



The Visitor



Volume 49 No. 10

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December 2009

Special Dates

- **Communion** will be held at 8 & 10:40 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, and 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Barn Service.
- **Advent Cookie** Bake will be held at 9 a.m. Dec. 19.
- **Church Office** will be closed Dec. 24, 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 SUPPER

Holy Trinity will celebrate the beginning of the Advent season on Sunday, Nov. 29. The annual Advent Dinner will be held at 5 p.m. Bring your table setting and a covered dish to share.



Holiday Worship Schedule

Barn Service

The annual service in the barn will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, 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 possi-

ble carpool to reduce parking problems.

Church Decorating

We will decorate the church Saturday, Dec. 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bring a covered dish for lunch, which will be shared at noon.

Candlelight Worship Service



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

For information on youth events this month, please see Page 13.

Annual meeting of the congregation held

Holy Trinity held its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, Nov. 15.

Council Chairman Mike Countryman adjusted the order of the agenda so the congregation could address and discuss the following resolution on the



ballot: "Be it here resolved that on this 15th day of November, 2009, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran

Church does hereby enter into membership of Lutheran CORE which will function as a free-standing Lutheran synod of the Lutheran Church and will seek to reinvigorate its deeply confessional and Biblical ministries and continue its work

(Continued on page 3)

A new church year begins

As you receive this newsletter a new church year will be beginning. It commences with Advent, continues through Christmas and Epiphany to Lent and Easter, to be followed by the long Pentecost season to again end with Christ the King Sunday. At the beginning and the end it is all Christ.

Oftentimes in the midst of our animated discussions on topics and causes dear to us, we forget the larger picture, focusing on the details rather than the overall design. God's will on Christ will triumph no matter what we do. Our job is not to get in the way of his plans and at the same time raise his banner to all who will listen and kneel at his throne.

At times it calls for openness to God doing a new thing -- one we had certainly not envisaged. At other times it calls for mining out of the rich 2,000 years of Christian history diamonds of doctrine, teaching or practice that have been surely neglected. At still other times it may call for times of reflection and quiet questions as divergent approaches can work in harmony or reasoned compromise as was achieved at the famous Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. There, James, the Lord's brother, achieved a remarkable agreement that two widely divergent approaches to the Christian faith -- Peter's Jewish practices and Paul's Gentile ministry -- to co-



exist and even in certain areas cooperate.

Today the worldwide church is engaged in many debates and questions of practice and politics as it struggles to work with other church bodies in the face of an increasingly secular world and dynamic competing religions. At times it can be a daunting and confusing task; but we must not lose hope. Peter and Paul faced the same difficulties in the midst of an authoritarian Roman Empire and many competing religions. They worked their way through these challenging forces and open questions under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, appealing to tradition when they could and looked for allies whenever they found them. If we can do the same thing -- study our traditions, read our Scriptures, ponder their meanings, analyze the signs of the times, use the reason God has given us and the love of Christ entrusted to us to forgive each other and ourselves our mistakes, then we cannot fail. Far from being doleful, this is an exciting time to be a Christian; God is really at work building His church. Just at the moment it seems a little cloudy, but after that lifts, a new day dawns. Christ reigns!

Pastor John W. Harmon, D. Min., can be reached at the Church Office at 267-5014, 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. 27 bulletin must be turned in by Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Visitor Deadline

Please have all your information for the January issue of the Visitor turned in no later than Monday, Dec. 7. Information received after that date may be held until February 2010 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

Published ten times a year by Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Editor

Andrea K. Kreinbrook

Editorial Contributors

Pastor John Harmon Maria Mowry
Jeff Moore Dorothy Gerber

Church Office

507 Main Street
Berlin, PA 15530
(814) 267-5014

htelc@verizon.net
www.htelcberlin.com

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Dear Members,

By the time you receive this I believe the combined community bell concert will be over, but just in case it isn't, the concert is Dec. 6 at 2:00 p.m. at Berlin Brothersvalley High School. The Adult Bells have worked very hard for this and have done an excellent job, I am very proud of them.

If you would like to join the Senior Choir to sing for Christ-



mas Eve, please come to the following rehearsals to join them: December 9, 16, and 23 at 6:30 p.m.

As the Christmas season approaches, let us all remember to be thankful for the most wonderful present ever given to us and that was Jesus Christ. He is the reason for the season.

Maria Mowry
Music Director
445-6742

Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

in concert with applicable ELCA ministries and other recognized ELCA partners, interest groups and other ecumenical organizations compatible with this resolution.”

