



# HOLY TRINITY

## Evangelical Lutheran Church

# ECHOES NEWSLETTER

Parkview & Lycoming Avenue | Abington, Pennsylvania 19001 | Tel: 215.659.2642

### December 2013

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#### **Pastors**

The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Tavella

The Rev. N. Amanda Grimmer

#### **Staff**

The Rev. John Bradosky, *Bishop of the*

*North American Lutheran Church*

Mrs. Jacqueline Smith, *B. Mus. M.*

*Mus., Director of Music*

Mrs. Sharon Wright, *Parish Secretary*

#### **Worship Services**

Saturday at 5 pm and Sunday at 9 am

*(Sunday Church School at 10:30 am)*

#### **Holy Communion**

Saturday evening, Sunday morning &

Festival Days

*Deadline for submission of material  
for the Echoes Newsletter is 9 am the  
15th of each month*

### From the Pastors

Dear Parish Family,

Bianco da Siena, an Italian mystic poet of the Middle Ages, wrote “Come Down, O Love Divine,” (*Discendi Amor Santo*) hymn 508 in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Ralph Vaughn Williams wrote a beautiful tune for the hymn that he named Down Ampney in honor of the village in which he was born.

The hymns lyrics are exquisite in their mystic vision. The first verse reads,

Come down, O Love divine;  
Seek thou this soul of mine  
And visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near;  
Within my heart appear  
And kindle it,  
Thy holy flame bestowing.

God descends to us to redeem us and to fill us with His Spirit rather than our ascending to the heavenly realm to receive His salvation and gifts. The whole dynamic of God’s relationship with us and the world is His descent to us, not our ascent to Him.

This descent of the Lord comes to clear focus in the incarnation of the Son of God. “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1: 14a NIV) The baby at Bethlehem is divine love come down. In Philippians Paul expresses this descent, Jesus “. . . being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in the appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross. (Philippians 2: 6-8 NIV) Our Christmas festival is a celebration of God’s descent to us in the Son of God.

*Continued on page 2*

# Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers have been presented to the Glory of God by the people of Holy Trinity.

Altar Flowers must be ordered no later than the Tuesday afternoon preceding the Sunday they are presented. They may be ordered through the Church Office (215-659-2642). You may pay by placing \$20.00 in a brown/white pew envelope checked "Altar Flowers." If you know it, indicate your envelope number.

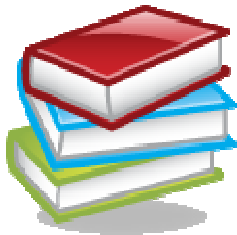
# Coram Deo

*Living in the presence of God*

Meets: Mondays at 7:30 in the Parlor

Coram Deo is a new literary group at Holy Trinity led by Pastor Mike and Nancy King-Berkovitz. If you love literature, wish you knew more about literature, or want to discuss books and poetry within a Christian context, this is your kind of book club.

*See you there!*



# From the Pastors

*Continued from pg. 1*

Before the festival of the Nativity of Our Lord, the season of Advent is kept. During the first Sundays, the theme is the coming of Christ at the end of time. Early Advent continues the emphasis of the last Sundays of Pentecost that come at the end of the Church year. Christ with His angels will descend in the clouds of heaven to judge the world.

Between the first Christmas and the end of time, we are the beneficiaries of God's descent to us. Every Sunday we are nourished by Word and Sacrament which represent the Triune God coming among us to strengthen our faith. The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, uses these means to keep us united to Jesus Christ in faith and the one true faith. (See *The Small Catechism*, Third Article of the Creed)

Paul advises the Philippian Church to conduct herself in all humility and then cites the hymn in part quoted above to illustrate Christ's own humility. Christ descended to us in humility and so we pray with the mystic Bianco da Siena,

Let holy charity  
Mine outward vesture be,  
And holiness become mine inner clothing—  
True lowliness of heart,  
Which takes the humbler part,  
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps  
with loathing

*In Christ,  
The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Tavella  
The Rev. N. Amanda Grimmer*



# Prayer List

## Women's

## Prayer Group

We will meet in the room over the garage next to the home of Rosemary Hinkle. Anyone is welcome to come pray and/or share prayer requests at any time.

Dessert and coffee/tea are served.

**Mark your calendar now for 2013 prayer time on the first and third Mondays of each month.**

## Healing Prayer

## Ministry

After the 5:00 P.M. Saturday Service, and after the 9:00 A.M. Service, members of the Healing Prayer Team are available in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd to meet with you for healing prayer. Prayers are offered for your physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

## Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

### Mission Statement

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a congregation of people of God, bound together in love for the purpose of glorifying God in worship and in fulfilling His will through spreading the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ to all humankind.

**One of the beautiful aspects of Christian Fellowship is that we can share one another's concerns through prayer.**

**Please pray for the following:**

**Please pray for the following individuals & their families :** *(we cannot add last names or initials)* The families of the members of Holy Trinity together with those they love, including:

Albert, Alex, Amanda, Ambre, Amid, Amy, Anna, Arlene, Augusto, Barbara, Ben, Beth, BettyAnn, Bill, Bob, Brianna, Bruce, Bryan, Carol, Carole, Charlene, Cheri, Christopher, Cinda, Cindy, Daniel, Dave, David, Deb, Derek, Diane, Dianna, Dodie, Donna, Doreen, Dorothy, Drew, Eleanor, Eda, Efim, Francis, Frank, Gary, Gene, George, Gloria, Gregory, Hannah, Helen, Helene, Herb, Hunter, Ingrid, Jarmie, Jason, Jeanne, Jenay, Jennifer, Joann, John, Joe, Judy, Julianne, Karen, Keane, Lafayette, Lee, Lenore. Linda, Luis, Lori, Lorrie, Marc, Maryanne, Matt, Matthew, Marge, Margaret, Marsha, Maureen, Max, Michael, Megan, Mina, Mirna, Muriel, Nathaniel, Nancy, Nicole, Nick, Pauline, Pam, Peck, Peg, Peter, Phyllis, Raechel, Ralph, Rebecca, Renee, Robert, Ryan, Sandy, Sarah, Scarlett, Scott, Sharon, Shawn, Stephanie, Steve, Sue, Susan, Suzy, Tara, Terry, Tina, Tony, Tracy, Tyler, Valerie, Vera, Viola and Xavier.

