



# HOLY TRINITY

## Evangelical Lutheran Church

# ECHOES NEWSLETTER

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

### January 2014

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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,

In Matthew we are told that wise men, or magi, brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ child. Frankincense and myrrh are spices taken from certain species of trees. When the bark is cut, a resin oozes out and is harvested.

Jesus received from the wise men gifts appropriate to a king. Psalm 72 refers to kings bearing gifts to the King of Israel. It is from this text that we get the idea that the three wise men were kings. Christ is King of Israel and of the universe.

The wise men and/or their gifts are mentioned in several Christmas carols. Among the hymns are “What Child is This,” “Angels from the Realms of Glory,” and “The First Noel.”

Two of the gifts were incense. Incense gives off a pleasant scent when burned. It was used in the Temple in Jerusalem. It has been used in the Church for many centuries and continues to be used in Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. A rubric for Evening Prayer in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* reads, “The use of incense is appropriate as Psalm 141 is being sung.”

Incense in Church symbolizes the prayers of the people to God and our sanctification through Jesus Christ. The Book of Revelation describes worship in heaven. “And when he (Christ) had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song . . .” (Revelation 5: 8-9a ESV)

*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*

At Evening Prayer in January we will introduce the use of incense at Holy Trinity, although we have actually used it recently for Advent Vespers and some time ago when the three kings visited our church and gave the children's sermon.

In "We Three Kings of Orient Are," one of the kings sings,

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising  
Worshiping God Most High.

Like the wise men, may you too come to worship the newborn king who is the Son of God at this Christmas and Epiphany season.

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, Debbie, 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, Joan, Joann, John, Joe, Judy, Julianne, Karen, Keane, Lafayette, Lee, Lenore, Linda, Luis, Lori, Lorrie, Marc, Maryanne, Matt, Matthew, Marge, Margaret, Marsha, Maureen, Max, Michael, Michele, 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, 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 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

*November 30, 2013*

	Holy Trinity Ministries	Wider Church
<b>Year to date received for current income</b>	\$326,625.46	\$45,192.11
<b>Carry over Benevolence from 2012</b>		\$18,967.88
<b>Expenses paid to date</b>	\$366,291.42	\$46,499.77
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) 2013</b>	\$ (39,665.96)	\$17,660.22

## 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:

- cereal, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal
- ravioli, chili, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese
- hearty soups, crackers
- powdered milk, juices

### 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





January 26, 2014

(after Church)

Items of Business

Reports

Budget

Elections



Congratulations to Allan and Laurie Shikhvarg on the birth of their grandson, Aaron Michael McLelland on December 15, 2013. Aaron measured 19.5 inches in length and weighed 6 lbs. 13 ounces at birth. Parents and grandparents are thrilled with their Christmas present.

### **Our Christian Sympathy to:**

Linda Ambler, Thomas Hartzell, Greg and Brent Kopenhaver and Luann Vanaman on the death of their mother, Nancy Kopenhaver.

### **Memorials**

Memorials have been received in the names of Susan Doodan and Nancy Kopenhaver.



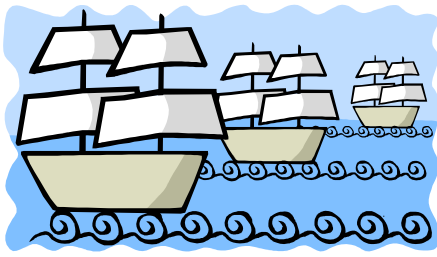
**Holy Trinity  
Blood Drive**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Friday, January 24, 2014**

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

*Please remember your Church  
in your will.*



Adult Christian Breakfast Fellowship

January 4, 2014 — 8:00 A.M.

Topic:

Powerpoint Presentation on  
Christopher Columbus

39RS

January 8, 2014

Noon

**Brownbag your own lunch.**



Topic:

**Abington Memorial Hospital Speaker's  
Bureau —**

**Using prescription medications wisely**

## World War II Story of a Ball-Turret Gunner

Mark Your Calendar!

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2014

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4 p.m.

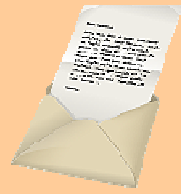
What: WWII story of a  
Ball-Turret Gunner

Where: The Parlor

You may never have heard or read a true WWII story as interesting as this one. This is absolutely the most interesting true story that Pastor Mandy has ever heard. The first time she heard it she was riveted.