After an intense and at times emotional period of discussion, a motion was made to table the vote on the resolution so the congregation has more time to debate this issue. A ballot vote was taken, and the results were 66 to table the resolution, versus 18 opposing votes.

The 2010 budget was presented, and questions were raised regarding the benevolence funds. Monies that in the past were sent to the ELCA (37.5% of all donated benevolences) were noted on the proposed budget as possibly going solely to the ELCA's World Hunger Appeal or to other organizations, including Lutheran CORE or Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). After much discussion, a motion was made and approved to except the

current and building portions of the 2010 budget, and to table approval of the benevolence funds until a special meeting, which will be held Sunday, Jan. 17. (To see the proposed budget, please go to Page 11).

Nominations for Council members, Board of Managers, Synod and Conference Delegates were approved and then voted for by ballot. New council members for 2010 are Homer Kreinbrook Jr., Joyce Meese, Wayne Schrock and John Yeager; Debra Fogle was voted in for a five-year term on the Board of Managers; and Doug & Kathleen Bell and Andrea Kreinbrook will be the Synod Delegates.

Pastor John Harmon presented the Ministry Review for 2009 (see Page 5) and discussed the current status of the church steeple. A proposal was presented to the congregation stating “Shall the cost of the new cross for the top of the steeple be bourn from existing memorial funds rather than necessitating another parish fundraiser (\$2,000).” This proposal was approved unanimously.

Thank You

To my friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: Can't express my thoughts to you all for your kindness, prayers and concerns of my son Ray Lynn's passing. Thank you for the beautiful carnation, which I am still admiring. Sorry I could not attend, but I had a commitment at my church for All Saints' Day. In Christian Love, Helen Weigle & Family

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. 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,
 Emma Lowery, 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 Ri-
 ley
 16 Dianne Engleka
 17 Christen Fisher
 19 Michael Gross Jr.
 20 Chad Bittner, James Burcaw,
 Xander Meese
 21 Jadon Yost
 22 Linda Countryman, Samuel
 Erny, Justin Klimchak, Mary
 McQuade
 23 Carol Burcaw
 24 John Hostetler, Dorothy
 Weaver
 26 Josie Beam, Bryan Coleman,
 Malinda Kirk, David Meese, Re-
 becca Philip
 27 Jessica Leydig, Tim Woida
 28 Deborah Dilbon, Bonnie Foy,



Our Church Family

Jane Fisher, Rhonda Leister
 29 Aimee Nicklow
 30 Hanna Bittner, Travis Gless-
 ner
 31 Janet Bender, Kordell Ley-
 dig, Jon Pribelsky, Brett Straight
Anniversaries - December
 1 Steven & Jody Berkey
 2 Dale & Vanessa Coslic
 3 Allan & Christine Blubaugh
 6 Greg & Jessica Persson
 10 Thomas & Ann Miller
 15 Jim & Tonya Froehlich, Bill
 & Shirley Riley

Additions/Corrections

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

Prayer List

As of November 19, 2009

HOSPITALIZED: Clyde Miller, Johns-
 town; Everett Nicklow, Somerset;

RECUPERATING AT HOME: Roger
 Duckett, Faye Glessner, Terry Griffith,
 Rosalind Harkcom, Homer Kreinbrook
 Jr., Homer Kreinbrook, Sr., Mary
 Landis, Olive Maust, Mary McQuade,
 Mary Meyers, Ann Miller, Irene Mowry

**RESIDING IN NURSING/PERSONAL
 CARE HOMES:** Ray Adams, Guy
 Baer, Trudy Baker, Florence Engleka,
 Isabelle Gonger, Ella Hittie, Gerald
 Keefer, Catherine Maust, Louise
 Ream, Jane Schrock, George Wisler

