

# HOLY TRINITY

## Evangelical Lutheran Church

# ECHOES NEWSLETTER

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

**December, 2014**

*In This Issue:*

***From the Pastors - pg. 1-2***

***Prayer List - pg. 3***

***Letters - pg. 12***

***Worship Assts Schedule -  
pg. 30***

***Calendar - pg.31***

### ***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. Deborah Mumford,

*Parish Secretary*

### ***Worship Services***

Saturday at 5 pm

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,

The Christian life is one of thanksgiving to God. We not only thank the people who have done us a service, but the One Who stands behind every person and thing, the Creator who not only brings us into being but sustains us in being. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."  
(James 1: 17 ESV)

Only one leper in ten returned to Jesus to give thanks to God. (Luke 17: 11ff) He was healed in body and soul. He knew the source of the great gift given to him, deliverance from a wretched disease and return to the community from which he had been ostracized. He praised and thanked God. May we be like him in our praise and thanks.

Christians show gratitude to God for His gifts. Luther says it well in *The Small Catechism*. In his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther writes, "I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day." Remembering these gifts and where they come from, I should "... thank and praise, serve and obey him." (Martin Luther, *The Small Catechism*. Augsburg/Fortress, 1979, p. 11) In his explanation of the Second and Third Articles of the Apostles' Creed, Luther reminds us that God has redeemed us in Christ, giving us the Holy Spirit so that we may believe that Christ is our Savior. His gifts are expressed in all three articles.

*Continued on page 2*

## From the Pastors

*Continued from pg. 1*

In this season when we observe the national holiday of Thanksgiving, we Christians are witnesses to its importance and meaning. We give thanks to God for all His gifts. As we continue into the season of Advent, let us wait in hope for the return of Christ at the end of time and for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child at Bethlehem. Let us give thanks for the greatest gift ever given in the history of humankind, Emmanuel, God with us, our Lord Jesus Christ, and praise God for our hope that looks forward to the fulfillment of the Lord's promises in the coming of the Son of Man.

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Michael G. Tavella  
The Rev. N. Amanda Grimmer

# 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.



## 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.





# Healing Prayer Ministry

After the 5:00 P.M. Saturday Service, and after the 9:00 A.M. Sunday Service, trained 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.



## Womens' Prayer group

The Holy Trinity Women's Prayer Group resumes on Monday, December 1st and will continue to meet the first and third Mondays of each month onward. We gather at 7:30 pm in the room over Rosemary Hinkle's garage. (See church directory for phone number and address) This space offers privacy. Coffee, tea, and dessert are served! Every woman is welcome, please come as you are able. Questions contact Rosemary@

[Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net)

Remainder of 2014 Schedule

Dec 1 Join us in the Youth Room at 7:30 pm

Dec 15 No meeting

## Prayer List

**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, Alicia, Allan, Allyson, Althea, Amanda, Amber, Amy, Angelika, Aniah, Anna, Anne, Antoinette, Art, Augusto, Barbara, Becca, Beth, Betty, Bill, Bob, Brandy, Brian, Brianna, Bridget, Bruce, Callie, Carol, Cassidy, Cheri, Chris, Christopher, Clyde, Colleen, Daliliah, David, Dean, Derek, Don, Doug, Drew, Earl, Elaine, Ellsworth, Eric, Erin, F. Joseph, Foster, Frank, Gary, George, Gene, Gerald, Gloria, Hannah, Harry, Hazel, Heidi, Helen, Herb, Holly, Ingrid, Jackie, Jason, Jean, Jeanne, Jen, Jennifer, Jill, Joanne, Joe, John, Joshua, Judy, Julianne, Julius, Kathy, Kevan, Larry, Linda, Lee, Lori, Lucia, Maralyn, Marge, Mariah, Mariliz, Marlene, Maryanne, Mary Ann, Maureen, Matt, Max, Megan, Nate, Nancy, Nedra, Nicky, Nik, Pat, Paul, Rebecca, Reed, Renee, Rick, Roopa, Rudi, Ruth, Samantha, Sean, Sheila, Sue, Suzy, Scarlett, Scott, Stephanie, Steven, Tara, Terri, Tim, TJ, Tony, Tyler, Vern, Wanda, Wayne, 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: The Anderson, Arrue, Bell, Bell-Powell, Berkovitz, Biehl, Benincasa, Borger, Boyer, Del Vecchio, Dewald, Drobish, Eisenmann, Eley, Foley, Frame, Hanzlick, Heeter, Johnson, Kelly, Kennedy, Koehler, Langan, Lee, Powell, Matteo, MacErlean, McKelvey, Praschil, Reeder, Ryan, Sawick, Sayles, Sears, Selman, Schmidt, Shippon, Singrella, Stanton, Timson, Walker, Wilson 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 that He would please send workers into the Harvest.

