



THE VISITOR



VOLUME 52 NO. 2

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FEBRUARY 2012

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

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUES

For the months of January and February Holy Trinity will hold Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. only, with Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

W
I
N
T
E
R



We will still hold the 4 p.m. communion service on the first Sunday of the month. Our regular schedule with the 8 a.m. service will resume in March.

LENTEN SEASON BEGINS FEBRUARY 21 WITH DINNER

At 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, we gather together in our Fellowship Hall for our annual "Fastnacht" or Shrove Tuesday dinner. This is the night in Christian tradition in which we indulge in rich foods before the switch to a more subdued the next day with Ash Wednesday. Families are asked to bring a covered dish to share and place setting for your family. Doughnuts and beverages will be provided. A program will be presented.

Lent begins with our annual Ash Wednesday service at Holy Trinity Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. On that night we will remember our life embedded in sin, our natural mortality because of that sin, and our fate without Jesus -- ashes to ashes, dust to dust.



THE VISITOR

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S In Acts 17, St. Luke describes the confrontation of 2 divergent world views. He writes that "Paul... was greatly distressed to see that the city (of Athens) was full of idols." So Luke goes on "he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and God fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there." Many who heard Paul disputed with him saying "he seems to be advocating foreign gods." Luke affirms then that "they said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection". Paul goes on to enlighten the citizens of Athens with the news of the Creator God who has now come to bring people to repentance and to give proof of this to all men by raising him (Jesus) from the dead."

The resurrection of Jesus in its full reality **is the one dividing point** of the Christian faith. On it everything rests or falls. You can imagine my astonishment when on reaching seminary in the fall of 1969 and hearing my New Testament instructor proudly lift up the true meaning of the doctrine of the resurrection. He quoted Willi Marxsen, a German Lutheran Professor that was then widely read and I quote "Jesus rose into the minds of his disciples". By this he meant that the body was still in the tomb and that Jesus did not really appear over and over again to his disciples; that was wishful thinking. What really happened the professors said - mine and the German Scholar - was that the disciples realized that the life and teachings of Jesus must go on even though he was **dead**. Is that what you were taught? Is that what you believe?

What Professor Marxsen and my instructor had just expressed was an instance of a clash of world-views every bit as real as the one experienced by Paul. That world-view - the secular one - does not have any space in it for miracles or God or anything beyond nature as revealed by science. In so far as the Bible is read in this worldview it is interpreted by this scripture or context. Nothing is allowed or even remotely possible which cannot be observed or verified by modern science. This is the secular world view. And it is a way of interpreting scripture widely practiced in many areas of the church today.

Has time softened or blunted the extremity of this position? Not likely! In 1999, I had the privilege of being present at a debate in Philadelphia between the leading scholars of the truth of the resurrection, Dr. N.T. Wright, and a leading exponent of this secular world view named Marcus J. Borg. It was held at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral with support from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

In the description of the event the inviting brochure says that "Borg and Wright agree that Jesus was the Christian messiah and preached the kingdom of God; they disagree about the Virgin birth, the purpose of Jesus' death, the issue of his bodily resurrection and the question of his divinity. The evening program will allow Dr. Borg and Dr. Wright to present their understanding of Jesus as they interpret scripture." Needless to say it was an electrifying night of debates. And one that I think Dr. Wright clearly won. Thirty years later the context of two ways of interpreting scripture - orthodox and modern - was still going strong.

In 2005, it was finally acknowledged that this context of two world-views was deeply embedded in the church. In addressing a gathering of ELCA bishops on the then biting issues of sexuality, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson made this comment on the sexuality task force proposals. "Hanson said: two "hermeneutics" or paradigms are at work among the members of the ELCA that make agreement difficult on scriptural and theological matters. The Rev. Craig L. Nesson, academic dean and professor of Contextual Theology at Wartburg Theological Seminary... writes that there is a "traditional approach" and a contextual approach" in interpreting scripture, both of which are valid and irreconcilable. Hanson told the bishops similarly. Dr. Marcus J. Borg, Department of Philosophy, Oregon State University, Corvallis, writes that there are two irreconcilable "paradigms" in which Christians differ in their understandings of the Christian tradition and their interpretation of Scripture, Creeds and the confessions he said. Hanson said he's heard people with different understandings of scripture and theology seeking to find a place for their views in the sexuality recommendation." Do we expect a resolution to provide a bridge between two extremes? Hanson asked the bishops. We Lutherans have come to say that when something is "paradoxical" that we're going to live in the paradox at the foot of the cross and not force ourselves to decide it with a vote.

