

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December, 2010  
Newsletter*

*Advent at Trinity*

*Nov. 28 - Lighting of the First Advent Candle  
Dec. 19 - Children's Christmas Program, 10 a.m.  
Dec. 19 - Decorate the Church; Pack food and toys!  
Time: 12:30 p.m.*

*Christmas Eve at Trinity*

*Friday, Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m. Family Service  
Special Music by Junior Choir and Junior Handbell  
Choir*

*Sermon: "This Little Light of Mine" - Isaiah 9:2-7  
Each child will receive a gift.*

*Friday, Dec. 24, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.  
Holy Communion with Traditional Candle Lighting  
Special Music will be presented by our Senior Choir during  
each Service.*

*Sermon: "Nostalgic Nativity" - Isaiah 9:2-7  
Prelude Music begins at 10:30 p.m. with Senior Choir and  
Senior Handbell Choir*



## A Christmas Message from the Pastor

Last year my favorite Christmas tradition came to an end; we used an artificial Christmas tree. I never thought this day would come. My in-laws offered us a very nice pre-lit artificial tree. I was out voted 3 to 1. I remember in 1970 when my father tried to make the transition from natural to artificial. Back then the artificial trees were not that good. His tree looked like a 7-foot version of the cheap plastic scenic trees made for use with a model railroad layout. The tree found a nice home in the corner of our L-shaped hallway where it greeted our visitors during the holiday season. My mother and I continued the tradition of obtaining a natural tree each year and placed it in the large bow window in our living room. Traditions don't last forever.

Danny has had an interesting year. He began middle school (6<sup>th</sup> grade), so now he and Jake are on different busses and schedules. In the middle of September Danny broke his foot in gym class. He managed to break a slow healing bone resulting in wearing a cast and then soft cast until the Monday before Thanksgiving. For a second year in a row, Danny won first place among the webelos at the Pinewood Derby as well as winning second place among the pack. This was his last year in webelos and he managed to earn his arrow of light award before crossing the bridge to boy scouts. The arrow of light is the only webelos award that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform and later if the scout becomes an adult leader. His major academic accomplishment was winning the Bells Elementary School Geography Bee last spring.

Jake had a great year. He is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and he is excelling as a student garnering A's and B's on his report card. Jake loves to read and is doing his homework with little or no help. He just finished his fourth season playing football for the Washington Township Minutemen and continues to grow in athleticism and knowledge of the game. Jake is growing tall as well. He is now taller than his older brother and people are always commenting to me about his height.

Amy has been with Verna and Associates Accounting Firm for three years. Now that football has come to an end for the season, she has some time to catch her breath before beginning the Herculean task of tax season in January. Since the boys have moved on from cub scouts and webelos she was able to pass the Committee Chair position on to someone new. She will be teaching a Junior Achievement class at Jake's school just prior to Christmas.

I spent most of this last year living with my mother, Ruth, in order to help care for her in her failing health. In October, I moved back home after finding a live-in companion to care for her full time. She has reached the point at which she cannot be alone even for short periods of time and I can no longer give her the care she needs. Since returning home I have begun working out at the gym and getting involved with the Rutgers Alumni Association; two of the many activities that have been on hold for the last year. I write this letter on the eve of my 30<sup>th</sup> high school reunion (Haddon Township High, class of 1980). Sometimes it seems as if those years were only yesterday and other times I cannot believe that three decades have passed since my first commencement. As I ponder this thought I am humbled by the incredible number of experiences I have had and the countless things that I have done. This past year has been difficult for me, Amy and the boys, yet it is easy to realize the many blessings for which we can be thankful as we enter into this season of great joy.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year from Pastor Andy, Amy, Danny & Jake.

## **SERMON PREVIEWS**

Dec. 5 - ADVENT 2 - HOLY COMMUNION

Sermon: "**A LION IN THE DESERT**"

Matthew 2:1-12

Dec. 12 - ADVENT 3

HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 A.M.

SHARE SUNDAY/BAPTISMS

Sermon: "**THE RIGHT STUFF**"

Luke 1:46b-55

Dec. 19 - ADVENT 4 - HOLY COMMUNION

JUNIOR CHOIR

Sermon: "**LIVE-IN-LORD**"

Matthew 1:18-25

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### **2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

will be available on the Johnson Avenue side of the church during the month of December. Please pick yours up as soon as possible.