For all who are chronically ill and/or shut-in. For the sick and the grieving.

For all congregations of the NALC. For all travelers and for the dying.

For the military and their families. The unemployed, the 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 the faith throughout the world. For the 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 restored.

## 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, 2014*

	Holy Trinity Ministries	Wider Church
<b>Year to date received for current income</b>	\$323,397.72	\$36,377.28
<b>Carry over Benevolence from 2013</b>		\$ 398.26
<b>Expenses paid to date</b>	\$349,122.15	\$33,845.00
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) 2014</b>	\$(25,724.43)	\$ 2,930.54

**Please remember your  
Church in your will.**



### NOTE TO SELF:

While shopping, pick up items for Interfaith Food Pantry:

Rice, beef stew, canned meats and canned fruit.

As well as items for a Christmas meal like mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, corn, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie and non-food items such as paper towels, toilet tissue, tooth paste, body wash, soap and laundry soap.

## 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 @ [alanhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:alanhinkle@comcast.net)

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

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





**Our Hearts  
go out to...**



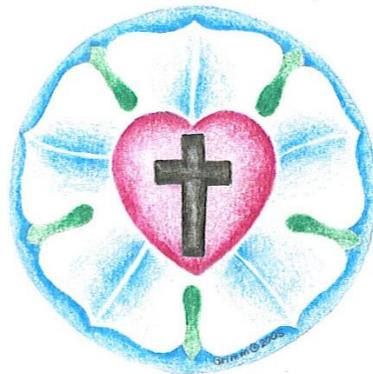
Our Christian Sympathy to  
The Blankenberg Family on the  
death of Manetta, family matriarch,  
whose memorial service was Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Sandy (Yoder) Miller and family  
on the death of her father, William Yoder.

The Getty Family on the death of Ruth Getty.

Psalm 112:6

“For the righteous will never be moved; they will  
be remembered forever.”



**Memorials have been received**

In memory of Herb Selman

In memory of Margaret Kennedy

In memory of Marilyn Zimmermann



## 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 15, 2014**

\_\_\_ Red Poinsettias @ \$10.00 apiece

\_\_\_ White Poinsettias @ \$10.00 apiece

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

Dedicate or memorialize as follows (if desired):

---

---

---

---

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

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

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

# MUSICA CONCORDIA

Jacqueline Smith, director

*presents*

## MUSIC FOR THE ADVENT SEASON



Music of Brahms, Bruckner, Pachelbel, Stainer, and others  
with guest artists

Brian Freer, alto saxophone and Elena Smith, cello

### **Two performances:**

Saint Cecilia Church

535 Rhawn St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014 4:00 PM**

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

2086 Parkview Ave., Abington, PA 19001

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014 7:00 PM**

*No tickets required      Free will offering will be accepted*

# Christmas Eve Worship



*Celebrate with us  
the joyous occasion of  
our Lord and Savior's birth*

Worship at

*6:30 pm- Family Service  
Holy Communion  
and Blessing of the Creche*

*9:00 pm- Holy Communion*



## **It's that time of year again!**

Holy Trinity will begin the drive to stock the shelves of the Martin Luther-Silver Springs Positive Behavior Store.

Beginning Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> the Christmas tree will be out in the Narthex and wrapped presents will be available for everyone to take home. Within the wrapped present are the typical suggestions for purchase such as: stuffed animals, basketball and footballs, puzzles, crayons and coloring books, board games and card games.

The wish list from Martin Luther-Silver Springs also included some more expensive options that may be a perfect match for some members of the congregation. If any member is interested in giving one of these items, please contact me at any time. These items are not under the tree with the other suggestions, but are still welcomed throughout this collection.

**Merry Christmas!**

**Brendan Rowley**



**39'RS**



## **Christmas Party**

**December 3rd**

**Covered Dish**

**Bring your favorite dish or dessert.**



**Gift Exchange**

**Bring a wrapped gift-- edible or consumable**

**Price limit — \$2.00 - \$5.00**



# 39RS

## 2014-2015

December 3, 2014

Lunch: Christmas Party  
Covered Dish- bring your favorite dish or dessert  
Gift Exchange: Bring a wrapped gift-  
either edible or consumable ( price limit \$2 - \$5)

January 7, 2015

Lunch: Brownbag your own lunch  
Speaker: Susan Adler  
Topic: The Singing Revolution-Baltics struggle  
for Independence 1987-1991

February 4, 2015

Lunch: Brownbag your own lunch  
Speaker: George Powell  
Topic: Civil War in Movies- The Reel Civil War

