



The Visitor



Volume 48 No. 10

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December 2008

Special Dates

- **Communion** will be held at 8 & 10:40 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at the Barn Service.
- **Advent Cookie Bake** will be held at 9 a.m. Dec. 6.
- **Church Office** will be closed Dec. 25 and 31, and Jan. 1 for the holidays.
- **Winter Services** for January and February will be at 10:40 a.m. only, with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

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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 Dinner

Holy Trinity will begin the Advent season with a dinner on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. Bring your table setting and a covered dish to share.

Barn Service

Our annual barn service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at the Maust barn on High Street, Berlin. Refreshments will follow the simple communion, so bring a



Christmas Season Schedule

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 Pro-

gram will be held during the 10:40 a.m. service Sunday, Dec. 21. For more information on the production and other youth news, please go to Page 13.

Christmas Eve

On Wednesday, Dec. 24, we will hold our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Caroling will begin at 7 p.m.

Please open up *The Visitor* to see what else our church is doing this season.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Annual meeting of the congregation held

Holy Trinity held its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, Nov. 16.

Nominations for Council members, Board of Managers, Synod and Conference Delegates were approved and voted for unanimously. New council members for



ANNUAL MEETING

2009 are Kathy Bell, Nita Swank, Brian Waydo and Lee Woida; John Beachley was voted in for Board of Managers and Lee

Woida, Charles & Joyce Dunn will be the Synod Delegates.

Pastor John Harmon presented the Ministry Review for 2008 and Larry Shober discussed the current status of the church steeple. Doran

(Continued on page 12)

Mission, Message and Manger

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." (John 1:14)

The Message

In under two months our mission team, now 18 members strong, will be heading for our first-ever mission trip as a congregation. Their goal as it has been previously described in this newsletter and in church announcements, is to bring the Gospel, God's words, in the flesh to children without one or both parents in the Dominican Republic. These young people, to all accounts, do not know God's words and therefore, like so many in this world, need a chance to respond to it. On the mission trip our team won't just be preaching God's word, they'll be living it. They will help to build a new dining hall for the new Christian camp called Summer's Best Two Weeks, which will also be turned into a school where the Bible will be taught and good morals lifted up. By their work, their words and their presence they will bring the Word in the flesh. As part of that trip they will also meet several young children living in the Dominican Republic who are sponsored by members of Sunday school classes at Holy Trinity. Members and friends of the congregation going are Wayne and Nancy Schrock, Jim and Carol Burcaw, Charlotte Chonko, Lorrie Shaw, Courtney Custer,



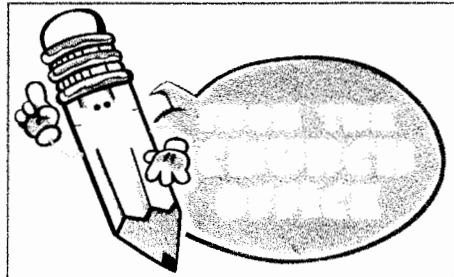
From the Pastor

Lindsey Leydig,
Brianna Leydig,
Keith Leydig, Jeff
Moore, Pam Moore,
Katharine Harmon,
Susan Long, John
Yeager, Shaina Stern,
Devin Stern and
Tonya Froehlich. At
our first worship ser-
vice on Jan. 4 we will
commission them.

To further support the vitality of this mission trip we will receive special offerings at our second worship service on Dec. 14. If you will be unable to attend that service, you may send your gift for the trip to the Church Office.

This mission trip reminds us all that words about Jesus Christ are never enough without the deeds which back it up. But the Word must still be announced. As we move into the new church season of Advent, God announced through his messengers his entrance into our lives. We are invited to join him in the building of his kingdom. And to show that his kingdom begins here in our lives, we are reminded again that Jesus became flesh and blood. He was human. And though now enthroned in Glory, he invites us to join him in his Glory. The Manger is a sign drawing us to its foot that we may go inside and see God. Come and worship!

Pastor John W. Harmon, D. Min., can be reached at the Church Office at 267-5014, at the parsonage at 267-6255, or can be emailed at htelc@verizon.net.



Andrea Kreinbrook
267-5014 htelc@verizon.net

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday, and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday. Any items for the Dec. 28 bulletin must be turned in by Thursday, Dec. 23.

Visitor Deadline

Please have all your information for the January issue of the Visitor turned in no later than Monday, Dec. 9. Information received after that date may be held until February 2009 issue.

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.

The Visitor

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Evangelical Lutheran Church

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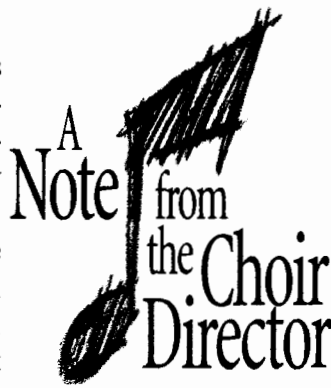
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Dear Congregation,

I hope this finds you all having enjoyed a Thanksgiving filled with many blessings.

It is hard to believe that Christmas will soon be here as well as all the events that go along with it. This year the Senior Choir is going to attempt a Christmas Cantata and we would like to invite anyone interested in singing to come to rehearsals on Wednesdays. There will also be other rehearsals which will be listed in the bulletin.

