December 18th at 10:30am in the Social Hall. All ages from toddlers to teens will don costumes, sing carols and recite the story of our Lord's birth. We can be assured the play will have the best surprises for all of us to enjoy.

Christmas Caroling in the community will begin at 6pm on December 18th and end at the church with hot chocolate and cookies. All ages will enjoy this annual activity.

December, 2011 Sunday Choir Schedule

- Dec. 11 – Chancel Choir
- Dec. 18 – Chancel Choir/guest French horn,
Jeff Bollinger
Christmas Caroling @ 6pm
- Dec. 25 – Christmas Day/Lessons & Carols
- Jan. 1 – Chancel Choir
- Jan. 8 – Renewal of Baptism
Chancel Choir



Choir Rehearsals

- Sunday 8:30am Chancel Choir
- 11:00am Sunday School Choir
- Wednesdays 7:00pm Handbells

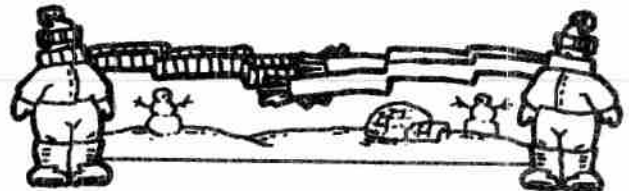
Advent "Pot Luck Supper" December 11 @ 5:00pm

The first annual Advent "Pot Luck" Supper on December 11 beginning at 5pm will be a time to share your favorite covered dish. Place settings and beverage will be provided. Pastor Rich will lead a discussion on selected Psalms for Advent. This is a great event for all of Trinity's church family to fellowship over great food (and we hope yummy cookies!) during the evening.

POTLUCK



SUPPER



Sunday School Musical

Special announcement for the Sunday School Musical! The presentation is on Sunday, December 18th at 10:30am. Parts and costumes for all ages, toddler to teen.

Rehearsals are as follows:

December 10th, Saturday 10am – 12 noon
(lunch will be provided)

December 15th, Thursday 6pm – 7 pm

Rehearsals also held during Sunday School time each Sunday.

See you there, with bells on!



Christmas Eve

**@
Trinity**

7:00pm service will have special music: organ, choir chimes, Sunday School Choir, solos and candlelight during the singing of Silent Night.

10:15pm service special music will feature a flute choir, handbells, Chancel Choir, solos, Christmas Carols and candlelight, organ and piano duet.

Please plan to join us for one of the above services as we celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Public Pot Pie Supper

Back by popular demand! Turkey pot-pie supper on January 21st, Saturday at 4:00pm until 7:00pm. Turkey pot-pie, fresh pepper slaw, dinner roll and dessert, available for eat-in or take-out. Last January, 100 hungry pot-pie lovers devoured four big kettles! Mark your calendar for this "comfort food" event.



Make your preparations 'Advent'-urous

Advent – the first season of the liturgical year – includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century, when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent.

Advent is from *Adventus*, Latin for "coming", referring to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope.

Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one ink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), concluding with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we're getting closer to celebrating Christ's light coming into the world.



Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Dec.	03	Jennifer Garman
	04	Phyllis Snyder Wayne Mummert
	09	Al Billet
	10	Irene Myers
	18	Beatrice Frantz
	20	Ryan Eisenhart Brandon Smith
	21	Maxine Herman
	22	Reba Hoffman Cindy Diveglia
	23	Ryan Hoffman Don Wilkinson
	24	Noelle Kline Amanda Smith
	26	Sandy Boyer Jay Shafer
	28	Milon Eaton
	29	Doris Wolf Charles Eisenhart Erin Hermansen
	30	Roberta Teal Jennifer Hess
	31	Stephanie Raubenstine Leon Leas Tyler Mummert



**Look Who's Having
a Birthday!**

Anniversaries:

Dec.	08	Earl & Janet Bollinger
	20	Donald & Janae Hull
	22	John & Becky Rinehart
	27	Wayne & Barb Mummert
	28	Scott & Debbie Young David & Joshlyn Sharrer



Special Anniversaries!!

Congratulations to George & Ann Young who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on November 11th. They were married at the Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in York, PA, by the Rev. Dr. Emmanuel J. Hoover. George worked as a construction project manager, and Ann operated a gift shop. Through the years God blessed them with five children: Susan who is deceased, George who lives in Philadelphia and Joel, Melissa and Cindy who all live in Illinois. There are eight grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. All the children came home to share in the joy of this very special celebration and to witness George and Ann as they renewed their wedding vows here at Trinity. What a grand occasion it was.