**Please pray for the following families:**

All of the families of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for; especially we pray for the:

Anastasio, Arrue, Barth, Biehl, Blacoe, Blakes, Bell, Bell-Powell, Benin-Casa, Cabigon, Cooke, Cranston, Dewald, Doodan, Drobish, Eisenmann, Frame, Goodell, Koehler, Kohn, Koutsioroubas, Lake, Mackintosh, McCardle, McDonough, McGinnis, McKelvey, Means, Navarro, Ndini, Novak, Powell, Praschil, Raiguel, Schmidt, Schneiderreit, Sears, Selman, Singrella, Timson, Torres, Tredinnick and Young families.

**Please pray for the following petitions:**

*That God would bless and protect all members of Holy Trinity, together with those they love and pray for. That God would guide each of us to grow in grace and the He would please send workers into the Harvest. For all who are chronically ill or shut-in. For all congregations of the NALC. For all travelers and for the dying. For the military and their families. The unemployed and underemployed & the uninsured, especially those in our own families. All caregivers, rescue workers, doctors, nurses, firefighters, EMTs. For the members of the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia, and for the Nifas Silk Congregation. For our sister congregations: Nifas Silk in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and First Lutheran in Kirkland Illinois. For all Christians who are being persecuted for their faith throughout the world. For victims of rains, wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes and for favorable weather and an abundance of crops. For all in financial difficulty that they may be totally*

## Join the Conversation!

We want to hear from you! Pastor Mandy has a blog on which she posts regularly. This blog is embedded right in our website at [www.holytrinity.net](http://www.holytrinity.net). Your feedback is wanted! Please come on in and check us out. At the bottom of each blog there is space for your comments. Let us hear from you.

## Treasurer's Report

*October 31, 2013*

|   | Holy Trinity Ministries | Wider Church |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Year to date received for current income</b> | \$297,874.58            | \$40,183.38  |
| <b>Carry over Benevolence from 2012</b>         |                         | \$18,967.88  |
| <b>Expenses paid to date</b>                    | \$335,125.37            | \$42,443.77  |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit) 2013</b>                   | \$ (37,250.79)          | \$16,707.49  |

## Support Us

Please consider a gift of appreciated securities to Holy Trinity as you do your tax planning for this year. You may direct questions about how to do this to Alan Hinkle at [alanhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:alanhinkle@comcast.net).

### NOTE TO SELF:

While shopping, pick up items for interfaith food pantry:

- pasta, spaghetti sauce
- tuna, canned meats
- cereal, powdered milk
- rice, chili, ravioli
- canned fruit, juice

### Keep in your prayers the following individuals serving in the armed forces:

Michael Boerner  
Christopher DiToro  
Matthew Gottschling  
Shaun Hall  
Eric Henderson  
Robert McKay  
Nathan Quinlan  
Timothy Quinlan  
Jeremy Zar





### ***Christmas Eve Worship***

6:30 P.M. — Family Service  
Holy Communion and  
Blessing of the Creche

9:00 P.M.  
Holy Communion



Kenneth A. Borah, Jr.  
Brian McDaniel  
Jill Trickel  
Caleb and Lynnae Douglas  
Peter and Kim Tummino  
Scott and Suzanne Brown  
Claire, Audrey and Cassidy

### **Our Christians Sympathy to:**

Dennis Doodan on the death of his wife, Susan.

Pastor Mike and Pastor Mandy on the death of Pastor Mike's aunt, Mary Myers.

### **Memorials**

Memorials have been received in the name of Jane Schmus.

## ***Knitting Group***

On the first Monday of each month at 10 A.M. the Ladies of Holy Trinity meet to enjoy each other's company and work on various sewing projects including putting Diane throws together for Martin Luther Silver Springs School. Come and learn something new. This is fun — You don't need to be a skilled seamstress. These projects benefit both children and adults.

Bring your friends and neighbors with you. All are welcome.

Any questions, please contact Maryjane Singley at [gmomsingley@comcast.net](mailto:gmomsingley@comcast.net).







October 29, 2013

Dear Parish Family,

Thank you so much for the warm affection and recognition that you showed us on Reformation Sunday. We appreciate being shown such gratitude for our 26-1/2 years of service as pastors of Holy Trinity. You can have no idea how much your kindness meant for us.

We cherish the prayer shawls you gave us to remind us that we are warmly remembered and prayed for. As we wrap them around ourselves, we feel your support and affection. How much that means! The wonderful lunch you threw for us and the gift cards you gave us for dinners out together was food for our spirit as well as for our bodies.

But especially we thank you for the time you took out of your life to write such kind and thoughtful notes for the beautiful scrapbook you gave us and to be present at the wonderful luncheon in our honor.

Thank you to each and every one of you, from the bottom of our hearts. Special thank you's to Council, Linda Cassady, Deb Mumford, Maryjane Singley and Charlie and Sue Tolton. It was a day we will long remember.