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### **POINSETTIA ORDERS**

are now being taken. Call the Church Office at 939-4411. There are only 35 available so get your order in early. The last day to order is December 17<sup>th</sup>. Cost: \$14.00.

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### **AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY**

#### **2011 Bible Reading Guides**

will be available, along with the new 2011 calendars and offering envelopes during the month of December.

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## **A SONG WITH A MESSAGE?**

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According to folklore, the song "The 12 Days of Christ-mas" was written to help young believers learn about their faith. Although no evidence proves that claim, some say the popular carol contains these codes:

The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds are the four gospels.

The five golden rings are the Law: the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying represent the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.

The eight maids a-milking are Jesus' eight Beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The 10 lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

The 11 pipers piping stand for the 11 faithful disciples.

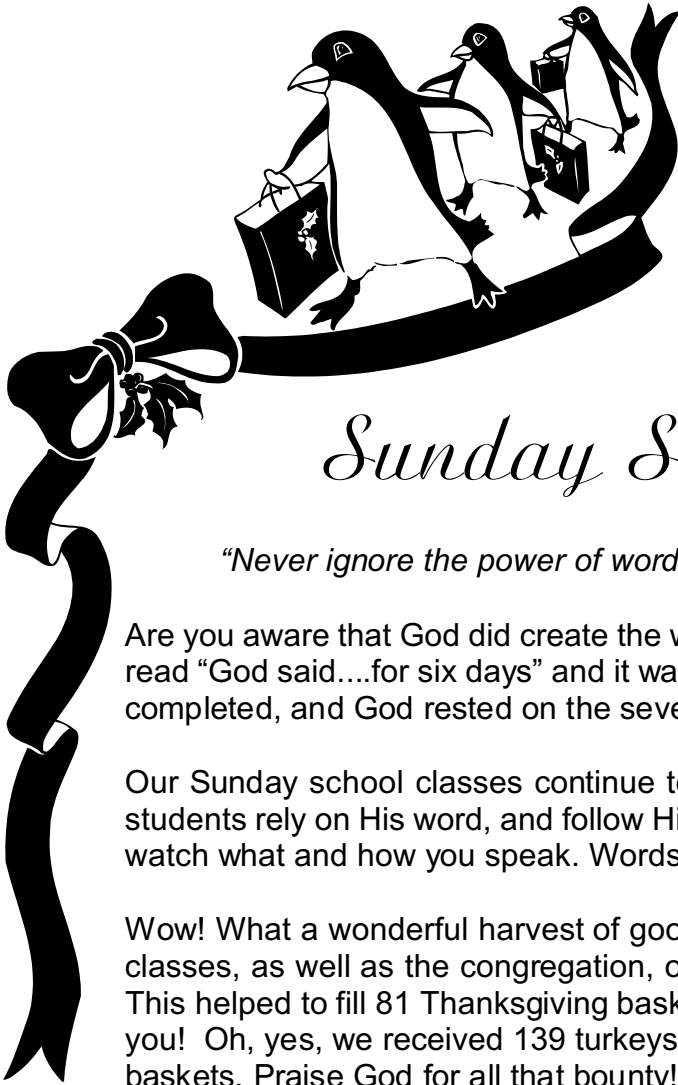
The 12 drummers drumming symbolize the 12 statements of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

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• "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."

-C.S. Lewis



## *Sunday School News*

*"Never ignore the power of words. God created the world with them."*

Are you aware that God did create the world with words? Go back to Genesis I and read "God said....for six days" and it was so. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and God rested on the seventh day.

Our Sunday school classes continue to study God's word each week to help the students rely on His word, and follow His way. Don't ignore the power of words, so watch what and how you speak. Words are spoken to help, not hurt.

Wow! What a wonderful harvest of goods we received from all the Sunday school classes, as well as the congregation, on November 21<sup>st</sup> at our 10:00 AM Service. This helped to fill 81 Thanksgiving baskets for our needy families. Thanks to all of you! Oh, yes, we received 139 turkeys! The extra 58 will go to help the Christmas baskets. Praise God for all that bounty!

Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, our annual Christmas Program will be presented at the 10:00 AM Service. The classes are working hard to prepare this program, so do plan to attend and hear them sing. We will have our Praise Band playing for our singing!

