



# THE VISITOR



VOLUME 50 NO. 10

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DECEMBER 2010



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**HOW TO REACH US:**  
 Church: (814) 267-4795  
 Church Office: (814) 267-5014  
 Parsonage: (814) 267-6255

## ADVENT CHRISTMAS SEASON BEGINS

It's no surprise that the schedule is full at Holy Trinity this December. Here are just some of the events scheduled:

### BARN SERVICE

Our annual barn service will be held on Sunday, **DECEMBER 12TH** at 7:00 PM at the Maust barn on High Street, Berlin. Refreshments will follow the simple communion, so bring a dozen cookies to share. Come dressed informally and even bring a blanket or two if it's cold. We ask that as many people as possible carpool to reduce parking problems.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

This year the Sunday School Christmas Program will be held during the 10:40 a.m. service on Sunday, **DECEMBER 19TH**. The children will be presenting "Tell Me The Story of Christmas".



### CHRISTMAS EVE

On Friday, **DECEMBER 24TH**, we will hold our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Caroling will begin at 7 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS DAY CAMP

We are planning a Christmas Day Camp on **DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>** from 10 – 5 for our youth. We need adult volunteers for supervision and help from teens for activities. Parents may use the day for Christmas preparations while the children will enjoy the Advent Cookie Bake, painting, Bible stories/movie, decorating, etc. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. Please see both the volunteer sign-up sheet and the children registration sheets on the bulletin board. Any questions, contact Jeff Moore, 267-5703.

Please open up **THE VISITOR** to see what else our church is doing this Christmas season.

**THE VISITOR**  
 Published ten times a year by  
 Holy Trinity Evangelical  
 Lutheran Church  
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As I write this article it is still a week before Thanksgiving but Advent and Christmas are just around the corner. The return to the beginning of the church year coinciding with the evident change in the seasons forces us to re-evaluate ourselves and our priorities. In winter the fields lay fallow but beneath the surface important growth takes place preparing for the burst of life in spring.

So in our Christian life although the next month looks very busy with activities listed elsewhere in this newsletter the slower pace following these frantic events (shopping, decorating, parties, Christmas Eve service) permits us to sink our roots deep into spiritual soil. We have (or should take) time to reflect on our growth in Christ on where we should concentrate our efforts next. Many of us have certainly grown spiritually during this past difficult year. Although our attendance fluctuates and overall was somewhat lower because of the terrible winter our congregational giving was significantly higher. For the present, total giving to current and building is up a remarkable six percent especially considering the dreadful winter. This is evidence of deep commitment on the part of many individuals. It certainly bucks a national trend in which giving to all causes is way down. For the present, I believe, this deep stewardship will sustain us while we consider other needs.

Two years ago we demonstrated our intense sense of mission when we sent 18 of our members and friends to the Dominican Republic on a mission trip. That trip certainly changed

the lives of many and produced several smaller missions here at home -evangelism and the worship that strengthens it. As announced last month we are setting up a new Worship Committee to study and make recommendations on steps we should take to reach out still further to our far-flung community. We might look at finessing worship time, adding a worship service at a different time other than Sunday morning, more variety in worship resources as well as style of worship. All of these have been tried by a sister congregation with varying degrees of success; some may be helpful to us. So again, if you would like to participate in this new Worship Committee, please contact myself, any member of council or the church office. Jesus said, "go into all the world" (Matthew 28:16-20); that clearly involves Berlin.

Pastor John W. Harmon, D. Min., can be reached at the Church Office at 267-5014. 

*"This will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child  
wrapped in bands of cloth  
and lying in a manger."*



Luke 2:12, NRSV



**STEPHANIE K. BRANT**  
267-5014 [HTELC@VERIZON.NET](mailto:HTELC@VERIZON.NET)

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Church Office will be closed **DEC. 23, 27 AND 30TH** for the Christmas holiday.

**VISITOR DEADLINE**

Please have all your information for the January issue of the Visitor turned in no later than Monday, **DEC. 6**. Information received after that date may be held until February 2011 issue. Also material for the bulletins for December 26th must be received by **DECEMBER 22ND** and material for the bulletins for January 2nd must be received by **DECEMBER 29TH**.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes are available in the church's Sunday school room. If you know someone who is unable to come to church to pick up their envelopes, please consider picking up the envelopes for them, or call the Church Office and we will arrange delivery.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

If anyone sees a picture of someone from our congregation in the newspaper, please cut it out and send it to the church office so we can post it on the bulletin board.

**I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON!!!!**

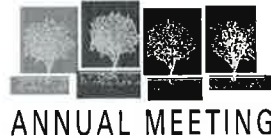
## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2010

The Annual Meeting for 2010 was held on Sunday, November 21st. The minutes for the previous meetings for 2009 and 2010 were approved. Julie Leydig, Carolyn Rastrelli and Tim Clites were elected to council. Brianna Leydig was elected youth delegate and George Walker was elected to a full term on the Board of Managers. Andrea Kreinbrook and Doug Bell were elected as Synod and Conference Delegates. The ministry report for 2010 was presented with particular notice given of our recovery from a very stressful financial situation. The pay off of the loan for the national ELCA fund was noted due to the generous gift from an anonymous donor and other major gifts. Progress of our relationship with Lutheran CORE was noted.

The budget for 2011 was presented and passed without alteration. The new budget calls for expenditures in

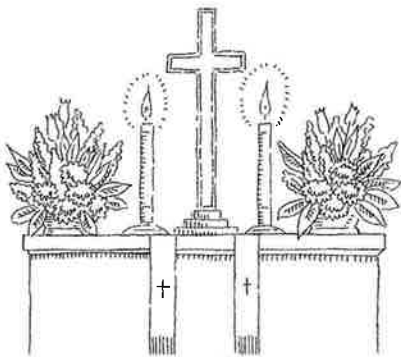
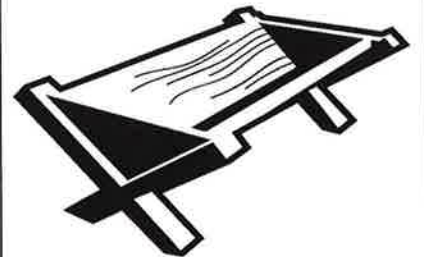
2011 of \$176,421.00; a reduction of \$6,000 from last year's budget. Proposed building needs for the next year or two were noted by the Property Committee with a preliminary plan to replace the front sidewalk from Luther Haus to the church (minus Janet Gindlesperger's property). It's continued deterioration is a safety concern and a proposal may be offered next year in 2011 for replacement to occur in 2012 with fundraisers beginning in 2011 when costs are better understood.

