

Trinity Parish

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church · Camp Hill, Pennsylvania · January 2009 Edition
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Double Feature Event Coming to Trinity

Be sure to mark your calendars for Friday, January 16, 2009. The Lutheran Men In Mission is planning a wonderful evening for the Trinity Lutheran family.

The evening will begin with a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will include succulent pork roast with mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, German style pumpernickel bread, apple pie and beverages. Green beans will be served to the non-Pennsylvania Dutchmen.

Now for the second feature of the evening. Our beloved Pastor J. Steward Hardy will be our speaker. As most of you are already aware, he will retire at the end of January 2010. The subject of Pastor Hardy's message will be "My Reflections of the Past, Present and the Future during my years at Trinity".

The cost of this very special evening is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for those 12 years and under and no cost for children under five years of age.

Unfortunately, our Fellowship Hall can only accommodate 300 for this affair. Therefore, tickets will be sold on a first come basis. Tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Space after worship services on December 28, January 4, and January 11.

Any proceeds, after expenses, will be designated to the **Reverend Dr. J. Steward Hardy Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Fund**. We will have offering baskets available for additional contributions designated to this fund.

This promises to be an evening to remember for years to come. You will want to be a part of this event.

Jack Bush

Thank You for Giving to Those in Need

Any time we reach out to give to another, we are giving from the Lord's source of plenty, not ours. The blessing of giving resides in our hearts, pleasing the Lord.

From all those whose hearts prompted them to give to the **Giving Tree**: The Prison Ministry, Frank's Place, Camden, N.J., Delta Community, Churches Affiliated Child Care Centers, Sudanese men (Lost Boys of the Sudan), Zion Lutheran Winter Homeless Shelter and our own Trinity members in need.

Thank You!

Missions, Social and Parish Ministries

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2009

THE YG INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ANNUAL SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY SERVICE EVENT ON FEBRUARY 1, 2009. HELP THE YG SUPPORT OTHERS BY BRINGING YOUR MONEY AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS TO CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 1, 2009. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS YG SERVANT EVENT GO TO SUPPORT "THE BRIDGE". IT IS A FOOD PANTRY IN NEW CUMBERLAND THAT SPECIALIZES IN FEEDING THE PEOPLE OF OUR OWN WEST SHORE COMMUNITY. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR YG SERVICE CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2009 AT ALL CHURCH SERVICES AND IN THE GATHERING SPACE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

REMINDER: ALSO, PLEASE COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT OUR YG FUNDRAISERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE NEED TO RAISE A LOT OF MONEY FOR THE ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING NEXT SUMMER IN NEW ORLEANS.

2008 Annual Report

Trinity's 2008 Annual Report will be available at the end of January. Copies will be placed in the Gathering Space for members to pick up at their convenience. If you wish to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office at 737-8635.

Trinity's

Mardi Gras Feb. 8, 2009

New Orleans Buffet: 4:30 pm & 7:00 pm
Entertainment · Silent Auctions

Tickets go on sale January 18, 2009.

Adults: \$20 Children (6-12): \$5
Children (>): free

Proceeds benefit HELP Ministries in Harrisburg.

Email TrinityMardiGras@gmail.com
to reserve tickets prior to Jan. 18. Snow date, Feb. 22.

Blood Bank News

Trinity's first blood drive for 2009 will be held on Sunday, January 18, 7:45 to 11:00 a.m. Sign up will be held on January 4 and January 11, after all services. We encourage people to sign up early (before 9:15 a.m.) and from 10:30 until we are finished. Many like to come during the Sunday school hour; however, the pastors assure us they will excuse people leaving for blood donations or arriving late to church.



Many thanks to everyone who donated in 2008, whether at church, a donor center, the hospitals, or a Community Blood Drive. Trinity far surpassed the goal that CPBB set for us, and I know you will do it again! Just remember that we start counting at 0 again on January 1, 2009 so this drive is very important to get off to a good start.

Anyone over 17 years old (16 with parents signed consent), weighing at least 110 lbs., and in generally good health is urged to attempt to donate. Because of new tests, qualifications have changed. If you were unable to donate in the past, please inquire. Still have questions—call Jeanie Bentzel at 766-3526. If I don't know the answer, I'll find out for you!