Fondly,

Pastor Mike and Pastor Mandy





October 29, 2013

Dear Holy Trinity friends,

Thank you so much for the outpouring of concern, support and prayers that you have given me through my latest challenge. Your cards, emails and calls helped keep my spirits lifted and in a positive place. Prayer is powerful. The prayer shawl was an added bonus that I will cherish and use.

In Christ and with appreciation,

Linda Bell-Powell

*You don't know how strong you are.....until being strong is the only choice you have.*

— Author unknown

November 15, 2013

Dear Holy Trinity family,

The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women would like to thank everyone who participated in the **Operation Christmas Child** Shoebox Ministry this year. With your help, we packed 107 shoeboxes that will wing their way to children around the world sharing with them the hope of Jesus. That's the largest number of shoeboxes we've packed since we began with the Samaritan's Purse project.

Whether you shopped for toys, school supplies or hygiene items or brought your empty shoeboxes to be filled, you were a part. If you cooked the breakfast or filled a box at the Packing Party, we thank you. A special thank you goes to Rich & Lois Hamilton who transported the filled boxes to a local collection site.

Thank you for your generosity in providing shoebox gifts. Each shoebox is an opportunity to bless a child in the name of Jesus.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women**



## GIANT GIFT CARDS

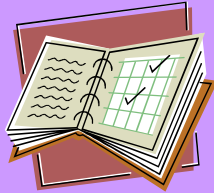
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women now have Giant Food Stores Gift Cards for purchase. The cards are available in denominations of \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00, \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00. If you are interested in obtaining Giant Gift Cards, there is an order form in the Narthex that can be completed and left in the box or turned into the Church office. (No money with order form please). Joy Alderfer is coordinating this project for HTLCW. She will complete your orders. Cash purchases are welcome, all checks for gift cards should be made payable to HTLCW. Joy will be available in Fellowship Hall after Church to take orders, payment and deliver cards.

HTLCW receives a 5% cash back award for each card sold which will go into our scholarship fund. Our scholarship fund is utilized to offset the cost of any LCW related function for any Church women who may want to attend but needs financial assistance.



## CHECK IT OUT

As the holiday season approaches, we are thankful that we have our Church Library to provide us with so many interesting books! Come share our joy and check out the Library located in the Chapel.



## SAVE THE DATE

Holy Trinity Women's Retreat

April 4 – 6, 2014

Mother Boniface

Retreat Center

*Please remember your Church in your will.*



## YOUNG ADULT LUTHERANS AND FRIENDS

7:00 pm — December 1st

**Come see what this new group is  
all about. Brings your friends.**

***FIRST Sunday of Every Month***



## Prayer Group

The Holy Trinity Women's Prayer Group began the 2013-14 activity year on Monday, September 16 and will continue to meet the first and third Mondays of each month onward. This is a time when women can share and pray together about the concerns and joys of their heart for themselves, their families, and their dear friends. We observe strict confidentiality.

We will gather at 7:30 p.m. at Rosemary Hinkle's home in the room over her garage. This space offers privacy. Coffee, tea, and dessert are served!

There is a core of women who come regularly, while several other women come as they can. Every woman is welcome! Please come as you are able. You may direct questions to Rosemary Hinkle at [Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net) or see the church directory for her address and phone number.

We are excitedly looking forward to what God will do with this time together.

*2013 Schedule  
December 2 & 16*



## Men's Devotional Group December 12

The Men's Devotional Group meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the Youth Room. If you've never joined us before, now is the time to start and see what we are all about! Hope to see you all there on December 12.



### Adult Christian Breakfast Fellowship

8:00 a.m.  
Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Speaker:  
Allan Shikhvarg

Topic:  
*The Day that Will Live in Infamy*

*A presentation by Allan Shikhvarg that will describe the events that happened on this fateful day 72 years ago as well as include the topic-related photographs of Pearl Harbor & Ford Island taken during his recent trip to Hawaii.*

Dear Parish Family,

Every year at Christmas time Holy Trinity's Lutheran Church Women offer the congregation the opportunity to contribute to a Christmas gift for Pastor Mike and Pastor Mandy. The monetary gift will be given to them on Christmas Eve.

Please use a brown/white pew envelope marked "**Pastors Gift**" and give it to one of the people listed below no later than Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. **NO CHECKS — CASH ONLY.**

Please do not put your contribution in the offering plate.

5:00 P.M. Saturday

Linda Cassady

9:00 A.M. Sunday

Janice Donnelly or

Sue Tolton



### 39RS Christmas Party December 4

Covered Dish  
Bring your favorite dish or dessert.

### Gift Exchange

Bring a wrapped gift — either edible or consumable

Price limit — \$2.00 - \$5.00

# MUSICA CONCORDIA

Jacqueline Smith, director

PRESENTS

## MUSIC FOR THE ADVENT SEASON



*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,  
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

Music of Bruckner, Handel, Mendelssohn, Stainer, Kile Smith,  
and others.

**Two performances:**

Saint Cecilia Church

535 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2013 4:00 PM**

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

2086 Parkview Ave., Abington, PA 19001

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2013 7:00 PM**

*No tickets required  
Free will offering will be accepted*

## **Through the Bible IN 90 DAYS**

90 days is all it takes to read through the whole Bible.

And of course you can do it! You just need an approach that makes sense.

**Here's the secret:** Forget about reading the whole Bible in three months. (That's a pretty formidable challenge). Instead think in these terms:

- 12 short pages a day
- About 45 minutes of your time
- Don't fall behind.

Suddenly it's not so hard.

We will be using a special New International Version (NIV) Translation, of The Bible in 90 Days, that was designed to help you accomplish your 90 day goal and reap some real dividends spiritually and practically in the process.