Best Wishes to Donald & Janae Hull who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on December 20th. They were married here at Trinity by the Rev. Michael Kincheloe. Donald works for West Manchester Township in York and Janae is a cook at Kyle's Kitchen. God has blessed them with three children: Samantha who is a junior at Lycoming College and Travis & Trenton who are still at home.

Thank You!!

Pastor Rich, Lisa, and Madeline wish to thank the members of Trinity Lutheran Church for the prayers, thoughts, and cards during the illness and death of Lisa's father, David. We appreciate your concern during this time.

Thanks to the family of Trinity for their prayers, cards and acts of kindness following my hip surgery. It all has been truly appreciated... Dottie Mae Eisenhart.

Trinity's 200th Anniversary Committee thanks those members that helped in the year-long celebration. Without everyone's help, this large feat could not have happened. Let's look forward to 200 more years... Trinity's 200th Anniversary Committee.

Thanks to Mac McMaster and Les Herman for all their hard work on repairing and painting the church steeple and downspout. Their labor of love was very much appreciated and needed.

To Janae and Samantha Hull, thanks, for helping to fold and assemble our November newsletter.

Thank you to all the rollers, bakers, pumpkin cookers, apple peelers and people who bought pies. Proceeds will go to where needed. Thanks to Sharrers' Mill for the flour, Jim Peters for the apples and Pumpkin Hill for the pumpkins. Our November pie sale was a great success.

For completing our church audit, thanks to: Deborah Hoffman, Dave & Shelly Livingston, Ann Sterner, Mike Resh and Glenn Gruver for giving of your time.

Thank you to all members of Trinity that generously gave simple gifts of toys and personal items to make this Christmas 'Shoe Box' ministry brighter for children in need. A huge thank you to our young Sunday school children that wrapped the shoe boxes, filled them to the top with goodies, and wrote a note to the child that would receive the box. In less than an hour, they assembled **23 shoe boxes**. Also thank you to those who provided toys, stationary items, and hygiene products to fill the boxes and wrapping paper to complete the project. We had a total of 46 shoe boxes to drop off at our local collection center in Hanover on November 20th.

Thanks to the family of Trinity for their prayers, cards and acts of kindness to our family during this time as Earl struggles with this dreadful cancer. Your support has been most appreciated... Janet and family.

Gifts
OF
Love

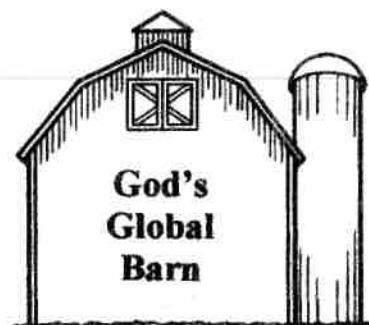
WELCA News!!

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas party held at Louise Boyer's home at 6pm. Turkey and beverages will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will also be playing an "exchange a gift" game, so please bring a "white elephant gift" to participate. The ladies of WELCA decided to find a gift to exchange from all the things we already have at home, instead of purchasing something at a store. The money we save will be given to our newest giving project - God's Global Barnyard. All women of Trinity are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you need transportation, please call Karen Sheaffer at 259-6555.



God's Global Barnyard

WELCA is helping ELCA's churchwide ministries by participating in their **GOOD GIFTS** program. Donations to this ministry carries God's love to others, making a difference in their lives and in the world. All donations support long-term, sustainable solutions that ensure that these good gifts last for more than a couple of days or weeks. They keep on giving for years to come. A catalog of possible gifts that our congregation may purchase is available to look at and is located at the bulletin board near the rear entrance. Gifts include barnyard animals that will continue to provide milk, eggs, fleece, and off-spring to a family for years to come. Other items include water wells, water jugs, water purification tablets, health and dental care, mosquito nets, farming tools, seedlings, and other basic necessities. Donation boxes in the shape of barns are located throughout Trinity.





It pleased our Almighty God to call his faithful servant, Pearl B. Resh to her heavenly eternal rest on Sunday, November 20, 2011. She was the wife of Stanley Resh with whom she shared 59 years of marriage. She leaves behind three children and their spouses, Michael Resh and his wife Charmaine, Judy Cable and her husband Frank and Debra Paino and her husband Martin. Pearl had 5 grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Pastor Rich officiated at her funeral service here at Trinity on Friday, November 25th and the final resting place is the Rest Haven Cemetery, Hanover. We ask that you please pray for Pearl's family and friends that they may find comfort in their memories and in knowing that she now rests in the ever-loving arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Christmas Tree Ministry

Believe it or not, but another year is almost over. Trinity is again helping families at Bermudian Springs school district to celebrate the holiday season. This year, we have 15 children and 5 families to help create a memorable holiday. The economy has affected all of us, but if we all pull together, we can make such a big difference in the lives of these families. If you want to shop or just donate a few dollars to help, please contact Ruthann Bowen at 259-7224 or 634-6047. A mitten tree has been placed at the rear of the church for you to choose the child/children you would like to shop for and tubs have been placed under the downstairs coatrack for you to place household products for the families. Thank you for participating in this vital ministry for those in and around our community.