If you can't commit to the cantata, you can always join us for our Christmas Eve number. If you are interested in providing special music on Christmas Eve or during the holiday season, please let me know as soon as possible.



Keep in mind our other ensembles that you can join as well, the adult bells and Joyful Noise. Having just one new member join a group adds much more than you can imagine. Please contact me if you have any ques-

tions about any of the events or groups I have mentioned. May you be surrounded by Christ's love this Christmas.

Maria Mowry
Music Director
445-6742

P.S. Starting in November, Adult Bells are now being held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 8 p.m., and Joyful Noise rehearsals will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. This is being done in the hopes that more people will be able to participate in both ensembles.



Building Fund

In Memory of Charles "Ed" LaBute

- Jim & Esther Mowry & Family
- Harry & Virginia Rhoads
- Dale & Carol Leydig
- Somerset Lodge No. 438 IOOF
- George & Evelyn Hickey
- Reon & Sheron Engleka
- Berlin Football Boosters
- Charlie & Molly Baker
- Bryan & Beth Schrock
- William & Ruth France
- Vierereg Chiropractic LLC

- Helen Croner & Tom Croner
- Susan LaBute Bloss
- Somerset Trust Company
- Elizabeth Custer
- American Legion Post 445
- William and Nancy Merrill
- Jerry & Mary Engle

Endowment Fund

In Memory of Charles "Ed" LaBute

- Doug, Kathy & David Bell
- In Memory of Burton Baker**
- Doug, Kathy & David Bell
- Mission Trip Fund**

In Memory of Charles "Ed" LaBute

- Charles & Joyce Dunn

Memorial Donations may be sent to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 507 Main Street, Berlin, PA 15530.



Thank You

The Property Use Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the many projects completed throughout the past year. We are very blessed to have so many multi-talented volunteers within our congregation. A special thank you to Chip Landis seeing these projects we completed.

Thank you for your congregation's gift for counseling in Somerset. We are sincerely grateful for your generosity and support of the services we provide.-- Sincerely, Pat Savage, President/CEO ALSM

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 recent gift. Your contribution will assist Sequanota in many ways, especially as we prepare for the upcoming summer camping season. Please keep the Sequanota ministry at a special place in your daily prayer life. In Christ's service, Pastor George Mason, Interim-Executive Director.

Thank You notes may be sent to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 507 Main St., Berlin, PA 15530, or emailed to htelc@verizon.net.

Birthdays December

- 1 Michael Slope
 3 Tom Fisher, Margaret Hittie, Lenora Virtue
 4 Alivia Lipinski, Nyal Walker
 6 Korey Blubaugh, Layken Miller
 7 Richard Dunn
 8 Charles Maust
 9 Jeffrey Brant, Jonnie Hemlock, Lorrie Shaw, Bryan Walker
 10 Stephen Kelley, George Wisler
 11 Michael Dunn, Viola Suder
 12 William Ringler
 14 Blaine Hittie
 15 Stephanie Clites, Shirley Riley
 16 Dianne Engleka
 17 Carl Brant, Christen Fisher
 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
 26 Bryan Coleman, Malinda Kirk, David Meese, Rebecca Philip
 27 Jessica Leydig, Tim Woida
 28 Deborah Dilbon, Bonnie Foy, Jane Fisher, Rhonda Leister



Our Church Family

- 29 Aimee Nicklow
 30 Hanna Bittner, Travis Glessner
 31 Janet Bender, Kordell Leydig
 Nicole Ohler, Jon Pribelsky, Brett Straight
- ### Anniversaries - December
- 1 Steven & Jody Berkey
 2 Dale & Vanessa Coslic
 3 Allan & Christine Blubaugh
 8 Don & Dot Weaver
 10 Thomas & Ann Miller
 15 Bill & Shirley Riley

Additions/Corrections

If you have any additions or corrections, please call the Church Office at 267-5014, or email us at htelc@verizon.net.

Prayer List

As of November 16, 2008

RECUPERATING AT HOME: Ray Adams, Gary Barton, Joyce Beachley, Gene Blubaugh, Florence Engleka, Faye Glessner, Terry Griffith, Rosalind Harkcom, Dwayne Hittie, Lynn Horne, Sara Gross, Mary Kreinbrook, Carol Leydig, Dave Meese, Geneva McVicker, Clyde Miller, William Mothersbaugh, Irene Mowry, Alice Scheferson, Edie Shipley, Pat Smiley, DeVon Walker, George Wisler

RESIDING IN NURSING/PERSONAL CARE HOMES: Guy Baer, Trudy Baker, Marie Bender, Ferne Brant, Isabelle Gonger, Ella Hittie, Lee Hoppert, Catherine Maust, Louise Ream, Jane Schrock, Betty Smith