(Continued on page 10)

2012 HEAD USHER LIST

- JANUARY**
Lee Woida
- FEBRUARY**
Joyce Meese
- MARCH**
Nita Swank
- APRIL**
Julie Leydig
- MAY**
Carolyn Rastrelli
- JUNE**
John Yeager
- JULY**
TBD
- AUGUST**
Tim Clites
- SEPTEMBER**
Brian Waydo
- OCTOBER**
Kathy Bell
- NOVEMBER**
Wayne Schrock
- DECEMBER**
Homer Kreinbrook

DID YOU KNOW?

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. You can now keep in touch with your church family, too. Go to www.facebook.com and join the Group page "Holy Trinity Lutheran Church." You will be kept informed of upcoming events and can connect with other members. Hope to see you there!

FEBRUARY'S SPECIAL DATES

- Boy Scout Sunday
FEBRUARY 5, 2012
- Valentine's Day
FEBRUARY 14, 2012
- Transfiguration of Our Lord
FEBRUARY 19, 2012
- Presidents Day
FEBRUARY 20, 2012
- Ash Wednesday
FEBRUARY 22, 2012
- First Sunday in Lent
FEBRUARY 26, 2012



Dear Members,

Thanks again to everyone who provided special music over the holiday season the songs were beautiful. As 2012 is a new beginning, our musical ensembles are also getting back to practicing. If you are interested in joining any of our groups, please feel free to contact me. I hope that 2012 brings you all a year filled with God's blessings and of course plenty of music too.

Maria Mowry
Music Director
445-6742



SInformation for the March issue of **THE VISITOR** IS DUE **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6**. Information received after that date may be held for the April edition of the newsletter.

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.

Villa Leslie	445-7257	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
Connie Slope	267-4170	VJ Chalk	267-4433
Lee Woida	267-4420		

Youth Representative: Briana Leydig 267-5208



CONTACT US AT:

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FEBRUARY



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

EVENT KEY:

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

			1 6:30 PM SC 7:30 PM AB	2	3 9:00 AM Quilters	4
5 9:00 AM - W & C Boy Scout Rec. 10:15 AM SS 4:00 PM - W & C	6	7 9:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM WBS 7:30 PM Property	8 6:30 PM SC 7:30 PM JF	9	10 9:00 AM Quilters	11
12 9:00 AM - W & C 10:15 AM SS 4:00 PM YG 5:00 PM YGC 5:00 YPM	13	14 9:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM WBS 7:00 PM Council	15 6:30 PM -SC 7:30 PM AB	16 7:30 PM - Believer's Meeting	17 9:00 AM Quilters	18
19 9:00 AM - W & C 10:15 AM SS 7:00 PM Baby Boomers Movie Night	20	21 9:00 AM Quilters 6:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Dinner	22 6:30 PM -SC 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday 7:30 PM JF	23	24 9:00 AM Quilters	25
26 9:00 AM - W & C 10:15 AM SS 4:00 PM YG 5:00 PM YGC	27	28 6:30 PM WBS	29	CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M., MONDAY - THURSDAY		



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Minutes Submitted by
Julie Leydig, Council Secretary

COUNCIL MINUTES January 10, 2012

ACTION ITEMS

Congregational / People concerns

Present

Pastor John Harmon, Brianna Leydig, Wayne Schrock, Carolyn Rastrelli, Joyce Meese, Vella Leslie, Lee Woida, Tim Clites, Connie Slope, Julie Leydig, Rachel Prosser.

Opening Prayer/Devotion

Pastor Harmon

Meeting called to order by Lee Woida, Vice President

Minutes of prior meeting

A motion was made to approve last month's meeting by Joyce Meese, seconded by Tim Clites. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report-A motion was made by Wayne Schrock, second by Joyce Meese to approve the report. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Congregational/People Concerns
- None

From the suggestion box - None

Correspondence - None

OLD BUSINESS

January Council Dinner is next Tuesday, January 17th at the Berlin Fire Hall at 6:30 p.m.. The cost is \$10 each. Those council members that are going off are free to attend as well as the paid employees.

