

Trinity Parish

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church · Camp Hill, Pennsylvania · August 2012 Edition
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Robin Fero begins Journey Toward Ordination

Trinity member Robin Fero is stepping out in faith and starting his seminary training for the ordained ministry. Robin begins with an intense introduction to New Testament Greek at the Gettysburg Seminary in August and part-time course work for the fall semester. He plans to study full-time in the spring semester 2013. Robin hails from the Corning area in New York where he was raised in the Baptist tradition. Robin says he has felt called to ordained ministry since his teen years. After graduation from college, he moved to Richmond, VA, where he managed stores for a retail drug store chain. "For the first time in my life," Robin said, "there was no time for God. Yet the Holy Spirit was drawing me back to live that life of worship." The Spirit's pull was strong enough that Robin began to worship again and became a leader in a local church.

After moving to Harrisburg in 1999, Robin attended Trinity on a special occasion and thought, "This church is large enough that I could hide for a while...and that lasted for only a few months." He joined the choir, chaired a committee of 20 volunteers who visited homebound and nursing home parishioners on a monthly basis, serves as an assisting

Robin Fero's Journey continued on page 3.

An Introduction to Vicar Schreffler

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! My name is Ursula Schreffler. I am a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and I will be serving as your Vicar for the next year. My husband is Curt and we live in Dillsburg with our children Austin 12, Leah 10, Shyla 6 and Leslie 5. Curt's parents also live with us. Curt is the Associate Director for the U.S. Geological Survey in New Cumberland. Before my call to ministry, I was a high school German teacher. I also taught German and writing at Messiah College. I am looking forward to serving your pastoral care needs and leading your congregation in worship!

Peace,

Vicar Schreffler



Summer Sundaes Concerts

Sunday, August 26, 2012

Concerts 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Outdoors on the church grounds.

Free Ice Cream Sundaes!!!

Lutheran Men in Mission

Steak & Corn Roast

Adams Ricci Park

August 17, 2012 - 3:30 to 8:00 p.m.

OUR VISION

"Disciples in the making, making disciples"

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"Called by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's Disciples, we seek to equip ourselves and others to live like Christ, and to be sent into the world proclaiming and living the Good News as daily witnesses of God's transforming love."

Staff Notes

“Ruminations on Life Passages”

The Reverend Glenn E. Ludwig

Here’s a question for you: “Which life-event has the most joy attached to it – a baptism, a wedding or a funeral?”

You may be wondering from where that question comes, so I’ll divulge. Last weekend, I was involved pastorally in all three in the span of two days. And, preparing for all three made me reflect on the significance of each event not only in the lives of those who attended or those who were principles in those events, but also for my calling as a pastor charged with the proclamation of the Gospel.

Okay, back to the question. I did an informal survey on this – one of those stop-persons-in-the-Gathering-Space-and-ask-them-a-stupid-question kind of survey. Before I submit the results, what did you say?

If you said, “Of course, a wedding or a baptism is the most joyous event,” you are in the majority. Baptisms are always special – Water and Word, towel and candle, promise and claim. And, of course, a cute child to ooh and aah over. Then there are weddings. Culturally, they have taken on a life of their own over the last decade or two. I don’t remember wedding coordinators when I first started in ministry. Nor do I remember videographers, limos, “save the date” announcements, or rehearsal dinners. Everything has gotten bigger with weddings, and more expensive. People that attend them know they’ll be in for a good time, as long as Uncle Harry behaves himself in the corner, and dad’s check book is deep enough. But most folks see weddings as happy occasions, featuring a beautiful bride, a handsome husband, beaming mothers on both sides of the aisle, and fathers nervously checking their stock portfolios.

Funerals, on this scale of thought, come in last. Sad, often; life-changing, many times. They tend not to be happy moments at all, but times when people are thrust into an emotional roller coaster, where tears come easily, and thoughts are clouded with memories. Funerals don’t make the joyous scale at all.

