



# THE VISITOR



VOLUME 50 NO. 11

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DECEMBER 2011



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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:

### ADVENT COOKIE BAKE

We will be holding the annual Advent Cookie Bake during Youth Group on **DECEMBER 4TH**. We will be extending youth group from 3pm - 5pm that day with Youth of God Chimes to follow as usual. All ages are invited to attend!

### JOINT BELL AND CHIME CONCERT

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity United Church of Christ and Berlin Brethren Church will host another joint bell and chime concert, Sunday, **DECEMBER 11TH** at 2:00PM at the Berlin Highschool Auditorium. A free will offering will be taken to support the Salvation Army Bell-Ringer Campaign.

### BARN SERVICE

Our annual barn service will be held on Sunday, **DECEMBER 11TH** 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 18TH**.

### CHRISTMAS EVE

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



### CHRISTMAS DAY

We will start our winter hours on Christmas Day this year. There will be one service beginning at 9:00 AM with communion. Sunday School will begin at 10:15 AM on New Year's Day. We will run this schedule until the beginning of March.



## THE VISITOR

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Thanks for Thanksgiving

At this time of year we look back on a year of growth and change. At Thanksgiving, which will have passed by the time you read this, we gathered together with family and friends to enjoy the company of each other, to reminisce of good times with those who could not be there, to remember those we have gone on to better life and to enjoy holiday movies and musical offerings as well as seasonal sports. In the midst of all this busy-ness it is easy to forget the author of all this reason to give thanks. So holy scripture commands us over and over to "give thanks" as one of our offering hymns dictates. Giving thanks forces us to focus on the many ways our Lord and his Christian community has supported us through the past year and beyond. For many of us, this church community may be more important, or at least more present, than our actual families. Certainly, it is for me. My biological family is in Minnesota and my wife's biological family is back in New York. My Christian family here in Berlin becomes primary and most immediate and for that I give thanks.

But, of course, I also give thanks for those who have supported, molded, guided and directed my life through so many years. I give thanks for teachers from elementary, Sunday school, college and seminary instructors. I remember Sunday School teachers and pastors college chaplains and church bishops and mentors. I give thanks for parents, aunts, cousins and especially my siblings.

I cherish my adoptive family - my in laws and all they have done for my growth and Christian discipleship. I celebrate artists, musicians, writers and thinkers who have challenged me to open my mind and look to a world as big as God. And for all I give thanks I believe. I have still much more to hunger for and hope in His world to come. Give Thanks!

**WHAT'S ON YOUR LIST?**

A little smile, a word of cheer,  
A bit of love from someone near,  
A little gift from one held dear,  
Best wishes for the coming year...



These make a Merry Christmas!

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



Illustration: NRSV



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

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Church Office will be closed **DECEMBER 26** for the Christmas holiday.

**VISITOR DEADLINE**

Please have all your information for the January issue of the Visitor turned in no later than Monday, **DECEMBER 5**. Information received after that date may be held until February 2012 issue. Also material for the bulletins for December 25th must be received by **DECEMBER 20TH** and material for the bulletins for January 1st must be received by **DECEMBER 27TH**.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes will be available the week of December 5 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.

It's hard to believe I have been here over a year. I truly love my job and am very blessed to work for such a caring congregation. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season!!!!

**2012 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 2012 will be available starting the week of December 5 in the rear of the Sunday School room. If you fail to find your envelope and would like them, please contact the church office.

**Offering Envelopes**



**TREE OF HOPE**

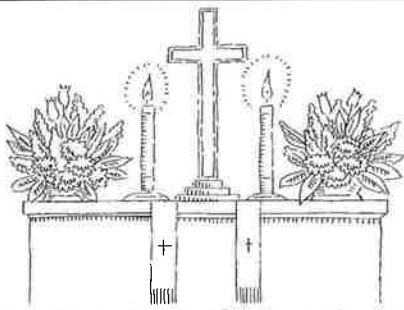
A tree of hope has gone up for our soldiers. You can purchase a star in memory or honor of a soldier or in memory or honor of a loved one in your family. There is a \$1.00 donation. You can contact Dorothy Gerber or the church office if you would like to make a donation. The stars come in colors of red,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



**ANNUAL COOKIE SALE**

You're invited to the 24th annual RSVP Christmas Cookie sale! We have more sandtarts and raisin filled cookies and a wide variety of other favorites. Thursday, **DECEMBER 8, 2011** 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM and Friday, **DECEMBER 9, 2011** 7:30 AM to sell-out at the Area Agency on Aging in the upstairs conference room. Park in rear for easy access.