PRAYERS REQUESTED: Jodi
 Abramowich, Janet Alvares, Melvin
 Arnold, Barb Baker, Nathan Barkley,
 LCpl. Rev. Bartholomew, Gary Bienisz
 (cancer), LCpl. Bob Bittner, Brian Bitt-
 ner, Cpl. Chad Bittner, SGT Bryan
 Brant, Nettie Brown, Charles Burk,
 Edna Mae Chappie, Lt. Aaron Chonko,
 Richard Cober, Joshua Dawson, Deb-
 orah Dilbon, Bob Ewing, Bill Farber,
 SSG Ryan Ferre, Barbara Fogle,
 Elaine Franklin, David Fullard, AE 2
 Carrie Gardner, SSG Aaron George,
 SSGT Jason Gerber, Jean Gerber,
 TSGT Jana Glotfelty, Alexzandra Gon-
 zales, The Harmon Family, SSG Ron
 Helm, Joe Henry, Travis Hummel
 (USAF), Kenneth Hutzell, Major Travis
 Ingrodi, A.F., Sharon King, June
 Landis, Fred Leister, Cpt. James Lei-
 ster, Linda Leverknight, Mary
 Lombardo, Lottie, Wilda Miller, Maria
 Mowry, Mary Nicklow, Kim Oriole,
 Loretta Payne, Betty Petro, Cpt. John
 Paxton, Rodney, Gary Rosenberger,
 Cheryl Rutherford, Pat Saylor, Alice &
 Fred Scheferston, Fred Scheferston
 Jr., Chaplain George W. Shaffer, Pri-
 vate Nathan Shaffer, Jackie Shaw,
 Matthew Spear, A1C Steven Spear,
 Kim Stayrook, Carol Wright, 25th Infan-
 try Div., 1st SBCT

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.

News in our Congregation

BAPTISM: Sara Hains-
 worth, the daughter of
 Dennis & Melissa Hains-
 worth, was scheduled to
 be baptized Nov. 29.

DEATH: Our sympathies
 to the friends and family of Jim
 Knepper, who passed away in
 November.

WEDDING: Tammy Swauger



and Robert Burns will be
 wed Dec. 26 at HTLC.

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 htlc@verizon.net.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: Ministry Review 2009

We are an ever-changing family of Christians....

This past year 10 people were received into our membership through the sacrament of Baptism. In the past year the church was involved in 12 funerals, eight of which were members. Eight members received their first communion, in church, on April 19, 2009, and through the help of the Fletcher Fund we gave six third graders their own Bibles on April 12. Five couples were married this past year. In January 2009 the Church Council affirmed a provisional church membership of 712 baptized and 587 confirmed.

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 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. Our newest addition to our worship offerings is the 5:06 Contemporary Service, which is held the second Sunday of each month.

Average Attendance at worship this year has been 144, which is only a slight decrease from last year. Average Sunday school

attendance has increased from 70 in 2008 to 73.

The youth program has had quite an eventful year under the leadership of Youth Director Jeff Moore. Youth activities over the past year included the Advent Cookie Bake and Christmas Caroling; Uncommon Life including snow tubing and corn maze; various family movie nights; Dominican Republic mission trip and other fundraising luncheons and sales; Music in the Mountains and Creation music festival; bowling, bonfires, bike trail rides; VBS and Sunday school Rally Day. The next youth planning committee meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23. All are invited to attend.

Our educational offerings for adults went beyond our regular Sunday School classes with our evening Alpha courses. We studied "The Question of God", "Jesus of Nazareth" and most recently, "Christianity & Islam." During summer Sunday school we also studied The Lord's Prayer. We continue to look for new ways to engage our members in Bible study and exploration of the faith. To date at least 110 members and 23 guests from outside our congregation have attended these courses.

The Music Ministry has had a busy year and the rest of 2009 and 2010 will continue to be busy. The Senior Choir continues to grow in numbers would like to invite anyone who wants to join us to sing a special number for Christmas Eve to do so, and we are hoping to do an Easter Can-

tata next year instead of a Christmas one. The Adult Bells have also grown in numbers and will be joining the Brethren and UCC churches in a combined Christmas bell concert at the high school in December. They will be playing six pieces with the other two choirs as well as a solo number. Joyful Noise increased the number of times they played this past year and is currently on a break until the Bell Concert is over. The youth of the church continue to be involved in singing and playing the chimes. Musical Director Maria Mowry is thankful for all the support that is given to all of the ensembles of our church, and she is pleased that we have so many different ways to praise God through music.

Caring for our members, the unchurched and other community people.

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

(Continued on page 6)

Ministry Review 2009

(Continued from page 5)

phone calls and give support to those who need any sort of compassion in their lives. If there are concerns regarding parishioners, we will appreciate letting the church office know so we can make the appropriate contact.

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

We are joining with other Christians to support and help fulfill God's purpose in the world.

In January 2009, 18 members of our Mission Group went to the Dominican Republic to help at Summer's Best Two Weeks camp. They helped build a foundation for a new dining hall and prepare the ground for a new volleyball court. Members also had a chance to visit with children they sponsor through Compassion International.

Our church continues partici-

pation 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 - \$12,251.01; Camp Sequanota - \$1,633.45; ALSM Counseling Ministry in Somerset - \$1,633.45; Boy Scouts - \$400; World Hunger - \$1,527.16; Food Pantry - \$2,895.16; Blankets - \$175.