March 4, 2015

Lunch: Brownbag your own lunch  
Speaker: Deborah Olcese/ Colleen Rosica  
Topic: Ann's Choice

April 1, 2015

Lunch: Brownbag your own lunch  
Speaker: Judi and Earl Reeder  
Topic: Israel

May 6, 2015

Lunch: Brownbag your own lunch  
Speaker: Lynn Watters  
Topic: Remarkable American Women-  
A Woman's Place

June 3, 2015

Lunch: Brownbag your own lunch  
Topic: Murder Mystery Game  
"Cross your Heart and Hope to die"



## NOTES OF THANKS



Dear Holy Trinity Family,

I want to thank everyone for all of the prayers, meals, cards, phone calls, and visits during my recent foot surgery and recovery. I especially want to thank all of the people who provided delicious meals for us the first two weeks after my surgery. It was truly a huge help. Many thanks to Pastor Mike for coming out and giving me Holy Communion, and to Nancy Necker and Sandy and Al Schmidt for bringing the beautiful Altar Flowers. I also want to thank Linda Cassady for loaning me a walker & cane, which were so helpful, and for taping our Tuesday night Bible Study each week so I could keep up with the class. Most of all I thank God who has blessed me with such a wonderful, caring church family.

Your sister in Christ,  
Sue Tolton

Oct. 21, 2014

Dear Holy Trinity Friends,

Thank you very much for hosting another successful party for the boys and girls of Silver Springs. Everyone had a fantastic time! I've enclosed some notes from the children so you can hear it directly from them ! Thank you also for the Campbell's soup labels. We love to receive and redeem them. We are so grateful for Holy Trinity Abington's continued friendship and support of our ministry. You are truly one of our blessings!

Sincerely,  
Amanda Bryant.



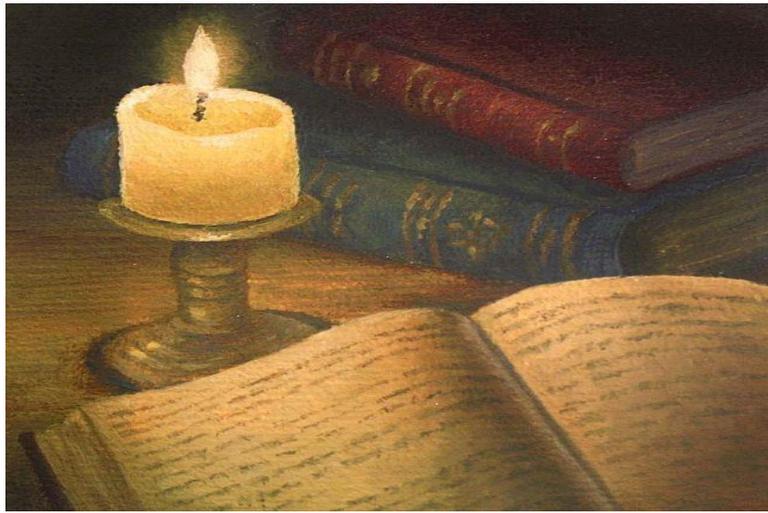


### GIFT CARDS

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.

Thank you for your support.



**Merry Christmas from the Library Staff.  
We now have available for loan  
a giant print Holy Bible.  
We pray you will remember to use  
the library in the New Year 2015.**



**Congratulations to Pat and John Minges!  
On the birth of their new grandson  
To daughter Mariah & Christian Klusman**

**On November 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am**

**Welcome to God's world little  
Spencer Harry Klusman**



## 2014 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"***.



Add Holy Trinity's warmth and cheer for children with parents in prison (Angel Tree) by giving to the annual Christmas Appeal. Please place your offerings in a **pew envelope** by Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and mark ***"Christmas Appeal"***.



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.



### Directions for the “Diane Throws” Rectangles

- Rectangles will measure 8 inches by 55 inches
- Each row uses a knit stitch
- Please make sure that the length is measured on a flat surface to ensure its size
- Use size 8 knitting needles
- Use 4 ply yarn
- Cast on 40 stitches
- Adjust # of stitches so the 40 stitches=8 inches



On the first Monday of each month at 10 A.M. Our next meeting is Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. 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).



If you are having difficulty in accessing the monthly Echoes be sure to put [info@holytrinity.net](mailto:info@holytrinity.net) in your server’s settings.

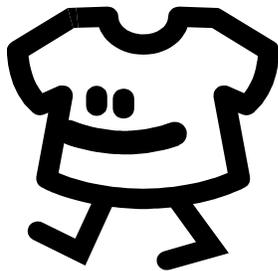
If you continue to have problems contact Deb at [secretary@holytrinity.net](mailto:secretary@holytrinity.net) or call the church office (215) 659-2642 Mon. thru Thurs. 8:30 am to 3:30 pm



## Men's Devotional Group

Please join us for the Men's Devotional Group Meeting for November. The Men's Devotional Group meets the second Thursday of every month Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.