*Christmas Cookies*



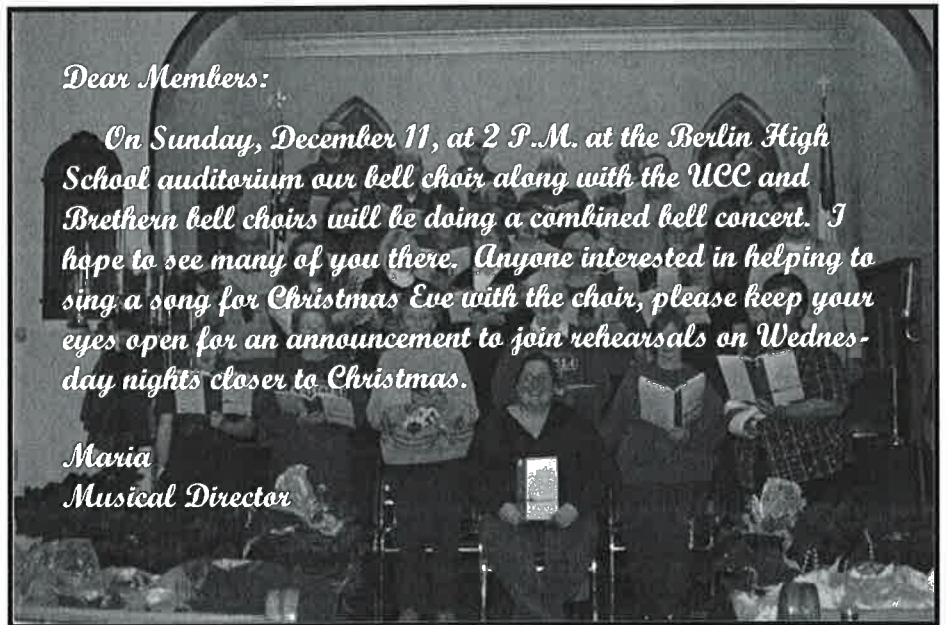
**Worship Schedule**

**Beginning December 25** worship will be held at **9:00 A.M.**, with Sunday School at **10:15 A.M.** The 8 AM and 10:40 AM services will return in March. There will be **NO Sunday School on Christmas Day.**

*Dear Members:*

*On Sunday, December 11, at 2 P.M. at the Berlin High School auditorium our bell choir along with the UCC and Brethern bell choirs will be doing a combined bell concert. I hope to see many of you there. Anyone interested in helping to sing a song for Christmas Eve with the choir, please keep your eyes open for an announcement to join rehearsals on Wednesday nights closer to Christmas.*

*Maria  
Musical Director*



**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**

**EVENT KEY:**

BYOB = Contemporary Service  
CV= Compassionate Visitors  
HC= Homebound Communion  
Committee  
HTLCB= Joyful Noise Band  
SC = Senior Choir  
UL = Uncommon Life  
YOGB = Youth Bells

**EVENT KEY:**

YPM - Youth Planning Meeting  
AB - Adult Bells  
JF - Joyful Noise  
WBS - Women's Bible Study  
YGC - Youth of God Chimes

**Worship Key**

W= Worship  
SS = Sunday School  
C = Communion  
W & A Worship & Anointing

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.,**  
**MONDAY - THURSDAY**

				1 7:00 PM ALPHA	2	3
4 8 AM C & W 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM C & W 4 PM - C & W 3:00 PM YG 5:00 YGC 5:30 PM YPM	5 <b>VISITOR DEADLINE</b>	6 Quilters and Knotters 7:30 PM Property	7 6:30 PM SC 7:30 PM AB	8 12:30 PM Berlin Sr. Citizens 7:00 PM ALPHA	9	10 5:30 PM SEWS
11 8 AM W 9:30 AM SS 10:40 AM W 2:00 PM Bell Concert 7:00 PM Barn Service	12	13 Quilters and Knotters 7:00 PM Council	14 6:30 PM SC 7:30 PM AB	15	16	17 5:30 PM SEWS & Communion
18 8 AM W 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM W Christmas Program 4:00 YG 5:00 PM YGC	19	20 Quilters and Knotters	21 6:30 PM SC 7:30 PM AB	22	23	24 Candlelight Service 7:00 PM
25 9:00 AM - W <b>NO SS</b>	26	27 Quilters and Knotters	28 6:30 PM SC 7:30 PM AB	29	30	31
<b>Pastor John Out Of Town December 26 - January 30</b>						

**SEQUANOTA HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

There will be a Holiday Bazaar on December 3, 2011 at 6:00 PM. They will draw for turkeys and hams for your holiday dinners along with some grand prize drawings. This bazaar is to raise money for camperships.

**DECEMBER'S SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER**

Second Sunday of Advent

**December 4, 2011**

Third Sunday of Advent

**December 11, 2011**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**December 18, 2011**

First day of winter

**December 22, 2011**

Christmas Eve

**December 24, 2011**

Christmas Day

**December 25, 2011**

**(New Winter Schedule Starts!)**

New Year's Eve

**December 31, 2011**

**NEW! ELECTRONIC PRAYER LIST!**

In an attempt to keep the church family up to date on events happening here, I would like to start a new prayer list chain. If you have email, please email me at the church so I can add you to the list. Our mailing will include information on illnesses, deaths, births, good news and much more! Please sign up today so I can keep you up to date on events happening with our church family. Thank you!