The meeting was adjourned with the cessation of business. A fuller report of the meeting will occur in the newsletter in the future with a transcript at next year's meeting.



## ADVENT ANTICIPATION

In early church history, Advent began as a time of repentance. It served as preparation for Epiphany, which was the second most popular day for baptisms (after Pentecost). Common traditions during the Advent season, including wreaths and candles, add to the anticipation of Jesus' birth. Another tradition is to leave the manger empty when you set up your nativity scene. Then, during Christmas morning celebrations, you can place the newborn baby Jesus in his "bed."



### Worship Schedule

**Beginning Jan. 4, worship will be held at 10:40 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. The 8 a.m. service will return in March.**

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that Christmas will soon be here. Anyone wishing to sing with the choir Christmas Eve or provide special music on Christmas Eve, please let me know and you can come rehearse with the choir on Wednesday nights or I can get the music to you. It is always nice to have extra voices that night as well as special music.

As always anyone is welcome

to join any of our music ensembles at any time of the year or provide special music throughout the year. If you or someone you know has music to share, please contact me.

Jesus is the reason for the season and as the hustle and bustle of the season begins, let's not forget that the real reason to celebrate is all because of Him.

Musically Yours,  
Maria Mowry  
Music Director

# December

**CONTACT US AT:**

**Church Office  
267-5014**

**Church  
267-4795**

**Parsonage  
267-6255**

[htelc@verizon.net](mailto:htelc@verizon.net)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
<p><b>EVENT KEY:</b>                      BYOB = Contemporary Service                      CV= Compassionate Visitors                      HC= Homebound Communion Committee                      HTLCB= Joyful Noise Band                      SC = Senior Choir                      UL = Uncommon Life                      YOGB = Youth Bells</p>			<p><b>EVENT KEY:</b>                      YPM - Youth Planning Meeting                      AB - Adult Bells                      JF - Joyful Noise                      WBS - Women's Bible Study                      YGC - Youth of God Chimes</p>		<p><b>Worship Key</b>                      W= Worship                      SS = Sunday School                      C = Communion                      W &amp; A Worship &amp; Anointing</p>		<p><b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</b>  <b>8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.,</b>  <b>MONDAY - THURSDAY</b></p>	
			1 6:30 PM SC 8:00 PM AB	2	3	4 Confirmation 9:00 - 10:30 Kids Day Camp 10:00 AM		
5 8 AM C & W 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM C & W 4 PM - C & W 6:15 PM YGC	6 <b>VISITOR DEADLINE</b>	7 Quilters and Knotters 7:00 PM Property	8 6:30 PM SC 8:00 PM JF	9 11:00 AM Berlin Sr. Citizens		11		
12 8 AM W 9:30 AM SS 10:40 AM W 6:15 PM YGC Barn Service 7:00 PM	13	14 Quilters and Knotters 7:00 PM Council	15 6:30 PM SC 8:00 PM AB	16	17	18 Confirmation 9:00 - 10:30		
19 8 AM W 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM W Christmas Program 6:15 PM YGC	20	21 Quilters and Knotters	22 6:30 PM SC 8:00 PM JF	23 11:00 AM Berlin Sr. Citizens	24 Candlelight Service 7:00 PM	25		
26 8 AM W & A 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM W & A 6:15 PM YGC	27 <b>OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>		28 Quilters and Knotters	29	30	31		

**TREE OF HOPE**

A tree of hope has gone up for our soldiers. You can purchase a star in memory or honor of a soldier or in memory or honor of a loved one in your family. There is a \$1.00 donation. You can contact Dorothy Gerber or the church office if you would like to make a donation. The stars come in colors of red, white and blue.



**COOKIE SALE**

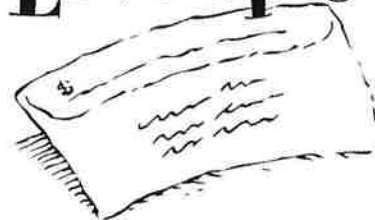
You're invited to the 23rd Annual RSVP Christmas Cookie Sale on Thursday, December 9th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and Friday, December 10th from 8:00 AM to sell out in the upstairs conference room at the Area Agency on Aging, 1338 South Edgewood Avenue in Somerset. Please park in the rear for easy access. Donations of cookies can be brought to the church basement by December 7th.



**2011 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Council has reduced the number of envelope boxes we order to 250 to save money. Envelope numbers above 250 that are used have been re-assigned new numbers. Offering envelopes for 2011 are now available in the rear of the Sunday School room. If you fail to find your envelope

**Offering Envelopes**



**If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or anything else regarding our church, please contact your council representatives (below). They welcome your input! Our suggestion box is located at the rear of the church, if you'd prefer that.**

- |                   |          |                  |          |
|-------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| Kathy Bell        | 267-4095 | Mike Countryman  | 267-3426 |
| Darlene Hillegass | 267-4433 | Homer Kreinbrook | 267-7397 |
| Joyce Meese       | 267-4421 | Jim Mowry        | 443-3770 |
| Wayne Schrock     | 267-3389 | Jim Suder        | 267-4825 |
| Nita Swank        | 267-6839 | Brian Waydo      | 267-4348 |
| Lee Woida         | 267-4420 | John Yeager      | 270-2197 |

Youth Representative: Lindsey Leydig

**RECEIVED  
OCTOBER 2010**

Current	\$14,053.58
Benevolence	\$1,700.32
Building	\$4,172.85
Other	\$969.82
Total	20,896.57

**EXPENSES  
OCTOBER 2010**

Current	\$8,782.26
Benevolence	\$1,758.86
Building	\$3,488.45
Other	\$194.75
Total	14,224.32

**POSITIVE \$6,672.25**

# NEWS

## & Notes

### BAPTISM:

Natasha Louise Zorn , the daughter of Marilyn and John Heiple, was baptized November 7. Maddox Eugene Zorn, son of Natasha and Jeremy Zorn, was baptized November 7. Abigail Paige Gindlesperger, daughter of Robert Jr. and Amber Gindlesperger, was baptized November 7.