Blood Drive

January 18, 2009

7:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Report: Room 126

Trinity Parish Deadline

The deadline for the February 2009 Edition of *Trinity Parish* is Saturday, January 10, 2009. Please forward all articles to the Editor, Donna Sprowls at parish@trinitycamphill.org

Trinity Parish is published 12 times a year by the Publicity and Communications Committee of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

717-737-8635 trinluth@trinitycamphill.org

J. STEWART HARDY, *Senior Pastor*

JOHN H. BROCK, *Associate Pastor*

NANCY R. EASTON, *Assistant Pastor*

GUY S. EDMISTON, *Support Pastor-in-Residence*

CHERYL A. KORTE, *Vicar*

CHRISTOPHER L. COUCH, *Director of Learning Ministries*

PETER A. FOX, *Director of Youth Ministries*

H. TIMOTHY KOCH, *Director of Music Ministries*

DEBRA D. WILSON, *Director of Music for Contemporary Worship*

JUDY K. COLLINS, *Spiritual Gifts Coordinator*

DONNA V. SPROWLS, *Editor*

STAFF NOTES

New Year, New Growth

The glossy magazine on the rack beckons me with its top story as I wait in the grocery store line:

Total Body Makeover for a New Year!

While I didn't peruse the magazine, I suppose the lead article deals with a diet and exercise regimen to be undertaken in early 2009. Funny thing, though. The next-biggest headline was something like:

Ten Best Chocolate Desserts Ever!

Is this some sort of conspiracy? How can I have a total body makeover when I'm stuffing that body with chocolate torte? Sigh. It is a new year, but with the same old me, and a year older at that. Unless there is a true "total body makeover" that differs from what the magazines tout.

Pastor Peter Marty wrote in his book *The Anatomy of Grace* some of his thoughts about growing older. I thought his words would help us all as we begin a new year, and a year older at that.

Marty has trouble not so much with the word "old" or "older" but the attachment of "growing" to it, as in the phrase "we are growing old." Marty thinks it is truer for people of faith to consider themselves, instead, as "growing new." He writes: "Growth is about adding something new. That's why 'growing old' is a contradiction in terms. How can you *grow* old? You can only grow new, which is what growth means in the first place."

In our worship during the season of Epiphany we will hear stories from the earliest days of Jesus' earthly ministry, where he gathered a band of followers—not "groupies" in the modern-day sense, but disciples who learned from Jesus and served as "apprentices" of their teacher and lord. While occasionally bumbling and doubtful on the journey, these disciples nonetheless did Jesus' work among the sick and suffering. In fact, they put aside everything to follow Jesus on his path. A total body makeover, you might say.

We'll also delve into Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, where the apostle reminds those Christians that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6). It is that powerful Spirit which not only maintains their fellowship together, but, as well, transforms each person, creating saints who faithfully follow their Lord in loving word and deed. A total body makeover for sure—at both corporate and personal level.

There is no conspiracy *here*. God is always at work, nourishing his Church in meal and word, that we might become the people He intends us to be. That is a regimen of diet and exercise that is not at all hard to swallow. And so it is that we might just grow new with each passing day.

The Reverend Nancy R. Easton

Stories to Tell & Gifts to Share – Our Stewardship Journey

Kevin & Adrienne Brady

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9: 7-8

For many years our impression of the annual Stewardship campaign at church was that it was just one more organization that wanted more of our time and money, as if we didn't have enough requests from our children's schools and activities as well as charities and volunteer organizations that were always knocking on the door or calling on the phone. Only this one was a little worse because it also brought on feelings of guilt and anxiety that we were not being good Christians. We always struggled to find enough money leftover for the church after paying our bills and household expenses. We wanted to give more, but our check-book balance indicated that we just didn't have enough money left to put more into the offering plate at church. At that time our attendance at church was sporadic. It seemed as though there weren't enough hours in the week to get everything done, and Sunday mornings were a prime time to catch up on chores and other activities.