Why do this? Well, as someone who finds herself more and more impressed with the mysteries of life and less and less impressed with science and human explanations of those mysteries, I find a certain comfort in reading the Bible, with its miracles, feats of endurance, and obedience to God.

Although Holy Trinity had for years read through the Bible in a Year, last year some of us decided to try reading the Bible in 90 Days for the first time. Reading through the Bible in 90 days makes the Bible read like a novel! You ask different questions. We loved it! So we're doing it again in 2014. People who have already done this once are welcome back.

We will meet together weekly to discuss how the reading is going and what we are learning about God and the meaning of human life.

Start Date: January 14, 2014 (I will give out the Bibles today)

Meeting Dates: Every Tuesday, January 14, 2013 - April 15, 2014

Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**If you're interested, sign up on the sheet in the narthex.**

**You can use any Bible you want, but I would recommend The Bible in 90 Days version or a Contemporary English Version. (Do not use a paraphrase like The Living Bible or The Message)**

**Cost of the Bible through me will be \$20.00. (You can order one yourself on Amazon for less than \$5. You can also order a Bible in 90 Days for your e-reader.)**

## The Society of the Hours

The Society of the Hours is a new parish organization that will devote itself to the Daily Office. The first meeting of the Society will be on Sunday, January 19, after Sunday School. Lunch will be served. Members are asked to contribute \$6.00 for the cost of lunch.

The Society of the Hours exists to:

- 1) encourage the daily recitation of the Divine Office by individuals according to evangelical and catholic principles found in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.
- 2) recite the appropriate Office when the Society meets.
- 3) promote daily use of the Psalms in the Society and the congregation
- 4) emphasize the spiritual value of silence
- 5) give historical, theological, liturgical, and biblical instruction on the prayer offices.
- 6) provide opportunities for the congregation to participate in the Liturgy of the Hours in the chapel of the Good Shepherd and encourage attendance at the Prayer Offices prepared and planned by the Director of Music and choir.
- 7) meet once a month from September to May and once during the summer.

The Offices observed are

- 1) Matins/ Lauds
- 2) Terce/Sext/None—the little offices during the day.
- 3) Vespers
- 4) Compline



## Christmas Hymns & Beer

Sunday, December 29, 2013

6:30 – 9:00

Hop Angel Brauhaus

7980 Oxford Ave.

Fox Chase, Philadelphia

Another evening of fun and witness at the Hop Angel Brauhaus, famous for its fine selection of beers,, but this time with Christmas carols and hymns!

We're starting half an hour earlier to give people time to settle in and get something to eat and drink before singing begins around 7:00.

Invite your friends, eat and drink (we buy our own food and drink individually), and join in the singing as the Christmas season rolls on.

No admittance charge.





# Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity

In December, along with other Christians around the world, we celebrate two seasons: Advent and Christmas. While department stores and radio stations and everywhere else imaginable are saturated with Christmas carols during the entire Advent season, we reserve these for the season of Christmas (12 days of Christmas, not one day!). So we always have a Sunday morning or two to also sing Christmas carols before Epiphany (January 6).

Advent has its own beautiful and soulful hymns that match the lessons for our Advent services. The Advent themes are watchful waiting, longing for the Savior, the watchman on the wall, the wise and foolish virgins, the people in darkness needing to be comforted, lifting high the gates for the Savior to come in, preparing our hearts and preparing the way before Him...I get goosebumps just thinking about these lessons and these hymns.

And then Christmas Eve arrives and we sing all the famous, beloved carols. We sing several before the service with accompaniment of brass, strings, and bells along with the organ. In the service we enter with *the* Christmas entrance hymn—“O Come, All Ye Faithful” —calling us to worship. We leave with the mighty exhortation “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice,” which recounts the Gospel truths we have heard proclaimed in our Christmas Eve service: now we need not fear the grave, Christ is born.... In all are 16 Christmas hymns, sung either as straight hymns, or used in the liturgical setting we use that night, and only that night.

And what about that liturgical setting for Christmas Eve? We have our very own Christmas setting of Holy Communion—all the normal parts—Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus (Holy, Holy). Of course we will sing these, because we are not performing a Christmas concert, not putting on a Christmas program. No, we are at worship—hearing the Word proclaimed in lesson and sermon, and receiving our Lord’s body and blood. As Lutherans, we know that the words of our liturgy are irreplaceable. The Gloria alone contains the essential doctrines of our faith: the sacrifice of Christ to take away the sins of the world, Christ’s identity as the Son of God seated on the right hand of the Father, and the teaching about the persons of the Holy Trinity.

But rather than using LBW settings of the Holy Communion which we use most of the regular Sundays, we have a distinctive Christmas Holy Communion which uses tunes and portions of texts from other parts of the Christmas section in the hymnal. You can look these up!

Our Kyrie is taken from a famous Christmas chant (“O Savior of Our Fallen Race”, LBW 49). It includes the Kyrie text with interpolations from this hymn, which expresses our need of a savior.

The Gloria is taken from LBW 47 (“Let All Together Praise Our God”). This important Lutheran Christmas hymn is not a typical carol known by Americans, but I would encourage you to take an LBW and look it up—read the wonderful text which teaches our faith in a very complete way. The text and tune are by Nicolaus Herman, an important hymnwriter from the Reformation period. Like Luther, he used hymns to

express Christian beliefs. This was the function of the early Lutheran hymn—to put song back into the mouths of the congregation and to have that song teach them vital truths of which there was great ignorance in the 1500s.