Pace Joseph Prosser, son of Tanner and Rachel Prosser, was baptized November 14. Coral Lorraine Prosser, daughter of Tanner and Rachel Prosser, was baptized November 14. Bryn McCoy Prosser, daughter of Tanner and Rachel Prosser, was baptized November 14.

### BIRTHS:

Garrett Michael Waydo, son of Brian and Stephanie Waydo, born November 12.

### WEDDING:

Hope Cober and Jay Smetanka were wed on November 27th at 4:30 pm with Rev. Harmon officiating. Hope is the daughter of Jack and Roxanne Weighley.

**If you or a loved one have had a recent milestone (wedding, birth, etc.), please let us know by calling the Church Office at 267-5014 or email us at [htelc@verizon.net](mailto:htelc@verizon.net).**

## Special Dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2010
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2010
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2010
  - First day of winter, December 21, 2010
  - Christmas Eve, December 24, 2010
  - Christmas Day, December 25, 2010
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2010



AS OF  
NOVEMBER 23, 2010



### HOSPITALIZED:

Everett Nicklow.

### RECUPERATING AT HOME:

Dave Adams, Katie Bell, Janet Bender, Nettie Brown, Roger Duckett, Dorothy Gerber, Faye Glessner, George Wisler, Robert Zorn.

### RESIDING IN NURSING/PERSONAL CARE HOMES:

Ray Adams, Trudy Baker, Joyce Beachley, Florence Engleka, Isabelle Gonger, Rosalind Harkcom, Ella Hittie, Catherine Maust, Louise Ream, Jean Swanson.

### PRAYERS REQUESTED:

Chad Barron, Aubree Lee Bittner, LCpl. Bob Bittner, Brian Bittner, SGT Chad Bittner, Spc. Kevin Bittner\*, Rick Boyer, SGT Bryan Brant, SPC Andrew Bunch, Cpt. Aaron Chonko, SSGT Anson Chonko, Patty Churchey, Lillian Coughenour, Sharon Cugini, Cpl. Eric D'Carrión, 1st Lt. Robert Dickey, Jackie Eubanks, Darcel Fahy, PFC Robert Faircloth, Bill Farber, Ryan Ferre, Cpt. Brian Fisher, David Fullard, CPO Carrie Gardner, SSG Aaron George, SSGT Jason Gerber, Nicholas Gerin, Phyllis Gladden, Marsha Grossman, Roger Hanson, Bob Harkcom, SSG Ron Helm, Travis Hummel (USAF), Sharon (Devine) King, Cpt. James Leister, Linda Leverknight, Nick Lorson, Mario & Mary Lombardo, Sam Marker, Andrea Milburn, Reed Miller, Sonya Meyers, Lee Newell, Mary Nicklow, Betty Cpt. John Paxton, Thayer Paxton, Cpt. Cory Petro\*, Bishop Pile, Charlotte Schafer, Alice Scheferston, Nancy Schrock, Chaplain George W. Shaffer, Private Nathan Shaffer, Matthew Spear, A1C Steven Spear, Bob Younkin, Tom, Lillian, John, Wayne, Jeff and Brenda. \* **Serving in Afghanistan**

### PRAYER LIST POLICY

If you or a member of your family are admitted to any hospital, please notify Pastor John or call the Church Office at 267-5014. Please also let us know when a family member or friend wishes to be removed from the prayer list. We will keep names on the prayer list for one (1) month, unless we know the person is still ill because they are a member of our congregation or whoever put them on the prayer list calls to keep them on.



**W**e are planning a Christmas Day Camp on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 5 for our youth. We need adult volunteers for supervision and help from teens for activities. Parents may use the day for Christmas preparations while the children will enjoy the Advent Cookie Bake, painting, Bible stories/movie, decorating, etc. Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. Please see both the volunteer sign-up sheet and the children registration sheets on the bulletin board. Any questions, contact Jeff Moore, 267-5703.

We have a new program for our Sunday School youth program: Bring a Friend Award. Each time you bring a new friend to Sunday School you and your friend receive a small gift. What a fun way to invite people to come to know the Lord!

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Sunday School snacks for the children. If interested in bringing a snack for a particular Sunday, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Snacks and drink need to be provided for 30 children. Thank You!

Please plan to join us in accompanying Lee Woida at Meadowview Nursing Home on Dec.5 at 2 pm. Lee will lead the service with the residents. We will sing with them at the service and then proceed to carol through the hallways. The residents really enjoyed our visit last year and our youth had a lot of fun too!

Family game days have been scheduled for January 9 and February 13. A covered dish luncheon will be held after church and then we will do family table games.

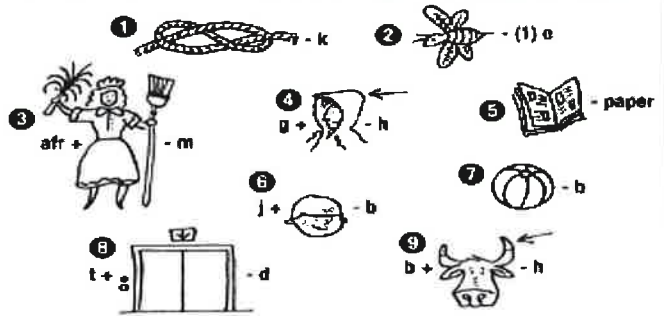
Jeff Moore 

# PUZZLE

## The angel's message

On the first Christmas Eve, shepherds were watching over their flocks when an angel suddenly appeared.