**BELL AND CHIME CONCERT SCHEDULED**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity United Church of Christ and Berlin Brethren Church will host another joint bell and chime concert, Sunday, December 11th at 2:00PM at the Berlin High School Auditorium. The last concert, two years ago despite a blizzard, drew a large crowd. You are invited again to enjoy this memorable, heavenly music to embellish the Christmas season. A free will offering will be taken to support the Salvation Army Bell-Ringer Campaign.

**RECEIVED OCTOBER 2011**

Current	\$9,322.26
Benevolence	\$1,271.75
Building	\$7,288.50
Other	\$1,260.00
Total	\$19,142.51

**EXPENSES OCTOBER 2011**

Current	\$10,478.32
Benevolence	\$1,491.82
Building	\$1,999.17
Other	\$678.36
Total	\$14,647.67

**POSITIVE \$4,494.84**

**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 | Carolyn Rastrelli | 267-6277 |
| Homer Kreinbrook | 267-7397 | Julie Leydig      | 267-9960 |
| Joyce Meese      | 267-4421 | Tim Clites        | 267-3519 |
| Wayne Schrock    | 267-3389 | John Yeager       | 270-2197 |
| Nita Swank       | 267-6839 | Brian Waydo       | 267-4348 |
| Lee Woida        | 267-4420 | VJ Chalk          | 267-4433 |

Youth Representative: Briana Leydig 267-5208

# NEWS

## & Notes

**BAPTISM:** None.

**BIRTHS:** Ms. Laina Brooke was born on October 19th. Josh and Andrea (Beachley) Milburn are her parents and she joins her sister, Kira Marie, who is four years old.

**WEDDING:** None.

**DEATHS:** Our sympathies to the family and friends of Irene Mowry, who died November 16. We pray this family will experience the shepherding hand of God as he leads them past the valley of the shadow of death and guides them to find the green pastures of hope and the still waters of peace.



**Best wishes to William Ringler as he celebrates his 90th Birthday on December 12, 2011. Please send him a card or give him a phone call. Better yet, go and visit with him. Thank you!**

**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).**



**AS OF  
NOVEMBER 23, 2011**



**HOSPITALIZED:**

None.

**RECUPERATING AT HOME:**

David Adams, Joyce Beachley, Janet Bender, Leo Bittner, Pauline Blubaugh, Glen Brant, Joyce Brant, Esther Brooks, Nettie Brown, Tim Clites, Tom Dively, Ray Engleka, Tom Fisher, Debra Fogle, Justin Foreman, Faye Glessner, Geneva McVicker, Bill Mothersbaugh, Everett Nicklow, William Ringler, Tim Rhoads, Bill Shipley, Nora Virtue, Susan Walker, Jay Whipkey and Robert Zorn.

**RESIDING IN NURSING/PERSONAL CARE HOMES:**

Ray Adams, Trudy Baker, Isabelle Gonger, Lloyd Herwig, Ella Hittie, Catherine Maust, Alice Scheferston, Jean Swanson.

**PRAYERS REQUESTED:**

Chad Barron, Kim Bennett, Lisa Bittner, Private Nicholas Bittner, Brittany (Sleasman) Brady, Kathy Jo (Knotts) Brant, Jo Cawthern, Chad, Cpt. Aaron Chonko, SSGT Anson Chonko, LCPL Dustin Churchel\*, Kirk Cober, Lillian Coughenour, Sharon Cugini, Dave Custer, Pastor Frank Demmy & Pat Demmy, Roger and Mary-Alice Duckett, Darcel Fahy, Bill Farber, Ryan Ferre, Cpt. Brian Fisher, CW2 John Fisher, David Fullard, AEC Carrie Gardner (Thomas), Donald Gardner, Joy Gardner, Jennifer, Ryan and Sarah Gardner, SSGT Jason Gerber, Tom & Dorothy Gerber, Nicholas Gerin, Phyllis Gladden, Clyde Gray, Marsha Grossman, Roger Hanson, Sadie Harmon, Susan Heisler, SGT Bobby Hoffman, Edith Hoffman, Lori Hoppert, Gary Lape, Travis Hummel (USAF), Joann, Julie, Leon Knepper, Cpt. James Leister, Villa Leslie, Linda Leverknight, Nick Lorson, Kathy Lowes, Lou Ann, Mario & Mary Lombardo, Dawn Lynch, Sam Marker, \*Benjamin Meese, Dave and Joyce Meese, Carl Metzgar, Sonya Meyers, Eloise Miller, Mrs. Keri, Mindy, Bob and Bonnie Murphy, Dick Murray, Mary Nicklow, Lindsay Ohler, Betty & Frank Pannone, Beth Patt, Mjr. James Paxton, III, Cpt. John Paxton\*, Thayer Paxton, Melissa Petro, Wayne Potter, Larry Powell, Lloyd Purbaugh, Ruth Queer, Earl and Linda Reed, Amelia Rhoades, Roger Sarver, Sam, Harold Shaw, Dave Silko, Pauline Stone, Doran Walker, Glenda Weimer, Peggy Woida, CAPT Scott Woida, David Yutzy.