You might be surprised to hear how pastors view the question. They would, first of all, say it’s not about happiness or joy at all, but about meaning. Which of the three life passages carry with it the most meaning for us as Christians?

Weddings, in spite of all their hype, glitter and glamour, probably won’t make too many pastors’ lists as high up there. Why? Well, too many times we end up just being another functionary at a planned event – the wedding. Checks are written for: florists, limo company, musicians (wedding and reception), videographer, wedding coordinator, reception hall, caterer, and, oh yes, we better give the pastor something, too. Get the idea.

Now, most pastors do take seriously their roles for weddings and offer some sort of pre-marriage counseling. I thoroughly enjoy working with couples in this preparation. Pastors do try to prepare these young people as best we can for the realities they will be facing as they say “I do.” But I have to tell you, couples who are “in love,” (and I hope all of them are), are pretty deaf, dumb and blind to those realities. Need an example? I give all couples a pre-marriage inventory that looks pretty extensively at the relationship between them. It’s not a test, I tell them, but it does show where the strengths and growth areas lie in their relationship. Okay, so what happens when a couple has a very weak inventory? Ever try to talk people “in love” out of moving ahead with their wedding plans? “But pastor, we already have the reception hall!!!” said one bride to me, who was not ready for what she was about to face.

I could go on here, but I’ll resist. Suffice it to say that the Gospel rarely gets spoken or heard at a wedding, even though I do enjoy them. “Let’s get this thing over with and party!!!”

That leaves us with two life passages to consider for the most meaningful – baptism and funeral. And, because they are related, they tie for first place. Yes, related.

At a baptism, God makes a claim on a person’s life – a claim of love and presence and new life. And at a funeral, we lay claim to that promise and proclaim the Good News that God lives up, always

Staff Notes continued on page 3.

Robin Fero's Journey continued from front page.

minister, and is active in the prison ministry program.

Robin says that, in the past several years, "The Holy Spirit has gone from the gentle tapping to pushing me up against a wall. I have a spiritual discomfort that tells me that it is time to take the next step, which God has opened the doors in so many ways in the last few years, and I need to cross that threshold."

Staff Notes continued from page 2.

and forever, to God's promises. These are the moments when the Gospel is spoken and heard in a way that reminds us of God's never-failing love for us. These are the life passages that provide opportunities for us to clearly know we are always in the arms of God – in water and word and in resurrection to new life.

I truly hope I didn't come across as cynical here. I don't normally live on that side of the street. I just wanted to give you something to think about the next time you witness a baptism, mourn the loss of a loved one, or join in the celebration of a new union. There is a lot going on in God's Kingdom in all of them.

Mark Your Calendar

Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Discerning the Voice of God
How to Recognize When God Speaks

A Bible Study led by Priscilla Shirer

Wednesdays at 9:30-11:30 a.m.
8 Sessions

September 19 to November 7

Babysitting will be available.

For questions or registration,
call **Judy Trissler** at **795-5919**
or **Bert Weaver** at **697-3259**.

Artist of the Month

A long-time resident of Lewisberry, Pat Koscienski's interest in art began with a portrait class in New York. Since then she has studied with many well-known artists at local art associations and colleges. Pat enjoys working with oil, acrylic and pastel. Her styles include realism, impressionism and abstraction. This exhibit showcases some of her abstract pieces. Color, composition and texture play an important role in all these paintings.

Blood Bank News

Trinity's next Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, September 23. Sign up will be in the Gathering Space on September 9 and 13 after all the services. This will be our final drive for 2012, so plan to donate and help us meet our goal. Thus far, we are right on schedule since we have a growing group of members who donate every eight weeks at the hospital or donor sites. We also have three members who donate platelets each month – this is a longer process, however we get double credit for each donation.

Would you like to become a blood donor, but still have some questions? Please contact Jeanie Bentzel at 766-3526 (jeanneil@paonline.com). If I cannot answer your questions, I will find out the answer! Or, you could call the Central PA Blood Bank at 566-6161, or look at their very interesting web page. Hope to see you on September 23.