## Holy Trinity Shirts

Shirts are available with the Holy Trinity logo in embroidery.

All shirts are royal blue with a white logo.

Both golf shirts and dress shirts may be ordered.

Cost is less than \$30 depending on type of shirt.

**They make wonderful Christmas gifts!**

Contact Judi Reeder at [judireeder@hotmail.com](mailto:judireeder@hotmail.com)

for further information.

**L.C.W. of Holy Trinity invites you to:**

**Advent Family Night – December 7, 2017**

**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**



*Calling all...*

## Women of Holy Trinity

We would love to have you attend one of the circles listed below. If you are already in a circle, then we look forward to seeing you at our November 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.

We will be taking a break from our study of Daniel this month for a Special Christmas topic, fun and fellowship.

## December Circles:

**EVE:** Monday, Dec. 15, 6:30 P.M., the Parlor (Potluck dinner)  
Circle leader, Sue Tolton: 215-659-7054.

**HANNAH:** Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 P.M., the home of Maryann Leventhal,  
509 Preston Lane, Hatboro. (215) 441-0224  
Circle leader, Cindy Biehl: 267-475-5435

**MIRIAM:** Monday, Dec. 8, 12:30 P.M., in Fellowship Hall,  
Circle leader, Ruth McCandless: 215-682-2034.

**RUTH:** Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30PM at the home of Lois Hamilton  
4121 Colony Dr., Hatboro, (215) 672-1237  
Circle leader, Nancy Necker, 215-884-2123.

**SARAH:** Thursday, Dec. 11, 12:00 noon, the Parlor,  
Circle Leader, Judi Reeder, 215- 431-7265

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women Retreat  
May 1 – May 3, 2015

Location: Mother Boniface Retreat Center

Topic:  
“Journeying to God”

Cost: \$140.00 per person.  
(Scholarships are available, contact Pastor Mandy)

Deposit due in January 2015; balance due by April 5, 2015  
(Money can be given to Joy Alderfer or your circle leader)  
Checks should be made payable to HTLCW)

We will once again start our retreat with a Friday evening pizza party and fellowship.

If attending the retreat, please return the bottom portion of this slip with your deposit/payment. Thank you.

HTLCW Retreat – May 1-3, 2015. I would like to attend:

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

Deposit paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Balance due: \_\_\_\_\_

Pizza Party Friday: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women Present:  
Personal Care Kit and Fabric Kit Collection**

**The entire month of February, 2015**

**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 Fellowship Hall. Monetary contributions can be placed in a brown pew envelope marked "personal care/fabric kits".**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

# The Social Ministry Committee of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



## Freedom Steps Collection

We will be collecting items and donations for our troops serving over- sea's for the month of January, 2015.

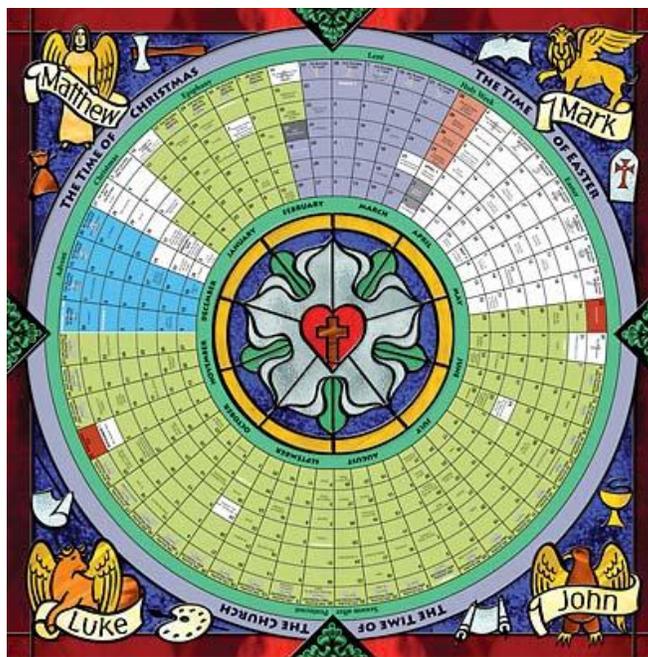
Freedom Steps will be sending the care packages in February.

