

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
January, 2012 Newsletter

# Let The Spirit Lead You In 2012

## JOIN THE CHOIR!

Rehearsal  
Thursday Nights  
7:30 p.m.

## JUNIOR CHOIR!

Rehearsal  
Sunday Morning  
9:45 a.m.  
Choir Room

ALTAR GUILD  
Like to join us?  
Contact  
Terry Paradise



## SOCIAL CONCERNS



SHARE SUNDAY  
Second Sunday of  
each month.

## FRIENDLY CIRCLE

12:00 Noon  
Join us!  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday

## SUNSHINE CLASS

12:00 Noon  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of  
each month.



EVERY SUNDAY  
10:00 a.m.



Jr. Bells - 6:00 p.m.  
Sr. Bells - 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday Nights



Contact  
Jim Eberts

## DECORATING COMMITTEE

Contact  
Florence Robinson  
**JOIN US!**

Help beautify the church  
for the holidays.

## PRAYER SHAWL COMMITTEE

Help make Prayer  
Shawls for those  
who mourn, are sick  
or newly Baptized.

Contact  
Carol Lunn



# FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! This morning (December 30) I was at the bank and when my business concluded the teller wished me happy holidays. Seeing that Christmas is over in the secular world and all that is left is New Years I was wondering why she did not wish me a Happy New Year! Is there a public ban on that too?

Has this now become a Christian holiday? After weeks of enduring the generic happy holidays from every store clerk, gas attendant and public servant, I deserve to be given the well wishes of at least one specific holiday!

May the holiday police beware, I am spending the rest of this year and the beginning of 2012 wishing people in public and private a Happy New Year! Maybe people are afraid to wish us a Happy New Year because they have placed their faith in the Mayan Calendar "myth". I refer to this as a myth because no real scholar can support the claims that according to the Mayan Calendar the world is going to come to a complete and cataclysmic end on December 21, 2012. The first fact is that there is nothing written on the calendar about a cataclysmic end to the world. The second fact is that there were various calendars used by the Mayan people for various purposes. This "doomsday" calendar was called the "long count" and was meant to track events that occurred before and after the average life cycle of a Mayan. This "doomsday" calendar has a cycle of 5,126 years ending in our year 2012 (according to some scholars). When this 5,126 year cycle comes to an end, the calendar would start from the beginning.

Think of it this way. Many of you pick up a copy of our church calendar when you pick up your envelopes. This year that calendar begins on January 1, 2012 and will end on December 31, 2012. That's it. The world will not end because your 2012 calendar has completed its cycle. On December 31, 2012 you will throw away that calendar and begin using your new 2013 calendar.

I fail to see all the hype that people have been placing in world ending prophecies. There have been many such prophecies since the beginning of time. The average person usually ignores these farces. For some reason entering this new millennium seems to have sparked the imagination of many.

If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, you need not worry about such things. Our fears about tomorrow or what the New Year may or may not bring can be alleviated when we trust the words of Jesus,

*<sup>25</sup>Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*<sup>34</sup>So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. (Matthew 6:25-34 NRSV)*

As we enter into 2012, may you feel the joy of the Lord's presence in your life each day. May you celebrate your joy with thanksgiving and may you find comfort for your sorrows in Him. May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserve you in true faith, unto everlasting live. Amen.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Andy*



# Prayer Shawl News

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

Happy New Year to everyone! What a wonderful, blessed season we had. Our renewed enthusiasm is a Joy to the World. Let every heart prepare for the new year with a sense of renewal and purpose. New goals to entertain as we put our hearts and hands to work serving the Lord and our church.

Our last meeting of 2011 was on December 2nd. In attendance were Barbara Anconetani, Beverly Bethany, Val Colasuono, Cathy Hornibrook, Dolores Keller, Jean Krips, Carolyn Lunn, Sally Miller and Mary Raws. In the spirit of the Christmas season, we received 6 prayer shawls, 5 baptismal blankets and 3 no-sew blankets. Great job, ladies. What a blessing you are with your nimble needles clicking away all these new items.