**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 re-moved 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



**O**ur next Youth Meeting will be December 4th @ 5:30pm.

We will be holding the annual Advent Cookie Bake during Youth Group on December 4th. We will be extending youth group from 3pm - 5pm that day with Youth of God Chimes to follow as usual. All ages are invited to attend!

Children's Church is available every week during the 10:40 service for all kids age 3 to grade 5. The idea of Children's church is to give the kids a break from the service and have a message geared toward their age group. 6th through 12th graders are needed to assist. We will take the children downstairs after the children's sermon and keep them there until church is over except communion Sundays they will return for communion.

The Children's Church has been going very well. The key to its success has been the 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders who are helping. These young people have been able to lead the younger kids in projects or crafts. They have assisted me with material preparation and clean-up. Also, they have been involved in teaching the message for the day. It is a good chance for some of them to step outside of their comfort zone and experience time with younger kids. I have been able to see relationships starting between the older and younger youth through this time. Some kids have met and spent time with others they would not have known otherwise.

We have started our own youth group and have held several meetings so far. It seems to be growing and the youth seem to be enjoying themselves.

We meet at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 4-5pm every other Sunday Starting Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. We will take prayer requests, pray and then start with some sort of ice breaker that will help us get to know one another. The casual atmosphere will make the youth feel comfortable. Contemporary Christian music will be used in the background. We will play a medium- high energy game each week which will hopefully be a lot of fun! Our 10-15 minute message and discussion will be tied into either our game or a demonstration. Snack will follow the message and there will be other activities set up if time allows after snack.

## YOUTH OF GOD CHIMES

Youth of God Chimes meets at **5:00 PM immediately following each youth group meeting.** All grades are welcome to attend.



### OUR NEW YOUTH GROUP

We will meet at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 4-5pm every other Sunday. Our next dates will be December 4th and 18th. We will take prayer requests, pray and then start with some sort of ice breaker that will help us get to know one another.

The casual atmosphere will make the youth feel comfortable. Contemporary Christian music will be used in the background. We will play a medium- high energy game each week which will hopefully be a lot of fun! Our 10-15 minute message and discussion will be tied into either our game or a demonstration. Snack will follow the message and there will be other activities set up if time allows after snack.

We would like to build relationships at a young age that the youth will be able to build on and continue in the future!

## UNCOMMON LIFE EVENTS DECEMBER 2011

4 - "Uncommon Life" YG

7 - Jr. High 12:2

11 - "Uncommon Life" YG

14 - Sr. High 12:2

18 - YG Christmas Party

28-29 - 30 Famine and Lock-in



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Steve & Jody Berkey Michael Slope	2	3 Allan & Chris Blubaugh Tom Fisher Margaret Hittie Emma Lowery Lenora Virtue
4 Alivia Lipinski Nyal Walker, Jr.	5 Samuel Popovich, Jr.	6 Korey Blubaugh Layken Miller	7 Richard Dunn	8 Charles Maust	9 Jeff Brant Jonnie Hemlock Lorrie Shaw Bryan Walker	10 Stephen Kelley <b>Tom &amp; Ann Miller</b>
11 Michael Dunn Viola Suder	12 William Ringler	13 Dale Leslie	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	20 Chad Bittner Jim Burcaw Xander Meese	21 Jadon Yost	22 Linda Countryman	23 Carol Burcaw	24 John Hostetler Dorothy Weaver
25	26 Josie Beam Bryan Coleman David Meese Rebecca Philip	27 Jessica Leydig Tim Woida	28 Deb Dilbon Jane Fisher Jeanne Leister Pace Prosser	29 Aimee Nicklow	30 Hanna Bittner Travis Glessner	31 Janet Bender Kordell Leydig Nicole Ohler Jon Pribelsky Brett Straight

**IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 267-5014 OR  
EMAIL US AT [HTLCC@VERIZON.NET](mailto:HTLCC@VERIZON.NET)**



Dear Ladies:

We were so pleased to receive the beautiful quilts and wheelchair bags that you so lovingly made for our patients at HealthSouth Har-marville Rehabilitation Hospital.

Our patients are always so thrilled to receive either a lap robe or a wheelchair bag upon being admitted to the hospital. It means so much to both the patient and their family to receive something that has been lovingly made by a group such as yours. I wish you could hear the wonderful compliments.

Volunteers are special people to share their time and talent to perform such a worthwhile service - a service that makes every patient's stay at HealthSouth Harmarville more pleasant.

Thank you for your kindness, care and love.

Yours Truly,  
Nancy Fazio  
Coordinator Volunteer Services

Dear Friends

It is with much appreciation that I am writing you today to thank you for your gift of \$60.70 to the Child Survival Program Fund. Your generosity is changing lives in some of the world's poorest communities. May God richly bless you for your service to Him!

Dr. Wess Stafford, President

Dear Friends

Thank you for your recent gift to the ministry of the Samaritan's Purse.