Abbottstown/East Berlin Food Pantry

During the month of November, forty-four households were served at the Pantry for a total of 111 individuals. There was one new household which included two individuals.

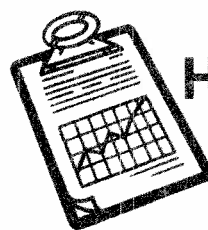
At this time, any and all food and paper products are needed at the Pantry. We ask that you please remember those less fortunate with your donations that will help to make their holiday complete.



FOOD PANTRY

In-the-hospital

In the hospital since our last newsletter were: Darlene Resh, Earl Bollinger, Jack Hinkle and Al Billett. We ask for your prayers for these and all who may be in need.



HOSPITAL UPDATE

+ Christian Symbols +

Rose

This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.



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Fayetteville, PA 17222
Phone:

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Reba & Merle Hoffman
Pleasant Acres Nursing Center
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Phone: 840-7100

Nadine Resh
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Dillsburg, PA 17019
Phone: 432-4271

Pauline Sauter
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John & Jean Wisler
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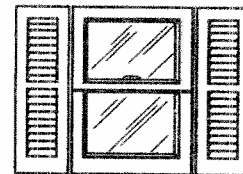
Lawrence Rinehart
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3377 Fox Run Road
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Romaine Myers
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Jack Jackson
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105 East Lynn Drive
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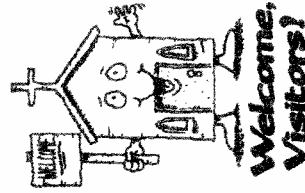
Reba will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on December 22nd. How wonderful for her that God has blessed her with this wonderful milestone. Please remember to surprise her with a birthday greeting.



**SHUT-IN
List**

Welcome to our 'New Members'

The family of Trinity was so very happy to welcome three 'New members' into the Community of Christ on November 13th during our regular Sunday worship service. In the weeks ahead, we hope you will greet Warren and Janie Seifert and Louise Haugh, and make them feel welcome. The Holy Spirit is truly working miracles here at Trinity and we are very happy to witness to His many blessings.



Bible Quiz

Some parts of the Christmas story, as commonly told, aren't actually recounted in Scripture. Which of the following details *is* recorded in the Bible?

- A. Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem, and Joseph walked alongside her.
- B. Angels announced that a Savior, the Messiah (or Christ), had been born.
- C. There were three wise men.
- D. Shepherds and wise men (or Magi) worshiped Baby Jesus together.
- E. None of the above.



especially v. 11.)

Trinity Lutheran Church - EAST BERLIN PA

Treasurer's Report as of November 2011 for GENERAL FUND

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 Account Name Period Activity YTD Balance

Income		
CURRENT INCOME TOTAL	\$8,398.73	\$102,169.95
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$230.00	\$5,293.60
SPECIAL AND BUILDING TOTAL	\$201.45	\$2,373.65
MISC. INCOME TOTAL	\$3.87	\$29.78
Total Income	\$8,834.05	\$109,866.98
Expense		
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$270.00	\$5,339.48
WORSHIP TOTAL	\$427.35	\$4,752.55
LEARNING AND YOUTH TOTAL	\$0.00	\$783.18
OTHER COMMITTEES TOTAL	\$3.80	\$472.00
SALARIES TOTAL	\$5,402.15	\$54,932.00
PASTOR'S BENEFITS	\$513.78	\$3,719.75
STAFF BENEFITS	\$287.56	\$1,653.47
TOTAL SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$6,203.49	\$60,305.22
OFFICE/ADMIN/CONF/AUTO TOTAL	\$197.58	\$4,278.76
UTILITIES TOTAL	\$895.07	\$14,114.87
MAINTENANCE TOTAL	\$260.00	\$2,461.34
INSURANCE TOTAL	\$1,573.00	\$5,524.50
Total Expense	\$9,830.29	\$98,031.90
Difference	(\$996.24)	\$11,835.08