Since we had prior approval from Pastor Andy, a motion was made to purchase a cabinet to be used for prayer shawl items. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Mary Raws will be doing the honors of purchasing the cabinet for us.

Mary Raws reported there would be 2 baptisms in December. Our meeting concluded by 10:45 am as we wished each other a Merry Christmas.

Sally Miller, our delightful vice president, is one of the newest members to Church Council. We are very proud of Sally as she begins but another service to Trinity and our members. GO Sally!!

The days since our meeting have been very eventful. We have lost our dear friend and church Treasurer Butch Fisher. We will miss his expertise, wisdom, and humor. What a joy it was to know him! Thanks, Butch, for your loving service to all of us.

Also, on December 28, my dear friend, Larry Couch, passed away. He is the brother of JoAnn Couch. Only 7 months ago we sent Larry's wife, Joan Mitchell Couch, a prayer shawl. She was thankful and touched by our gesture. She passed away on July 21, 2011. They surely are joined together again in heaven with the Lord and angels.

Butch Fisher and Larry Couch were good friends having worked together at one time. God Bless their souls.

Another happening, a couple of weeks ago, was a mishap in the parking lot. Thanks go out to our church members who were right onboard to help: Ken Humes, Sam Spino, Warren Smith and others. They did what they could to assist and even directed traffic to help alleviate some problems. Thanks again for serving our church.

As we begin the new year, why not put the Prayer Shawl Ministry on your new year resolutions list. Join us on the first Friday, January 6, at 10:00 am. All are welcome to our meetings.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Family

Carolyn Lunn  
President





## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Well, it's January and the Youth Ministry has some exciting and fun filled events planned to start off the New Year!

On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, we are going to Sahara Sam's in West Berlin for a day of water filled fun. We will meet at the church after the 11:15 am Service. After lunch, we will head to Sahara Sam's.

And let's not forget crafts with cookies and hot chocolate to follow with the residents of the Lutheran Care home in Moorestown on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Meet at the church at 5:45 pm to coordinate rides for those who need one.

February is shaping up to be an event packed month. Following is the schedule for February:

February 5 - making sandwiches for the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden. Meet after the 11:15 am Service at the church.

February 11 - Valentine's Day dance at the church from 7:00-9:30 pm.

February 21 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at the church. This counts towards Confirmation service requirements.

February 26 - IHOC Walk at the Voorhees Town Center. Let's see if Trinity Lutheran can once again be the top group to raise money for this very worthy cause!!

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 am, we will be having a planning meeting. We encourage all interested parents to join us to learn what we will be scheduling for the upcoming months. We especially encourage those parents with questions or concerns to join us at this meeting so that we can answer your questions.

We also still have Trinity Lutheran Tshirts for sale for those of you who would still like to purchase one. The cost is \$12 per shirt.

In His name,  
Trinity Youth Ministries advisors



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Junior Choir Notes

The Christmas season has come and gone with speed but leaving a number of wonderful memories. Among them for sure is listening to four soloists sing with the Junior Choir on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Nicole Dutil, Emily Krause, Caroline Krause and Destiny Glaze sang the verses to "Christmas Dreams": Jessica Hobgen, Alison Yurcaba (a first grader) and Becky Krause. All of these girls did a terrific job. On both occasions their singing required doing so in front of a very large group of people. Everyone in the choir is to be commended for a job well done!


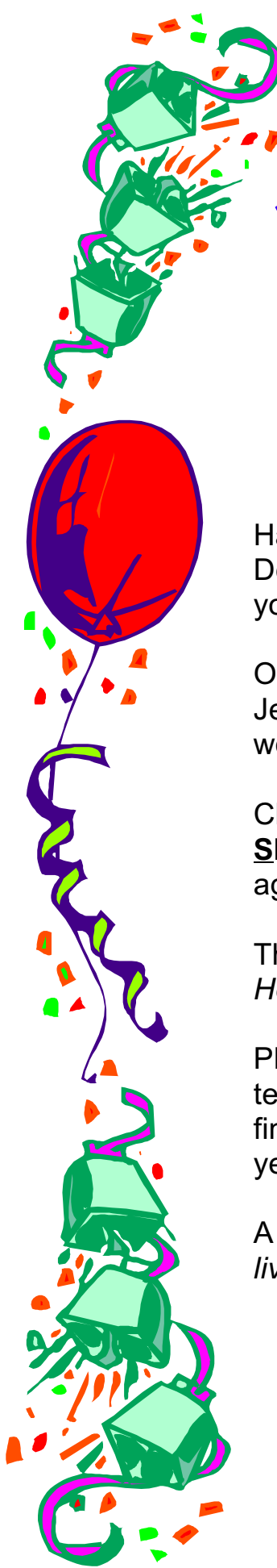
Because we missed rehearsals on Christmas Day and New Years Day, we will NOT be singing in January. However, rehearsals will be held as usual beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>.