Sincerely,  
Franklin Graham

Dear Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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 \$72.80. Your contribution will assist Sequanota in many ways as we enter the winter retreat session.

In Christ's Service  
Pastor George Mason  
Executive Director

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



**Memorials Received Towards Sidewalk Fund:**

Shelvie Ryan  
In Honor of Rosalind Harkcom from Wanda L. Brown

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.

**PROPOSED ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE FOR 2012**

Holy Trinity's Altar Guild held its annual meeting at the end of November.

The proposed schedule for 2011 will be 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!



## HOLY TRINITY MINISTRY REVIEW FOR 2011

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

This past year **SIX** people were received into our membership through the sacrament of Baptism. In the past year the church was involved in **EIGHT** funerals, **SEVEN** of which were members. There were **TWO** new births. **FOUR** members received their first communion and through the help of the Fletcher Fund we gave **SEVEN** third graders their own Bibles. **THREE** 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, the Community Good Friday Service and Thanksgiving Service, Easter Worship, Recognition of Graduates, 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 centered primarily on a presentation of "The Truth Project". This massively researched series was well-received and the special hand-outs provided a wealth of follow-up information. The Truth Project was also offered as a summer learning opportunity for those who wished to delve deeper. Alpha classes continued on Thursday evenings with several fine presentations. We continue to look for new ways to engage our members in bible study and exploration of the faith. One opportunity we are pursuing is a new Sunday School class for past high school and through early adulthood. Further information will appear in a future newsletter.

In mid year the position of Youth Director changed. Jeff Moore resigned the position to have more time to spend with his grown children and other pressing concerns. Jeff began and developed the position to a fine set of ideas and priorities. He continues to help and aid our new Youth Director, Rachel Prosser. Rachel continues to energize our youth and family ministries. The Rally Day, created with the help of the committee, was our best in many years. She has begun our new church youth group and children's church. She also keeps in touch with the Berlin churches for youth activities that might be of interest to the larger community. We treasure her commitment and growing expertise in this position.

As always the musical ministry had a busy year. The Senior Choir continues to practice on Wednesday evenings and sing on Sundays. During the summer various members of the choir or other church members offered their musical talents. The adult bells and band continue their practices on Wednesday evening and added fine music to our worship. Adult bells is busy in practice right now for the upcoming community concert in December. Debbie and Lorraine, our gifted organists continued to lead our music and their duets are always a treat. Lorrie Shaw continues an excellent job of crafting future musicians with our chimes who now rehearse right after youth group on Sunday evening.

### **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 continue 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 and the cub scouts. 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 - \$4,311.82; Camp Sequanota - \$1,149.80; ALSM Counseling Ministry in Somerset - \$1,149.80; Boy Scouts - \$400; ELCA/WHA/CI/SP/BM - \$4,311.89.

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.

Our continuing membership in Lutheran CORE has been a real blessing. I have attended several excellent theological events further grounding my ministry in orthodox Christian mission. CORE continues to grow both in its mission and its outreach. Happily the orthodox nature of CORE's key presenters have been recognized by ELCA leadership both national and local. Dr. Walter Taylor, a key Lutheran scholar at one of our seminaries has been a featured speaker both at CORE events and important ELCA theological gathering perhaps most significantly one for our bishops. Bishop Pyle has appointed a strong CORE pastor to be interim pastor at two neighboring congregations. And the ELCA, CORE and the NALC have all committed themselves to attempt to work together for evangelical world mission in any way possible. I continue to look forward to future developments in this shared ministry.

As will be apparent from other aspects in this report we continue to grow both in the depth of our commitment to the Lord and the effectiveness of our mission. Income and attendance for the year at worship were both up while Sunday School attendance declined modestly mainly due to the aging of certain members as well as increasingly busy lives of our members. We continue to look for new efforts to improve our Sunday School offering and attendance. Thanks especially to Dutchie Zorn, our tireless treasurer, for keeping us in the black. All of our employees and volunteers exert tremendous efforts to lead us forward as we proclaim Christ together. Thanks to all.

## ANNUAL MEETING HELD



At the annual meeting held November 20th, 2011 following the 10:40 AM service the church continued plans for its 235th year. V.J. Chalk, Lee Woida, Connie Slope and Villa Leslie were elected to three year terms in church council and Brianna Leydig re-elected to a one year term as youth delegate. Rocky Ohler was elected to a full five year term on the Endowment Fund and Andrea Kreinbook Doug and Kathleen Bell were elected as Synod and Conference Delegates. Presentations were made from all committees and the budget was presented by council President Homer Kreinbrook, Jr. The budget was passed with no changes. Notes were made that it continues a slight decline in planned expenditures from the budget for 2011. The ongoing needs for a sidewalk renovation and a new handicap ramp were lifted up as well as the means to finance there ongoing needs. The meeting was adjourned and many stayed for a fellowship meal fundraiser served by the Faith Builders Class and to finish our Shoebox Project. We ended up finishing 93 boxes.