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Ann, Jodi Abramowich, Janet Alvares, LCpl. Rev. Bartholomew, LCpl. Bob Bittner, Cpl. Chad Bittner, SGT Bryan Brant, Shirley Brant, SGT Allen Brick, Nettie Brown, Edna Mae Chappie, Lt. Aaron Chonko, Charlotte Chonko, Richard Cober, SSGT Wesley Coleman, Amy Cook, Beth Conn, Ernie Devine, Deborah Dilbon, Marlyn Drummond, Bob Ewing, Bill Farber, SSG Ryan Ferre, Elaine Franklin, Floyd Fritz, David Fullard, AE 2 Carrie Gardner, SSG Aaron George, SSG Jason Gerber, Jean Gerber, Tom Gerber, SSG Ron Helm, Arron Hersh, Travis Hummel (USAF), Norene Lamonica, Wanda & Eric Leer, Cpt. James Leister, Matthew Leydig, Cpl. Matthew Maust, SSGT Ben Meese, Maria Mowry, Kim Oriole, Keith Picard Family, Betty Petro, Cpt. John Paxton, Nathan Richards, James Ryan, Fred Scheferson, Buster & Dorothy Schrock, Chaplain George W. Shaffer, Private Nathan Shaffer, Dick Sines, Matthew Spear, Josh & Heather Sprowls, Wanda, Judy & Barry Warren, Frank & Peggy Woida, Carol Wright, 25th Infantry Div., 1st SBCT

News in our Congregation

BIRTH: Emily Amanda Fisher, the daughter on Lani Holland and Clark Fisher, was born Nov. 1.

WEDDING: Jessica Ashbrook and Gregory Presson are scheduled to wed here at HTLC on Dec. 6.

DEATH: Our sympathies to the family and friends of Ed LaBute,



who passed away Oct. 31.

We like to spread the news about our church family. 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.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: Ministry Review 2008

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 10 funerals, seven of which were members. Four young adults affirmed their Baptism on May 18 and June 8, 2008. Eight received their first communion, in church, on April 20, 2008, and through the help of the Fletcher Fund we gave 11 third graders their own Bibles. Six couples were married this past year. In January 2008 the Church Council affirmed a provisional church membership of 709 baptized and 580 confirmed.

We held our first ever congregational renewal retreat April 4 and 5, 2008, in LaVale, Md. The participants came away with a much greater clarity on the challenges facing contemporary congregations and the assets we already have in place to meet them. We came away emboldened that we can face whatever God and the culture throws our way. Subgroups have developed from the retreat and are pursuing their special causes. We will continue to investigate together retreat discoveries.

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 in the Barn, Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, All Saint's Remembrance of Faithful Departed, Shared Lenten Service with Berlin Ministerium, Community Good Friday service, Easter Worship, Recognition of Graduates, Community Colonial Service, Community Thanksgiving Service, special Reformation service, World Wide Communion Sunday, anointing and prayers for the sick.

There were several special Sunday school programs, including Christmas & Easter. We continued our partnership with Berlin Brethren Church for Vacation Bible School continue to participate in the community youth ministry for all of Berlin known as Uncommon Life.

Average Attendance at worship this year has been 146, which has remained steady the last three years. Average Sunday school attendance has dropped slightly from 73 to 70. Our youth attendance has increased, but our aging congregation has lost several very faithful members.

Our need for and selection of a youth director was a golden opportunity for us to focus our attention on youth -- the future of our church. We are delighted that we were able to obtain such a talented and committed director as Jeff Moore. Already we have seen a new vitality in the confirmation program and growing numbers in Sunday school. As an addendum to the Ministry Review, Jeff has included his thoughts on our youth program this past year in a separate report. (Located on Page 8 of the Visitor)

Our educational offerings for adults went beyond our regular Sunday School classes with our Alpha courses. We studied "Life After Life", "Jesus the New Way" and now are pursuing "The Book of Revelations." We continue to look for new ways to engage our members in Bible study and exploration of the faith. To date more than 100 members and friends have attended these courses. We are also in conjunction with our new confirmation curriculum, challenging the entire congregation to read the Bible in one year. This can only strengthen us and enrich us beyond our hopes.

The music ministry has done many things this past year. Both Joyful Noise (the HTLC Band) and

Tongues of Praise have helped perform at different "Songs for the Soldiers" events. Both ensembles have also performed at different time for church services. The Senior Choir performed during many church services and this year they combined with community choir members at our church for the Whiskey Rebellion Service and the 2007 Community Thanksgiving service. The Adult Bells had the great opportunity to play in the Community Bell Choir Concert last year as well as performing at Holy Trinity. The Youth of God Bells have also added to our church services with their performances. Over the summer many individuals from the church also shared their time and talents for special music. The most important thing the music ministry has done is to share God's word through music and to enhance the experience of each worship service. Everyone who is part of the music ministry enjoys sharing their talents and we thank you for your continued support.

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 and we held a Mother/Daughter tea. After the April renewal retreat it was decided to undertake a redesign of our home communion and compassionate visitor ministries.

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

(Continued on page 6)

Ministry Review 2007

(Continued from page 5)

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 planned mission trip to the Dominican Republic in January 2009 has been a real blessing. At first the prospect seemed unimaginably daunting, particularly in the current economic environment, but as participants identified themselves and the shape of the trip took place, we began to see we could do it. Thanks to vigorous research from Jeff and Pam Moore and fundraising headed by Lorrie Shaw, we are only hundreds of dollars away from fully funding the trip, which is scheduled for Jan. 10-17. When they get back we expect to hear moving and touching stories. We hope it will propel us into future trips.