"*Changed by God's Power*" will be sung on February 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a tricky tune to some very thought-provoking words and ones each of us will want to hear and think about throughout this New Year.

Many thanks to all who make it possible for the Junior Choir to run so smoothly. A special thank you to Mrs. Dilks for substituting for Mr. Kraemer throughout the fall season. And welcome back to Mr. Kraemer who accompanied us December 18<sup>th</sup> and Christmas Eve. Emilee Schipske and Kenna Brockway helped to robe the choir.

As we enter a new calendar year may each of us feel renewed by the love and care of Him whose birth we celebrated just a week ago. May the New Year hold special joys for all of you as you continue to serve Him at Trinity!

Love to all,  
Mrs. Schmidt



# Sunday School NEWS

*"The Bible is the true story of God's love and mercy."*

Happy New Year to everyone from our Sunday School Department. As we enter into the year 2012, may each of you keep your focus on Jesus as He is our strength!

Our Sunday School classes presented a program about Jesus' birth entitled "*Christmas Is*" - using the letters in the word CHRISTMAS:

Christmas is: **C**arols, **H**ope, **R**eceiving, **I**mmanuel, **S**hepherds, **T**elling, **M**anger, **A**ngels, **S**pecial, don't you agree? For Jesus, God's Son, came for you and for me!

The program closed with everyone singing "*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing.*"

Please keep our Sunday School students and dedicated teaching staff in your prayers. Trinity is blessed with this fine group of teachers who are present each Sunday of the year.

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

To God be the glory,  
Pat Henry



## SUNSHINE CLASS NEWS

In December, my Mom and I had the pleasure of seeing Jackie Evancho in person. She is an 11 year old soprano who came in second on "America's Got Talent." She has a truly amazing voice and when she sang "The Lord's Prayer" she got a standing ovation. How wonderful it was to see people not be afraid to stand up and cheer for "The Lord's Prayer."

I recently became excited when I heard about a new tv show entitled "Good Christian Belles." One of the stars is Kristin Chenoweth. Kristin, who is a Christian woman, said, "She would never, ever make fun of having faith but rather is having fun with faith. This is a dramedy and it premieres on March 4, 2012, at 10:00 p.m., on ABC.

When Kristin was asked what tv show she would compare this to, she answered "I'm glad I can't think of another show to compare it to. It takes place in a world I haven't seen before on television - - the church. You know all these women no matter what religion you are. And this is a world I know really well, growing up in the Bible Belt." Tune in! If it's good, I'll take credit for telling you and if it's not, forget that I ever mentioned it, o.k.?

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Sunshine had its annual Christmas luncheon at Adelphia. We had a large turnout. We had games & prizes supplied by Clara Meyer, great fellowship and a delicious lunch. Everyone had a nice time.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Sunshine ladies gathered to fill cans with Christmas cookies. This endeavor was a huge success as we were able to fill 100 cans for the Christmas baskets. How wonderful to have so many people respond to this cause. We would like to thank everyone who contributed and a special thanks to "Our Youth" who got together and made several kinds of cookies for us. Thank you!

Our next Sunshine meeting will be on January 10, 2012, at 12:00 noon. Our hostesses will be Eileen Humes and Doris Menchaca. The more ladies that come out to Sunshine means the more we can do to help in the Lord's work!

God's love at work,  
Pass it on!