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. They produced 285 covers, including some from a Frostburg seniors group; 12 layettes, 256 caddies and tote bags, 79 pillows, 10 afghans and prayer shawls and 12 handbags.

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

The biggest project for our Property Committee has been the steeple renovation. After receipt of the steeple condition report, internal repairs were done during Holy Week. A special meeting in June was held to approve the selection of contractor and the method of financing. The loan was secured through the Mission Investment Fund, and we have

been receiving additional monies through pledged donations and fundraisers. The external work began Oct. 1 by Reese Brothers Construction. The cross at the top of the steeple was taken down in September, and it was decided to have a replacement created by Gross Brothers Welding & Fabrication.

Other property projects in 2009 included new fans for the kitchen and a new ceiling in the Fellowship Hall; electrical re-wiring and new glass block windows in Luther Haus; renovation of the church sacristy made possible by memorial monies; new exterior church lighting; major Luther Haus, church and parsonage landscaping clean-up; new phone system in Luther Haus and new computer for Pastor John; sewing room and classroom renovations. Future and ongoing projects include the handicapped ramp, improvements to stone and brick surfaces on the north and east exterior of the building; possible chair lift on the east entrance; and further discussion on the Janet Gindlesperger property.

We are preserving and researching our history.

We continue to collect and preserve historical documents and items associated with Holy Trinity. This year we prepared a new church photo directory that will act as a time capsule of our congregation and its ministries for future generations.

It has been an exciting year and 2009-10 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.



Contact Us!
Office: 267-5014
Church: 267-4795
Parsonage: 267-6255
htelc@verizon.net
www.htelcberlin.com

Office Hours
 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,
 Monday – Thursday

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Event Key AB = Adult Bells HTLCB= HTLC Band SC = Senior Choir UL = Uncommon Life YOGB = Youth Bells		Quilters and Knotty Knotters 1 7:30 PM - Property Use	6:30 PM -SC 2 8 PM - AB			
8 AM - C 6 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM - C 2 PM - Bell concert at BBHS 4 PM - C 7 PM - UL	7 Visitor Information Due 7:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Committee	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 8 7 PM - Church Council	6:30 PM -SC 9 8 PM - AB	10	11	12 9 AM - Church Decorating 5:06 PM - Contemporary Service
8 AM - W 13 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM - C 6:15 PM -YOGB 7 PM - Barn Service 7 PM - UL	14	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 15 7 PM - Scout meeting	6:30 PM -SC 16 8 PM - AB	17	18	19 9 AM - Advent Cookie Bake 10 AM - Christmas Day Camp
8 AM - W 20 9:30 SS 10:40 AM - W & SS Program 6:15 - YOGB 7 PM - UL	21	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 22	6:30 PM -SC 23 8 PM - AB	Christmas Eve 24 7 PM - Candle-light Service	Christmas 25 Church Office Closed	26 7 PM - Swauger-Burns wedding
8 AM - W 27 9:30 AM - SS 10:40 AM - W	28	Quilters and Knotty Knotters 29	6:30 PM -SC 30 8 PM - AB	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	

Dear members, family, friends and neighbors,

I'm back! I didn't really go anywhere; I wasn't feeling real good and I had something personal I had to take care of.

I still took care of our military in the war zone.

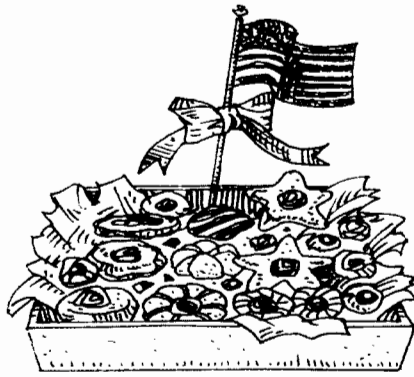
Anyway, as I'm writing this we still have seven in the war zone. I really wish people would let me know when deploys or comes home. Some do but others don't.

Jana Glotfelty is in Afghanistan. She's one of Blair Krause's grandchildren. Her parents are Jim and Jane Black and are taking care of her children. Her husband is stationed somewhere else.

Our son Jason is back at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, with his family. At least for now. He is going to go to the Army's aviation school. At least that's the plan. Anyway, after that, he'll be deployed to Afghanistan. It's war time, so that's the way it is.

Keep praying for our troops and the whole world. Times aren't that great for a lot of peo-

Berlin



C.A.R.E.S.

ple. Look what happened at Fort Hood, Texas. What a tragedy. But we must always keep our faith, that God has a reason for everything. As the Brits would say, "Keep a stiff upper lip and carry on."