## Let It Shine!

*Whatever else be lost among the years,  
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing.  
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,  
Let us hold close one day, remembering  
Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men.  
Let us get back our childlike faith again.*

*Grace Noll Crowell*

*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 2012 BUDGET

BENEVOLENCE	2011 BUDGET	SPENT 2011	2012 BUDGET
Allegheny Synod	37.50%	4,311.82	37.50%
Camp Sequanota	10%	1,149.80	10%
ALSM Counseling	10%	1,149.80	10%
Boy Scouts	400.00	400.00	400.00
Discretionary Fund	5%	387.61	5%
ELCA/WHA-/CI/SP/BM	37.50%	4,311.89	37.50%
<b>TOTAL BENEVOLENCE</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>11,710.92</b>	<b>400.00</b>
CURRENT EXPENSES	BUDGET 2011	SPENT 2011	2012 BUDGET
Worship Supplies	1,900.00	1,254.31	1,400.00
Music Supplies	200.00	31.98	150.00
Organ and Piano Main.	375.00	180.00	250.00
<b>Subtotal Worship</b>	<b>2,475.00</b>	<b>1,466.29</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>
LEARNING/CARING			
Curriculum	2,000.00	1,902.14	1,900.00
Vacation Bible School	300.00	0	300.00
Youth Ministry	500.00	0	300.00
Parish Life, Witness	1,200.00	119.75	200.00
Cont. Ed. For Pastor	500.00	355.00	500.00
Kitchen Supplies	200.00	0	200.00
Fellowship	300.00	195.26	300.00
<b>Subtotal Learning Caring</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>2,572.15</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>
SUPPORT SALARIES			
Pastor's Base Salary	40,571.00	40,572.00	40,978.00
Organists	4,328.00	2,754.70	4,372.00
Music Director	2,921.00	2,921.00	2,950.00
Sexton	3,030.00	3,030.00	3,060.00
Treasurer	2,056.00	1,027.98	2,077.00
Cleaning People	8,489.00	8,239.77	8,574.00
Secretarial Services	8,976.00	11,365.20	11,479.00
Youth Director	4,774.00	3,324.64	5,252.00
Supply Pastors	500.00	125.00	250.00
Guest Soloists	100.00	40.00	100.00
<b>Subtotal Salaries</b>	<b>75,745.00</b>	<b>73,400.29</b>	<b>79,092.00</b>

CURRENT EXPENSES	2011 BUDGET	SPENT 2011	2012 BUDGET
ELCA Benefits	27,000.00	26,717.78	27,000.00
Pastor's Social Security	4,156.00	4,156.00	4,250.00
Employees' Soc. Security	2,645.00	2,663.66	2,750.00
<b>SUBTOTAL BENEFITS</b>	<b>33,801.00</b>	<b>33,537.44</b>	<b>34,000.00</b>
Synod Assembly Expenses	500.00	318.00	400.00
Parish Travel for Ministry	4,00.00	3,384.08	3,600.00
<b>SUBTOTAL TRAVEL</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>3,702.08</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>
Administrative Supplies	4,400.00	5,747.89	5,500.00
Church Telephone	2,400.00	3,309.90	3,300.00
Copier Lease & Maint.	4,200.00	4,700.09	4,200.00
<b>SUBTOTAL ADMINIST.</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>13,757.88</b>	<b>13,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT</b>	<b>132,521.00</b>	<b>128,436.13</b>	<b>135,592.00</b>
BUILDING EXPENSES			
UTILITIES			
A. Church	10,000.00	8,282.28	8,600.00
B. Luther Haus	4,000.00	5,177.56	4,500.00
C. Parsonage	3,500.00	3,234.67	3,500.00
<b>SUBTOTAL UTILITIES</b>	<b>17,500.00</b>	<b>16,694.51</b>	<b>16,600.00</b>
MAINTENANCE			
A. Equipment Maint.	7,000.00	4,454.73	5,000.00
B. Snow Removal	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL MAINTENANCE</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>5,454.73</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>
INSURANCE AND TAXES			
Insurance and Comprehen.	7,500.00	8,631.00	8,700.00
Taxes and Real Estate	1,500.00	1,563.43	1,600.00
<b>SUBTOTAL INSURANCE &amp; TAX</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>10,194.43</b>	<b>10,300.00</b>
IMPROVEMENTS			
Church	5,000.00	3,258.71	4,500.00
Luther Haus	3,000.00	33.88	400.00
Parsonage	1,000.00	0	500.00
<b>SUBTOTAL - IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>3,292.59</b>	<b>5,400.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>43,500.00</b>	<b>35,636.26</b>	<b>38,300.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT &amp; BUILDING</b>		<b>164,072.39</b>	<b>173,892.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BENEVOLENCE, CURRENT &amp; BUILDING</b>	<b>176,421.00</b>	<b>175,783.31</b>	<b>185,602.92</b>

**NOTE: 2011 Budget contains no benevolence giving. 2012 budget contains expected benevolence offering.**

# THE CHRISTMAS 2011 NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2010

I hand delivered 390 and mailed 110 Christmas letters.