It is in the form of an interview between our own Don Lewis and a Pennsylvania Cable Network television channel. It was broadcast, in full, on Veterans Day.

It is a gripping two and three quarters hour story of life as a B-17 Bomber ball-turret gunner. You will follow him through training, combat, being shot down (!), and surviving 16 plus months as a POW of Germany.



Dear Holy Trinity family,

Thank you so much for the care package you sent me right before finals time! I really enjoyed it and I am very thankful for it.

Brian Poe



Your 2014 envelopes are ready for pickup in Fellowship Hall. Also available are an updated member directory and a 2014 Church Year Calendar.



## 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.



*Just a  
Reminder...*

Annual reports from Committee chairs and other leaders are due in the Church office on Monday, January 6, 2014



## **Women's Prayer Group: Different Dates for January**

Due to a schedule change for the first Monday, and Martin Luther King Day falling on the third Monday, the Women's Prayer Group will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays in January. This change is just for January. In February, the prayer group will resume meeting the first and third Mondays.

We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the room over the garage at the home of Rosemary Hinkle. Our time together is confidential as we pray about ourselves, our families, and our friends and neighbors—in other words, we pray for all whom we love and care about in our lives. Dessert and coffee/tea are provided. Any woman is welcome to come to this group at any time. You do not have to attend every gathering to be part of this prayer group.

If you have any questions, email [Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:Rosemaryhinkle@comcast.net) or reference her phone number in the church directory.

**Mark your January calendar for Mondays, January 13 and 27.**

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### **Bible for China – You Made It Happen**

Thank You!

The good people of Holy Trinity clearly desire that their Chinese Christian brothers and sisters can also hold the Word of God in their hands and read the Holy Scriptures in their own language. The generosity of this congregation led to \$650 being sent to Asia Harvest to print and distribute Bibles in China. Since a printed and distributed Bible costs \$1.80 and Asia Harvest has a current matching grant, Holy Trinity has helped to make possible not 360 Bibles but 720 Bibles! What a wonderful way to celebrate Bible Sunday at our church when our third grade children are presented with their own Bibles.

China has 29 provinces in which Bibles are delivered. There is no province without Christians or Bibles. As 2013 drew to a close, Asia Harvest tallied almost 7 ½ million Bible having been printed and delivered in China since this project began. Asia Harvest ensures that their coworkers provide detailed reports, which allow them to keep track of every Bible they print. They have created a distribution map which appears on the following page.

They write in their December newsletter: "We are partnering with house churches in China in a long-term project to provide Bibles for Christians. We receive countless requests for God's Word from church leaders throughout the country. These Bibles are distributed free of charge, equipping the Body of Christ and helping add fuel to the revival in China. ..On behalf of all the grateful believers in China, thank you and God bless you!"



# CHINA BIBLE MAP

*Thanks to the grace of God and your prayers and generous support, Asia Harvest recently passed the milestone of 7 million Chinese Bibles printed and delivered to the house churches in China. Our coworkers provide detailed reports, which allow us keep track of every Bible we print and to create this distribution map. On behalf of all the grateful believers in China, thank you and God bless you!*

## **Bibles Delivered by Province:**

Asia Harvest

December 2013

1 Heilongjiang	712,385
2 Anhui	717,385
<b>3 Henan</b>	<b>573,561</b>
4 Inner Mongolia	655,950
5 Zhejiang	558,594
6 Shandong	512,682
7 Jilin	367,180
8 Shanxi	310,439
9 Gansu	276,653
<b>10</b> Jiangsu	251,749
11 Sichuan	220,915
12 Liaoning	227,898
13 Shaanxi	205,842
14 Hebei	206,262
15 Hubei	190,012
16 Guangxi	208,674
17 Xinjiang	169,314
18 Chongqing	159,110,
19 Qinghai	170,256
20 Shanghai	160,512
21 Jiangxi	187,229
22 Hainan Island	109,254
23 Fujian	104,663
24 Guangdong	64,627
25 Beijing	58,197
26 Yunnan	28,530
27 Hunan	11,819
28 Guizhou	9,680
29 Ningxia	5,180



TOTAL 7,434,949

## Men's Devotional Group January 9

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 January 9.