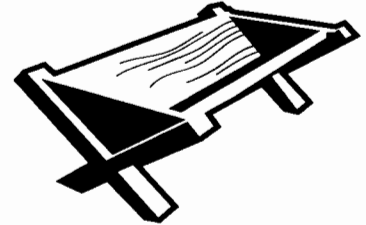
I do want to thank everyone who has supported Berlin C.A.R.E.S. By the time you get this, November's boxes will have been sent. We will be mailing Christmas care packages to the troops Friday, Dec. 11. If you would like to donate Christmas cookies, please drop them off at the church or Luther Haus before Dec. 11. This will be the last boxes sent for 2009.

Read your Bibles and pray. I'm serious!

God bless you and your families.

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

Advent anticipation



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

Give a Little and Care a Lot: Items for Soldiers

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 Christmas 2009 Newsletter



Pastor Ralph G. Landis

"May the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, bless you and your loved ones with His love this Christmas and throughout the year!"

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008: I hand delivered 435 and mailed 110 Christmas letters from Nov. 5 through Dec. 20 in Berlin and the surrounding areas. I completed my help with the Special Olympics in bowling. I found out in November that I did not have a problem with my lungs; it was my heart and a pacemaker was inserted at Somerset Hospital. I am grateful to Dr. Van Antwerp and Dr. Nair for their diagnosis. I am doing great!

JANUARY 2009: I watched the Rose Bowl Parade on TV. I conducted the funeral service of sister-in-law Barbara Alice (Scurfield) Landis at the Deaner Funeral Home in Berlin. I attended the Holy Trinity Lutheran council dinner at the Berlin Community Building.

FEBRUARY 2009: I delivered the Valentine message at Rest Assured Living Center in Meyersdale. I attended Joe Mihelcic's 90th birthday celebration in New Paris. I work each Wednesday at the Berlin Food Pantry.

MARCH 2009: Rev. Bob and Dorothy Siess from Pittsburgh visited for a weekend to attend the 62nd annual Pennsylvania Maple Festival in Meyersdale. I attended cousin Don Brady's 60th birthday celebration at Hoss's Seafood & Steakhouse in Somerset. I also attended McKenna's first birthday celebration at the Somerset fire hall. McKenna's parents are Kelsey Landis and John Beckner; grandparents are Annette and Carl Landis.

APRIL 2009: I officiated the wedding ceremony of Rebecca L. Inks and Eris S. Lepley at Roxbury United Church of Christ with a reception following at the church. I delivered the Easter sermon and communion at Meadow View Nursing Center in Berlin. I delivered the invocation and benediction at the volunteer luncheon sponsored by Meadow View at the Berlin Community Building. I received an injection for carpal tunnel syndrome at the doctor's office in Somerset.

MAY 2009: I attended Meyersdale's Golden Liv-

ing Center's recognition evening of Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteers.

JUNE 2009: I watched the parade at the Berlin Block Party. Sister Ruth Kammer from York, Pa., visited for a few days at my home, and sister Geraldine Raupach and brother-in-law Guy Raupach's home in Glencoe, while attending her 67th class reunion. Rev. and Mrs. Don Cook visited me at Somerset's Eat 'n Park restaurant. I served as a guide for four hours at the Glades Pike one room school. I helped conduct the funeral /memorial service for Clarence Bittner, Renee Raupach's father, on June 26 at the William Rowe Funeral Home in Meyersdale. I delivered the invocation at the dinner that followed the service at the Zion Lutheran Church in Meyersdale.

JULY 2009: I officiated the dedication of Halle Breaelle Childers at the home of her parents, Autumn and George Childers (grandparents are Renee and Michael Raupach) in Shanksville. I officiated at the wedding ceremony and reception of Joni Ruskey and Timothy Berkebile at their home on Stepping Stone Road in Somerset. I attended the Raupach and Leister reunions at the home of sister Geraldine and Guy Raupach in Glencoe. I attended the Berlin Historical Society picnic at Glades Unity United Church of Christ in Berlin. I also attended the car show and activities at the Berlin Community Grove.

AUGUST 2009: I delivered the sermon at the Deeter reunion at Deeter's Gap. They gave me a beautiful plaque for my years of service and a love offering of \$55 for the Wilkos in Guinea, Africa, in service to Pioneer Bible Translators. I attended the Berlin Lion's Club dinner at New Hope, United Church of Christ, in recognition of the Outstanding Citizens Award Program. I received my recognition in 1992. Rose Spangler received the award for 2009. I attended the Sam Sr. and Elsie Poorbaugh recognition picnic at Mount Lebanon Grove. I attended the Area Agency on Aging pic-

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The Christmas 2009 Newsletter

(Continued from page 9)

nic at the Hayloft in Rockwood.