The next staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

One final thought: *"God strengthens us in all the seasons of our lives."*

To God be the glory,  
Pat Henry



## Junior Choir Notes

As Thanksgiving approached I was thinking of gratitude to God for the nice group of girls we have for Junior Choir this year. We are blessed with five younger children who have joined our ranks with enthusiasm and willingness to learn. We continue to be blessed with the musical talents of Mr. Bob Kraemer and for the helpfulness of "Miss Lisa" Ramtahal as our "choir mother."

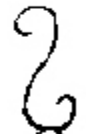
Looking forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons, we are going to be doing a new song on December 19<sup>th</sup> called "*He Came Down*." A real catchy tune melds well with the words of this hymn from the newest hymnal offered by our national church body.

For Christmas Eve we will be doing a blending of a song from Vacation Bible School several years ago "*Jesus Came*" and old traditional melody and meaningful words "*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*." There will be soloists doing some parts of this music: won't you come to support these terrific singers?

Many thanks to those parents for getting the choir members here for rehearsals each week and for going over the words with their girls. This is such an important part of showing commitment and follow-through and JOY at the opportunity to lead the congregation in worship.

May the Prince of Peace bring each of you Hope through His Love this Christmas and may the new year be filled with His blessings!

Love to all,  
Mrs. Schmidt





## Thank You to Congregation for Pantry Day Response - 2010

Throughout all the years in Runnemede, a wonderful group of people who make up the family that is Trinity Lutheran Church has always responded well to any need presented. The Sundays in October leading up to and including Pantry Day 2010 on October 24<sup>th</sup> is no exception. Giving sacrificially to help the families who come to our church pantry ( in October, there were 82 families who came for help) you have donated \$3,902.00!!

A most sincere thank you to each of you who participated in this project!

In addition, we will be receiving \$1,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans from their "Care Abounds in Communities" fund.

I must tell you that we are always asked to project what our net receipts will be. Due to the present economic situation in our country, I projected we would receive \$3,000, therefore Thrivent would donate \$1,000 as their policy is to give \$1 for each \$3 received. Upon receipt of our request, \$1,000 was allocated for us.

When I called to report our final tally of receipts, I asked if we could now have an additional \$300 as well, because of the additional \$902 received. The person to whom I was speaking told me that she had never before had any church reach their goal, let alone go over it! By the end of November all projects covered by the Camden County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans must be completed. When the amount for distribution has been tallied and \$300 is still available, we shall receive that amount as well as the initial \$1,000.

Therefore, the total for Pantry Day 2010 is \$4,902; we are hoping to receive the additional \$300 which would make a grand total of \$5,202.!

The pantry has been mightily blessed by your response to this great need!  
To God be the glory!



## *Social Concerns Ministry*

As you read this, Thanksgiving has already passed and we will be in the middle of our Angel Tree project, but we have to say a great BIG "THANK YOU" to all of you for your generosity and help. Because of your generosity at Thanksgiving, we collected 139 turkeys and there were over 50 people who showed up to help pack the baskets for 81 families.

The Angel tree went up the first Sunday in Advent. You will find instructions located on the tables and members of Social Concerns will be there to answer any questions you may have. PLEASE be sure all gifts and food baskets are properly tagged with the angel or basket you took from the tree. They should be brought to Church no later than December 19<sup>th</sup>. If your food basket contains perishable items, we ask that you do not bring them to the Church before 12:30 pm on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to come and join us as we pack the toys and baskets starting at 12:30 pm. The more the merrier!!

PLEASE BE SURE ALL GIFTS ARE PLACED IN A BAG AND LABELED WITH THE CODE SUCH AS 1A, 2A, ETC AND ALSO INCLUDE THE GIFT LIST CARD.

We will also be collecting gifts for the Lighthouse Mission in Philadelphia. When you bring your gift, please be sure it is labeled "girl" or "boy" and an age. Also include "Lighthouse" on the tag. This mission depends on area churches to help meet the needs of children in the Philadelphia area.