We use two verses of Luther’s Christmas hymn, LBW 51 (“From Heaven Above”) as responses. This is another hymn which is well worth getting your LBW and taking a look at. Luther wrote this for his own children to sing. It contains the entire Christmas story along with a verse making it all very personal: “O dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, a holy shrine, within my heart. That You and I need never part.”

The Sanctus incorporates LBW 42 (“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”), an early chant hymn with Sanctus-like text about adoration by every tongue on earth along with the hosts of heaven. We also use other verses of this as responses.

At Communion we use “What Child is This” (LBW 40) because of its text about nails and spear piercing Him through, and His bearing the cross, “for me, for you.”

The Christmas Eve Psalm 98 also incorporates melody from “What Child is This.”

The Alleluia quotes the tune of “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (LBW 45).

Our unofficial composer-in-residence, Kile Smith, who has composed so many Alleluias, Psalm settings, anthems, hymntunes for Pastor Mike’s wonderful hymns, and a responsory here and an antiphon or canticle there (sometimes on very short notice!) has put together this wonderful liturgical setting (he did our Easter setting too) so that we would have a special, Christmas setting. This was not done with the idea that it would be good for one time and next year we’ll have another one. Just like the LBW settings, it is well-written music that lasts (with hours and hours put into it, as you can imagine), that we use from year to year, and only on this night. It is our Christmas liturgical setting.

I look forward to our 2013 Christmas Eve services. The Family Service at 6:30 is always joyous and lovely with the pageant and the young children in church. The 9 pm service is a great celebration of the Feast of the Nativity. We pack as much music into it as we can to celebrate our Savior’s birth. But the music is always in service to the Word, because that is the Lutheran way. It is not a concert, nor a program. It is not an Anglican Lessons and Carols, but a service of Holy Communion.

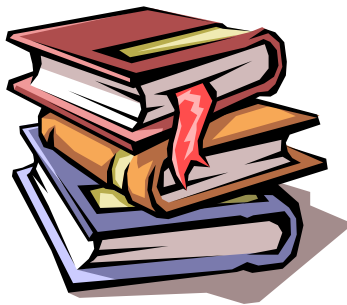
We hope visitors will come and enjoy the service, and that friends and family will join us. God will speak to them as well as to us, through a faithful proclamation of His Word—He’s promised that, and it can come only from Him, not from our feeble efforts to enchant or inspire. Our purpose that night is to worship our Lord, to joy in our Savior’s birth, and to receive His gifts of Word and sacrament.

**Congratulations** to Kile Smith who just received word that his choral work “Where Flames a Word” is one of ten winners of the 2014 ORTUS International New Music Competition. Khorikos, a professional chamber chorus in New York City, will perform it, along with the other winning pieces, on March 8, 2014, at St. Anthony’s in Soho, New York City.

More than 600 scores were submitted from all over the world, and the winning composers represent six different countries.

“Where Flames a Word” was commissioned, premiered, and recorded by Philadelphia’s The Crossing. The Crossing is also the chorus which premiered and recorded Kile’s “Vespers.”

A brief music video about each winning composition will be showcased at *khorikos.com* in the coming months, and on the evening of the performance, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be chosen through “votes, digital reach, audience feedback and general buzz.”



Coram Deo *invites you to...*

An evening with Rabbi Leib at Temple Beth Am  
Tuesday, January 14 at 7:30pm

We will be discussing Christian and Jewish symbols in art and literature found in the book *My Name is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potak. You are not required to read the book beforehand.

**\*\*Join us for a lively and thought provoking discussion.\*\***

We will meet at the church at 7:00 and carpool to Beth Am.

*Calling all...*

## Women of Holy Trinity

We would love to have you attend one of the Women's Groups, "circles" listed below. If you are already in a circle, then we look forward to seeing you at our December gatherings. If you are new to Holy Trinity or have not yet visited a circle, then we hope you will select a circle to visit this month. You will enjoy lively discussions of Bible-based topics, refreshments and social time. For more information, contact any of the circle leaders listed below.

### Scary Ghost Stories and Tales of the Glories

**Taking a break from our regular bible study, the Women's Ministry groups will meet in December for Christmas hospitality and cheer. Check the listing for times and places for each group. It's a wonderful time for you to meet up with your regular circle or stop in to visit one.**

**Our Special Christmas Devotion has been pulled from the Holy Trinity archives. Compiled in 1987, it is a treasure of members' personal stories and poems from their most memorable Christmases. While they are not *scary ghost stories*, they do touch on the *glories of Christmases long, long ago*. Several members at that time submitted remembrances from a Christmas they would never forget. Each story is filled with the hope that we feel during our Advent preparations leading up to Christmas celebrations.**

**Take some time to share a few of these stories in your Circle. Some of you may even be able to share the story you submitted years ago, or add a few more "most memorable Christmas" stories during your time together.**

### December Meetings:

**EVE: Thursday, Dec 12, 7:30 P.M., the Parlor.**

**Circle leader, Sue Tolton: 215-659-7054**

**HANNAH: Wednesday, Dec 18, 7:30 P.M., at the home of Maryann Leventhal**

**Circle leader, Cindy Biehl: 267-475-5435**

**MIRIAM: Monday, Dec. 9, 12:30 P.M., in Fellowship Hall,**

**Circle leader, Ruth McCandless: 215-682-2034.**

**RUTH: Wednesday, Dec 11, 7:30 PM at the home of**

**Michele Muller, 215-657-5497**

**Circle leader, Nancy Necker, 215-884-2123.**

**SARAH: Thursday, Dec 12, 12:00 noon, the Parlor,**

**Circle leader, Judi Reeder: 215-431-7265**

**The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women Present:**

**Personal Care Kit and Fabric Kit Sunday – February 9, 2014**

**The Women of Holy Trinity will once again be assembling personal care kits for  
Lutheran World Relief**

**Each personal care kit contains the following:**

- 1 – New, light to medium weight bath size towel (approximately 52" X 27" or smaller, dark colors recommended)**
- 2 – Bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original packaging.**
- 1 – Adult size toothbrush, in original packaging.**
- 1 –Sturdy Comb, remove packaging.**
- 1 – Metal nail clipper, with or without attached file, remove packaging.**