SEPTEMBER 2009: I attended the wedding ceremony and reception of my niece, Kelsey Landis and John Beckner at the Hayloft in Rockwood. I delivered the invocation at the reception. Rev. Bob and Dorothy Siess spent the weekend at my home to attend the Berlin Whiskey Rebellion parade and supper at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. I began helping with the Handicapped Special Olympics for bowlers for seven weeks. I help those that are wheelchair bound. I attended the annual dinner for the Berlin Historical Society at the Berlin Community Building. I also attended Mary Trent's 85th birthday party at Listie. I underwent carpal tunnel surgery at Lee Hospital in Johnstown. I am doing fine.

OCTOBER 2009: I delivered the sermon and communion on World Day of Prayer at Meadow View Nursing Center. I observed my 87th birthday on Oct. 7! I officiated at the wedding ceremony of Amanda Miller and Carl Heidorn at Hillside Lodge in Macdonaldton. I attended the annual RSVP dinner at the Berlin Community Building, where I delivered the invocation. I also attended Fall Fest at Rest Assured Living Center.

NOVEMBER 2009: I plan to deliver the invocation at the Football Boosters Banquet at the Berlin Community Building. I look forward to attending the first birthday celebration for my great-great-niece Halle Childers, daughter of Autumn and George Childers (grandparents are Renee and Mi-

chael Raupach) on Sunday, Nov. 1, at their home in Shanksville. I plan to attend our annual Thanksgiving dinner at my niece Renee and nephew Michael's home on the Garrett Shortcut. We will also celebrate the 10th birthday of their son, my great-nephew, Carter Raupach. I am also anxiously awaiting the arrival of a new great-great-niece in November, Ashlynn Lavan, daughter of Amber and Adam Lavan; grandparents are Renee and Michael Raupach.

DECEMBER 2009: I plan to deliver the Christmas message and communion on Dec. 20 at Meadow View. I plan to share Christmas dinner and the exchanging of gifts at the home of my sister Geraldine and brother-in-law Guy Raupach's in Glencoe, along with the family of Renee and Michael Raupach.

I continue to pray for the peace and safety of our troops serving our country in foreign lands and at home. I have volunteered 325 hours from January through October 2009 at hospitals, nursing homes, the Berlin Food Pantry, and Special Olympics. I wish to thank Renee for typing my newsletter and the Lutheran and United Church of Christ secretaries, Andrea and Shirley, for making the copies. "Love you all!"

May the Christ of Christmas live in your heart. May the Holy Spirit of the living God enable you to live a victorious Christian life.

In Christian love,

Pastor Ralph Landis

Altar Guild schedule for 2010 set at annual meeting

Holy Trinity's Altar Guild held its annual meeting on Oct. 14.

The proposed schedule for 2010 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!

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 2010 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. 15, 2009.

BENEVOLENCE	Spent 2009	2010 Budget
Allegheny Synod	\$14,634.78	37.5%
Camp Sequanota	\$1,633.45	10%
ALSM Counseling	\$1,633.45	10%
Boy Scouts	\$400.00	\$400
Discretionary Fund	926.71	5%
ELCA/WHA-/CORE/LCMC	N/A	37.5%
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	\$16,766.75	\$400
CURRENT EXPENSES		
Worship Supplies	1,555.60	1,750.00
Music Supplies	236.01	400.00
Organ and Piano Maint.	360.00	350.00
Curriculum	3,986.98	3,500.00
Vacation Bible School	0.00	300.00
Youth Ministry	336.90	500.00
Parish Life, Witness	1,645.56	1,500.00
Cont. Ed. For Pastor	420.00	500.00
Kitchen Supplies	4.25	200.00
Fellowship	179.41	300.00
Pastor's Base Salary	39,485.50	40,571.00
Organists	4,228.80	4,328.00
Music Director	2,843.28	2,921.00
Sexton	2,949.00	3,030.00
Treasurer	2,001.28	2,056.00
Cleaning People	8,193.82	8,489.00
Secretarial Services	9,918.76	8,976.00
Youth Director	3,510.00	4,774.00
Supply Pastors	0.00	500.00