Our church held a Compassion Sunday event that funded 13 new sponsorships for needy children, and we continue our participation in Operation Shoebox. We've hosted representatives from Food for the Poor and Gideons International. Through our offerings we supported a host of other ministries: Allegheny Synod - \$14,634.78; Camp

Sequanota - \$1,926.69; ALSM Counseling Ministry in Somerset - \$1,844.69; Boy Scouts - \$400; World Hunger - \$1,365; Food Pantry - \$1,655; Blankets - \$147.

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 received \$800 in matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their Ham Dinner. They also prepared meals for the Pomona Grange and the Berlin Lions Club and donated to a variety of charitable causes. The Jolly Quilters and Knotty Knotters produced 321 tote bags and walker caddies, 64 neck pillows, 16 afghans and prayer shawls, 16 adult bibs and 6 cancer caps. They sent 12 layettes, 288 knotted covers and 50 knotted covers from Frostburg Heights Apartments to Lutheran World Relief, and the group delivered miscellaneous bedding and books to Ronald McDonald House.

We are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which God has blessed us.

The Property Use Committee has been very busy with the planning of the sacristy renovation. After being approved by the congregation at a special meeting Oct. 19, work is planned to begin in January 2009. The committee has also, after much study and consultation with the Church Council, replaced the Fellowship Hall ceiling. It continues to monitor the steeple situation and is awaiting a report from Fogle Engineering on wind forces challenging the steeple. A fan was replaced in the upstairs restroom. The church roof was tarred and the roof was painted at 5th Avenue. A new cook top was installed in the Luther Haus apartment. The church office air conditioner was replaced and a number of dehumidifiers purchased

to deal with excessive moisture problems. We bought a new tall stepladder to help deal with the high ceilings in the sanctuary. The church parking lot was painted for regular and handicapped parking, and new lights were added for the parking lots at the church and Luther Haus for night time security. We relit and relocated the third stained glass window from the Wills Church to a much better spot, and a case was built to contain the Goeb Bible. A new larger water heater was installed, and a new keypad lock has been placed on the 5th Avenue door. We fixed the water fountain and redesigned many of the classrooms and cabinets for more effective use by the Sunday school and the sewing ministries. We covered the lights in the kitchen and received our license to continue holding church dinners and events. Other upcoming projects in 2009 are upgrading the wiring in Luther Haus, the handicapped ramp project, upgrading our sign at the front of our church, and replacing the front vestibule coat racks.

We are preserving and researching our history.

During the year we received many donations of memorabilia from congregation members and are striving to document our collection on computer. We are most grateful for the return of our copy of the Goeb Bible, printed in 1813 by Frederich Goeb, which was on loan to the Berlin Historical Society. This is one of only 70 known copies of what is documented as the first Bible printed in the Somerset County and the oldest Bible west of the Alleghenies.

It has been an exciting year and 2008-09 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.

DECEMBER

Contact Us!

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Parsonage: 267-6255

htelc@verizon.net

www.htelcberlin.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday	7:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Committee 1	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 2 7:30 PM - Property Use	6:30 PM -SC 8 PM - AB 3	7 PM -ALPHA 4	4 PM - Wedding Rehearsal 5 7 PM -Spanish Lessons	9 AM - Advent Cookie Bake and SS decorating 6 3:30 PM Wedding
8 AM - C 7 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM - C 12 PM - PR & Caroling 4 PM - C 6 PM Advent Dinner 7 PM - UL	Visitor Information Due 8	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 9 7 PM - Church Council	6:30 PM -SC 8 PM - HTLCB 10	11	7 PM -Spanish Lessons 12	9 AM - Church Decorating 13 9 AM to noon-Confirmation Class
Mission Sunday 14 8 AM - W 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM - C 12 PM - PR 6:15 PM -YOGB 7 PM - Barn Service 7 PM - UL	15	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 16	6:30 PM -SC 8 PM - AB 17	18	7 PM -Spanish Lessons 19	9 AM - Play Rehearsal 20
8 AM - W 21 9:30 SS 10:40 AM - W & SS Musical 6:15 - YOGB 7 PM - UL	22	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 23	Christmas Eve 24 7 PM - Candle-light Service	Christmas 25 Church Office Closed	26	27
Christmas Cantata Sunday 28 8 AM - W 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM - W	29	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 30	New Year's Eve 31 Office Closed	Worship Key W= Worship C = Communion SS = Sunday School PG = Prayer Group UCC = Trinity U.C.C. BBC= Berlin Brethren		Event Key AB = Adult Bells HTLCB= HTLC Band PR= Play Rehearsal SC = Senior Choir UL = Uncommon Life YOGB = Youth Bells

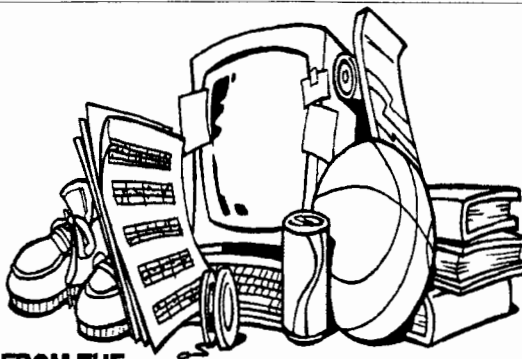
ADDENDUM TO 2008 MINISTRY REVIEW

By Jeff Moore,
Youth Director

After gathering books and curriculum from all over the church and Luther Haus, I reviewed our current confirmation course. Other resources to support and supplement were located. We met and set-up Holy Trinity's criteria for youth to meet for their spiritual journey through adult church membership. A major challenge presented to them is to read the entire Bible during their 3-year journey in conjunction with monthly Bible study and topical discussion with Pastor John and myself. The group meets Sunday during Sunday school in Luther Haus and is utilizing Luther's Small Catechism with Susan Straight.