We very deliberately increased our stewardship pledge each year but it still did not seem sufficient. Our attendance improved as we became more involved in a variety of programs and activities at church, most notably when Kevin joined the FaithX contemporary worship band. We discovered that the more engaged we were in church activities; the more we looked forward to setting aside time for worship and fellowship.

One of the turning points in our approach toward tithing was after a Temple Talk given by Bill Corlett. Bill's comments made us realize that we were doing things backwards. We were trying to find "leftover" money to use as our offering rather than giving out "first fruits" and using the leftovers for everything else. After many discussions and prayerful consideration, we decided to turn things around and "pay God first." To be honest, it was somewhat scary to make a commitment that seemed likely to put us into financial hardship. But do you know what happened? The financial hardship never occurred. It is truly amazing that when you make giving thanks to God a priority in your life so many things start to fall into place. Instead of worrying about what we do not have, we are more aware of how fortunate we truly are. Although we do not have a lot of material wealth, all of our needs and many of our wants have always been satisfied. We live quite comfortably. We have a wonderful, healthy family. We have the love of family and friends who help us celebrate life's joys and who provide comfort and support during difficult times. And most importantly, our faith has grown tremendously. God blesses us in more ways that you can imagine!

As Lutherans we believe that we are justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Christ suffered for us and for his sake our sins are forgiven, through no action of our own but only by grace – God's love and forgiveness freely given. There is nothing we can do to repay the debt that Christ paid for us. Our response to this most wonderful gift of salvation is to joyfully give of our time, talents, and money, just as we proclaim in our current offertory response: "We are an offering...all that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we give to you...we are an offering." Thanks be to God!

Weekly Prayer List

JANUARY 4-10: Elana Kanelos; Yvett, Kathleen, and Maddie Kane; David, Deborah, Meredith, and David Kalman; Barry and Vonnie Kain; Nick and Brenda Kaczmarek; William Just; Keslar Just; Daryl, Ruth, Jeffrey, and Matthew Jurkiewicz; Ruth July. **JANUARY 11-17:** Laurie Jordan; Herbert and Laretta Jordan; Ron, Tara, Dane, Seth, Sarah, and Cole Jones; Robert, Carolyn, and Russell Jones; Michelle, Shannon, and Shane Jones; Kermit and Sandra Jones; Justine Jones; John and Zach Jones; Cynthia Jones; Becky Jones. **JANUARY 18-24:** Richard and Betty Johnson; Douglas Johnson; Horace and Jean Johnson; Henry Johnson; Dagmar Johnson; Lee Jiuffre; Genie Jefferies; Kenneth and Joan Jarrett. **JANUARY 25-31:** Allison James O'Connor; Alicia and Alexis James; Richard and Frances Jacobs; Christopher, Stephanie, Emma, and Matthew Jacobs; Ed and Judy Jackson; Erin Jack; Gabriel Isaac; Frank and Katie Irwin.

The Book Discussion Group Invites You!

Join us the third Sunday of every month in Room 232-234 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Books chosen through June 2009 are:

January 18: **"Enslaved by Ducks: How One Man Went from Head of the Household to The Bottom of the Pecking Order"**, by Bob Tarte

February 15: **"The Thirteenth Tale"**, by Diane Setterfield

March 15: **"Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why"**, by Bart D. Ehrman

April 19: **"Pope Joan"**, by Donna Cross

May 17: **"The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl"**, by Timothy Egan

June 21: **"The Shack"**, by William P. Young

YG News

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The YG (youth group) is winding down now for winter break. No worries, there are a few YG things left to do in 2008. The YG calendar is still the most jam-packed that it has ever been. New YG Nites, new retreats, new events, and new friendships all await our YG participants. A lot of hard work has gone into this year to make a success. There is truly something on almost every weekend. It will be all good!