Guest Soloists	40.00	100.00
ELCA Benefits	25,445.86	23,500.00
Pastor's Social Security	3,927.00	4,156.00
Employees' Soc. Security	2,437.13	2,645.00
Synod Assembly Expenses	1,050.09	1,000.00
Parish Travel for Ministry	4,090.33	4,680.00
Administrative Supplies	5,204.73	5,300.00
Church Telephone	2,767.29	2,800.00
Copier Lease & Maint.	4,733.36	5,000.00
TOTAL CURRENT	\$131,551.19	\$134,126.00
BUILDING EXPENSES		
Utilities		
A. Church	11,858.31	12,500.00
B. Luther Haus	6,138.90	\$6,000.00
C. Parsonage	4,425.88	\$4,450.00
Maintenance		
A. Equipment Maint.	6,980.58	7,000.00
B. Snow Removal	800.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance and Comprehen.	5,506.93	6,500.00
Taxes and Real Estate	1,429.25	1,430.00
Improvements		
Church	3,810.21	5,000.00
Luther Haus	1,610.52	3,000.00
Parsonage	606.74	1,000.00
TOTAL BUILDING	\$43,167.32	\$47,880.00
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE,		
CURRENT & BUILDING	\$191,485.26	\$198,772.75



Steeple Fund

In Memory of Dwayne Hittie

Keith & Denise Leydig Family

In Memory of Sara Gross

Dot Dilling

Ronald & Doris Carpenter

Richard & Carol Withum

Barton Kaufman

Jolly Quilters & Knotty Knotters

In Memory of R. William and Alice Zorn

Geneva McVicker

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.

Church Council



Council Minutes

October 13, 2009

Guests – Larry Shober

Opening Prayer / Devotion –
Pastor Harmon

Meeting called to order by Mike
Countryman

Motions were made and approved to accept the September minutes and the October Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Steeple loan report – Larry Shober gave a Steeple renovation report. Options were discussed for cross repair or replacement. Dave Weimer will be examining the cross and may be able to give us some suggestions. A motion was made by Dave Marker and seconded by Brian Waydo to have Gross Brothers design a replacement cross similar to what we have. They have quoted us a price of approximately \$2,000 for this work. The motion passed.

Pastor Harmon also stated that good progress was being made on the steeple project.

A motion was made by Kathy Bell and seconded by Darlene Hillegass to donate \$250 to the Berlin Fire Department Annual fund drive. That motion passed.

Kathy Bell reported that we had no response to either of the English as a second language classes. Doug Bell will be talking to some local farmers who have identified some of their staff who may be in need and interested in attending. They hope to schedule classes again at the beginning of the new year.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget for 2010: There will be a new budget proposal presented at the congregational meeting on November 15. In order to afford time for the financial committee to meet, the Council meeting will be changed to November 3 and the Property Committee will be changed to November 10.

There will be an informational meeting during Sunday School time on November 1. Some of the discussion will be about the ELCA and Lutheran CORE.

Shirley Largent and Jay Berkey are on the 2010 council nominating committee. They

report there are two candidates at this time.

PASTOR'S TIME

Pastor Harmon reported that our \$50,000 steeple loan will arrive soon. He reports we have received about 60 full share pledges.

Pastor Harmon provided us a review on Lutheran history and identified past times when Lutherans were faced with similar problems such as we are experiencing now with our sexuality concerns. We were informed of the ELCA's Bound Conscience doctrine and the Church stance and there was discussion on the option of joining Lutheran CORE.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Property – The rear of the church is in need of stone and brick repair. They are exploring options for the repair.

Deacons –none

Finance – There will be a meeting scheduled before the congregational meeting to discuss the budget.

Publicity – Pastor Harmon reported that we have had a very good turnout for our church directory pictures. We are hoping to receive the new directory on or after Christmas.

Youth –Upcoming Youth events are a Cookie Bake, Snow tubing and movie night. There will be a parent's day on Dec. 19

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lee Woida and seconded by Nita Swank to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and sharing of the peace.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Bell**

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

Kathy Bell 267-4095

Mike Countryman 267-3426

Shirley Largent 267-4255

Dave Marker 634-8563

Jim Suder 267-4825

Brian Waydo 267-4348

Youth Representative: Lindsey Leydig

Jay Berkey 267-3517

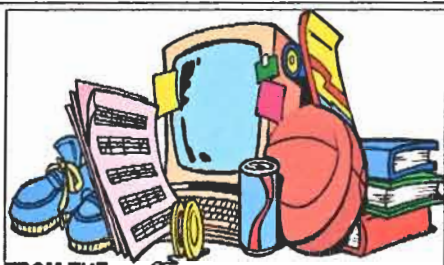
Darlene Hillegass 267-4433

David Long 279-3014

Jim Mowry 443-3770

Nita Swank 267-6839

Lee Woida 267-4420



**FROM THE
YOUTH DIRECTOR**

Greetings,

How the time flies. I thought I had just done a newsletter article, and here it is another article and I actually missed last month's news letter! It's almost like driving through Bando -- don't blink! Hopefully someone reading this understands that comment -- ask me sometime.