We met with youth Sunday school teachers and looked at several different curriculum for Sunday School. After some time and greatly appreciated effort from all involved, we chose and implemented the course of study for our young people. We reviewed and rearranged classrooms to hopefully better suit the learning environment, although we are not completely satisfied with our current situation. We are studying into new technology to equip these rooms with equipment to take full advantage of the films/DVDs already available in our church library. We presented an initial proposal before Council and are awaiting decisions that will best suit our needs and applications.

We are continuing to coordi-



FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

nate with Uncommon Life which is the youth program held at the Berlin Brethren Church. This provides an additional Christ centered youth program on Sunday evenings. A schedule should be on the bulletin board for donated snacks, which Holy Trinity provides on a periodic basis. Please inquire if you would like to participate.

We continue to stay involved with our Lutheran church opportunities to attend synodical youth events. Keep your eyes open for flyers posted on the bulletin board or a note in the bulletin. If interest is shown, there is always a need for adult supervision. Let me know if you are interested if participating in any of these events.

It has become necessary to have all adults who participate in activities with our youth to obtain criminal history checks. Paperwork will soon be seen on this detail. I would ask that this would not deter anyone from expressing interest in volunteering to work with our youth. We are always in need of people who have a heart for the training of our young people.

Holy Trinity Youth Committee has continued to meet and sched-

ule events in which our youth can participate on a periodic basis. We would love to have more members involved. Planning meetings are announced in our bulletin (next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, Sat. Feb. 7). Please feel free to attend.

Two areas that are still in beginning planning and strategy are the emergency day care when school is canceled due to inclement weather. If you have a need for day care for your children, please contact me. We are also enquiring with Berlin School District about a possible mentoring program that would be offered here at the church. If you would be interested in tutoring, please let me know.

I attended a weekend Oct. 31-Nov.2 in Pittsburgh at the Youth Specialties Youth Convention. There were many seminars and lectures of various subjects. I focused mainly on integrating our youth in Bible study with hopes of implementing regular study into their lives. A common thread is that biblical illiteracy is rampant even among those who are regular attendees at church. Also, if children attend church events without parent participation, statistics show that those children when reaching maturity will abandon regular church attendance due to the lack of parents' concern in their faith growth. Thus, my hopes are that we will commit to growing our youth program with a family centered emphasis. I ask for your continued prayer and support for our youth as individuals and in our youth ministry program.



The Christmas 2008 Newsletter



Pastor Ralph G. Landis

“For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

DECEMBER 2007: I hand delivered 400 and mailed 100 Christmas letters from Nov. 9 through Dec. 15 in Berlin and surrounding areas. I began the Visitation Ministry for Trinity United Church of Christ (Berlin) members from Dec. 1 through July 2008. I served communion to 28 U.C.C. members in their homes and in nursing or personal care homes.

JANUARY 2008: I attended Ruth Bruck's 80th birthday celebration at the Berlin Borough Building. I also attended the HTLC Council dinner at the borough building.

FEBRUARY 2008: I was diagnosed with lung disease and began pulmonary rehabilitation for 17 sessions at Somerset Hospital.

MARCH 2008: I served communion to 18 U.C.C. members. I delivered the Easter sermon at Rest Assured Living Center in Meyersdale and also delivered the Easter sermon and communion at Meadow View Nursing Center, Berlin.

APRIL 2008: I attended the volunteer luncheon at Traditions Restaurant, Meyersdale, sponsored by Rest Assured. Rev. Bob & Dorothy Siess from Pittsburgh visited for the weekend to attend the 61st Annual Maple Festival in Meyersdale.

MAY 2008: I delivered the invocation and benediction at Mt. Lebanon Memorial service at Glencoe. I also delivered the invocation, message and benediction at Mt. Zion Memorial Day Service. I attended my 67th class reunion at Oakhurst Tea Room, Somerset. There were five class members, two spouses and two guests present. I attended a volunteer luncheon at the Berlin Borough Building, sponsored by Meadow View. I attended the AARP Driver Improvement Course at Somerset Trust Co, Berlin. I delivered the Memorial Day message at Rest Assured, followed by a picnic lunch. I served communion to 25 U.C.C. members.

JUNE 2008: I attended the Block Party and Parade, sponsored by the Berlin Fire Department. I served as a guide at Glades Pike one room school, which has been restored. I officiated at the wedding ceremony of Jillian Settle and Roy Westerfield at the Berlin Community Grove. My nephew Michael and his

wife Renee pin-striped my vehicle and put dove decals on the front fenders, while their son Carter decided to put Ford emblems on the bumper.

JULY 2008: I attended the renewal of wedding vows of my niece, Amber Brant, and Adam Lavan on July 19 at Penn Scenic View, Rockwood, with a reception following. I was visitation minister for Rev. John Harmon for two weeks. I attended the Poorbaugh and Leister reunions at the Mt. Olivet Church Grove, Glencoe. I gave a speech on my African Missions from 1977-1982 at Arbutus Park Retirement Community, Johnstown. I attended a memorial service for Emma (Croner) Miller at the U.C.C. and also nephew Jim Landis at Mechanicsburg, Pa.