The following items are needed by our troops:

Stationary	Q-tips
Puzzle/game books	Baby wipes
Games/toys/cards	Body Powder
Books/magazines	Foot Powder
Protein bars	Chapstick
Granola bars	Sun screen/Sun block
Beef Jerky	Razors/shaving cream
Trail mix	Shampoo/conditioner
Powdered drink mixes	Tooth brushes/tooth paste
Candy/cookies	Deodorant

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please put it in a pew envelope and mark it "Freedom Steps".

Thank you for supporting our troops!



## About the liturgical settings we use on Sundays

How are these chosen? Why do we use all these different settings? What is the plan behind different seasons having different settings? These are good questions!

We use all three of the LBW settings, and the Worship and Music Committee has recommended our using again the Common Service and Kile Smith's Mass for Philadelphia. We will rotate these in soon.

First, about the variety: Everyone recognizes that it's good to have variety in most everything in life. It keeps things interesting and stimulating. We also recognize that constant change is not good. It's unsettling and can be annoying. So we try to use settings through the church year in an orderly way. Once they're well-learned, they are comfortable to return to even if we've been away from them for a while. And they're fresh again when not used constantly. The trick is to manage it all. Some of us appreciate more variety and some, less, so as with anything in the body of Christ, we consider our neighbors who may feel differently.

Second, about the settings themselves:

Settings 1 and 2 from LBW are well-known, having been sung in Holy Trinity for decades. They fit like an old shoe. We sing both of them many weeks of the year.

Setting 3 is less familiar, but has a much more important Lutheran pedigree. It is actually Setting 2 out of the old red book (SBH), based on old Swedish Lutheran liturgical tunes. If you know much Scandinavian music, you will know that a lot of it is in minor keys and is kind of serious sounding.

(Continued on page 23)

The hymn *Built on a Rock* would be a good example of this minor mode Scandinavian music—serious but not sad. People often mistakenly equate minor keys with sadness. (To note how wrong this is, consider all the joyous Israeli folk tunes like *Siman Tov and Mazel Tov* or *Havah Nagilah*—all in minor modes). Setting 3 is, however, solemn, and so we sing Setting 3 in Lent and at the End of the Church Year weeks, from All Saints through Christ the King. We're in these weeks right now. The readings are difficult texts from the minor prophets about judgment, serious parables from Christ, etc. Instead of jolly liturgical music to accompany the prophets' stern messages, or to accompany Lenten themes, we sing Setting 3, which has more gravitas than LBW 1 or 2.

In Advent we will return to the Common Service and remain there through the Christmas and Epiphany Sundays. I have heard a few comments that this is hard to sing, but consider: Lutherans sang this exclusively for many decades. If they could sing it, why should it be too difficult for us?

In Lent we return to LBW 3, and in the Easter season we will take up Kile's service, which is beautifully festive and musically rich. It also is our only setting which includes the text "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast." If you went through old Easter bulletins from years past, you would find this text spoken. In the Mass for Philadelphia, we have music for it, so it is the ideal setting for the Easter season.

If you are in church and struggling to learn the less familiar settings, please know that it is a normal process to learn these tunes over time. If you walk into a church with the congregation singing a setting they have sung for 30 years and everyone knows it by memory, you will be supported by all around you and it is simple to be swept along. If the church is undertaking to add less familiar settings, there will of course be a learning curve. This is normal. But it is not possible to learn anything without going at it time and time again. How many times do we tell this to our own children who are struggling with a new musical instrument, struggling to learn to read, to do math problems, to learn a language, or anything else new? We don't expect to learn quality things instantaneously. We know they take work, which will be rewarded with knowledge and skill.

Luther elevated the singing of the people in worship. He gave them hymns to sing, and intended that their voices carry the liturgy. The Lutheran approach to music in the service is to have it carry the Word of God, which is a serious endeavor, and deserving of everything we put into it.

Jacqueline Smith, Director of Music



Our very own Earl & Judi Reeder's Mission Trip in the paper...



*Earl and Judi Reeder with the Estonian students from the class they taught on their trip. Judi Reeder is the first from the right in the second row wearing the purple jacket and wearing an ID badge with lanyard. Her husband, Earl, is standing directly next to her right.*

## Ann's Choice residents take mission trip to Estonia

Ann's Choice residents Judi and Earl Reeder are avid travelers. The couple has been to Europe multiple times, Australia, Paraguay, Mexico, New Zealand and all over the United States.

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary they decided they wanted to take another trip in lieu of a party. This trip turned out to be a "working vacation" which they hope could help change people's lives thousands of miles away.

The Reeders spent nearly two weeks in Estonia serving as missionaries for an organization, the East European Mission Network. The Reeders aided citizens of that Eastern European nation through education and compassion.

In addition to the Reeders, eight other people were part of this mission trip. The missionaries spent their time living in a youth hostel in the town of Tartu, about two hours southeast of Estonia's capital city of Tallinn.