Some upcoming events on the schedule are:

Dec. 13: Christmas caroling after the barn service

Dec. 19: Advent cookie bake (see the article at right for more information) and pizza at noon.

Dec. 19: Christmas Day Camp from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Parents can drop off children for the day. There is no charge, but a free-will donation will be accepted for the youth program. Parents can use the day to get

ready for the holiday. We are in need of volunteers to help run this. Youth and adults combined! If it is not staffed, we will not be able to run the event. In order to plan for food and activities/supplies we ask parents to sign up in advance. Sign-up sheets for volunteers and children will be on the bulletin board, or call me (267-5703).

Jan. 9: Confirmation Class from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Please note the time change!

Jan. 16: Confirmation Class (9a.m. -10:30 a.m.)

Jan. 24: Snow tubing Jan. 24

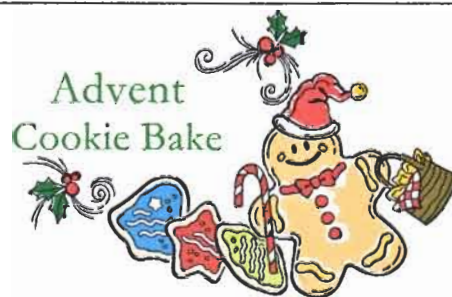
Jan. 30: A family movie night (hopefully the movie "Up")

Uncommon Life will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday evenings Dec. 6, 13, and 20. (The next Lutheran snack night is Jan. 10) Some future HTLC youth events will include a youth service; and the Creation Music Festival is scheduled for June 30 to July 3, 2010.

I want to schedule a planning/brainstorming meeting with both youth and parents sometime in January, a Saturday morning breakfast through lunch. One item of business is to craft a youth mission statement. Although I don't feel we are wasting our time, I feel we need more defined focus in our program.

There are other items that I didn't discuss here and as always, if anyone has any ideas or interest, please contact me and get involved in our program.

Jeff Moore
(814) 267-5703
jeffmoore_htelcyouth@verizon.net



Preparations are underway for the annual Advent Cookie Bake, which will be held Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. to noon. We will be making the dough Friday night, Dec. 18, 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. 18.



The Holy Trinity Sunday School classes, ages 1 to 8th grade, will present their Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec 20, during the 10:40 a.m. worship service.

December Nursery

The following people will be in the nursery during the 10:40 a.m. worship service:

- 6th:** Darlene Beachley
- 13th:** Sue Landis & Stephanie Waydo
- 20th:** Dave & Mary Ann Marker
- 27th:** Allan & Christine Blubaugh

Youth Bells



**CHILDREN'S
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.** Please watch for the practice schedule in the weekly bulletins.

A Publication of Holy Trinity
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“Then the
glory of the LORD
shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together.”
Isaiah 40:5, NSRV

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. 6 *C	8 AM	*C Turner Paul	NA	*C Mike Countryman	*C Jim Suder Team	
	10:40 AM	*C Emil Kiesnowski	Lee Woida	*C Connie Slope	*C John Beachley, Jim Froehlich and Dave Meese	
	4 PM	NA	NA	NA	*C Jim Mowry	
Dec. 13	8 AM	Wade Walker	NA	Stephanie Waydo	Joy Deem and Darlene Hillegass	
	10:40 AM	Brianna Leydig	Susan Straight	Dorothy Gerber	Tim & Sue Clites	
	7 PM	NA	NA	*C Dave Marker	*C Jay Berkey and Mike Countryman	
Dec. 20	8 AM	Emily Philip	NA	Deb Cook	John & Elaine Landis	
	10:40 AM	Jason Ocker	Sunday School Musical	Carolyn Rastrelli	Bruce Landis and Bryan Shober	
Dec. 24	7:00 PM	Kordell Leydig and Brandon Rhoads	Jeff Moore	Kathy Bell	Dale Leydig Team	
Dec. 27	8 AM	Mitchell Walker	NA	Barbara Pyle	Courtney Custer & Lorrie Shaw	
	10:40 AM	Sara Ferguson	Maria Mowry	Jean Ferguson	Ron & Kathy Yoder	