Use the picture clues below to find out what the angels said to the terrified shepherds.



"Do \_\_\_\_\_ I bring you \_\_\_\_\_ of great \_\_\_\_\_ that will be for \_\_\_\_\_ the people. Today in the \_\_\_\_\_ of David a Savior has been \_\_\_\_\_ to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answers: 1. know-k; 2. bee-b; 3. afraid-afr; 4. heard-h; 5. paper-p; 6. joy-j; 7. ball-b; 8. down-down; 9. horn-h.   
 Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11, NIV

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



"Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse' is NOT a Bible verse!"



# WISHING ALL OF YOU A WONDERFUL BIRTHDAY AND/OR ANNIVERSARY!!

SUN

MON

TUE

WED







THU

FRI

SAT

**ANNIVERSARIES**



			1 Michael Slope <b>STEVEN &amp; JODY BERKEY</b> 	2 <b>DALE &amp; VANESSA COSLIC</b> 	3 Tom Fisher Margaret Hittie Emma Lowery Lenora Virtue <b>ALLAN &amp; CHRISTINE BLUEBAUGH</b> 	4 Alivia Lipinski Nyal Walker
5	6 Korey Blubaugh Layken Miller <b>GREG &amp; JESSICA PERSSON</b> 	7 Richard Dunn	8 Charles Maust	9 Jeff Brant Jonnie Hemlock Lorrie Shaw Bryan Walker	10 Stephen Kelley George Wisler <b>THOMAS &amp; ANN MILLER</b> 	11 Michael Dunn Viola Suder
12 William Ringler	13	14 Blaine Hittie	15 Stephanie Clites Shirley Riley <b>JIM &amp; TONYA FROEHLICH BILL &amp; SHIRLEY RILEY</b> 	16 Dianne Engleka	17 Christen Fisher	18
19 Michael Gross, Jr.	20 Chad Bittner James Burcaw Xander Meese	21 Jadon Yost	22 Linda Countryman Samuel Erny Justin Klimchak	23 Carol Burcaw	24 John Hostetler Dorothy Weaver	25 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS</b>
26 Josie Beam Bryan Coleman Malinda Kirk David Meese Rebecca Philip	27 Jessica Leydig	28 Deborah Dilbon Bonnie Foy Jane Fisher Rhonda Leister	29 Aimee Nicklow	30 Hanna Bittner Travis Glessner	31 Janet Bender Kordell Leydig Jon Pribelsky Brett Straight	

**IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 267-5014 OR EMAIL US AT HTELCC@VERIZON.NET**



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, On behalf of the Berlin Food Pantry we wish to thank you for your donation of \$187.50. The donation will assist us in helping those who are struggling to make ends meet in the Berlin School District and Shanksville School District. May God continue to share this blessings.

Thank you,  
Lester Coslic



Dear Ladies,  
We can never thank you enough for the beautiful quilts and walker bags that your group made for our patients.

The time you spend and the attention to detail di not go unnoticed; your items are lovely and we deeply appreciate your care and thoughtfulness.

Our patients are so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers making beautiful items for them. Thank you so much.

Yours truly,  
Nancy Fazio, Coordinator



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of our staff team here at Sequanota, I am happy to write this letter of thanks for your gift of \$77.75. We have lots of programs planned. Please join us as often as you can!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor George Mason



Thank You notes may be sent to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 507 Main St., Berlin, PA 15530.

## ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE FOR 2011

Holy Trinity's Altar Guild held its annual meeting on October 19th.

The proposed schedule for 2011 was discussed and compiled with the following members:

### JANUARY

Larry and Sandy Shober

### FEBRUARY

Carol & Jim Burcaw

### MARCH

Joy and Jay Deem

### APRIL

Katie Bell and Shirley Largent

### MAY

Alice Trent Lana Clemens

### JUNE

Jane Scurfield  
Linda Leverknight

### JULY

Jim & Lynn Suder

### AUGUST

Tim and Sue Clites

### SEPTEMBER

Jay & Emily Berkey

### OCTOBER

Kathleen & Doug Bell

### NOVEMBER

Rocky & Patti Ohler

### DECEMBER

Lois Harris & Helen Barton

Without the diligent work of these volunteers, worship would be a lot less beautiful and meaningful, so thank you to each member of the Altar Guild!



ALTAR GUILD



According to legend, three trees grew near Jesus' manger: an olive tree, a palm tree and the fir. The olive offered its fruit to the newborn king, and the palm tree gave its dates.

The poor fir, having nothing to give but worship, raised its boughs in adoration, and the angels hung stars on its branches. So the fir became the first Christmas tree.



In Loving Memory of Marjorie Maust:  
Evelyn Ringler  
Memorial Donations may be sent to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 507 Main Street, Berlin, PA 15530. Please include your name and address with the donation, along with the name of the person for whom you are donating and the fund in which you want it placed.

## HOLY TRINITY MINISTRY REVIEW FOR 2010

### WE ARE AN EVER-CHANGING FAMILY OF CHRISTIANS....

This past year **ELEVEN** people were received into our membership through the sacrament of Baptism. In the past year the church was involved in **NINETEEN** funerals, **NINE** of which were members. There were **TWO** new births. **FIVE** members received their first communion, in church, on April 18, 2010, and through the help of the Fletcher Fund we gave **EIGHT** third graders their own Bibles on April 4. **SIX** couples were married this past year.

### WE PROCLAIM OUR MISSION TO BE: PREACH & TEACH THE GOSPEL

We held a host of rich worship experiences for the family of God, which gathers here: Christmas Service at the Barn, Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, All Saint's Day Remembrance of Faithful Departed, Shared Lenten Service with Berlin Ministerium, Community Good Friday Service, Easter Worship, Recognition of Graduates, Community Thanksgiving Services, Special Reformation Service, World Wide Communion Sunday, Anointing and prayers for the sick. There were several special Sunday School programs including Christmas and Easter.