There were a total of 25 people staying in the hostel and the guests all shared two toilets and two showers. Even in these austere conditions the Reeders said that this was a wonderful experience they would never forget.

The missionary group taught some English vocabulary to the students, read biblical stories and they all sang praises. The Reeders' particular group consisted of about 16

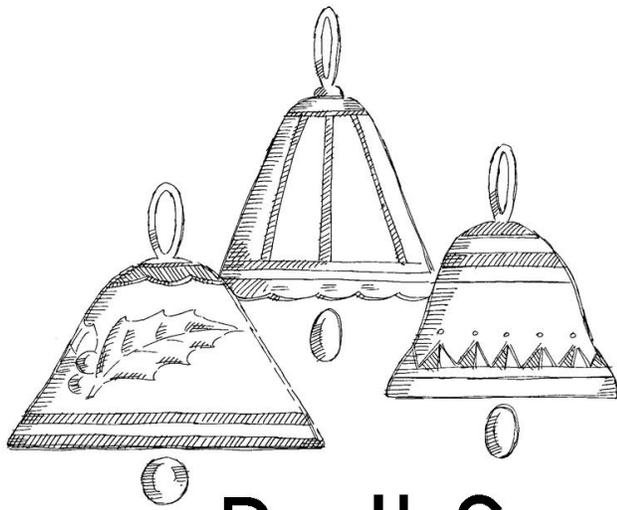
Estonian citizens of various ages. In total, approximately 50 citizens learned lessons from the missionaries.

"One particular memory was when Earl and I spent time with a family of Estonian pastors whose older members suffered terribly under the terrorizing control of the KGB," Judi Reeder said. "What is remarkable is that the younger members of this family are training to become pastors to illustrate their commitment and faith. It was truly an incredible experience for us and we learned so much about the Estonian culture, dedication to their religion and their indomitable spirit. We also took humility away from this trip."

According to Reeder, in 1940 when Russia took over Estonia approximately 98 percent of the country was religious. When Estonia regained its independence in 1991, that percentage fell to only 2 percent.

Just as in the 1940s when citizens living in many parts of Eastern Europe became fearful of Russia, Reeder explained that many people today living in Eastern European countries like Estonia, have a renewed sense of concern with the unrest in the region.

Judi and Earl Reeder hope that their trip of a lifetime may help some Estonian citizens that are hoping religious freedom remains.



# 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.

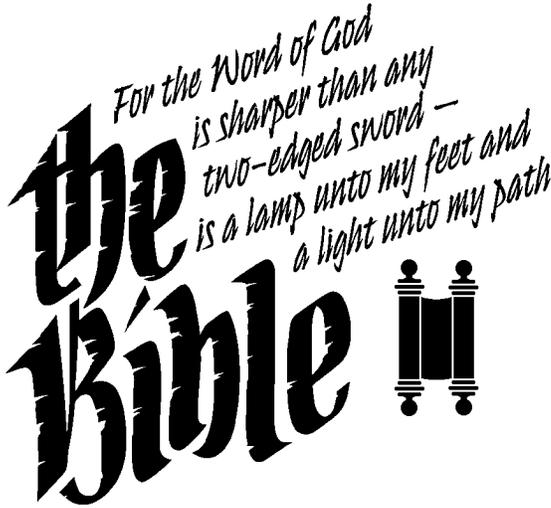
Any kind of bell is OK.

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!

## The Bible as the Source of Faith



On Tuesdays after Christmas, Pastor Mandy will be offering a 10 Week course on **The Bible As The Source of Faith.**

This course will meet Jan 20 – March 25, 2015.

In this course we will look at the nature of God's Word in the broadest sense, applying it specifically to how we understand the nature of the Bible as the written Word of God. By focusing on a functional definition of Scripture's power, we will look at what the Bible IS, based on what it DOES – in particular, how the

Scriptures convey the promise of Jesus Christ, and how God uses His Word to create faith by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Interested participants are invited to sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. There will be a text book in addition to your Bible. Cost of the text book will be \$10.00.



On Tuesdays after Easter, **(April 21 – May 19, 2015)**

Pastor Mandy will offer a 5 week course on

**The Basics of Liturgical Worship,**

on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. with repeat at 7:00 p.m.**

Have you ever wondered why we don't sing "Contemporary Praise Songs" during worship at Holy Trinity?

Have you ever wondered why we follow the Church Year or the Lectionary?

Have you ever wondered why the Liturgy follows the "set pattern" that it does?

Come to Pastor Mandy's five sessions on Liturgical worship.



