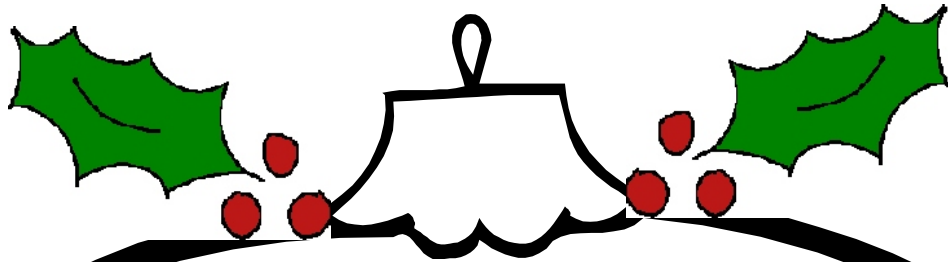


*Trinity Lutheran Church
December, 2011
Newsletter*



*Christmas Eve
at Trinity*

Saturday, December 24th

6:00 p.m. - Family Service

Special Music by Junior Choir and Junior Handbell Choir

8:00 & 11:00 p.m. - Holy Communion

with Traditional Candlelighting

Special Music by our Senior Choir during each Service

Prelude Music begins at 10:30 p.m.

With Senior Choir & Handbell

Choir



Pastor's Christmas Letter

As I reflect upon the past year and previous Christmas letters, I realize that it has been seven years since we moved into our home in Turnersville. When we moved here in December of 2004, Danny was in kindergarten and Jake was in preschool. It is hard to believe that Danny is halfway through middle school and Jake is finishing his last year in elementary school.

Last November we broke ground on an addition to our house. We were under construction during Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Memorial Day. We thought it would never end. Construction was finally complete in June and our CO was granted sometime in September. We are still trying to re-organize our house after nearly a year of disruption.

Danny broke his foot in March playing basketball with some friends (remember he broke his other foot in September of 2010). After years of intense Lego building and collecting he has officially retired from this hobby. He now spends most of his free time playing computer games as well as Wii and 3DS. He has also taken an interest in vintage gaming and has dug my old Nintendo Entertainment System (given to me in 1988) out of the closet.

Jake broke his ankle in gym class in May. He is doing well in fifth grade, scoring above average in the annual ASK Test (with a perfect score in math). He now plays on the 120lb minutemen football team and has just finished his fifth season. In the spring he played his first season of lacrosse and loved it. Last year he had the unfortunate experience of having our Christmas tree fall on him as we were setting it up. Fortunately the tree was unharmed and Jake was only a little shook up.

Amy broke her finger with a football playing catch with Jake. She discovered Sudoku puzzles this year and enjoys sitting by the lake or on our deck, mastering puzzle after puzzle. She is enjoying the post football slump (she is Jake's primary chauffer for football), preparing for Christmas (she does most of the decorating including turning our front lawn into a winter wonderland), and bracing for the 2012 tax season (her boss has added a significant number of new clients to her job list).

I have broken no bones but had a busy year. I reviewed two articles in the March/April edition of *Homiletics Magazine* and received an editorial consultant credit. I also submitted two illustrations and the magazine used both. My mother, Ruth, moved in with us in July and was placed on hospice care in August. She has become very weak and sleeps much of the time. I spend a good deal of my free time with her.

Despite three broken bones, a Christmas tree attack and my mother's failing health, we are thankful for all the good things that happened during the year and we look forward to the year ahead.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year,

Pastor Andy, Amy, Danny and Jake.

SERMON PREVIEWS:

- Dec. 4 - ADVENT 2
HOLY COMMUNION
Sermon: "**JESUS: THE ESSENCE OF A SAVIOR**"
Isaiah 40:1-11
- Dec. 11 - ADVENT 3
HOLY COMMUNION - 10 A.M.
BAPTISMS
Sermon: "**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT...?**"
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Dec. 18 - ADVENT 4
HOLY COMMUNION
JR. CHOIR, JR. HANDBELLS
Sermon: "**A MYSTERY REVEALED**"
Romans 16:25-27
- Dec. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
ONE SERVICE ONLY - 10:00 AM
Sermon: "**THE RELATIVE COST OF CHRISTMAS**"
John 1:1-14
-
-

2012 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

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

2012 Bible Reading Guides will be available, along with the new 2012 calendars and offering envelopes during the month of December.