### YOUNG ADULT LUTHERANS AND FRIENDS

7:00 pm — January 5

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

*FIRST Sunday of Every Month*

Attention Graduating High School Seniors  
Who Live in Abington Township or  
Rockledge Borough

***Please share this with anyone you know who might be eligible.***

Each year, the Abington Community Taskforce (ACT) in which Holy Trinity participates gives two \$500 awards to deserving graduating seniors. Known as the Julia Greenbaum Memorial/ACT Student Community Service Award, it is presented in April to two graduating seniors at ACT's annual Citizens That Care Recognition Reception. This award recognizes students' outstanding service to their community. It must be used to further one's education or to assist in job training beyond high school.

**Requirements:** Must be a resident of Abington Township or Rockledge Borough, be in good academic standing, have good citizenship, and have high moral standards.

**Send by January 20:** name, address, & phone number; paragraph about yourself and how you are making a difference in your community: and two letters of recommendation (one from your school and one from the community you serve)

**Mail to:** Ruth Weiss, c/o John Weiss, Inc., 707 Huntingdon Pike, Rockledge, PA 19046 or email [momweiss@aol.com](mailto:momweiss@aol.com)

**Questions:** Contact Rosemary Hinkle or visit [www.abingtonact.org](http://www.abingtonact.org)

***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 January 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.

**This years topic will be based on:**

***Joseph: How God Builds Character by Paul Borthwick.***

**January Topic:**

We are off and running in the New Year when we continue our story of Joseph with Chapters 4 & 5 of our Bible study.

Chapter 4 (Sexual Purity: When All Else Fails - Run!) will demonstrate that character, tested by moral temptation, is ultimately lived out in our daily choices, especially the choices that no one sees except God. This chapter will give us an account of the life of Joseph, which has been paralleled with the life of Christ as described in Matthew 4. Before Joseph's or Jesus' greatest impact was felt, there was a test, a temptation that had to be passed. The biblical equation is clear: testing and temptation often precede character development and maximum usefulness to God.

In Chapter 5 (The Integrity of a Servant), we'll find encouragement to be obedient servants, even when we find ourselves in situations that we would never choose. The Bible is full of stories about the people of God living in adverse circumstances. If we define prison as "any undesirable circumstance that we find ourselves in that we would never choose and from which we'd like to be released," the Bible has much to say to us. Joseph's example teaches about the grace of God for His people while facing adversity.

In the attitude of prayer and quietness, ask yourself this: When am I most vulnerable to temptation...in times of loneliness, in times following great success, other times? Reflect on what would be the most difficult freedom for you to lose? If you lost it, how do you think that loss would affect your relationship with God?

**January Meetings:**

EVE: Thursday, Jan 9, 7:30 P.M., the Parlor. Circle leader, Sue Tolton: 215-659-7054.

HANNAH: Wednesday, Jan 15, 7:30 P.M., the Parlor.  
Circle leader, Cindy Biehl: 267-475-5435

MIRIAM: Monday, Jan 13, 12:30 P.M., in Fellowship Hall,  
Circle leader, Ruth McCandless: 215-682-2034.

RUTH: Wednesday, Jan 8, 7:30 PM at the home of Lydia Dugan, 2150 Willow Brook,  
Huntingdon Valley, 215-657-4034  
Circle leader, Nancy Necker, 215-884-2123.

SARAH: Thursday, Jan 9, 12:00 noon, the Parlor,  
Circle leader, Judi Reeder: 215-431-7265



**ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES:** When is the last time the two of you did something to enrich and revitalize your marriage? Make 2014 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday at 4 PM and are designed to enrich all marriages. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included.

The 2014 Pennsylvania Weekends are:

- **March 28-30, 2014** at Park Inn Radisson, West Middlesex, PA, where each couple has a king bed and their own hot tub -- an hour north of Pittsburgh, just off of Interstate 80
- **April 25-27, 2014** at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College—Happy Valley's premier conference center located on a quiet hillside with views of the Nittany Mountains
- **September 12-14, 2014** at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA – brand-new, motel-style building on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown
- **September 26-28, 2014** at Olmsted Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA -- a lovely, motel style retreat center adjacent to the Olmsted Mansion--perched on a hillside in the Allegheny National Forest – an hour north of DuBois.

Registrations are limited, so **sign up today** to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice. Simply go to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and register using your credit card or marking the option to mail in a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).