**NEW THIS YEAR – Fabric Kits:**

**Each kit contains:**

**2 - Spools of matching or neutral colored general purpose thread, 200-300 yards each.**



**2 – Pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Each piece should match one of the following sizes:**

- 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide fabric, or**
- 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or**
- 4 yards of 36" wide fabric**

**If you would like to donate items for either type of kit, there will be a collection basket in the Narthex. Monetary contributions can be placed in a brown pew envelope marked "personal care/fabric kits".**

**Thank you for your generosity!**





The **39RS** is a group of senior men and women who meet in Fellowship Hall at noon on the first Wednesday of the month. They share lunch together and then enjoy an entertaining or enlightening program . This group is not restricted to Holy Trinity members. Bring your friends or family members with you. The more the merrier.

Contact Maryjane Singley at [gmomsingley@comcast.net](mailto:gmomsingley@comcast.net)

## SILVER SPRINGS GOOD BEHAVIOIR STORE



We will be collecting items for the Silver Springs Good Behavior Store.

Please take a wrapped Christmas gift, unwrap the gift, recycle the box (for the real Christmas gift) purchase the gift and drop the item off in the box in the Narthex.

Thank you for your support.  
Stephen Leventhal and Brendan Rowley



### Adult Christian Breakfast Fellowship

*(All Adults Invited)*

When: First Saturday of the Month

Time: 8:00 A.M.

Topics and Speakers:

Diverse and interesting topics and speakers are offered each month.

*Join us for breakfast and fellowship.*



### Holy Trinity Blood Drive

## SAVE THE DATE

Friday, January 24, 2014

To donate blood or if you have any questions, contact Marilyn Murphy at 215-659-2008

## 2013 Social Ministry Holiday Appeals

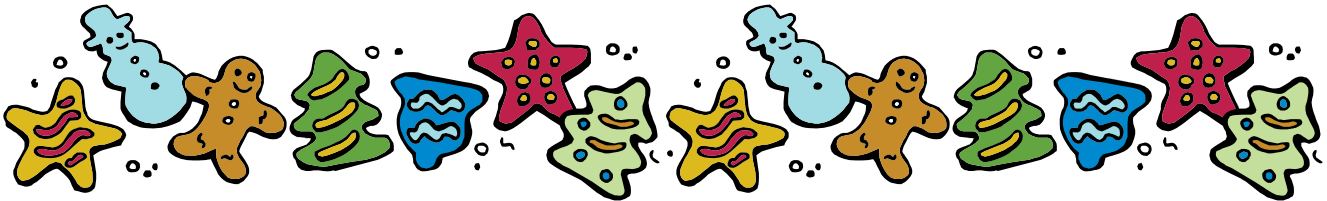


Brighten the holiday season for those who will be receiving Inter-Faith food by contributing money to purchase food certificates to be added to the bags distributed between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please place contributions in the pew envelopes and mark **"Food Baskets"**.



We invite you to share your love and care by picking up a suggestion in the Narthex and purchasing the suggested item for the Good Behavior Store at SS/ML School. Purchases should be placed in the narthex by December 25<sup>th</sup>. Contributions provide positive motivation for the children to learn appropriate ways of acting.

Thank you so very much for extending God's love to others...may your holidays be ones of love, joy and peace as you acknowledge this blessed Season.



The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women  
Cordially invite you to join them in:

### "Cookies and Caroling"

Come one, come all and join in the fun...  
We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM  
on Friday, December 13

We will carol around the neighborhood spreading Christmas Joy.  
When we are done caroling we will return to Fellowship Hall to enjoy snacks and beverages.

**We hope you will join us!!!**

## **Advent Family Night – December 8, 2013**

**4:00 PM: In the Sanctuary - Advent Vespers for the whole family, followed by a period of Lectio Divina which Pastor Mike will lead.**

**5:00 PM: Dinner in Fellowship Hall**

**6:00 PM: Tuckers Tales in the Sanctuary**



**Come join your Holy Trinity Family to celebrate the start of Advent.  
Come enjoy Advent Vespers for the whole family, and then move to  
Fellowship Hall for dinner.**

**Dinner includes baked ziti, salad and dessert.**

**Cost: \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family**

**After dinner stay and enjoy the Tucker Tales Puppet Show  
at 6:00 PM**

**Look for a flyer in the Narthex to sign up for this fun event!**



## Why are Poinsettias the Flower of Christmas?

Bright, flaming red, star-shaped Poinsettias are known as “The Flower of the Holy Night” or the “Flame Leaf Christmas Star” in the United States.

One of the most popular flowers in Central America, it was brought here by Dr. Joel Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico, over 100 years ago. The legend of the Poinsettia also comes from Mexico and explains how this flower came to represent the deep love of innocent hearts shown, by poor children, for the Baby Jesus.

Once upon a time, two very poor children lived in a village in Mexico. They were a brother and sister named Maria and Pablo. Just like all the other children in the village, Maria and Pablo looked forward to the special Christmas parade and the annual Nativity play. During this Nativity play, a large manger scene was set up in the village church. All the children of the village marched in the Christmas parade to bring their presents to the Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

Maria and Pablo loved Jesus and the season of His birth very much, but they had no money to buy a gift for Him. That evening as they walked to join the other children in the Christmas parade, they took the long route in hopes that they might be

able to find some flower blossoms to lay before the manger of the Christ Child. But they couldn't find any.