Praise Band Christmas Concert

Friday, December 9, 2011

7:00 PM

***Trinity Evangelical Lutheran
Church***

***Rev. Dr. G. Andrew Engelhart III
200 E. Clements Bridge Road
Runnemede, NJ***

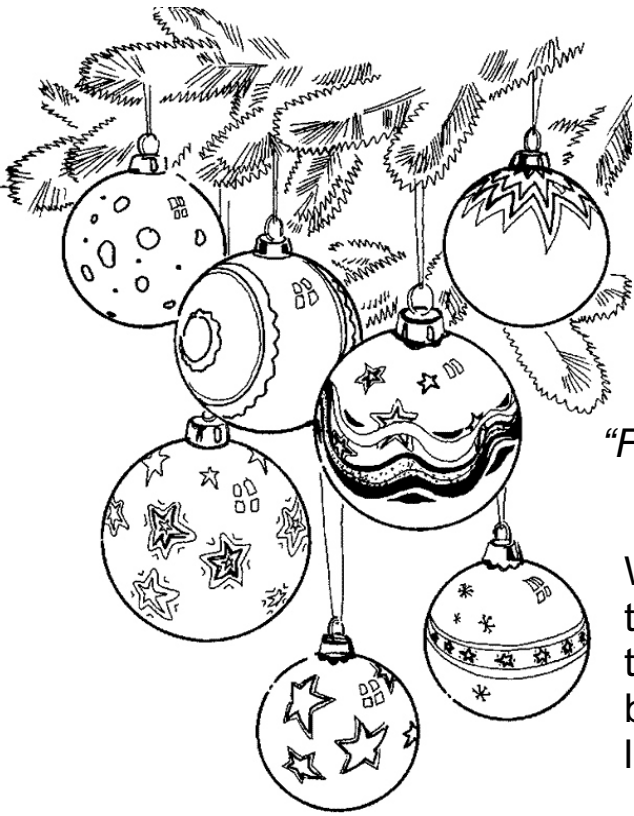
Join us!

Celebrate His Birth!

Poinsettias

Forty poinsettia with 12-15 blooms each are now available for Christmas Eve memorials. The cost is \$15.00. Order are now being take, along with other dedications for the Christmas bulletin. Please place your order by call 939-4411. This year Hopewell Nursery is providing our poinsettias.

***Merry
Christmas***



Sunday School News

"Focusing on Jesus guides us toward what is right and good."

We strive to tell our Sunday school classes to stay focused on Jesus, and He will guide them to what is right and good. What a blessing it is to help our boys and girls to learn more about Jesus.

What a wonderful harvest of food we received from all the Sunday school classes, as well as the congregation on Sunday, November 20th at our 10:00 a.m. Service. We were able to fill 80 baskets for our needy families, as well as give each family a turkey! Oh, yes, thanks for the extra 22 turkeys that will go into Christmas baskets.

Our annual Christmas Program will be presented on Sunday, December 18th at the 10:00 a.m. Service. The classes are working each Sunday to prepare "*Christmas Is*" a unique program you will not want to miss. Mark your calendar.

The next staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Leaving you with a final thought: "*The Prince of Peace is with us in the midst of every storm.*"

To God be the glory,
Pat Henry

Junior Choir Notes

"The King of Glory" went so well in November; the solos by Jessica Hobgen and Becky Krause were outstanding. Trinity is so blessed to have young people who are willing to sing in front of the congregation. A special thank you to both of them.

Looking towards December, this is another month in which the Junior Choir will be singing twice. Because we have so many younger children, we are trying to supplement the amount of words to be sung with soloists from our group. We've had some volunteers come forward and will be hearing them on December 18th and 24th. December 18th we will be doing "All the Angels" and Christmas Eve we will be doing "Christmas Dreams."

A special thank you to both Emilee Schipske and Kenna Brockway for doing such a nice job as our new "choir mothers." This may sound like a small job but it is vital to keeping our children and choir robes looking good. Mission accomplished.

A big thank you to Mrs. Susan Dilks for accompanying our Junior Choir for September, October, and November. She has been faithful in her attendance at our rehearsals and whenever we have needed her to accompany us as we've sung - even if she wasn't serving as organist at those same services. Susan has been prompt and added much to our musical program.

Mr. Robert Kraemer will be rejoining the Junior Choir as accompanist the first Sunday in December. He has been following his daughter Lillian as she plays soccer with the women of the U. S. Naval Academy in Virginia. We've miss you, Bob, and look forward to hearing you tickle the ivories again soon.