## Holy Trinity Church Women – Annual Retreat



**April 4 – April 6, 2014**

**Place: Mother Boniface Retreat Center**

**Retreat Leader: Kelley Latta, who serves the body of Christ through**

**Kelley Latta Ministries ([www.KelleyLattaMinistries.com](http://www.KelleyLattaMinistries.com))**

**Theme: “Grace to the Humble”**

**Additional information will be forthcoming in later Echoes articles.**

# **Ecumenical Dialogue**

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

and

Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

7:30 P.M.

at

Our Lady Help of Christians

Topic:

The Transition with Pope Benedict and Pope Francis

and the

Canonization of John Paul II and John XXIII:

Developments after Vatican II

A Catholic and Lutheran reflection

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!

## A Word from the Philippines

*We have all been so concerned about the devastation that resulted from the typhoon in the Philippines. Here is a letter from Pastor Alex who lives and ministers among the people. He is associated with In Jesus' Name Ministries ([www.injesusname.org](http://www.injesusname.org)) as their Philippines Director and partner organization Hope and Helps Ministry ([www.hopeandhelps.org](http://www.hopeandhelps.org)), both based in Virginia. Questions: Contact Rosemary Hinkle*

Greetings to you from the Philippines.

Jesus loves you and so do I.

Thank you for keeping in touch with us. Thank you for contacting people to help us. Thanks a million. Please extend our thanks to the ones who have so far.

Our mission team ministering to the churches has been to the islands devastated by the super typhoon Hayian. I have seen with my own eyes the extent of the damage and immensity of needs to help our brethren recover.

My heart is so heavy of seeing with my own eyes the typhoon destruction in my country the Philippines. Everywhere we went at Guiuan and Tacloban, I tried to hold back my tears in my eyes and fought the surging overwhelming compassion just to share hope and strength to my countrymen. At the end of the day I felt bad, thinking of some of my countrymen, especially our politicians being insensitive to the seriousness and desperation happening in my ruined homeland. It's like being bombed and combed by ravaging destructive force of nature. The first day I arrived in the town of Guiuan, I could not swallow my food to eat and could not sleep, not just because of discomfort away from home but with the immensity of the needs. I kept my focus to get the churches and believers to take this opportunity to share Christ and the Gospel to the lost and to strengthen the believers to do the work of the Gospel.

Many are suffering here with hunger and this will last for months and even years without God's help and healing grace. So we pray that God will bring healing through the prayer relief team that we will deploy to the different places in our country where we have our network of churches.

Please pray with us that the presence of God will be with us as we continue reaching out to souls for Christ. We want to strengthen and edify the body of Christ who had been greatly affected by the typhoon. Many had lost church buildings. Many are homeless, staying on the streets and shanties made from the salvaged materials they could find. May Hope and Helps Ministry shine in the hearts of our brethren here. As soon as the financial donations will arrive, we will continue to the urgent relief operation and ministry to the believers and the churches.

In His service,  
Alex

## **Our Vision Is Now Your Vision!**

### **Our new vision at Holy Trinity is to seek your vision for new ideas and areas to explore!**

We invite everyone who feels excited by a new concept for this congregation, passionate about a cause, and/or called by God to serve in a particular way to step forward and offer their thoughts. In other words, the vision is to empower each person who has a vision first to share ideas and then be willing to commit to introducing and shepherding a project or program.

**How has this new vision emerged?** Over the past year, a group of church members met as the Vision Committee. As often happens in a collaborative effort, a group begins in one direction and emerges in another that proves surprising and hopeful.

The group read *Power Surge* by Lutheran pastor Michael Foss and developed an appreciation for his idea of emphasizing discipleship in a congregation. This means that lay people take greater ownership of ways to serve their church. It also very importantly means that their voice, creative ideas, and leadership are welcomed to take a church in new directions and help members embark on new paths to the glory of God.

We believe that every member of this church has been gifted by God to serve. Some are called to create and lead while others may be called to implement visions. The vision of the Vision Committee is to engage more church members in the life of Holy Trinity. We want to hear from YOU!

### **How Do Visions Become Reality?**

When you have an idea you would like to explore for Holy Trinity, determine which of the standing committees might be best suited to consider and back your plan. That also means which committee is most likely to give you any needed funding to make your idea a reality. Contact the chair and ask to present at a committee meeting. As the committee endorses ideas, the liaison person will take them to Council for approval. You can then seek volunteers who share your enthusiasm and are willing project workers. Then voila, you are launched.

Some examples of recent ideas that have either been accomplished or are currently being researched are: church magnets, church welcome bags of goodies for new members and visitors, and streaming our services online.