AUGUST 2008: I delivered the sermon at the Deeter reunion at Deeter Gap. I attended the Area Agency on Aging picnic at the Hayloft, Rockwood. I assisted Rev. Harmon at the funeral service of Paul Pritts, a great friend and next door neighbor.

SEPTEMBER 2008: I attended the memorial service for a good friend, Fred Costea, at First Christian Church in Somerset. I delivered the invocation at a banquet of the Berlin Historical Society at the Berlin Borough Building. I attended the wedding ceremony of great-niece Tessa Abramowich to Matthew Belsterling at Glades Unity United Church of Christ. A reception followed at the Indian Lake Lodge. I attended the Rest Assured annual family picnic and was in charge of the dunking tank. I officiated at the wedding ceremony of Loriane Campoli to Max Rhodes at the American Legion in Somerset, with a reception following. Rev. Bob & Dorothy Siess spent the weekend in my home to attend the Whiskey Rebellion Parade and supper at the Lutheran Church in Berlin. I attended the Lutheran Church picnic at the Berlin Community Grove.

OCTOBER 2008: I delivered the sermon and communion on “World Day of Prayer” at Meadow View. I observed my 86th birthday on Oct. 7. I began helping with the Special Olympics bowlers on Oct. 4 for seven weeks. I help those in wheelchairs with a rack to roll bowling balls down the alley. Rev. Don and Becky Cook from Mt. Pleasant met me at Eat ‘n

(Continued on page 10)

The Christmas 2008 Newsletter

(Continued from page 9)

Park for lunch to observe my birthday. I delivered the invocation for the Retired Senior Volunteer Lunch & Recognition of Volunteers at the Berlin Borough Building.

NOVEMBER 2008: I attended the installation service of the new pastor, Rev. Frank Demmy, at Trinity U.C.C. My great-great-niece Halle Brealle was born Nov. 4 (Election Day) to Autumn and George Childers of Friedens. She weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. Everyone is doing great! I plan to deliver the invocation at the football boosters banquet at the Berlin Borough Building. I plan to attend Thanksgiving Family Dinner at my niece and nephew, Renee & Michael's home. We will also celebrate the 9th birthday of my great-nephew, Carter Raupach. I had an appointment with Dr. Begley, a lung specialist in Johnstown. For one year I have been doctoring with a specialist in Somerset. I received all kinds of tests and can only walk 10 to 20 minutes before my lungs give out. *Please remember me in your prayers.*

DECEMBER 2008: I plan to deliver the Christmas message and communion on Dec. 21 at Meadow

View. I plan to spend Christmas dinner and the exchange of gifts at the home of my sister Geraldine and brother-in-law Guy Raupach in Glencoe, along with the family of Renee and Michael Raupach.

I continue to pray for peace and safety of our troops serving our country in foreign lands and at home. I have volunteered 367 hours from January through October 2008 at hospitals, nursing homes, the food pantry and Special Olympics. Since August 1986, I have volunteered a total of 16,868 hours. I want to thank Renee for typing my newsletter and thank Holy Trinity and the U.C.C. for making the copies. "Love you All!"

May the love, joy and peace that only Christ can bring be yours at Christmas time and in all the years to come! In Christian love,

Pastor Ralph

Merry Christmas!

Dear members, family, friends and neighbors,

It's hard to believe this is my last writing for 2008.

As always I am so grateful for the help we have gotten to help Berlin C.A.R.E.S. going. So if you have helped in any way, thank you!

By the time you read this, Veteran's Day will have passed and our show "Songs for Our Soldiers"

will be over. It will be hard to top last year's show, but we're hoping to do that with the talent we have.

I want to give a special thank you to the Knotty Knotters for donating the pillows to send to our military in the war zone. God bless each and every one of you.

I want to leave you with this poem I wrote and read last year at our program:

Berlin



C.A.R.E.S.

My Christmas Wish

What do I wish you this Christmas?
Above all, I wish you peace.
A place of heart and soul and mind
That will with each day increase.

I wish you a tranquil spirit
Dependence on God above
A warmness only exceeded
By deep, abiding love.

There may be some storms confronting
But with this gift of mine
Your Christmas and the days after
Will be peaceful by design.

Peace and Love to you and your families,

**Dorothy Gerber
Berlin C.A.R.E.S.**

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 2009 Budget

This budget was calculated by our Finance Committee, then approved to present to the congregation by our Church Council. The budget was formally approved by the congregation during the annual meeting Nov. 16, 2008.