Our educational offerings for adults went beyond our regular Sunday School classes with our evening Alpha courses. This past year we studied We The People; Discovering the Bible and the Apostles Creed. During summer Sunday School we studied "What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?", The Journey's of the Apostle Paul, The Life of Paul and the Life of the Apostle Peter. We continue to look for new ways to engage our members in bible study and exploration of faith. To date we have offered 20 different ALPHA courses, some several times, and a number of other offerings for Summer Sunday School to engage the faith community and we continue to search for new opportunities.

Not noted by Jeff in his youth article, a decision was made by the Sunday School Committee to do our own Sunday School Curriculum for 2010 - 2011. Due to the tight budget for this past year, this seemed like a good opportunity to use Jeff's artistic and writing skills in recycling existing curriculum, which we already have. So far it seems to be working fine.

As always the musical ministry had a busy year. The Senior Choir continues to practice on Wednesday evenings and sing on Sundays. They also performed an Easter Cantata that was simply beautiful. Our youth

choir continues to practice their songs during the Sunday School hour and they always added something special to the services they performed at. The adult bells and band both practice on alternating Wednesdays and continue to share their music on Sundays as well. The adult bells played in a combined Christmas concert with the other local church bell choirs. The youth bells and chimes also performed for different services throughout the year showcasing the many talented youth we have in the congregation. This summer we had a wide variety of members share special music and each performance was wonderful. Also the music provided by Debbie and Lorraine throughout the year was, as always, beautiful. Overall the musical ministry continues to be a strong asset to the church and all the ensembles do an excellent job of praising God through music.

### CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS, THE UNCHURCHED AND OTHER COMMUNITY PEOPLE

We held a host of fellowship events: Fastnacht, Pentecost Dinner, Advent Dinner and Easter Breakfast. We honored fathers and mothers in worship. Honored teachers and students for attendance and work. Crusaders Class held a dinner for those who live alone. The Homebound Communion and Compassionate Visitors committees meet bi-monthly to address the concerns of our church family. Homebound Communion members review those persons who desire or need to receive communion in the home or place of residence. This committee is faithful when and where they are asked to provide the sacraments. Compassionate Visitors make visits, phone calls and give support to those who need any sort of compassion in their lives.

If there are concerns regarding parishioners, we will appreciate letting the church office know so we can make the appropriate contact.

One aspect of our congregational life we wish to lift up is our support of civic and community organizations and ministries. As the chartering organization of Berlin Troop 135 of the Boy Scouts of America we are heavily involved in their work in our town. In addition to an annual financial gift to the BSA, we supply meeting and storage space to the troop. We supply meeting space to AARP Tax Aid Program, as well as the Berlin Senior Citizens. The Whiskey Rebellion Committee uses our facilities as does Berlin C.A.R.E.S., the community ministry to our service people in the war zone. We are a pickup point for Meals on Wheels as well as a financial supporter.

We are proud of our involvement in the life of our community.

**WE ARE JOINING WITH OTHER  
CHRISTIANS TO SUPPORT AND HELP FULFILL  
GOD'S PURPOSE IN THE WORLD**

Our church continues participation in Operation Shoebox, ALSM's Harvest Home fund drive and Lutheran World Relief's Blanket Sunday. Through our offerings we supported a host of other ministries: Allegheny Synod - \$3,592.86; Camp Sequanota - \$951.08; ALSM Counseling Ministry in Somerset - \$951.08; Boy Scouts - \$400; World Hunger - \$1,241.37; Food Pantry - \$3,881.00; Blankets - \$90.00; The Berlin Ministerium - \$1,185.85; Compassionate Intervention - \$390.37; Samaritan's Purse - \$390.37; ELCA Ministry and Challenge - \$1,485.85; Disaster Relief - \$365.00 and Gideons - \$300.00.

We worked with the graduating class to hold a Community Baccalaureate Service this year. Participated with other Berlin churches in donations to the Berlin Food Pantry. This year the Crusaders Class held their annual ham dinner. They and the Faithbuilders Class also prepared other fundraiser meals and donated to a variety of charitable causes. The Jolly Quilters and Knotty Knotters gave to Lutheran World Relief, various hospitals and nursing homes, Somerset Oncology and various individuals.

**WE ARE STRIVING TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE  
RESOURCES WITH WHICH GOD HAS BLESSED US**

The biggest project for our Property Committee has been the steeple renovation. After receipt of the steeple condition report, internal repairs were done during Holy Week. A special meeting in June was held to approve the selection of contractor and the method of financing. The loan was secured through the Mission Investment Fund, and we have been receiving additional monies through pledged donations and fundraisers. The external work began October 1 by Reese Brothers Construction. The cross at the top of the steeple was taken down in September, and it was decided to have a replacement created by Gross Brothers Welding & Fabrication.

Due to the steeple expense this year only needed maintenance was done to our properties. The main front door threshold was replaced, balusters in sanctuary were changed, new light installed on boiler room for the church parking lot, and front windows were sealed and repaired. New flooring, tub surround kit, and toilet repairs were done in the Luther Haus apartment. Painting was done inside the Fifth Avenue entrance and outside around the rear parking lot and boiler room. Also the trim on Luther Haus was painted. A few small repairs are to be done to the rear of Luther Haus before winter weather arrives.

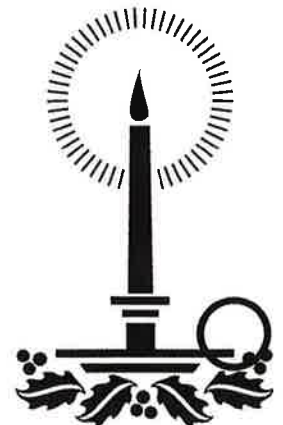
The following is the priority list for the Property Committee. This is to be given to the Budget Committee when they meet so they can budget accordingly: Repairing the front main steps and Fifth Avenue steps and painting the brick on Fifth Avenue; \$5,000, Replacing the front sidewalk from Diamond to Fifth Avenue (excluding Janets) and replacing the water line; \$25,000, Repairing chimney on boiler room; \$1,000, Repairing and replacing back door by boiler room steps; \$500, Repairing steps at Luther Haus \$800. We have more items on our list but this is at the top five that need attended to as the budget allows.