## Committee Reference Guide

Here is a list of committees with a brief description of their area of focus as well as the chair's name and contact information. Use this list as your guide:

**Audit:** Responsible for performing an annual audit of the accounts of the treasurer and church investments. . Chair - John Minges See church directory for contact information.

**Christian Education:** Oversee the Sunday church school and all other Christian education programs. It encourages using teaching and worship materials published or approved by the North American Lutheran Church, and works to introduce and promote church family devotional books and materials. Chair - Charles Tolton [ctolton@comcast.net](mailto:ctolton@comcast.net)

**Evangelism:** Devoted to deepening spiritual life, both within the congregation and in the wider community, especially working to reach the un-churched or un-won, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Chair - Tom Schied [Thomas.schied@td.com](mailto:Thomas.schied@td.com)

**Executive:** Assists the pastors in overseeing and attending to the regular operations of the congregation. Chair - Linda Cassady [lcassady@comcast.net](mailto:lcassady@comcast.net)

**Finance:** Prepares a draft budget for the succeeding year and oversees all financial affairs of the congregation to make sure that they are being conducted efficiently. Alan Hinkle - Chair [alanhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:alanhinkle@comcast.net)

**Investment:** Monitors and makes decisions about all investments of the Church. Chair - Alan Hinkle [alanhinkle@comcast.net](mailto:alanhinkle@comcast.net)

**Membership:** Helps people grow into the deeper life of Christ and His Church by providing points of entry into Holy Trinity's wider fellowship life. Chair - Cindy Biehl [cindybiehl@msn.com](mailto:cindybiehl@msn.com)

**Nominating:** Annually nominates a slate of qualified candidates for election to the Church Council. Chair - Nancy Ischinger [nancymaesch@yahoo.com](mailto:nancymaesch@yahoo.com)

**Program/Outreach Fund:** Annually makes decisions about the disbursement of interest earned from the Outreach Fund to the wider community. Chair – Betsy Zimmerman [imbetz@yahoo.com](mailto:imbetz@yahoo.com)

**Property:** Oversees the maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation, making sure that it is kept in good repair and is adequately insured. Chair - Jim Necker [jnecker@jamesnecker.com](mailto:jnecker@jamesnecker.com)

**Social Ministry:** Extends Christian compassion and aid to the ill, aged, orphaned, underprivileged, imprisoned, and, in general, all in need of assistance. It strives to enlist in these efforts as many church members and congregational organizations as possible. Chair - Judi Reeder [judireeder@hotmail.com](mailto:judireeder@hotmail.com)

**Staff Support:** Strengthens the ministry of the pastors, staff, and congregation as a whole. It consists of two teams: 1. Personnel Team to prepare and update job descriptions, establish compensation and benefits, and encourage participation in appropriate continuing education programs. 2. Pastor-Parish Relations Team to act as an open communication channel regarding conditions and attitudes within the congregation and serve as an agent of reconciliation when there is conflict. Chair - Linda Cassady [lcassady@comcast.net](mailto:lcassady@comcast.net)

**Stewardship:** Encourages the expression of Christian faith in daily living by helping to teach the Christian use of money that leads church members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work and by promoting the practice of spiritual gifts. It is responsible for the annual Every Member Response and Spiritual Gifts Sunday. Chair - John Robinson [jrobinso@verizon.net](mailto:jrobinso@verizon.net)

**Worship & Music:** Assists in assuring that worship is conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy of the North American Lutheran Church, that competent worship assistants are recruited and trained, and that hymnals and other devotional materials are provided and properly cared for. This committee also arranges for the care of paraments, vestments, and musical instruments; and, in consultation with the pastor, the organist, and the choir directors, it may furnish music supplies appropriate to worship. Chair – Tina Bednarczyk [tinabczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:tinabczyk@yahoo.com)

# January Worship Assistants Schedule

## January 5

<b>Usher</b>	2	<b>Greeter</b>	Nancy & Jim Necker	<b>Presenters of Gifts</b>	Kevan Berkovitz, Ann Frey, and Janice Donnelly
<b>Count</b>	1	<b>Acolyte</b>	Matthew Schied	<b>Gate</b>	
<b>Christophers</b>	4	<b>Crucifer</b>	Charlie Tolton	<b>Cushion</b>	
<b>Prayer Ministry Team</b>	5	<b>Lay Reader-Sat</b>	Katie Beyer	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Al and Pam Eisenmann
		<b>Lay Reader-Sun</b>	Michele Muller	<b>Setup</b>	Bob Berger