Linda Brown  
President



## Lutheran Care at Moorestown

The Lutheran Home Auxiliary met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> to assemble gift bags filled with door hangers, cookies and candy. The auxiliary members then had lunch and a Chinese Auction to raise money for the residents. Afterwards, Santa and members of the auxiliary delivered gifts to all the units. I will be getting the total raised at the January meeting and will report it to you.

As of this writing, the mummers are to come and play for the residents for New Years. They will to all units.

February is Trinity's Annual Lutheran Home fund-raiser. Hope you will prayerfully consider a donation. Thank you for always being so supportive. Our church is one of the bigger contributors for the fund-raiser.

Upcoming dates:

Thursday, Jan. 12 - Auxiliary Meeting, 10 am  
Tuesday, Jan. 31 - Residents Birthday Luncheon, 12 - 5 p.m.  
February - Trinity's annual fund-raiser  
Saturday, June 9 - June Day, 10 am - 3 pm

As we move forward into this new year, it is good to know we believe in a God of new beginnings whose mercies are new every morning and who is bigger than any of our problems!

A happy and healthy new year to all!

Sincerely,  
Sandy Counsellor

*"It is a sacrifice to turn our eyes away from what we don't have to what we are blessed to still have and to know that if we only had Jesus, He would be enough."*

-Author unknown

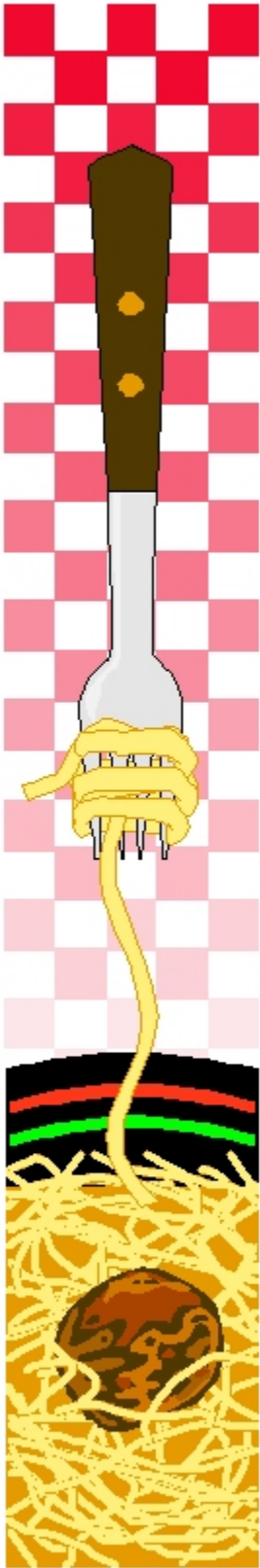


The Junior Handbell Choir is doing well. They still need three more children to have an all childrens' handbell choir.

The Senior Handbell Choir welcomes Sally Miller to the choir this month. They need just one more ringer to have a full choir. If interested, please join us on Thursdays. Juniors meet at 6:00 PM and Seniors meet at 6:30 PM. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.



**"I assume we get time-and-a-half for working Sundays."**



# Social Concerns Ministry

Social Concerns wants to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

We also want to thank everyone for their help with monetary and food donations this Christmas season. We helped 97 families with food and gifts.

Big thanks go to the Runnemede Seniors group, Chews Methodist Church, Runnemede VFW, both the Runnemede and the Glendora Fire companies, Freeholders of Camden County, Runnemede Cub Scout Pack 117, the Magnolia Cub Scout Pack 122, Willow's Apts. of Barrington, Dollar General in Runnemede and The JFK Democrat Club of Runnemede.

Items needed for the pantry:

Applesauce, boxed potatoes, pasta & sauce, paper towels, toilet paper, soap bars, kids cereal, oatmeal, mac & cheese, tuna and peanut butter & jelly.

Any donation is greatly appreciated.

January Dates:

January 8.....Share Sunday & Social Concerns will meet downstairs.

January 26.....Pantry & clothes closet open from 9 -11 am & 6 - 7 pm

*Lord, help me to live my own life based on Your input, and not be sidetracked by the decisions of those around me.*

Caring & Sharing

Sharon Feters for  
Social Concerns