We are always looking for new voices to join us. If you would like to sing with us or know someone who is, please come downstairs to the Choir Room at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. Questions? Call 939-4411.

As we look forward to this Advent time of year in which we truly look forward to the coming of Christmas and the celebration of Jesus' birth. What a marvelous gift God has given us: we need to tell others about Him, as well.

A very blessed and JOYfilled Christmas season and New Year to everyone!

Love to all,
Mrs. Schmidt





November Youth Ministry News

The month of November was not as busy for the Trinity Youth Ministry.

To start the month off, several of the youth participated in Bingo at the Lutheran Home in Moorestown on Saturday, November 12th. We had such a great turnout, there wasn't enough room for all of us to fit in the room with the residents! Then on Sunday, November 13th, we had a planning meeting. We were hoping to see some of the drawings that Alicia Darcy did for the mural in the high school room. Unfortunately, she was unable to make it to the meeting. But we are encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the kids involved with the program.

On Sunday, November 20th, several of our youth helped pack baskets for the Pantry. They learned that there are a lot less fortunate people out there and we were glad to help give them a Thanksgiving.

The month of December is shaping up to be a productive one, too. On Saturday, December 10th at 1:30 pm, we will be baking cookies for the shut-ins in the church kitchen. Then we will be going Christmas caroling at the Lutheran Home in Moorestown. We again look forward to helping pack the food baskets for the Pantry on Sunday, December 18th.

Looking forward to January, we will be going to Sahara Sam's for a day of fun. We will again be going to the Lutheran Home in Moorestown for cookies, hot chocolate and crafts.

In His Name,
Trinity Youth Ministry advisors



Social Concerns Ministry

Here's hoping everyone has survived their Thanksgiving dinner.

Social Concerns wants to send a huge THANK YOU to the following for their very generous donations and help with food and with the sorting and packing of baskets:

Runnemedede schools, including Triton High School, Mary Volz, Downing, and Bingham, Runnemedede Seniors, Runnemedede Mayor, Fire Department, Police, Magnolia Cub Scout Pack #22, residents of The Willows Apartments in Barrington, and members of Trinity's congregation. We could not have been able to make up 100 baskets without the help you all provided.

As far as donations for the pantry, we need paper towels, toilet paper, and kid's cereal. Also, for the Clothes Closet, men's clothing is really needed, such as jeans, T-shirts, sweat shirts, and jackets. Please be sure they are clean and gently used.

For the Christmas packing, we would love to see families come out as they did at Thanksgiving. It was really nice to see parents and children helping. For Christmas, we have 99 families and 59 children on the Angel tree.

Dates to Remember:

December 11.....Social Concerns meeting

December 18.....Gifts and baskets due back. Pack and sort at 1 PM

"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Caring & Sharing
Sharon Feters



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Philippians 2:3: "With humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves."

On Friday, November 4, 2011, a very animated group of ladies joined together for our monthly meeting. Those in attendance included: Beverly Bethany, Mary Blasko, Val Colasuonno, Dolores Keller, Sally Miller, Mary Raws, and our newest member, Jean Krips. Our president, Carolyn Lunn, was vacationing in Arizona, but remembered us with the following note, "You will be in my thoughts and prayers...Mucho Gracias."

On this day, we received 5 shawls, 2 lap covers, and 3 Baptismal blankets. Borrowing from our leader, I say, "Mucho Gracias" to all for your dedication and service in Jesus' name. It is a joy to be part of it.

After some discussion regarding storage for our shawls, and Baptismal blankets, etc., and checking out the existing inventory, Pastor Andy gave his approval for a new cabinet and Mary Raws, generously volunteered her services for the project. Our bank balance is \$128.00, which will be more than adequate for the expense. The meeting was a little less organized with everyone up and running to put away the new inventory and getting copies, (thank you, Joanne), and making decisions regarding placement of our new cabinet...chaotic, but productive.

Pastor Andy, always a welcome asset to our meetings, shared his knowledge about Rembrandt's "Faces of Jesus" exhibition at the Museum of Art in Philadelphia. It was a wonderful experience and Pastor's ability to retain and impart his knowledge with the usual dose of humor, was fun and greatly appreciated.

As active participants in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, an article on the "Secrets of the Prayer Shawl, (taken from the Internet), was distributed to all. In addition to being quite interesting, it was fascinating to note the correlation between what we have learned, in our weekly Bible classes, and the original meaning of the garment now known as a Prayer Shawl. See Matthew 6:6, 9:18-26 and Mark 5:20-43, for further clarification.