The month of November was awesome. It proved to be great in every way. We started the month off with a YG NITE on the 2nd. Around 50 YG and advisors came out for the night of faith, fun, and fellowship. At this meeting we continued to talk about our theme for the year which is J.O.Y. This stands for Jesus, Others, and You. This yearly theme is geared toward teaching kids to organize their life in that order: Jesus first, others second and themselves third. The topic for this particular YG NITE was FRIENDS & ENEMIES. This YG NITE focused in on getting kids to not only love their friends, but to try to love their enemies (people they may not like) as well. We looked to Jesus' example of "loving your enemies as yourself". Through small groups and large group, the kids definitely got a lot out of this YG NITE. There was some powerful discussion. Two weeks later, we had another YG NITE, once again continuing our yearly J.O.Y. theme. Around 50 YG and advisors came out for the night of faith, fun, and fellowship. The topic this time around was on PRIORITIES. This YG NITE focused in on the priorities that we all have in our life. It pointed out the importance of making Jesus the number #1 priority in their lives. Once again the YG NITE was a great one. The discussions were on point and the night was great in every way, shape and form. To close out the month, we had two YG MOVIE NITES right in a row. The first movienite was for Jr. High and the second movienite was for Sr. High. The movies were "Kung-Fu Panda" and "Ironman", which are both fabulous movies. Both nights drew out around 20 YG and advisors. We had pizza, snacks, movies, games, etc. These NITES were all about fun and fellowship. And there you have it, the month of November. Wow, it was quite busy now that I see it on paper. The YG is once again stepping up its SERVICE with the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING this year. This is an event in which the YG collect money on Super Bowl Sunday from the congregation to give to a charity/food pantry. In the past we have given the money to The Alison Hill Community Food Bank and the Central PA Food Bank just to name a few. This year we are focused once again in support of "THE BRIDGE" which is a food bank in New Cumberland. As with last year, we are taking the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING one step further. During the month of January the YG will be bringing non-perishable food items to every YG meeting instead of snacks. We hope to gather as much food as possible along with the money. I think the YG will step up and bring tons of food donations. We also look to involve the congregation with this campaign. In short, we want to get everyone involved in service to others. The YG will be posting many flyers around the church. Included is a copy of one of our flyers listing how you can be involved in our SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2009. That's all for now, just wanted to share some of the things that the YG is doing in service to others. Well I'm off; I have a YG WINTER RETREAT to get ready for.

Yours in Christ,

Peter A. Fox
Youth Ministry Director

Men's Annual Retreat

Mark your calendar, Guys! We have a great Retreat planned, filled with a load of fun, delicious food, and a soul searching discussion subject. Listed are the particulars:

THE DATE: Saturday, February 21, 2009

THE PLACE: Trinity Lutheran Church

TIME FRAME: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MEALS: Hearty lunch and a hefty dinner, with beverages and snacks all day.

DISCUSSION SUBJECT: "The Reason For GOD" Finding and strengthening our faith. We have the tendency to center our life on our external physical body, rather than our internal spiritual self. We will explore the difference.

COST PER PERSON: \$25.00 (no tax or gratuities)

HOW TO SIGN UP: Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the rear of the Gathering Space.

INFORMATION SOURCE: Contact Jack Bush (763-0494) or George Enney (737-4115)

SUGGESTION: Invite a friend or relative to join you.

OPTIONAL: We plan to have breakfast at the West Shore Restaurant. You order off the menu. This is not part of the Retreat, however it is a great way to start the day.

Parish Ministry

HEALTH TIP:

There is a concern with house-plants and lung transplant recipients because the spores released from molds are naturally present in soil. Molds pose the greatest risk for lung transplants.

Molds also pose a threat for those with very low white blood cell counts. This would include cancer, lymphoma and leukemia and any other condition where the immune system is suppressed.

Mayo Clinic

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2009, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

Letters to Trinity

Dear Friends of Trinity,

I went to bed last night with a wonderfully full stomach thanks to your wonderful Thanksgiving dinner.

Just to know someone is thinking of me at this holiday time means a lot.

Robin Fero visits me often – which I do so enjoy. What a special person he is.

Sincerely,

Carol Anderson

Dear Trinity,

Thank you for your prayers and healing.

I appreciate the prayers of the pastors and members of Trinity upon my recent hospitalization for shoulder joint replacement surgery. I am especially grateful to Kay Range and the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry for their prayers and the lovely shawl and to Vicar Cheryl for her hospital visit. Therapy is now completed, and I am pleased to report that I now have virtually the full range of motion restored in that joint.