Attendance worship was very erratic. Although the overall totals were down for 2010, on one-third of the Sundays, 2010's attendance exceeded that at 2009. The weather, family reunions, vacations and other factors played havoc with our church attendance. It was the snowiest winter many of us can remember and the hottest summer on record. Overall average attendance at worship declined from 143 to 128. In 2009, there were several Sunday's that featured abnormally high attendance, which contrasted with unusually low attendance on these same Sunday's in 2010.

If these six Sunday's were factored out, attendance figures would have been much closer; 127 in 2009 to 122 in 2010. For the same reasons, Sunday School attendance declined from 73 to 65. The same erratic pattern also occurred with Sunday School where on one-third of the Sunday's in 2010 attendance exceeded that of 2009. Similarly, some abnormally high attendances in 2009 were matched with unusually low attendances in 2010 showing these figures. Without them, the averages were much closer with 71 for 2009 and 68 for 2010.

**IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR AND 2010-11  
SHOULD PROVE TO BE NO LESS ENTICING. THERE  
ARE GREAT CHALLENGES AHEAD BUT ALSO GREAT  
OPPORTUNITIES. WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE AND  
HELP WE CAN ACCOMPLISH MUCH FOR THE  
KINGDOM.**

*The candle symbolizes  
Jesus being the light of the  
world (John 8:12), as well  
as his call for Christians to  
be lights (Matthew 5:14).  
Candles play a prominent  
role in the Christmas season.  
Each candle on an Advent  
wreath has a special  
meaning.*



## HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2011 BUDGET

BENEVOLENCE	2010 BUDGET	SPENT 2010	2011 BUDGET
Allegheny Synod	37.50%	5,750.67	37.50%
Camp Sequanota	10%	1,172.25	10%
ALSM Counseling	10%	1,172.25	10%
Boy Scouts	400.00	400.00	400.00
Discretionary Fund	5%	350.00	5%
ELCA/WHA-CORE/LCMC	37.50%	3,343.89	37.50%
<b>TOTAL BENEVOLENCE</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>12,189.06</b>	<b>400.00</b>
CURRENT EXPENSES	BUDGET 2010	SPENT 2010	2011 BUDGET
Worship Supplies	1,750.00	1,936.89	1,900.00
Music Supplies	400.00	0.00	200.00
Organ and Piano Main.	350.00	360.00	375.00
<b>Subtotal Worship</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>2,296.89</b>	<b>2,475.00</b>
LEARNING/CARING			
Curriculum	3,500	1,651.53	2,000
Vacation Bible School	300.00		300.00
Youth Ministry	500.00		500.00
Parish Life, Witness	1,500	1,233.14	1,200.00
Cont. Ed. For Pastor	500.00	507.92	500.00
Kitchen Supplies	200.00	70.10	200.00
Fellowship	300.00	39.45	300.00
<b>Subtotal Learning Caring</b>	<b>6,800.00</b>	<b>3,502.14</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
SUPPORT SALARIES			
Pastor's Base Salary	40,571.00	40,372.78	40,571.00
Organists	4,328.00	2,961.86	4,328.00
Music Director	2,921.00	2,906.75	2,921.00
Sexton	3,030.00	3,015.28	3,030.00
Treasurer	2,056.00	1,017.99	2,056.00
Cleaning People	8,489.00	8,014.75	8,489.00
Secretarial Services	8,976.00	9,793.72	8,976.00
Youth Director	4,774.00	3,556.98	4,774.00
Supply Pastors	500.00	0.00	500.00
Guest Soloists	100.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Subtotal Salaries</b>	<b>75,745.00</b>	<b>74,640.11</b>	<b>75,745.00</b>

CURRENT EXPENSES	2010 BUDGET	SPENT 2010	2011 BUDGET
Guest Soloists	100.00		100.00
ELCA Benefits	23,500.00	26,599.83	27,000
Pastor's Social Security	4,156.00	4,106.00	4,156.00
Employees' Soc. Security	2,645.00	2,453.06	2,645.00
<b>SUBTOTAL BENEFITS</b>	<b>30,301.00</b>	<b>33,158.89</b>	<b>33,801.00</b>
Synod Assembly Expenses	1,000.00	486.00	500.00
Parish Travel for Ministry	4,680.00	3,402.75	4,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL TRAVEL</b>	<b>5,680.00</b>	<b>3,888.75</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>
Administrative Supplies	5,300.00	4,270.30	4,400.00
Church Telephone	2,800.00	2,348.19	2,400.00
Copier Lease & Maint.	5,000.00	5,392.17	4,200.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT</b>	<b>134,126.00</b>	<b>126,497.44</b>	<b>132,521.00</b>
BUILDING EXPENSES			
UTILITIES			
A. Church	12,500.00	8,575.75	10,000.00
B. Luther Haus	6,000.00	3,256.65	4,000.00
C. Parsonage	4,450.00	3,073.12	3,500.00
MAINTENANCE			
A. Equipment Maint.	7,000.00	6,643.58	7,000.00
B. Snow Removal	1,000.00	850.00	1,000.00
Insurance and Comprehen.	6,500.00	7,622.75	7,500.00
Taxes and Real Estate	1,430.00	1,470.23	1,500.00
IMPROVEMENTS			
Church	5,000.00		5,000.00
Luther Haus	3,000.00	769.08	3,000.00
Parsonage	1,000.00		1,000.00
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>47,880.00</b>	<b>32,261.16</b>	<b>43,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BENEVOLENCE, CURRENT &amp; BUILDING</b>	<b>182,406.00</b>	<b>170,947.66</b>	<b>176,421.00</b>

**Budget  
Planning  
for Next Year**



# THE CHRISTMAS 2010 NEWSLETTER

Dear Family and Friends:

"May the miracle of the birth of Jesus fill your heart with joy, love, peace and happiness and make all your years happy and bright."