## JANUARY 2011

I was invited to attend the Berlin Lutheran Church Council Supper at the Berlin Community Building in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I helped each Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Berlin Food Pantry in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I attended the Berlin Brethren Fellowship Supper the last Monday of each month. I assisted a funeral with Rev. Frank Demmay of the Berlin United Church of Christ for my sister-in-law, June Landis.

## FEBRUARY 2011

I enjoyed lunch with Rev. Bob and Dorothy Siess from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at Seven Springs Resort.

## MARCH 2011

Rev. Bob and Dorothy Siess visited for the day. We visited a cousin, Dick Brant's Sugar Camp, where he showed us around and explained the operation of the making of maple syrup.

## APRIL 2011

Rev. Bob and Dorothy Siess visited me on April 2nd and 3rd to attend the 64th Annual Maple Festival and parade in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. We also attended the Historical Pageant, "The Legend of the Magic Waters". We had the pleasure of enjoying lunch consisting of pancakes, sausage and homemade maple syrup held by the Lion's Club. I attended the Berlin Ministerial Good Friday Service at the Berlin Alliance Church in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I delivered the Invocation at the (RSVP) Retired Senior Volunteer Luncheon at the Berlin Community Building sponsored by the Meadow View Nursing Home in Berlin, Pennsylvania. I attended the Berlin Brothersvalley High School musical production entitled, "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream-Coat". I delivered the Easter Message at the Golden Living Nursing Home in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. I attended the "AARP Drive Safety Program" at the

Somerset Trust Bank in Somerset, Pennsylvania instructed by Jim Suder.

## MAY 2011

I delivered the Invocation and the Benediction at the Memorial Day Services at the Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Zion, and the Berlin 100F. I was the Visitation Pastor for Rev. Dr. John Harmon of the Trinity Lutheran Church while he was vacationing. I officiated the Baptism of Sidney Beckner, parents Kelsey and John Beckner at their home (Grandparents: Annette and Carl Landis).

## JUNE 2011

I attended niece, Brittany Arnold's High School Graduation Party. (Parents: Melissa and Eric Arnold; Grandmother and my niece: Betty Jane Arnold). It was held at the home of Aunt Theresa and Uncle David Migot. I attended Arabella Childer's First Birthday party at the home of her parents Autumn and George Childers in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. (Grandparents: Renee and Michael Raupach). I attended the Annual Block Party and Parade in Berlin, Pennsylvania.

## JULY 2011

I attended the Northampton's "One Room School" Reunion and the Poorbaugh Reunion at Mt. Oliver United Methodist area. I attended the Fred Raupach, the Landis and the Leister Reunions at the home of my sister and brother-in-law's, Geraldine and Guy Raupach in Glencoe, Pennsylvania. I also attended the Berlin Historical Picnic at Mt. Liver. I met Rev. Bob and Dorothy Siess at Ohiopyle State Park for a picnic. Ohiopyle is a favorite spot for biking, swimming, canoeing and kayaking.

## AUGUST 2011

I delivered the Message at the Deeter Reunion. I attended the Roxbury United Church of Christ for their 125th Anniversary Celebration (1886).

## SEPTEMBER 2011

I attended the Wedding Ceremony and Reception of Samantha Jane Poorbaugh and Charles Anthony Beck III at the home of Samantha's parents, Charlene and David Poorbaugh in Glencoe, Pennsylvania. (Grandparents: Darlene and Samuel (deceased) Poorbaugh; Charles' parents: Charles Beck, Jr. and wife, Elisa; and Grandparents; Charles Beck, Sr. and wife, Rita). Rev. Bob and Dorothy Siess spent the weekend to attend the "Whiskey Rebellion" in Berlin, Pennsylvania. We also attended the parade and supper at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Berlin, Pennsylvania. My niece, Joan Landis, from Mechanicsburg and granddaughter, husband and son arrived September 10th to attend the Mountain Craft Days in Somerset, Pennsylvania. I attended the Berlin Historical Society Banquet and Business Meeting at the Berlin. I also attended the Meyersdale Charge of United Methodist Church picnic at Mt. Oliver.

## OCTOBER 2011

I continued to help and be involved with the Handicapped Special Olympics in bowling at the Terrace Lanes Bowling Center in Somerset, Pennsylvania. I help the ones in wheelchairs for ten sessions. I delivered the Invocation at the Retired Senior Volunteer Programs 25th Anniversary Banquet on October 6th at the Berlin Borough Building. I have amassed about 18,072 volunteer hours since 1986 and received my 25-year pin for doing so. I delivered the Invocation at the Berlin Brothersvalley High School Fall Community Breakfast. Breakfast was provided by the Berlin Brethren Church. I also celebrated my 89th birthday!