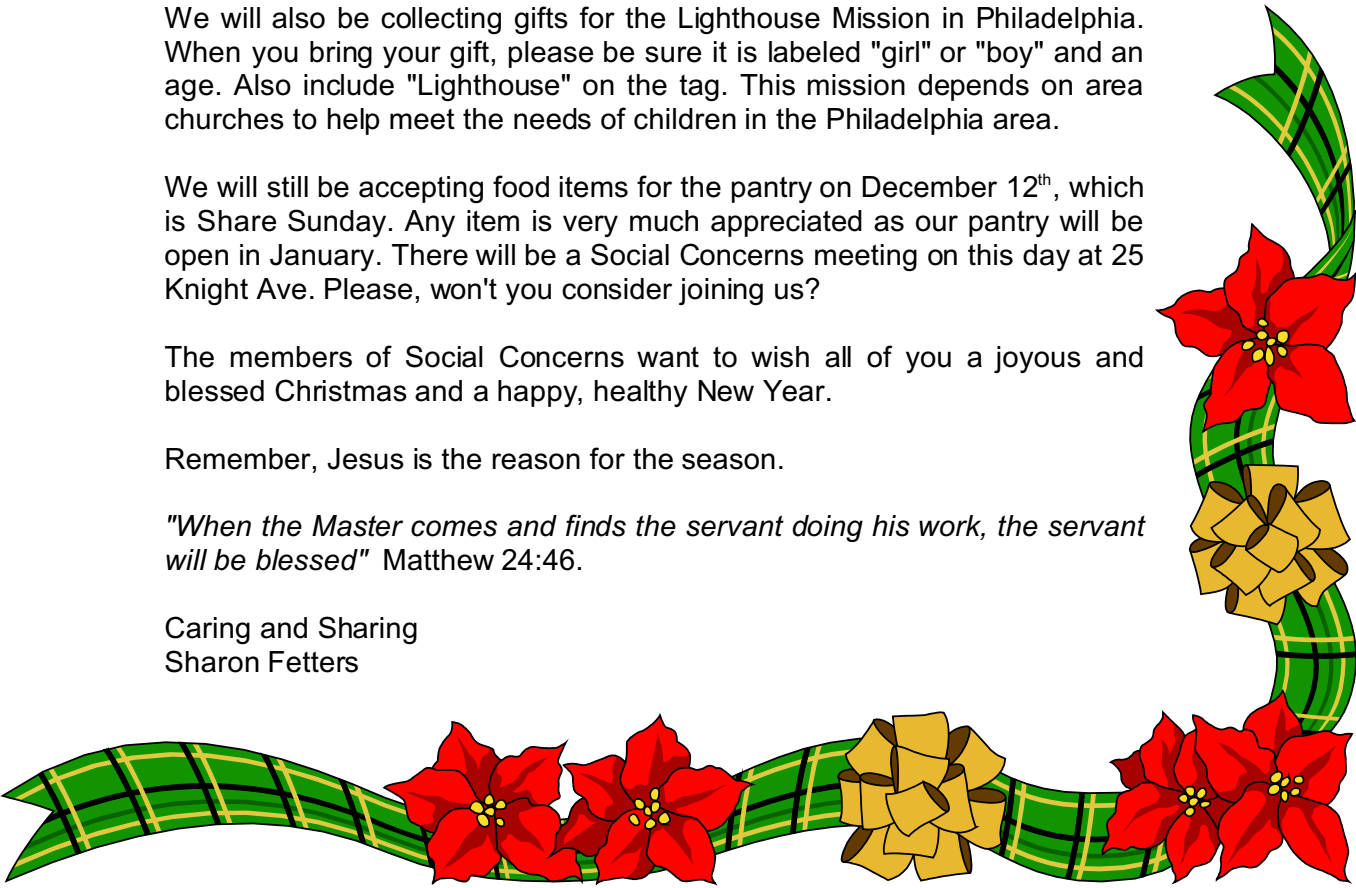
We will still be accepting food items for the pantry on December 12<sup>th</sup>, which is Share Sunday. Any item is very much appreciated as our pantry will be open in January. There will be a Social Concerns meeting on this day at 25 Knight Ave. Please, won't you consider joining us?

The members of Social Concerns want to wish all of you a joyous and blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Remember, Jesus is the reason for the season.

*"When the Master comes and finds the servant doing his work, the servant will be blessed"* Matthew 24:46.

Caring and Sharing  
Sharon Fetters





## *Altar Guild Report – 2010*

The duties for the Altar Guild members are to clean and care for the altar and choir area every week, prepare Holy Communion for all three services for our regular communion weeks, change the Fair Linen and altar candles as needed and display the proper paraments.