## SEPTEMBER 2009:

Sorry I overlooked being grateful to Dr. Novak for my carpal-tunnel operation and his diagnosis of little blood flow going to the veins in my legs. X-rays showed the artery that takes blood to the legs was closed 90%. I was referred to Dr. Tretter at Conemaugh Hospital in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

## JANUARY 2010:

I was invited to attend the Berlin Lutheran Church Council Dinner at Berlin Community Building in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I help each Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Berlin Food Pantry in Berlin, Pennsylvania.

## FEBRUARY 2010:

I was grateful to Dr. Tretter for the surgery to open the artery in my leg.

## MARCH 2010:

Reverend Robert (Bob) and Dorothy Siess from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania visited me for the weekend to attend the "63rd Annual Maple Festival" and parade in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

## APRIL 2010:

I delivered the Easter Message and Communion at Meadow View Nursing Home in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I delivered the Invocation at the Volunteer Luncheon sponsored by Meadow View Nursing Home.

## MAY 2010:

I attended the "25th Anniversary Celebration" at Rest Assured Residential Living at Shirley's Hollow Road in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. I delivered the Benediction at Mt. Lebanon Memorial Service. I delivered the Invocation at the Berlin Memorial Service. I attended the Berlin Brethren Church Fellowship meal, which is held the last Monday of each month. I attended the worship service at Beachdale Church of the Brethren on Owl Hollow Road in Berlin,

Pennsylvania. After the worship service, my great-nephew, Carter Raupach, was baptized. His parents are Renee and Michael Raupach of Garrett, Pennsylvania. I received two (2) injections for my sciatic nerve at the Neurological Institute at the Georgian Place in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

## JUNE 2010:

I delivered the in Invocation at the Maple Syrup Producers Banquet at the Berlin Community Building in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I performed the duties of Visitation Pastor for the Berlin United Church of Christ while Pastor Frank Demmay was on vacation for a few days.

## JULY 2010:

I officiated the wedding of Rita Bonus and John Shaulis at Jane Scurfield's gazebo on High Street in Berlin, Pennsylvania. A reception followed at Rita's son, Paul, and wife, Heather's, at Pack Saddle Bridge area. I performed the duties of Visitation Pastor during the week of July 19th for Pastor John Harmon of the Berlin Lutheran Church in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I attended the Fred Raupach and Leister Reunions at the home of sister Geraldine and brother-in-law Guy Raupach's home in Glencoe, Pennsylvania. I attended the Berlin Historical Picnic at the Beachdale Church of the Brethren on Owl Hollow Road in Berlin, Pennsylvania. Dr. Peter Go removed a cyst from the top of my head.

## AUGUST 2010:

I attended the Area Agency Picnic at the Hayloft in Rockwood, Pennsylvania. I attended the Roxbury United Church of Christ for Worship. I delivered the sermon at the Deeter Reunion. Sister Ruth from York, Pennsylvania, along with her daughters Jill and Beth, visited my sister Geraldine and brother-in-law Guy Raupach's home in Glencoe, Pennsylvania. I spent some time there with them. I also attended the Sam Poorbaugh, Sr. and wife, Elsie (both deceased), Class

Reunion at a new park they are creating on their property in Glencoe, Pennsylvania. I attended a family gathering at sister Ruth's home in York, Pennsylvania. Guy's brother, Jim Raupach, drove Geraldine and myself there. My sister, Phoebe's son (Phoebe who is deceased), David from Canada, Phoebe's daughter, Susan and David from Orlando, Florida and Ruth's daughter, Beth and friend Ginny, granddaughter Jennifer and Ged and their children, Alexander and Elizabeth all got together for a family gathering.

## SEPTEMBER 2010:

Reverend Robert (Bob) and Dorothy Siess from Pittsburgh spent the weekend at my home to attend the Whiskey Rebellion activities, parade and supper at the Berlin Lutheran Church in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I attended the Gideon Banquet at the Berlin Community Building. I began helping with the Handicapped Special Olympics in bowling at the Terrace Lanes Bowling Center in Somerset, Pennsylvania. I help the ones in wheel-chairs for ten sessions.

## OCTOBER 2010:

I delivered the sermon and communion at the Meadow View Nursing Home on Worldwide Communion Sunday and delivered the invocation at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Recognition Banquet at the Berlin Community Building. I attended the Rest Assured Professional Open House. I officiated the wedding of cousin, Talesa Queer and Jeffrey Gaumer at their home in New Centerville, Pennsylvania. A reception followed at Oakhurst Team Room in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

(continued on page 14)

*Christmas 2010 Newsletter  
continued....*

I visited Reverend Don and Becky Cook in Mt. Pleasant and enjoyed my "88th" birthday dinner.

**NOVEMBER 2010:**

I plan to attend Autumn and George Childer's daughter, Halle's, second birthday at their home in Shanksville, Pennsylvania on Saturday, November 6. I also plan to perform the dedication services for their newest daughter, Arabella Noel Childers on Saturday, November 20th at the Shekinah Fellowship at 15 Boyers Pond Road, Central City, Pennsylvania. I plan to attend our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at niece, Renee and nephew, Michael Raupach's home on the Garrett Shortcut Road, Garrett, Pennsylvania. We will also celebrate my great-nephew Carter's 11th birthday. I plan to attend the first birthday of Ashlynn Nicole Lavan on Saturday, November 27th.

**DECEMBER 2010:**

I plan to deliver the Christmas Message and Communion on December 26th at the Meadow View Nursing Center. I also plan to have Christmas Dinner and the exchange of gifts at the home of sister, Geraldine, and brother-in-law, Guy Raupach in Glencoe, Pennsylvania. The family of Renee and Michael Raupach plan to attend as well. "Love You All!"

I wish to thank Renee for typing my Christmas Newsletter and the Berlin Lutheran Church and United Church of Christ secretaries' for printing the copies. Let's continue to pray for peace and safety of our troops serving our country in foreign lands and at home.