(continued on page 14)

Christmas 2011 Newsletter continued

### NOVEMBER 2011

I started to deliver my 2011 Christmas Newsletters (as well as throughout the month of December as well). I was invited and plan to attend the 3rd birthday dinner and party of my great, great niece, Halle Childers, daughter of Autumn and George Childers at their home in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. (Grandparents: Renee and Michael Raupach). I plan to deliver the Invocation on Veteran's Day at the Berlin Veteran Home. I plan to attend the family's annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the home of my niece and nephew, Renee and Michael Raupach on the Garrett Short-cut Road in Garrett, Pennsylvania. We will also celebrate my great-nephew Carter's 12th birthday. I was also invited and plan to attend my great, great niece, Ashlynn Lavan's 2nd birthday celebration on November 27 whose parents are Amber and Adam Lavan. Grandparents: Renee and Michael Raupach).

### DECEMBER 2011

I plan to spend Christmas and the exchanging of gifts at the home of my sister and brother-in-law, Geraldine and Guy Raupach in Glencoe, Pennsylvania. The family of Renee and Michael Raupach plan to attend Christmas there as well.

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

And with that I will leave you with this thought: "Yesterday is History; Tomorrow a Mystery; but Today is a "resent", a true gift from God!"

With that I bid each and every one of you the happiest, healthiest, most joyous Christmas ever with a chance to live everyday like this special and glorious day.. a beautiful gift from God!

## THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby, our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming correctly, it turned out I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun, but they hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby, the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas; the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

Heidi Mann

## 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 PROPERTY COMMITTEE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN 2011:**

Installed and repaired the dishwasher.  
 Gave the old dishwasher to the repairman's church.

- Stanczyk Bros to repair main floor steps, 5th Avenue steps, repaired chimney (installed new bricks), resurfaced the downstairs handicap ramp, repainted bricks and stonework on church.
- Repaired roof overhang at SS entrance.
- Installed insulation and ventilated the roof by Fifth Avenue steps to help prevent ice buildup.
- Installed new insulation on top of steps at parking lot entrance. (Purchased with materials Chip recycled from boiler room).
- Installed heading pad on Main Street handicap ramp.
- Patched holes in front sidewalk.
- Painted light pole and new door and other miscellaneous painting outdoors.
- Completely cleaned and re-rented Luther Haus apartment.
- Cleaned carpets at Luther Haus and library.
- Installed dry erase boards throughout Sunday School rooms and offices.
- Painted roof above Scout Hall.
- Cleaned kitchen.

**2012 PLANS:**

- New sidewalk
- Move forward with new handicap entrance.

**Property Committee**

**KNOTTERS AND QUILTERS PROJECTS FOR 2011**

The Knotters and Quilters have been very busy again this year. The Knotters have made and given away over 800 covers and lap robes, prayer shaws, neck pillows, regular pillows, oncology caps, bibs, layettes, walker caddies, wheel chair caddies, hand bags and the newest project is comfort dolls for children.

We have lost some of our older members in the group but God takes care of the need and we have some new Quilters and Knotters. We run **STRICTLY ON DONATIONS** so if you have any new material we would be happy to receive it! Donations are also acceptable.

The Quilters have quilted up a storm; 15 quilts this year! If you are looking for something to do on Tuesday mornings, our group meets from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

May God bless all of you!

The Quilters and Knotters



"A little child will lead them."  
Isaiah 11:6, NIV



**COMPASSIONATE VISITORS HOMEBOUND COMMUNION**

This committee meets the third Tuesday bi-monthly in the church parlor.

Homebound communion is offered to those members who cannot come to the church for various reasons to receive this right. If this is desired, please let the church office know and you will be contacted for a convenient time for all concerned.

The "Compassionate Visitors" Committee's object is to address concerns of the church family. Visitation by committee members, telephone calls, cards sent on various occasions and general help when advised of problems. We would appreciate hearing of any way we could lend any kind of assistance to members of the church family.

**A PUBLICATION OF HOLY  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**507 MAIN STREET  
BERLIN, PA 15530**

**ADDRESS SERVICE  
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U.S. POSTAGE

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BERLIN, PA  
PERMIT NO. 7

**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:** Homer Kreinbrook

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

**\*C = Communion**

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	CHILDREN'S MON	SER- MON	LECTOR/ WOR- SHIP ASST.	USHER
Dec. 4 *C	8:00 AM	*C MaKenzie Maust	NA		*C Kerrie Broderick	*C Calvin Pyle, Lary & Sandy Shober
	10:40 AM	*C Maeve Kreinbrook	Maria Mowry		*C Andrea Kreinbrook	*C John Beachley, Jim Froehlich, Dave Meese
	4 PM	NA	NA		NA	*C Homer Kreinbrook
Dec. 11	8:00 AM	Jeremy Brick	NA		Carey Brant	Jim & Carol Burcaw
	10:40 AM	Jonathan Harmon	Lee Woida		Christine Blubaugh	Tom & Jane Fisher
Dec. 18	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	Jessica Leydig	Pastor John		Kathy Bell	Dale Leydig Team
Dec. 25	9:00 AM	Jon Pribelsky	Rachel Prosser		Carolyn Rastrelli	Wayne and Nancy Schrock