Elections are as follows:

President: Homer Kreinbrook

Vice President: Lee Woida

Secretary: Julie Leydig

Treasurer: Dutchie Zorn

Trustees: Connie Slope, Tim Clites (Note: Lee Woida felt for proper voting purposes we should only elect two trustees instead of three to give us an odd number).

Check Signers: Wayne Schrock, Homer Kreinbrook, Pastor John Harmon, Julie Leydig, Lee Woida

Property: Wayne Schrock, Tim Clites, Connie Slope

Deacons: Lee Woida, Carolyn Rastrelli, Juli Leydig

Finance: Tim Clites, Homer Kreinbrook, Joyce Meese, Vella Leslie

Youth: Julie Leydig, John Yeager, Brianna Leydig

Publicity: Stephanie Brant

- Joyce Meese made a motion to accept the elections, Carolyn Rastrelli seconded, motion passed.
- Head usher sheet was completed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mother's Day Luncheon-The date has been set for May 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the church basement. It was suggested that only men cook the meal. Lee will confirm this with Homer. This is also the Mother Daughter Banquet.

PASTOR'S TIME

- Pastor John reported that attendance grew by 3% which is very good.
- Saturday evening service is going very well. 2010 worship was 131 compared to 2011 at 135.
- Nila Cogen will be at our next meeting on February 14th to speak to us.
- Rachel & Pastor John will attend a seminar at Messiah College in March at the cost of \$45 each.
- Shrove Tuesday will be February 21st at 6:30 p.m. We will provide donuts, rolls, drinks. Everyone will bring a covered dish and place settings.

- \$600 was collected in loose change at the Christmas Eve service for the Jeremy Miller family. The money is still being held until we find out exactly what the family needs and be sure it is used correctly.

- Pastor will start a new 18-30 year old Sunday school class in March.

- Pastor John will have hip surgery the beginning of summer. He will use vacation time when he is off.

- Pastor John will attend a seminar in Latrobe on May 18-19, 2012.

- Donna Schrock has some drawings of the sidewalk that she will present at an upcoming meeting.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Property - None

Finance - None

Youth - Rachel reported she had 12 at Youth Group this past week. Usually over 10 every time they meet. Still meeting every other Sunday.

January 29th is Game Day and a Youth sponsored meal at 11:30 a.m. Two soups will be provided. The money will go to the Berlin Food Pantry.

Will have sled riding if we get snow.

Will have a movie night in March for the older kids.

February 12 & 26 and March 11 & 25 will be the next Youth dates.

Publicity - Pastor saw the Daily American is doing the Church directory again. It's rather expensive so we are not sure if it's really worth it or not at this time.

Other - Lee Woida would like every one of our church members to be visited and let them know we care. Lee would like this to be done this year. He feels we need to be more connected with each other. Joyce Meese suggested that maybe we have an adult Prayer Partner like the Youth has.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tim Clites and second by Wayne Schrock to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

NEWS & Notes

BIRTHS: TEAGAN JOYCE

SHORETTE was born on January 5, 2012, Parents are Chris and Stephanie Shorette and big sisters are Julianna and Kourtney. Grandparents are Don and Sherry Noakes.



TEAGAN JOYCE SHORETTE

BAPTISM: NONE

DEATHS: NONE

WEDDING: NONE

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.



**AS OF
JANUARY 18, 2012**



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, Tom Gerber, Faye Glessner, Terry Griffith, Geneva McVicker, Bill Mothersbaugh, Esther Mowry, Everett Nicklow, Eugene Pile, William Ringler, Tim Rhoads, Bill Shipley, Nora Virtue, Eddie Zorn and Robert Zorn.