Although they were sad at heart and quite disheartened by their poverty, they picked the prettiest green leaves they could find, squared their shoulders, and joined the parade of children. The other children teased them cruelly for bringing “weeds” to the Christ Child, yet Pablo and Maria braved their way to the Nativity Scene, knelt in worship, and placed the greenery carefully around the manger. As the children lifted their heads, a miracle occurred. Bright red star-shaped flowers burst forth from the greens and were the most beautiful of all the gifts that the Christ Child had received that day.

## Poinsettia Order for Christmas Eve

**Deadline – December 9, 2013**

\_\_\_ Red Poinsettias @ \$8.00 apiece

\_\_\_ White Poinsettias @ \$8.00 apiece

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Dedicate or memorialize as follows (if desired):

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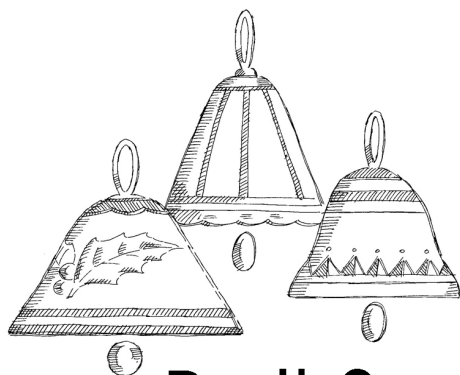
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Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number (If known) \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose order and payment in brown pew envelope marked “Poinsettias” and place in offering plate. Make checks payable to: Holy Trinity.)



# Bell Sunday

*Mark your calendar!*  
The Sunday after Christmas Day

is

Bell Sunday  
at the morning service

Bring a small bell with you from home.  
Any kind of bell is OK.

The Sunday after Christmas Day is **Bell Sunday**. Everyone is encouraged to bring a small bell from home. These bells are to be rung throughout the liturgy and the hymns of the worship service on the first Sunday following Christmas.

The ringing of bells during Christian worship is an ancient custom. We ring bells in obedience to God's command to "make a joyful noise," as a sign that something supernatural is happening in our midst, and as a way to celebrate the defeat of evil through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You are encouraged to ring your bells every time you hear (or sing) Gloria, "Holy, holy, holy", Praise, or any reference to joy, bells, singing, ringing, angels, celebration, or Jesus Christ.

Don't forget your Bells!



**Holy Trinity's Sunday School Program** sponsors two children from other countries. We wanted to tell you a little bit about them.

Victor Gabriel de Oliveira Batista is 16 years old. Victor is from Brazil.

Tanya Janrong who is 15 years old is from Thailand.

So that you can get to know them a little better, we have included translations of two letters from Victor. Also Tanya sent us a picture she had drawn which was too light to scan.

**22 July 2013**

**I am writing this letter to tell you that things are going well for me and my family.**

**I also want to tell you that I am taking a vocational course at the project and I have enjoyed it a lot and I want to begin to work and help my parents and my siblings. I also want to tell you that my birthday was a very special date for me and I spent it with my family and my girlfriends. It was so nice. With the 90 dollar gift you sent me (that in Brazilian currency corresponds to 85.12 reais) and I will give it to my mother to pay for some foods bills.**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, I want to thank you for the gift you sent me and I wish you and your family go with God. I thank you very much.**

**Victor Gabriel de O Batista**

**22 October 2013**

**Rosemary, Thank you for the letter.**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran, Thank you for the card.**

**My family and I thank you for remembering this very special day for me. I celebrated my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday with my family and friends. The special date in my city is October 12 when we celebrate Children's Day. The special date for my country is September 7<sup>th</sup>, Brazil's Independence Day.**

**It's sunny here in Belo Horizonte now. We're in summer. It doesn't snow here but gets foggy. I like our weather here very much. I'm in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and my favorite subjects are Portuguese and physical education. I'm having difficulties in English, Spanish and math. I like sports and my favorite ones are soccer and flying kites.**

**Thank you for your love towards me.**

**Victor Gabriel**

### December 1

|                             |   |                       |                                 |                            |  |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Usher</b>                | 2 | <b>Greeter</b>        | Judi Reeder and Kevan Berkovitz | <b>Presenters of Gifts</b> | Susan, Ryan & Matthew Schied             |
| <b>Count</b>                | 1 | <b>Acolyte</b>        | Audrey Brown                    | <b>Gate</b>                | Kevan Berkovitz                          |
| <b>Christophers</b>         | 4 | <b>Crucifer</b>       | Michael LaRocca                 | <b>Cushion</b>             | Deb Mumford                              |
| <b>Prayer Ministry Team</b> | 5 | <b>Lay Reader-Sat</b> | Linda Cassady                   | <b>Communion Assistant</b> | Jean Raiguel and Charles Tolton          |
|                             |   | <b>Lay Reader-Sun</b> | Linda Bell-Powell               | <b>Trays Setup</b>         | Alan Hinkle & Terry Rowley<br>Bob Berger |