BENEVOLENCE	Spent 2008	2009 Budget
Allegheny Synod/ ELCA	14,634.78	75%
Camp Sequanota	1,926.69	10%
ALSM Counseling	1,844.69	10%
Boy Scouts	\$400.00	\$400
Discretionary Fund	926.71	5%
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	\$19,732.87	\$400
CURRENT EXPENSES		
Worship Supplies	2,397.00	2,000.00
Music Supplies	214.00	450.00
Organ and Piano Maint.	280.00	300.00
Curriculum	3,118.00	3,200.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00	500.00
Youth Ministry	399.00	500.00
Parish Life, Witness	1,900.00	1,500.00
Cont. Ed. For Pastor	350.00	500.00
Kitchen Supplies	70.00	200.00
Fellowship	243.00	300.00
Pastor's Base Salary	38,336.00	39,775.00
Organists	3,852.00	4,243.00
Music Director	2,761.00	2,864.00
Sexton	2,863.00	2,971.00
Treasurer	1,943.00	2,016.00
Cleaning People	7,987.00	8,323.00
Secretarial Services	8,580.00	8,800.00
Youth Director	1,585.00	4,680.00
Supply Pastors	225.00	500.00

Guest Soloists	50.00	100.00
ELCA Benefits	24,230.00	22,822.00
Pastor's Social Security	3,813.00	3,956.00
Employees' Soc. Security	2,421.00	2,693.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	868.00	1,000.00
Parish Travel for Ministry	3,935.00	4,680.00
Administrative Supplies	5,477.00	5,500.00
Church Telephone	2,480.00	2,480.00
Copier Lease & Maint.	5,384.00	5,500.00
TOTAL CURRENT	\$125,761.00	\$132,253.00
BUILDING EXPENSES		
Utilities		
A. Church	11,352.00	14,000.00
B. Luther Haus	5,668.00	\$6,000.00
C. Parsonage	4,010.00	\$4,600.00
Maintenance		
A. Equipment Maint.	9,458.00	8,000.00
B. Snow Removal	1,145.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance and Comprehen.	7,396.00	7,000.00
Taxes and Real Estate	1,429.00	1,500.00
Improvements		
Church	0.00	5,000.00
Luther Haus	159.00	3,000.00
Parsonage	0.00	1,000.00
TOTAL BUILDING	\$40,617.00	\$51,100.00
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE,		
CURRENT & BUILDING	\$186,110.87	\$183,753.00



Celebrate Christmas



Decorate your Christmas tree.

Ring a Christmas bell.

Sing a joyful carol

With a jubilant noel!

Light your Advent candle wreath.

Rejoice with friends on Earth.

Give thanks to God for sending Christ

In this, His Christmas birth.

Share your joy of Christmas

And God's blessings from above.

Celebrate God's Graciousness!

Celebrate God's Love!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

Church Council



Council Minutes October 14, 2008

The meeting called to order by Rocky Ohler. A motion was made by Jim Suder, seconded by Jim Mowry and passed to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Shirley Largent, seconded by Jim Suder and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made by Dave Marker, seconded by Mike Countryman and passed not to

purchase the new red ELCA Worship Hymnal.

A Special Congregational Meeting is called for Oct. 19th after the 10:40 service to get approval to proceed with the sacristy renovations as stated in our Constitution Resolution. The bid by Rowland Kimmel at \$9,900.00 was the top bid; Lowes increased its installation price by \$2,600.

Pastor Harmon will have a Cross Roads Campaign to talk about the Gettysburg Seminary and their needs.

A motion was made by Mike Countryman, seconded by Jim Mowry and passed to approve the insurance recommendation by Suder Insurance. Suder Insurance performed a re-evaluation of our insurance policy and found we were over insured and the new policy will save

\$600/year.

A motion was made by Mike Countryman, seconded by Shirley Largent and passed to approve Pastor Harmon to attend a continuing education retreat for pastors at Camp Sequanota Oct. 24 and 25.

The first Confirmation Meeting will be this Saturday from 9-12 p.m. The next meetings will be Nov. 15 and Dec. 13.

A motion was made by Dave Marker, seconded by Jim Suder and passed to approve the request by Lorrie Shaw to purchase extra bells for the Youth of God Bells. The cost is between \$750-850 and will be taken from restricted funds for bells. The YOG Bells has 14 participants.

A motion was made by Jim Suder, seconded by Jim Mowry and passed to adjourn.

Faithfully submitted,
Tracey Kiesnowski

Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Walker presented the 2009 budget, which was approved (to see the budget, please go to Page 11).

It was once again approved to hold only one service for the months of January and February 2009. There will be no 8 a.m. service during that period.

Altar Guild Schedule for 2009

Holy Trinity's Altar Guild held its annual meeting on Oct. 11.

The proposed schedule for 2009 was discussed and compiled with the following members:

January: Larry and Sandy Shober

February: Carol and Jim Burcaw

March: Jay and Joy Deem

April: Katie Bell and Shirley Largent

May: Alice Trent and Lana Clemens

June: Linda Leverknight and Jane Scurfield

July: Jim and Lynn Suder

August: Tim and Sue Clites

September: Jay and Emily Berkey

October: Doug and Kathy Bell

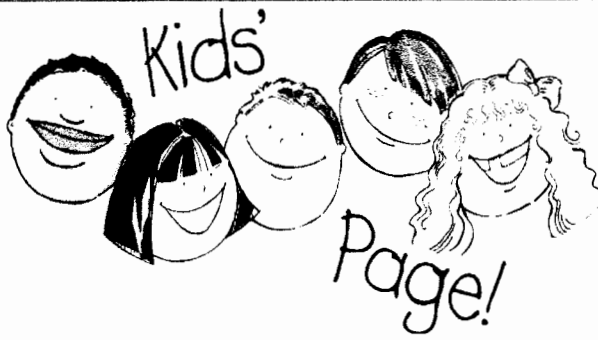
November: Rocky and Patti Ohler

December: Lois Harris and 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!