RESIDING IN NURSING/PERSONAL CARE HOMES:

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

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

Ann, Chad Barron, Kim Bennett, Dorothy H. Bittner, Lisa Bittner, Private Nicholas Bittner, Brittany (Sleasant) Brady, Francis Brant, Kathy Jo (Knotts) Brant, Caroline, 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, Tabitha Flick, David Fullard, AEC Carrie Gardner (Thomas), Donald Gardner, Joy Gardner, Jennifer, Ryan and Sarah Gardner, SSGT Jason Gerber, 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, Tonya Knotts, Cpt. James Leister, Villa Leslie, Linda Leverknight, Nick Lorson, Kathy Lowes, Lou Ann, Mario & Mary Lombardo, Sam Marker, Dave and Joyce Meese, Carl Metzgar, Sonya Meyers, Eloise Miller, Mrs. Keri, Mindy, Bob and Bonnie Murphy, Dick Murray, Mary Nicklow, Norma Lou & Leroy, Caleb Ohler, Lindsay Ohler, Pastor John, 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, Pat Saylor, Sam, Alice Scheferston, Taylor Shaulis, Harold Shaw, Dave Silko, Pauline Stone, Doran Walker, Mitchell Walker, Glenda Weimer, Peggy Woida, CAPT Scott Woida, David Yutzky, Joe Zeigler. * **Serving in Afghanistan**

FAMILY TRADITIONS

To strengthen your family, consider establishing some traditions. These don't need to be complicated or expensive. For example, traditions can range from having daily devotions to attending a church camp together each year. Traditions not only build bonds between family members but help create lasting memories.

Last summer, a newspaper editor wrote of a tradition he and his wife started after a visit to some churches in Europe. They bought a small font while there, brought it home and put water in it. That led to a new family tradition.

Now when the family's two boys are leaving for school or an outing, the father dips a finger into the font, makes a small cross on each head and says, "May God remind you he blessed you with brains to make good decisions."





Our next youth planning meeting will be held Feb. 12th @ 5pm (following youth group that day). We would love to see some new faces!

Anyone who has any ideas or suggestions for the youth of our congregation please talk with Rachel Prosser! Any idea is a good idea!

All donations from our "Game Day" Luncheon on Jan. 29th are being donated to the Berlin Food Pantry.

Pastor Harmon and Rachel Prosser will be attending a Youth Workers Conference on March 31st @ Messiah College. We are looking for others interested in joining us.

Children's Church has been a lot of fun! During each service following the Children's Sermon, all young people age 3 to Grade 5 are welcome to join us downstairs for a message themed craft and snack. Thank you to all of the youth grades 6 and up who have been helping me with Children's Church. We have had good numbers all of January.

Youth Group

Our youth group has been a lot of fun! We meet every other Sunday from 4-5pm with youth of God Chimes following from 5-5:30pm. We try to focus the activity for grades 1st thru 6th, but any ages are welcome. Any older youth are welcome to join us because we can use your help with activities and snack.

We have been getting to know each other a little more each week! We are looking forward to continuing the friendships that are beginning to form! Thanks to all the youth who have been coming!

We had a great time in December making cookies and crafts for the holiday season. We are averaging around 10-12 youth each meeting.

We would love to see some new faces at our Youth Group, so come give it a try and bring a friend!!

Any adults or young people grades 7th -12th who would like to provide an activity or 10 minute message please let Rachel Prosser know.

UNCOMMON LIFE EVENTS

February 2012

- 4 Hoagie Sale
- 8 Jr. High 12:2
- 12 Leader RE:charge (6:30)
- 12 "Uncommon Life" YG
- 15 Sr. High 12:2 @ Dowdy Home
- 19 Snow Tubing @ Hidden Valley
- 26 "Uncommon Life" YG

March 2012

- 4 - Leader RE:charge (6:30)
- 4 - "Uncommon Life" YG
- 7 - Jr. High 12:2
- 11 - "Uncommon Life" YG
- 14 - Sr. High 12:2 @ Dowdy Home
- 17 - Bowling @ Terrace Lanes
- 18 - "Uncommon Life" YG
- 25 - "Uncommon Life" YG

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out forgiveness, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells forgiveness.