## January 12

<b>Usher</b>	3	<b>Greeter</b>	Maralyn Kennedy and Allan Shikhvarg	<b>Presenters of Gifts</b>	Jim and Nancy Necker and Linda Frezza
<b>Count</b>	2	<b>Acolyte</b>	Alyssa Goodson	<b>Gate</b>	
<b>Christophers</b>	5	<b>Crucifer</b>	Kaylee Goodson	<b>Cushion</b>	
<b>Prayer Ministry Team</b>	1	<b>Lay Reader-Sat</b>	Bill Riehm	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Milt and Sigrid Cannan
		<b>Lay Reader-Sun</b>	Ann Frey	<b>Setup</b>	Tina Bednarczyk

## January 19

<b>Usher</b>	4	<b>Greeter</b>	Christiane and Gerald Schmidt	<b>Presenters of Gifts</b>	Terry, Danielle and Brendan Rowley
<b>Count</b>	3	<b>Acolyte</b>	Gia Berkovitz	<b>Gate</b>	
<b>Christophers</b>	1	<b>Crucifer</b>	Kevan Berkovitz	<b>Cushion</b>	
<b>Prayer Ministry Team</b>	2	<b>Lay Reader-Sat</b>	Linda Cassady	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Erica and Mark Affleck
		<b>Lay Reader-Sun</b>	James Necker	<b>Setup</b>	Sue Tolton

## January 26

<b>Usher</b>	5	<b>Greeter</b>	Angelika and Arthur Zbinden	<b>Presenters of Gifts</b>	Charles Tolton, Maryann and Stephen Leventhal
<b>Count</b>	4	<b>Acolyte</b>	Ella Murphy	<b>Gate</b>	
<b>Christophers</b>	2	<b>Crucifer</b>	Jared Ickler	<b>Cushion</b>	
<b>Prayer Ministry Team</b>	3	<b>Lay Reader-Sat</b>	John Maieron	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Frank and Erica Ganther
		<b>Lay Reader-Sun</b>	Steven Laventhal	<b>Setup</b>	Michele Muller



# January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>OFFICE CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	2	3 7:30 AA	4 8:00 Adult Christian Breakfast Fellowship 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA
5 CHRISTMAS 2 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS 1:00 World War II Story 7:00 Young Adults Group	6 10:00 Sewing Group 6:00 Daisy Troop  PASTORS ON VACATION	7  PASTORS ON VACATION	8 Noon 39RS 7:30 Ruth Circle  PASTORS ON VACATION	9 Noon Sarah Circle 7:00 Men's Devotional 7:30 Eve Circle 6:30 Handbell Choir PASTORS ON VACATION	10 7:30 AA  PASTORS ON VACATION	11 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA  PASTORS ON VACATION
12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS  PASTORS ON VACATION	13 12:30 Miriam Circle 7:30 Women's Prayer Group	14 1:00 & 7:00 - Bible in 90 Days 6:45 Private Confession 7:30 Coram Deo at Synagogue 7:30 Bible Study 8:30 Compline	15 7:30 Council Meeting 7:30 Ecumenical Dialogue at Our Lady Help of Christians 7:30 Hannah Circle	16 6:30 Handbell Choir	17 7:30 AA	18 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA
19 EPIPHANY 2 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS Society of the Hours (after SunSchl)	20 6:00 Daisy Troop <b>OFFICE CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR SHOP &amp; COOK FOR AIDS</b>	21 1:00 & 7:00 - Bible in 90 Days 6:45 Private Confession 7:30 Bible Study 8:30 Compline <b>DELIVER AIDS DINNER</b>	22	23 6:30 Handbell Choir	24 <b>BLOOD DRIVE</b> 7:30 AA	25 5:00 Holy Communion 7:00 AA
26 EPIPHANY 3 9:00 Holy Communion 10:30 Pre-K & Adult SS <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> (following service) 9:00 AM YOUTH SUNDAY 5:00 Potluck & Candlemas Celebration	27 7:30 Coram Deo 7:30 Women's Prayer Group	28 1:00 & 7:00 - Bible in 90 Days 6:45 Private Confession 7:30 Bible Study 8:30 Compline	29	30 6:30 Handbell Choir	31 7:30 AA	