We are always in need of members who are looking for ways to become servants of Jesus Christ, and to send his message of healing, hope and strength to those in need. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, and would like to share an hour of fun and laughter, consider joining us. We will provide basic patterns and instruction books, as needed. If you have any questions, please call Carolyn at 856-939-4411.

Our meetings are scheduled for the first Friday of every month. As of this writing, the next meeting will be December 2nd, downstairs at Trinity at 10:00 a.m.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Family
Sally Miller,
Vice President



Lutheran Home News

The Lutheran Home Auxiliary met at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 10th. We were happy to have Pastor Andy as our guest Pastor. He led us in prayer and devotions. We then had our business meeting.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held at noon after the meeting. We had seven people attend from Trinity. Pastor Andy, four faithful volunteers from Bingo, my daughter, Nicole and myself. I am also happy to report that our youth came up this past month to play Bingo with our residents. Thank you to the youth and leaders!

Our residents had homemade cupcakes at the Halloween party and they also had an art show featuring their art work.

December 8th the Auxiliary will be assembling Christmas gift bags. Each resident will receive a gift and cookies for Christmas. We will have a Chinese Auction to raise money for the residents. The gifts will be delivered by Santa and his elf volunteers along with the Auxiliary.

The Holiday Shoppe will be held from 1 - 4 p.m. on December 15th and 16th. Residents can pick out gifts (free of charge) for their family and friends. Volunteers will wrap their gifts for them.

Needed are:

Volunteers for the gift shop, Volunteers to help residents shop (Dec. 15th & 16th), Volunteers to help wrap residents' gifts (Dec. 15th & 16th).

Donations of small gift items, toys, jewelry, knick knacks, wrapping paper, gift bags and ribbon can be left in the Lutheran Home bin on the Johnson side of the church up until Sunday, Dec. 4th. These items will be used for the Holiday Shoppe on December 15th & 16th.

Also needed are small stuffed animals, birthday bags, nail polish remover and cotton balls.

December 4 - Last day to donate gifts for Holiday Shoppe
December 8 - Auxiliary Meeting and gift assembly, 10:00 a.m.
December 8 - Luncheon and Chinese Auction Fundraiser - 12:00 noon
December 8 - Santa and elves distribute gifts following lunch and auction
December 15 & 16 - Holiday Shoppe, 1-4 p.m.
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 2:00 p.m.
December 27 - Residents' Birthday Party - 12 - 5 p.m.
December 30 - New Years Eve Party with Mummers - 2:00 p.m.

June 9 - June Day

Blessings to you and yours at Christmas and in the New Year!
Sandy Counsellor, 856-939-4411

"I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. Philippians 4:11-12"

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

LUTHERAN CARE AT MOORESTOWN

Lutheran Care at Moorestown seeks friendly, energetic people to help operate our new Gift Shop and Bistro. Responsibilities may include but not limited to:

- Sell items/food
- Handle cash transactions
- Stock items for sale
- Report to the Gift Shop/Bistro Coordinator and Director of Hospitality

We Will provide training. Experience in customer service, food handling, cash handling and retail is preferred, but not required.

Call today to begin a rewarding experience and join our Volunteer Program.

856-232-1214

LUTHERAN CARE AT MOORESTOWN
255 E. Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057

www.LutheranCareatMoorestown.org



This message is going to be short and sweet! I would like to remind everyone that we are having our December luncheon at the Adelpia on December 13th at 12:00 noon. Anyone who would like to join us are welcome but please call Clara Meyer at 939-4411 because we do have to make reservations.

The next date to remember is December 15th at 12:00 noon to pack cookies for the Christmas baskets.

We would appreciate any homemade cookies or store bought ones. Please drop them off at the Church before noon on that day or the day before and mark them "Sunshine".

Thank you in advance for your willingness to help people less fortunate than we are and remember the cookies should be able to fit into a coffee can. We are probably going to need enough cookies for 100 to 120 cans.

Sunshine's next meeting will be January 9th, 2012 and Eileen Humes and Doris Menchaca will be hostesses.

We meet at 12:00 noon. We bring our own sandwich and the hostesses will supply our desserts. Welcome one and all!

This is a joyous time of the year for Christians as we anticipate the birthday of Jesus. I hope you will be surrounded by your family and friends, and that we all slow down and remember what this season is really about.

Happy Christmas to everyone!

God's Love at work,
Pass it on!

Linda Brown
President