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

			<p>1 Tim Rhoads Brett & Susan Straight</p>	<p>2 Leo Bittner Estera Kiesnowski Jesse Ocker Sandra Shober</p>	<p>3 Matthew Maust Katie Vena</p>	<p>4 Nita Swank</p>
<p>5 Amy Bittner Eli Croner Dorothy Gerber Tanner Walker Colton Yeager Lynn & Robin Walker</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Josiah Cook Robert & Romaine Hark- com</p>	<p>8 David Hummel John Riley Mitchell Walker</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Rebecca Ocker Donna Schrock Stephanie Waydo Kathy Yoder David & Mary Ann Marker</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Cory Stern</p>	<p>13 Margaret Pugh</p>	<p>14 Mindi Countryman John Yeager</p>	<p>15 Larry Philip</p>	<p>16 Sarah Walker</p>	<p>17 Laura Maust Patrick & Jodi Broderick</p>	<p>18 Eric & Aimee Nicklow</p>
<p>19 Kathy Bell</p>	<p>20 Josh Boyce Mary Duckett Gerald Walker</p>	<p>21 Angela Yandora Jeff & Cindy Gavel</p>	<p>22 Kathleen Bowman Chloe DeBiase David Fullard Eric Nicklow Jason Ocker Cathy Popovich</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Anthony DeBiase Mary & Roger Duckett Christine Woida</p>	<p>25 Keith Leydig</p>
<p>26 Hope Brock Lori Hoppert Chad Lowery</p>	<p>27 Amy Hankinson</p>	<p>28 Tyler Baker Andrea Moore</p>	<p>29 Elmer Beeman, Jr.</p>			



Dear Church Family,

With deep appreciation and gratitude, thank you for your thoughts and prayers throughout my surgery and now as I continue to recuperate and heal.

I am blessed with a special church family. Your phone calls, get well cards, food, and kindness in many other ways have meant so much to me and Jim. Thank you to Rev. Harmon for visiting and giving me communion. Also, thank you to Roxanne and Jack Weighley for the beautiful flowers.

God bless each of you with Love, Happiness, and Good Health throughout 2012.

Thank you for everything.

Sincerely,

Esther Mowry



Holy Trinity Friends,

Who would have thought I would be celebrating my 90th Birthday? How special that celebration has been, with the birthday card shower for me.

I have received over 100 cards and have enjoyed reading them again and again. Thank you for your cards, thoughts, prayers, and good wishes.

What a loving and caring church family I have. God's blessings for each of you is my personal prayer.

With much appreciation and thanks.

Bill Ringle



Dear Sunday School teachers, helpers, and children,

I was disappointed that I was unable to see the Sunday School Christmas program. I was told the children did a wonderful job. A special thank you to Edith Rhoads who served as the Director for the program and to all the teachers, helpers, pianists, and sound technicians. Most of all, thank you to the girls, boys, and youth who shared the Christmas Story.

Sincerely,
Esther Mowry



Dear Knotty Knotters,

We are always so happy to see Sherrie walk in with another batch of quilts from you guys! They add such color and bring smiles to the faces of the staff and families in our unit.

Thank you so much for your hard work and generosity.

Samantha Cain,
Assistant Nurse Manager
PHR NICU

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

February 21, 2012
6:30 PM

Shrove
Tuesday



MEMORIAL FUND

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.

WALKING WITH GOD

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord thorough thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

Greg Laurie

RECEIVED
JANUARY 2011

Current	10,362.12
Benevolence	1,347.50
Building	6,032.71
Other	2,941.25
TOTAL	20,683.58

EXPENSES
JANUARY 2011

Current	12,572.71
Benevolence	1,307.23
Building	1,955.21
Other	730.92
TOTAL	16,566.07

POSITIVE \$4,117.51



As of press time Holy Trinity was still participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit the Berlin Food Pantry. We would like to thank everyone who has donated food or cash donations to this worthy cause.

NEW OFFICERS

President: Homer Kreinbrook

Vice President: Lee Woida

Secretary: Julie Leydig

Treasurer: Dutchie Zorn

Trustees: Connie Slope, Tim Clites

Check Signers: Wayne Schrock, Homer Kreinbrook, Pastor John Harmon, Julie Leydig, Lee Woida

Property: Wayne Schrock, Tim Clites, Connie Slope

Deacons: Lee Woida, Carolyn Rastrelli, Juli Leydig

Finance: Tim Clites, Homer Kreinbrook, Joyce Meese, Villa Leslie

Youth: Julie Leydig, John Yeager, Brianna Leydig

Publicity: Stephanie Brant

TRANSFIGURATION

All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness — of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

— Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream*

DISABILITY AWARENESS....

A friend tearfully shared how an usher asked her to leave a church service because of her squirmy toddler. But the boy wasn't just having a bad morning; he was born with a genetic disorder called Fragile X, which makes it nearly impossible to sit quietly.