### December 8

|                             |   |                       |                 |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Usher</b>                | 3 | <b>Greeter</b>        | Schied Family   | <b>Presenters of Gifts</b>  | Tina Bednarczyk, Terri and Ely Nilsen |
| <b>Count</b>                | 2 | <b>Acolyte</b>        | William Breslin | <b>Gate</b>                 |                                       |
| <b>Christophers</b>         | 5 | <b>Crucifer</b>       | Dan Dewald      | <b>Cushion</b>              |                                       |
| <b>Prayer Ministry Team</b> | 1 | <b>Lay Reader-Sat</b> | Katie Beyer     | <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Linda Frezza and Ann Frey             |
|                             |   | <b>Lay Reader-Sun</b> | Nancy Berkovitz | <b>Setup</b>                | Tina Bednarczyk                       |

### December 15

|                             |   |                       |                      |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Usher</b>                | 4 | <b>Greeter</b>        | Chris and Tony Quici | <b>Presenters of Gifts</b>  | Russ, Jane & Ken Tredinnick |
| <b>Count</b>                | 3 | <b>Acolyte</b>        | Lauren Caputo        | <b>Gate</b>                 |                             |
| <b>Christophers</b>         | 1 | <b>Crucifer</b>       | Eugenia Connelly     | <b>Cushion</b>              |                             |
| <b>Prayer Ministry Team</b> | 2 | <b>Lay Reader-Sat</b> | Bill Riehm           | <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Milt and Sigrid Cannan      |
|                             |   | <b>Lay Reader-Sun</b> | Dorothy Erb          | <b>Setup</b>                | Sue Tolton                  |

### December 22

|                             |   |                       |                            |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Usher</b>                | 5 | <b>Greeter</b>        | Sandra Powell and Ann Frey | <b>Presenters of Gifts</b>  | Deb and Sami Mumford and Brendan Rowley |
| <b>Count</b>                | 4 | <b>Acolyte</b>        | Nicole Miller              | <b>Gate</b>                 |   |
| <b>Christophers</b>         | 2 | <b>Crucifer</b>       | Hannah Seaver              | <b>Cushion</b>              |   |
| <b>Prayer Ministry Team</b> | 3 | <b>Lay Reader-Sat</b> | Linda Cassady              | <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Gil Zimmermann<br>Tom Schied            |
|                             |   | <b>Lay Reader-Sun</b> | Barbara Harris             | <b>Setup</b>                | Michele Muller                          |

### December 29

|                             |   |                       |                         |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Usher</b>                | 1 | <b>Greeter</b>        | Linda and Don Borkowski | <b>Presenters of Gifts</b>  | Charles & Sue Tolton and Linda Frezza |
| <b>Count</b>                | 5 | <b>Acolyte</b>        | Hannah Mumford          | <b>Gate</b>                 |                                       |
| <b>Christophers</b>         | 3 | <b>Crucifer</b>       | Martina Smith           | <b>Cushion</b>              |                                       |
| <b>Prayer Ministry Team</b> | 4 | <b>Lay Reader-Sat</b> | John Maieron            | <b>Communion Assistants</b> | Jim and Nancy Necker                  |
|                             |   | <b>Lay Reader-Sun</b> | Nancy Ischinger         | <b>Setup</b>                | Maryanne Leventhal                    |

### December 24

|  |  |                       |                     |                                      |   |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Usher</b><br>6:30 - #3<br>9:00 - #4 |  | <b>Lay Reader</b>     | H. Richard Hamilton | <b>Presenters of Gifts 6:30 9:00</b> | Martina Smith, Sami Mumford and Brendan Rowley<br>Dick & Dottie Erb and Terry Mitchell<br>6:30 Linda Borkowski<br>Ann Frey & D. Dudenbostel |
|  |  | <b>Greeters: 9:00</b> | Rowley Family       | <b>Comm Asst</b>                     |   |

# December 2013

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday                                       | Wednesday                              | Thursday  | Friday        | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|--|---|---------------|---|
| 1 ADVENT 1<br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS<br>7:00 Young Adults Group   | 2<br>10:00 Sewing Group<br>6:00 Daisy Troop<br>7:30 Women's Prayer Group    | 3   | 4<br>Noon 39RS<br>7:30 Council Meeting | 5<br>6:30 Handbells<br>8:00 Chancel Choir   | 6<br>7:30 AA  | 7<br>8:00 Adult Christian<br>Breakfast Fellowship<br>5:00 Holy Communion<br>7:00 AA<br>BUS TRIP |
| 8 ADVENT 2<br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS<br>4:00 Family Vespers<br>5:00 Family Night<br>Dinner in Fellowship Hall<br>6:30 Tuckers Tales | 9<br>12:30 Miriam Circle  | 10  | 11<br>7:30 Ruth Circle                 | 12<br>Noon Sarah Circle<br>7:00 Men's Devotional<br>7:30 Eve Circle<br>6:30 Handbells<br>8:00 Chancel Choir | 13<br>7:30 AA | 14<br>5:00 Holy Communion<br>7:00 AA  |
| 15 ADVENT 3<br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS   | 16<br>6:00 Daisy Troop<br>7:30 Women's Prayer Group<br>SHOP & COOK FOR AIDS | 17<br>DELIVER AIDS DINNER                     | 18<br>7:30 Hannah Circle               | 19<br>6:30 Handbells<br>8:00 Chancel Choir  | 20<br>7:30 AA | 21<br>5:00 Holy Communion<br>7:00 AA  |
| 22 ADVENT 4<br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS<br>7:00 Musica Concordia<br>Advent Concert  | 23  | 24<br>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES<br>6:30 and 9:00 | 25<br>CHRISTMAS DAY                    | 26<br>OFFICE CLOSED   | 27<br>7:30 AA | 28<br>5:00 Holy Communion<br>7:00 AA  |
| 29 CHRISTMAS 1<br>9:00 Holy Communion<br>6:30 Hymns & Beer<br>Hop Angel Brauhaus   | 30  | 31  |  |   |               |   |