## - Reminders for the month of December-

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Tree Trimming at 2 pm  
Youth group serving for  
Advent Family Dinner Night, 5 pm

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Tucker's Tales Puppet Show, 6 pm



**BREAKFAST**



**FELLOWSHIP**

## **Adult Christian Breakfast Fellowship**

*(All Adults Invited)*

**When:** First Saturday of the Month

**Time:** 9:00 A.M.

### **Topics and Speakers:**

**Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** "Hope for Hurting Hearts" Deb Mumford

**Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>** "Boy Scouting- 100 years" Tom Schied

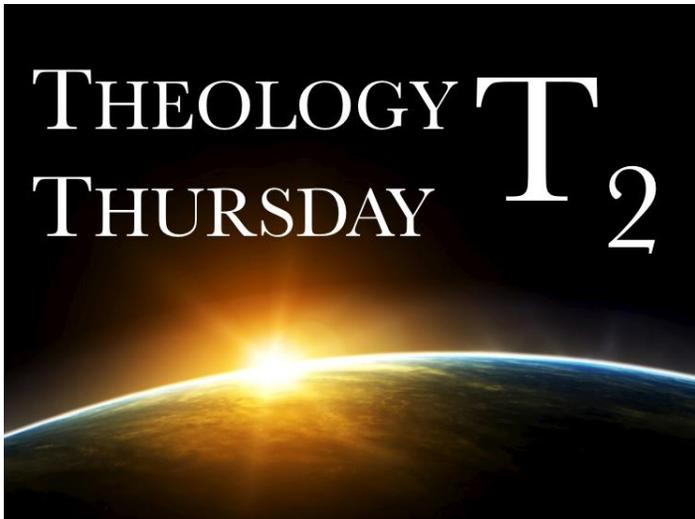
**Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>** "The Cruise of Elbe River" Earl & Judi Reeder

Interested in a specific subject? Care to share it?

Email Allan Shikhvarg at [allan.shikhvarg@gmail.com](mailto:allan.shikhvarg@gmail.com)

or call (215) 885-1772 with your ideas. We'd love to hear from you.

*Join us for breakfast and fellowship.*



Beginning Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am *The Cruelty of Heresy*

by C. Fitzsimons Allison

If there are sign-ups an evening session will be offered at 7:30 pm.

For a book, see Pastor Tavella

Cost for the book is \$15



## **Like Us on Facebook and Send Us Your Photos!**

Holy Trinity is trying to grow our Facebook following!

To do this we need your input in two ways:

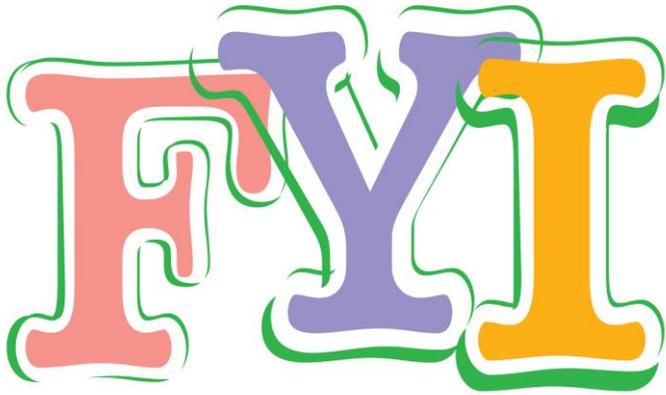
If you are on Facebook “like” our page,

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,**

Next, if you are involved in activities- Men’s Group, LCW, Supper Club, VBS, music groups, cooking Aids dinners, etc...TAKE PICTURES!

**Send your pictures to Rosemary Hinkle @ [RHinkle@abington.org](mailto:RHinkle@abington.org).**

The photos will be posted in a timely manner, not identifying anyone by name; just describing the event or activity.



Your Church Council has formed a Task Force to look into helpful ways to accommodate congregants who may be having difficulty navigating the steps to the Altar for monthly table Communion. We are actively working on ways to solve this issue

- **FOR YOUR INFORMATION** • so be looking for positive changes in the near future.

# December Worship Assistants Schedule

## Dec. 7th

Usher	2	Greeter	John & Anita Ickler	Presenters of Gifts	Charlie Tolton, Maryann and Stephen Leventhal
Count	4	Acolyte	Annie Wray	Gate	Terry Rowley
Christophers	2	Crucifer	Rob Ischinger	Cushion	Danielle Rowley
Prayer Ministry Team	5	Lay Reader-Sat	John Maieron	Communion Assistants Trays	Jean Raiguel, Tom Schied, Allan Shikhvarg, Charlie Tolton
		Lay Reader-Sun	Barbara Harris	Setup	Maryann Leventhal