Yours in His healing power,

Roland Freund

Dear Trinity,

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation for the cards, prayers, and support I received during my knee replacement surgery and recovery. I am especially grateful for my prayer shawl given to me by the Women of Trinity and the visit by Vicar Cheryl. It was all very uplifting.

Thank you,

Marion Stein

Alzheimer's Support Group

Will meet January 21,

7-9 p.m.

Library

*Turning points ...
these are the moments
when the world holds its breath for you,
moments of decision that change
your life forever.*

*As you move on from here,
things will be different around you ...
but the inner you,
where the courage is,
where the love is,
where the dreams are,
will never change.*

For more information, contact Donna Sprowls at 766-8075 or SPROWLSD@aol.com

Trinity's Mardi Gras

Join us for a taste of a New Orleans street fair with food, music and dancing—a fundraiser with a Mardi Gras flair! On Sunday, February 8, 2009 (snow date, Feb. 22), Trinity is hosting two dinners, accompanied by entertainment and silent auctions, to benefit HELP Ministries in Harrisburg. HELP Ministries provides emergency services for individuals and families in the Harrisburg area who are struggling in fulfilling their basic needs.

4:00 p.m.: First Silent Auction in the Gathering Space with music from the Camp Hill High School Jazz Band.

4:30 p.m.: **First Seating, New Orleans-style buffet.** Dance exhibition – by Trinity members.

6:30 p.m.: Second Silent Auction in the Gathering Space with music from the Camp Hill High School Jazz Band.

7:00 p.m.: **Second Seating, New Orleans-style buffet.** Dancing With The Pastors – Trinity's pastors and vicar face-off in friendly competition. You be the judge! Hidden Talents – Unusual talents from Trinity members.

Adults: \$20, Children (6–12): \$5, Children (5 & under): free.

Tickets go on sale starting January 18, 2009 in the Gathering Space.

You can reserve seats prior to Jan. 18 by emailing TrinityMardiGras@gmail.com with the number in your party and pick up your tickets January 18 when you bring in your payment.

Donations are being accepted for the silent auction and for table sponsorships. Contact the church office at 717.737.8635 for more information.

Worship, Dinner and a Movie Night – Saturday, January 24

Here's your opportunity to enjoy the 2008 film "The Chronicles of Namia: Prince Caspian", the sequel to "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Trinity's Fellowship Team is sponsoring dinner and the movie following worship on Saturday, January 24 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Join us for worship first at 5:30 or come for just the meal and movie. Bring a comfortable lawn chair if you like.

We'll enjoy another of the wonderful meals prepared by Doug Bonsall and Joe Hunter – BBQ sandwiches, homemade macaroni and cheese, and a delicious dessert – and we'll watch a great movie together. A free will offering will be collected to defray the cost of the meal.

The film is rated PG for battle sequences and frightening moments. It has a runtime of 2 hours and 20 minutes.

Please sign up in the Gathering Space starting Sunday, January 4 so that we know how many we may expect.



following the annual congregational meeting on
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
Fellowship Hall (around 1:00 p.m.)

- Bring a hot or cold side dish or dessert to share.
- Meat dishes and beverages provided by the Fellowship Team.
- Volunteers will receive your hot or cold dishes in the kitchen when you arrive at church.
- Please remember to mark your name on your serving dishes and utensils.

Sign up in the Gathering Space on Sundays, January 4, 11 or 18 or anytime at the information desk.

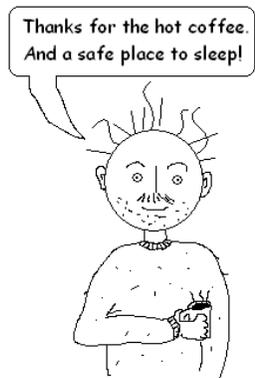
Volunteers Needed at Shelter

"When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you or naked and clothe you? . . . 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these, you did it for me!'"

Matthew 25:37 – 40

Zion Lutheran Church in Harrisburg will once again open their doors to the city's homeless as part of the Harrisburg Interfaith Winter Homeless Shelter. Volunteers from Trinity are being sought to stay overnight with the guests each evening from Saturday February 21 through Friday February 28.