It was nearly a year before that mother attended a church again. Then she found one with a shepherd program, where trained volunteers help children with special needs participate in worship, Sunday school and church activities.

As we look for ways to reach out to people with disabilities, remember that God's love has no limits. How can we, as God's church, reflect that love?

REFOCUS FOR LENT

Give up complaining - focus on gratitude.
 Give up harsh judgments - think kind thoughts.
 Give up worry - trust God to provide.
 Give up discouragement - be full of hope.
 Give up bitterness - turn to forgiveness.
 Give up hatred - return good for evil.
 Give up anger - be more patient.
 Give up pettiness - become mature.
 Give up jealousy - pray for trust.
 Give up gossiping - control your tongue.
 Give up sin - turn to virtue.
 Give up giving up - persevere.
 Author unknown

Pastor's Page continued from page 2

(this is a quote from the ELCA New Service, March 11, 2005). The assertion that both approaches are valid but lead to opposite conclusions confirms to the cultural world view that there is no absolute truth.

This and not the issues of sex themselves are at the core of the conflicts and discussion in most mainline denominations including the ELCA. It is why we joined Lutheran CORE that there are some basic core beliefs that may not be swept under the rug or laid aside. As you watch programs on religion on the History of National Geographic channels see which world view dominates. It makes a difference.

TALKIN' ABOUT MY GENERATION . . .

@ group of the postwar generation (sort of the Luther Boomers) got together on the 22nd for an unscripted evening of conversation and laughter. With no real plan or agenda, it was just sort of an evening to get to "play with kids our own age." Everyone there had such a good time, we decided to do it again the following month. We'll be gathering in the Kurtz Parlor of the church on February 19 at 7:00 PM to screen "The Big Chill" and share some more talk, music and laughs.

If you were among the Baby Boomers born between 1945 and 1964 – or if you just feel like you were – join us on the 19th. This isn't just for members of Holy Trinity; feel free to bring your friends. No reservations are necessary.

"O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO"

*O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.*

George Matheson (1842-1906) wrote the words to this much-loved hymn while feeling intensely lonely and afraid.

Years back, his fiancé had broken their engagement upon learning he was going blind. Despite that challenge, Matheson had followed God's call to a fruitful pastoral ministry with his sister's assistance. Now his sister was getting married, and Matheson worried about who would take care of him and if anyone would ever want to marry him.

Amid such despair, Matheson later shared, God gave him all four verses of this hymn in five minutes. It's a poignant reminder that God's love sustains us even when human love falls short.

*Ash
Wednesday*

February 22, 2012



*We love because
he first loved us.*
1 John 4:19



VISITOR DEADLINE

Please have all your information for March's issue of the Visitor turned in no later than Monday, **FEBRUARY 6**. Information received after that date may be held until the April 2012 issue.

PHOTOS

I would really like to incorporate new photos into the monthly **VISITOR**. If you have photos from events for the newsletter, please email them to htelc@verizon.com with a short description.

WEBSITE

Have you checked out the website lately? If you get a chance, please take a moment to look at it and let me know if you have any comments or suggestions.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

We are always seeking new lectors, ushers, and other volunteers at the church. If you are interested in serving in one of these capacities, please call the Church Office at 267-5014 or e-mail us at htelc@verizon.net.

TEXT ALERTS:

Do you have a cell phone? Would you like to receive alerts on happenings/events/prayer requests going on at HTELC?

Email me or call the church office with your phone number so we can get you signed up today!

**A PUBLICATION OF HOLY
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**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: Joyce Meese

ALTAR GUILD: Carol & Jim Burcaw

***C** = Communion

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	CHILDREN'S SERMON	LECTOR/ WORSHIP ASST.	USHER
Feb. 5 *C	9:00 AM	Chance Straight	Susan Straight	Carolyn Rastrelli	Boy Scouts
	4:00 PM	N/A	N/A	N/A	Joyce Meese
Feb. 12	9:00 AM	MaKenzie Maust	Maria Mowry	Carey Brant	Larry & Sandy Shober
Feb. 19	9:00 AM	Jeremy Brick	Lee Woida	Connie Slope	Doran & Suzanne Walker
Feb. 26	9:00 AM	Brandon Rhoads	Rachel Prosser	Joyce Meese	Wayne & Nancy Schrock