## Dec.14th

Usher	3	Greeter	Don & Ruth Lewis	Presenters of Gifts	Rob & Nancy Ischinger, Ken Tredinnick
Count	1	Acolyte	Charlotte Whipple		
Christophers	3	Crucifer	Earl Whipple		
Prayer Ministry Team	1	Lay Reader-Sat	Bill Riehm	Communion Assistants	Gil and Betsy Zimmermann
		Lay Reader-Sun	Sherri Gregg	Setup	Tina Bednarczyk

## Dec.21st

Usher	4	Greeter	Very Pre-K & Kindergarten classes	Presenters of Gifts	Charlie & Sue Tolton, Tina Bednarczyk
Count	2	Acolyte	Matthew Schied		
Christophers	4	Crucifer	Jared Ickler		
Prayer Ministry Team	2	Lay Reader-Sat	Clem McLaughlin	Communion Assistants	Tina Bednarczyk, Kevan Berkovitz
		Lay Reader-Sun	John Ickler	Setup	Sue Tolton

## Dec.24th

Usher	6:30 1 9:00 5	Greeter Acolyte	The Schied Family 6:30 Charlotte Whipple	Presenters of Gifts	6:30 Nancy Ischinger, Nilsen's 9:00 Barb Harvey, Mumford's
		Acolyte	9:00 Sophia LaRocca	Communion Assistants	6:30 Linda Borkowski Deanna Dudenbostel
		Crucifer	6:30 Heather Lee Whipple 9:00 Michael LaRocca		9:00 Mark & Erica Affleck
		Lay Reader-6:30 pm	Nancy Ischinger		
		Lay Reader-9:00 pm	Rich Hamilton		

## Dec.28th

Usher	2	Greeter	The Cuff Family	Presenters of Gifts	Kevan Berkovitz, Ann Frey, Janice Donnelly
Count	3	Acolyte	Ella Murphy		
Christophers	1	Crucifer	Charlie Tolton		
Prayer Ministry Team	3	Lay Reader-Sat	Linda Cassidy	Communion Assistants	Al & Pam Eisenmann
		Lay Reader-Sun	Stephen Leventhal	Setup	Michele Muller

# December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>10:00 Sewing Group</p> <p>6:00-7:30 Brownies 7:30- Women's Prayer Group-Youth Room 7:30- Coram Deo</p>	<p>1 10:00 Sewing Group</p> <p>6:00-7:30 Brownies 7:30- Women's Prayer Group-Youth Room 7:30- Coram Deo</p>	<p>2 7:30 Bible Study 8:30 Compline</p>	<p>3 Noon 39'RS Christmas Party 7:30 Council Meeting</p>	<p>4 4:15 Choristers 6:30 Handbell 8:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5 7:30 AA</p>	<p>6 9:00 Adult Christian Breakfast Fellowship 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA</p>
<p>7 <b>ADVENT 2</b> 9:00 Holy Communion <b>First Communion</b> 10:30 Pre-K thru Adult SS 2:00- Youth tree trimming 4:00- Vespers 5:00- <b>ADVENT FAMILY DINNER NIGHT</b> 6:00- Tucker's Tales Puppet Show</p>	<p>8 12:30 Miriam Circle</p> <p>6:00 — 7:00 Brownies 7:30- Coram Deo</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 7:00 Evangelism Meeting 7:30 Ruth Circle @ Lois Hamilton's</p>	<p>11 12:00 Sarah Circle</p> <p>4:15 Choristers 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:00 Men's Devotional Group 8:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12 7:30 AA</p>	<p>13 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA</p>
<p>14 <b>ADVENT 3</b> 9:00 Holy Communion <b>New Members</b> 10:30 Pre-K thru Adult SS</p>	<p>15 SHOP &amp; COOK FOR AIDS</p> <p>6:00 — 7:00 Brownies 6:30- Eve Circle Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>16 DELIVER AIDS DINNER</p>	<p>17 7:30 Hannah Circle @ Maryann Leventhal's</p>	<p>18 4:15 Choristers 6:30 Handbell Choir 8:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19 7:30 AA</p>	<p>20 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA</p>
<p>21 <b>ADVENT 4</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Pre-K thru Adult SS 11:00- Hymn Sing and Cookie Exchange 7:00 Musica Concordia Advent Concert</p>	<p>22 6:00-7:00 Brownies</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES</b> 6:30 and 9:00</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 7:30 AA</p>	<p>27 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA</p>
<p>28 <b>CHRISTMAS 1</b> <b>Bell Sunday</b> 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Pre-K - Adult SS</p>	<p>29 6:00-7:00 Brownies</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>	<p></p>		

**Special Dates:**

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2104
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2014
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2014
- First Day of Winter, December 21, 2014
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2014
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2014
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2014