We currently have six teams of two women each to take care of these tasks. They are: Carol Sheairs, Dot Offer, Christine Dutil, Karen Cundiff, Kathy Donachie, Beverly Bethany, Barbara Anconetani, Sally Miller, Shirley Shannon, Doris Smith, Jane Kump, Felicia D'Aversa, and myself. In addition, we have six people to set up when we have the sacrament at 10:00am only. They are: Paul and Elaine Ranck, Tammy Baker, Laurie Kump, Mary Blasko, and new this year, Kim Brockway.

Every spring and fall the regular members do a complete cleaning of the entire sanctuary. This is quite a large undertaking, so we ask for volunteers in assisting us. We are usually in and out in two to three hours.

I have represented us on Council for the last six years, prepare the schedule, coordinate the spring and fall cleaning, and write an occasional newsletter article as needed.

If you are interested in joining our group, please call me @ (856) 939-4411.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Paradise  
Chairperson





# Lutheran Home News

President Elise Korman called the Auxiliary meeting to order at 10 a.m. on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Steele led devotions.

Figures for the Octoberfest are not finalized yet, but it is estimated that we made \$684.00 not including the Camden County Thrivent match.

The Volunteer Luncheon went well. The theme was "Planting Seeds of Kindness." Each volunteer who attended received a picture frame from Lutheran Social Ministries, specially decorated pen and matching bookmark, 2011 inspirational calendar and candies. Four volunteers from our congregation attended plus my daughter and myself. All who attended were offered a complimentary hand care treatment. Several of our volunteers won gifts and flowers. A complete turkey dinner was served. Live music was also provided by one of our volunteers. Thanks, volunteers and all who are so supportive to the Lutheran Home. Your help is most appreciated.

January 16<sup>th</sup> there will be an open house with tours of Lutheran Care for any who would be interested in volunteering at the Home. A free luncheon with pasta, salad and dessert being served. Please let me know if you'd be interested in attending.

Santa will be at the Home on December 9<sup>th</sup>. This year the residents will receive candy, candy canes, cookies and penguins, reindeer or snowmen (stuffed animals). Volunteers are needed to help Santa distribute gifts.

Residents will be shopping for gifts for loved ones on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. These gifts will be at no cost to residents. Volunteers are needed to help the residents with their gift choices and volunteers are also needed to help wrap the gift choices for the residents.

Needed are: Christmas wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbon, bows, stickers, nail polish and polish remover, cotton balls, cards, especially birthday and sympathy, new/gently used male/female button down sweaters and robes.

12/2 & 16 - Residents holiday shopping, 1:30 p.m.

12/9 - Auxiliary Meeting, wrapping gifts, auction to raise money for residents, luncheon and Santa distribute gifts - starts 10 a.m.

12/28 - Residents' birthday luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

12/31 - Residents' New Years Eve party, 2:00 p.m.

1/16/11 - Volunteer Open House, 11:30 - 3:00 p.m.

A blessed Christmas to you and yours.

Sincerely in His service,

Sandy Counsellor - 856-939-4411

*"Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"*

Matthew 19:16



## Sunshine Class News

Our meeting was held on November 9<sup>th</sup> with 11 members present. Refreshments were served by our hostesses Mary Blasko, Sandy Counsellor and Nicole Goldstein.

We discussed many things including an update on Pauline Thornley. Joanne said that Pauline is very comfortable in her new room at their home. We all know how much of a people person Pauline is, however, she does not want visitors with the exception of her family. Please remember her in your prayers and try to send her a card. I'm sure she would appreciate that.

Sunshine will be packing cookies for the shut-ins and for the Christmas baskets for families who have fallen on hard times, on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m., in the church basement. Please remember to bring your contributions of cookies on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> or on the 14<sup>th</sup>, whichever is more convenient. WE NEED COOKIES! Thank you! You never let us down!

Sunshine gives a monetary gift to Social Concerns for the Christmas baskets and we also asked our members individually to give a turkey if they could. Several responded favorably to this.

We also, unanimously, voted to give a donation to the Decorating Committee. We really were not aware that these ladies pay for the decorations that go on the pews, for the different seasons and holidays. What a wonderful gift.

Sunshine will be having our Christmas luncheon at Adelpia on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. This takes the place of our December meeting. Our January meeting will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. The hostesses will be Eileen Humes and Doris Menchaca.

God's love at work,  
Pass it on!

Linda Brown