Those members of Trinity who have volunteered in the past have found this to be a meaningful experience. If you would be interested in learning more about this partnership with Zion, please check out the information on the bulletin board in the library hallway beside the water fountain or contact Becky Enney at 737-4115 or georgebeckyenney@yahoo.com.



Trinity's Future – A Clear Vision Where We've Been, Where We're Headed

Over the course of the last five years or so, many of Trinity's members have begun to discern a need for a new articulation of our purpose as a church family. A clearly stated purpose will help us define our church's future direction. It will also provide a gauge for the use of all Trinity resources, making more effective "mission possible" and ensuring maximum impact in furthering God's kingdom! As a result, a group of members was officially assembled over a year ago to form Trinity's Strategic Planning Team.

Throughout 2008, the group has been soliciting ideas and responses from as many members of Trinity as possible. Trinity members were invited to meetings on February 2 and May 31 to discuss Trinity's future and the work of the Strategic Planning Team. Many discussions at committee and other small group meetings through the year yielded more input. Based on the data gathered, it became possible to put into words a draft **Vision Statement**, new **Mission Statement** and **Guiding Principles**.

The **Vision Statement** is a simple statement describing what Trinity hopes to be and become. The **Mission Statement** is one sentence describing our overall purpose in the very broadest sense. The **Guiding Principles** are foundational precepts on which all our work as a congregation will be based.

Since November, the congregation has had a variety of opportunities to hear about and respond to this draft document through a series of Temple Talks at worship services, Fireside Chats during the Sunday School hour, more small group discussions, postings on Trinity's website, signage in the Gathering Space and information in our bulletins. The Strategic Planning Team will incorporate these gathered responses to make final revisions to the document.

The revised document will be submitted for approval by the church council on January 12. If approved at that meeting, it will then be subject to a congregation vote for adoption at the annual congregational meeting on January 25.

Upon adoption, more work will follow to ensure that these Statements and Principles become a living part of the fabric of action at Trinity. Committees, small groups and individual members alike will find it easier to prioritize their tasks and resources to support Trinity's mission using the Statements and Principles. The Strategic Planning Team will work in conjunction with the church family to thoroughly integrate and continually discern our purpose.

From Your Director of Learning Ministries

Happy 2009. I hope this is a year of blessings for you.

Our winter and spring terms have begun in our learning ministry at Trinity. There are many opportunities happening for faith-learning and growing in the faith. Children's programming happens on Sunday morning and during special programs such as Sup and Study. But where we have even more options is in adult learning. There are several classes on Sunday morning for adults. There are also many adult study groups meeting throughout the week, monthly, or seasonally.

All of our learning ministry offerings are given in the new brochure that has been distributed throughout the church and posted on our website. Contact me if you have questions covering details beyond what's currently given.

There are some particular learning experiences I'd like to highlight here for you.

Our **registration time for next year's weekday preschool** has begun. At this time, registration is open in particular for families of Trinity members. For information or to register, contact Heather Rose, Trinity Preschool Playgroup Director, through the preschool part of the church's website or through the church office (specifically, call 737-9921, extension 241).

Please remember that Trinity Preschool Playgroup, a program of our parish, is registered for the school support programs at Giant and at Karns. And we are registered for Family Fun Night once a month at area restaurants. These are fundraising efforts that require no additional funding since they are supported by everyday activities: purchasing groceries and dining out occasionally. Details about all these programs are available at the reception desk in the Gathering Space, on the preschool section of our website, or through contacting Heather Rose at the preschool. Please consider participating.

Our denomination has no rule about **when children might first commune** in the experience of the Eucharist (beyond the general rule that communers be baptized). Yet we have been offering learning about Communion for children in our rotation classes on Sunday mornings during this month. We have done this for a few years. I wanted to let you know, though, that if you have children who might commune and you would like to learn about Communion at another time of year, we have resources for families to use at any time. Simply let me know of your interest or contact the pastors or Mary Alin Lubold, one of the coordinators of the Sunday Church School rotation program, for resources.