I wish to share a thought by Winston Churchill.... "we make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

In Christian Love,  
Pastor Ralph

CHRISTMAS  
*Joy*  
★

Dear Members, Friends and Neighbors:

God Bless America! I'm writing this two days before Veteran's Day, a day to remember those that served their country. There's a lot serving and so pray and think of them. Not just ours but all the others. Pearl Harbor Day is coming up soon; December 7th. If you survived the attack you were lucky as many didn't. I always wanted to go there just to see the U.S.S. Arizona that was completely sunk. The men that died there are still entombed. Lee went and I guess he'll tell you about it if you ask.

This isn't going to be very long. I want to mention December 4th for our Christmas boxes. We are in need of packers and wrappers for Christmas gifts. We'll start at

9:00 but you can come later but please before 11:00. We have to get them to the post office.

I want to thank all that have helped C.A.R.E.S. this past year. God Bless all of you.

We still need donations. Also, if you can bake cookies, candy, gobs, any sweet that we can bag in cans for Christmas have them here or over in the church kitchen by 9:00 AM on December 4th. Mark it C.A.R.E.S.

God Bless, Peace and Love,  
Dorothy Gerber  
C.A.R.E.S.

**Berlin**



**GIVE A LITTLE AND CARE A LOT:  
TAKE THE TIME TO SEND A SOLDIER A GIFT**

**FOOD STUFFS**

- Canned fruit — small ones with flip top
- Cereal bars, granola bars, trail mix, etc.
- Pre-sweetened powder drinks, instant coffee,
- Tea bags
- Beef jerky or Slim Jims
- Bag nuts, potato sticks, cans of chips, crackers
- Snack cakes, packs of gum, bite-size chocolates
- Hard candies, mints in tins or rolls, licorice and Tootsie Rolls

**PERSONAL HYGIENE/ MISC. ITEMS**

- Baby wipes, small packs of tissues, combs, lip balm, cotton swabs, nail clippers
- Travel size toothpaste, deodorants, shampoo, small razors for men and women

- Eye drops, adhesive bandages, cough lozenges, sunscreen (30 to 50 SPF)
- Flip flops/shower shoes and anti-fungal products for feet (creams, powders)
- Gloves and white crew socks
- AT&T Universal Phone Cards
- Playing cards, small hand-held games and batteries
- Air fresheners -- No aerosol products
- Writing paper, envelopes (no postage stamps)
- Money can be donated for postage or other items that we send them.

The Quilters and Knotters had a very busy year, the Knotters working every Tuesday and the Quilters quilting every Tuesday and Friday. The Quilters quilted approximately 15 quilts so far this year. The Knotters sewed and knotted and crochet and gave away the following (this is an approximation):



- 440 covers - some went as far as San Diego, California and to a prenatal hospital in North Carolina - the Ronald McDonald House in Morgantown West Virginia and all through the State of Pennsylvania and Lutheran World Relief.
- 80 neck pillows to Somerset Oncology.
- 61 fancy bags for the cancer patients.
- 30 tote bags
- 1 crochet tablecloth
- 15 crochet prayer shaws for our fallen soldiers and oncology.
- 3 material books.
- 400 walker and wheelchair caddies; the wheelchair caddies go to Health South Pittsburgh to the paraplegics; they are so grateful.
- 15 layettes for Lutheran world relief.
- 4 crochet tams

That totals approximately 1,064 pieces going from our church basement. God has blessed us with so many lovely women to serve him and our Christian outreach is growing and growing. If you would like to join us, we meet every Tuesday morning at 9:00 and fellowship and work. The Knotters have to go strictly on donations to make their cover and articles. We buy all new batting and sheets for the backs of our covers. We have been very blessed with donations of new material, monetary donations, knotting crochet cotton and various other things. If you would like to donate, please give your donation to one of the Knotty Knotters. God seems to always supply. If you know anyone who needs any of these articles, please let us know; we are very willing to give. Thanks everyone for such a good year.

God Loves You and So Do We,  
Nancy Schrock Reporting



*A special thanks to all who donated, prepared and delivered the lovely lunch in October. What a great surprise!*

*The chicken corn soup was delicious and the apple dumplings were to die for. It is so nice to have such a thoughtful and caring church family.*

*A sincere thanks to Pastor Harmon for his visit when I was at my most miserable time. To all who called, visited, sent food, special prayers and thoughts I am most appreciative. It is comforting to know so many care.*

*Katie Bell*



**A PUBLICATION OF HOLY  
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LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*A  
Season  
to  
Rejoice*

**WORSHIP  
ASSISTANTS**

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO HELP WITH WORSHIP ON THE DAY  
YOU ARE ASSIGNED, PLEASE FIRST TRY TO FIND SOMEONE TO  
TRADE DATES WITH, THEN CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 267-  
5014 TO LET US OF THE SCHEDULE CHANGE. THANKS!**

**HEAD USHER:** Jim Mowry

**ALTAR GUILD:** Lois Harris & Helen Barton

**\*C:** Communion

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	CHILDREN'S SERMON	LECTOR/ WORSHIP ASST.	USHER
Dec. 5 *C	8:00 AM	*C Turner Paul	NA	*C Kay Ann Cober	*C Calvin Pyle, Lary & Sandy Shober
	10:40 AM	*C Sara Ferguson	Maria Mowry	*C Kathy Bell	*C John Beachley, Jim Froehlich, Dave Meese
	4 PM	NA	NA	NA	*C Jim Mowry
Dec. 12	8:00 AM	Jeremy Brick	NA	Carey Brant	Jim & Carol Burcaw
	10:40 AM	Jonathan Harmon	Lee Woida	Christine Blubaugh	Tom & Jane Fisher
Dec. 19	8:00 AM	Devan Broderick	NA	Mike Countryman	Lynn & Lori Hoppert
	10:40 AM	Vincent Pribelsky	Jeff Moore	Stephanie Waydo	Chip Landis, Bryan Shober
Dec. 24	7:00 PM	Kordell Leydig, Chance Straight	Ashley Ohler	Kathy Bell	Dale Leydig Team
Dec. 26	8:00 AM	Jon Pribelsky	NA	Sandy Shober	Doran & Sue Walker
	10:40 AM	Rachel Harmon	Pastor John	Carolyn Rastrelli	Wayne and Nancy Schrock