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.

Jay Berkey	267-3517	Mike Countryman	267-3426
Darlene Hillegass	267-4433	Alice Hummel	267-4977
Tracey Kiesnowski	267-7118	Shirley Largent	267-4255
David Long	279-3014	Dave Marker	634-8563
Jim Mowry	443-3770	Rocky Ohler	267-6137
Jim Suder	267-4825	Lenora Virtue	267-6486



Sunday School Christmas Program
 The Holy Trinity Sunday School classes, ages 1 to 8th grade, will present their Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec 21, during the 10:40 a.m. worship service.

Advent Cookie Bake
 Preparations are underway for the annual Advent Cookie Bake,



which will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. We will be making the dough Friday night, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. in the church kitchen, so it's all ready for the kids on Saturday. If you'd like to help, join us!

Donations would be greatly appreciated and should be dropped off in the kitchen by Friday, Dec. 5.



Christmas Program

This year the children are performing a musical entitled "The First Leon." In this charming musical you will see the Christmas story through the eyes of Leon.

You see, Leon is... special. Ever since he discovered that his name spelled backwards is Noel, he's felt called to tell the world the true meaning of Christmas. But when he tries out for every role in the annual pageant, he finds that he's the only one who doesn't get a part. Rejected. Now Leon understands better than anyone how Mary and Joseph must have felt when they heard the words, "No room" that night in Bethlehem. Without really trying to, however, Leon does uncover the true meaning of Christmas when he identifies the real Star of Bethlehem.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this performance.

Yuletide GAMES

Enjoy the Christmas season with these games, centered around the theme of Jesus, our greatest gift.

JESUS' BIRTH FROM A-Z

What you need:

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (optional)



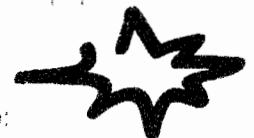
What you do:

Instruct players to think of as many Christmas-related words as they can that start with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and give everyone a minute to brainstorm words for each letter. For example, M words include manger, Mary and miracle. If you get stuck, look at the Nativity accounts in Matthew 1 and 2, and also Luke 2. Players get a point for each word not repeated by others.

PIN THE STAR ON THE MANGER

What you need:

- Butcher paper, poster board or plain wrapping paper
- Markers, paint or crayons
- Construction paper stars
- Tape
- Blindfold



What you do:

On large paper, draw a picture of a stable. Give each player a star cutout. Put a small + above the manger where the star led the shepherds and wise men to baby Jesus. Like in Pin the Tail on the Donkey, the blindfolded person who puts his or her star closest to the + wins.



BELL CHOIR

Youth of God Bells are practicing for the holidays and are looking for additional performers.

Practices are now held at **6:15 p.m. Sundays**, and Youth of God Bells Please watch for the practice schedule in the weekly bulletins.

A Publication of Holy Trinity
Evangelical Lutheran Church

507 Main Street
Berlin, PA 15530

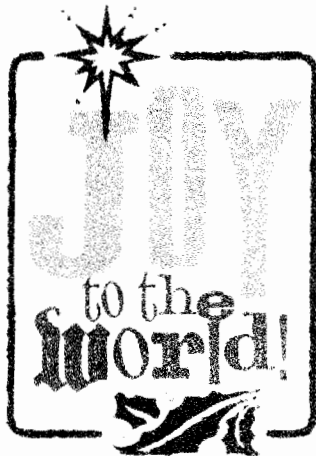
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



If you are unable to help with worship on the day you are assigned, please try to find someone to trade dates with, then call the Church Office at 267-5014 to inform us of the change. Thanks!

Head Usher: Jim Mowry Altar Guild: Lois Harris & Helen Barton

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	CHILDREN'S SERMON	LECTOR/ WORSHIP ASST.	USHER	*C = Communion
Dec. 7 *C	8 AM	*C Jon Pribelsky	NA	*C Dave Marker	*C Jim & Kerrie Broderick and Donald Gardner	
	10:40 AM	*C Vincent Pribelsky	Lee Woida	*C Connie Slope	*C John Beachley II Team	
	4 PM	NA	NA	NA	*C Jim Mowry	
Dec. 14	8 AM	Logan McKenzie	NA	Joy Deem	Carol & Jim Burcaw	
	10:40 AM	Jason Ocker	Susan Straight	Andrea Kreinbrook	Doug & Kathy Bell	
	7 PM	NA	NA	*C Sue Clites	*C Tracey Kiesnowski and Tim Clites	
Dec. 21	8 AM	Kane McKenzie	NA	Bill Cober	Kay Ann Cober and Darlene Hillegass	
	10:40 AM	Jessica Leydig	Sunday School Musical	Jeff Moore	Tom & Jane Fisher	
Dec. 28	7:00 PM	Mitchell Walker & Kylie Froehlich	Pastor John	Stephanie Waydo	Dale Leydig Team	
Dec. 29	8 AM	Emily Philip	NA	Deb Cook	Larry, Sandy & Bryan Shober	
	10:40 AM	Jonathan Harmon	Christmas Cantata	Dorothy Gerber	Dave & Susan Long	