This is months ahead, but for those of you who plan that far I thought I'd let you know we are hosting at Trinity **a regional Vacation Church School training event** on April 18. Amy Koch, Vacation Church School Director, and I have been working with Group Publishing to prepare and provide this spirited experience. Leaders in our area, teachers, adult and youth helpers, interested parents, and others

will all be invited to come to Trinity for a morning of active learning about giving the Vacation Church School experience to our children – the children of our church and the children of the community. So mark the date if you'd like to learn more about VCS in a way that is both practical and fun.

And look for notices in the near future about **Koinonia groups** – we, the Educational Ministry Committee and I, would like to find out who's meeting and how it's going, what's needed in the groups and who might like to be in a group or even start one. So a gathering is in the works for all persons active in a Koinonia group or those who would like to know more about or get involved in the groups themselves. Because it will be a Lutheran experience, there will be coffee served – and homemade pie has already been promised.

In general or in particular, if you have any questions about learning ministry at Trinity, please be in touch. Perhaps there's a kind of group you'd like to see happen or a particular topic you'd like to have studied and discussed through the church. As always, I may be reached in person at the church, by phone through the church office, via e-mail, or send an O.W.L. – I forget what the letters stand for, but that's how communications are sent in Harry Potter's world.

God bless. Please take care,

Christopher

Trinity Prayer Concerns

Scripture is the knowledge, the food, and the light to live in Christ; prayer is the bridge and the path to him.

Heavenly Father,

It is with great humility that we bow before you, O God! When we deny You, we become lost sheep, wayward souls wandering in a wilderness of sin, deception, and hopelessness! It is ONLY when we come to know You through Thy Word, through divine relationship, and through Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that we can experience hope, grace, and salvation!

As a congregation, let Thy Word lead us, and feed us, and grow us into a Christian Community of called Disciples.

- God bless our church, our pastors, our vicar, and our teachers ---equip them with knowledge, understanding, and patience. Bless our missionaries, who often travel into dangerous regions to care for the needy! Bless our families, our children, our homes, our schools, and our communities----may they always provide safety, comfort, and nurturing love for us all.
- As we say goodbye to 2008 and welcome in the New Year, let us take pause to evaluate how well we have served You, O, God; and how well we have cared for our brothers and sisters.
- Lord, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will be ever present within us, as we go forward with hearts filled with joyful anticipation. Help us write Mission and Vision Statements that will proclaim Thy Will for Trinity Lutheran Church; provide a roadmap to our future, and give visitors a real sense about who we are and how we feel called!

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Evangelical Lutheran Church
 2000 Chestnut Street
 Camp Hill, PA 17011-5409
 www.trinitycamphill.org

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AFFIX LABEL HERE

Birthdays

Homebound Members

- January 10 **Eleanor Walker**
 600 Free Mason Drive
 Washington 4, Room 4900
 Elizabethtown, PA 17022
- January 11 **Dick Shaul**
 5225 Wilson Lane, Apr. 2117
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
- January 24 **Marian Elder**
 4833 East Trindle Road
 Bldg. 4, Room 111
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
- Jean Hempt**
 PO Box 36
 Routes 413 & 213, Alcare Cottage
 Langhorne, PA 19047
- January 28 **Thelma Roof**
 4905 East Trindle Road, Room 27
 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Staff Members

- January 16 **Peter Fox**
- January 18 **Amy Koch**
- January 21 **Pastor John Brock**
- January 30 **Criss Flory**

January Women of Trinity Circle Meetings

<i>Circle Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Circle Leaders</i>	<i>Circle Time & Place</i>
Esther	Monday, January 5	Joan Gamber & Jean Zimmerman	7:00 pm Library
Ruth	Tuesday, January 6	Ruth Bertovich & Ruth Dietz	9:30 am Room 237
Deborah	Tuesday, January 13	Peggy Bishop, Anne Fry & Betty Wade	9:30 am Library
Elizabeth	Tuesday, January 13	Elizabeth Winters	1:30 pm Library

January Artist of the Month

Trinity welcomes Richard (Dick) Michaelian as the January Artist of the Month. Dick, a graduate of Grove City College, is a watercolor artist who was raised in Virginia. He has studied at the Harrisburg Art Association with David Lenker, and has won several awards. He and his family are active members of Camp Hill Presbyterian Church.