Prayer Concerns

Let Go and Let God

- ◆ Pray for a deep yearning to know God.
- ◆ Pray for a willingness to trust God all the way and accept His answer.
- ◆ Pray for selflessness so complete that what happens is secondary.
- ◆ Pray for a love or genuine concern for others and for God.
- ◆ Pray for an ability to relinquish our hold so that we are not obstructing God's will.

Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group invites you the third Sunday of every month in Room 126 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The books for August and September 2012 are:

- August 19: *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult
- September 16: *The Bridge at Andau: The Compelling True Story of a Brave Embattled People* by James Michener

"The Lutheran" Adult Forum Sunday, August 26

Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in Room 124-126 for a discussion on **"Poverty in America: Lutherans Ready to Help"** from pages 20-26 of the July 2012 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine. Between 2000 and 2010, 15 million Americans tumbled from prosperity into poverty, pushing the total to 15 percent of the population. One in six (about 49 million people) went hungry in 2010, about 12 million Americans still can't find work and seven million homes are mired in foreclosures. Lutherans are stepping up and joining Christians nationwide to help people hurt by the economic downturn, facing poverty at levels not seen since the Great Depression. Congregations are finding creative and exciting ways to care for their neighbors in need. If you do not have access to the articles, paper copies will be available about two weeks in advance of the session at the reception desk in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact class coordinators Craig Staller or Doug Bonsall (921-1957).

DID YOU KNOW that large font versions of the weekend sermons are available on Trinity's website? In addition to making them easier to read for people with vision impairments, they are formatted in a way that also makes them very readable on eReaders such as Kindle, a Nook or a Kobo. Click on the Sermons tab of any page and then click on "2012 Sermons listed by date and service" or "2012 Sermons listed by date and pastor."

Every Member Prayer List

July 29-August 4: Frank, Sheri, and Monica Horner; Robynn, Courtney, and Michael Hope; Kim, Lee Ann, and Grant Hoover; Doris Hookway; Gib, Ginny, and Mike Honeysett; Chris Honeysett; Maxine Hommel; Allen and Kathy Holmes, and Zach and Rachael Barnes. **August 5-11:** Cindy and Haley Hollingsworth and Alex Bishop; Brad Hollinger; Benjamin Hollinger; Kermit Holler; Jeff Hollenbush; Peggy Hoffmeister; Chip, Ellen, Peter, and Samuel Hoffmeister. **August 12-18:** Warren, Cheryl, Amanda, and Joseph Hoffman; Sandra Hoffman; Karen Hoffman; Chet Hoffman; Tom and Linda Hoffert; Stephanie Hoffert, and Tyler and Claudiea Hoffman; Burton and Peggy Hofer; Karen Hockley. **August 19-25:** Dale, Carol and Jeffrey Hochmiller; Vicki Hoak-Dutlinger; Ron Hivner; Matthew Hivner; Linda Hivner; Karen Hivner. **August 6-September 1:** Philip and Jean Hitesman; Beth Hinkle; Jeffrey Higgins; Joe, Lisa, and Aidan Hicks; Cayla and Liam Hicks; Rachel Hettinger; Mary Ellen, Jessica, and Olivia Hettinger; Emerson Hettinga.

August Birthdays

Our Homebound

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| August 4 | Carol Keese
1901 North 5 th Street - Room 3 M 1
Harrisburg, PA 17102 |
| August 9 | John Brough
1401 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011 |
| August 13 | Jacob Fischer
3604 Franklin Avenue
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 |
| August 17 | Ralph Kennedy
20 North 12 th Street - Apt. 344
Lemoyne, PA 17043 |

Our Staff

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| August 6 | Paul Hensel |
| August 19 | Pastor Glenn Ludwig |

Notes from Pastor Ludwig

Acolytes Needed

Did you know it takes about 50 people each week to make our traditional worship services go smoothly? We have roles for people of all ages to participate and to help our services to have a flow and rhythm to them. One of the areas where we have need is for more acolytes/crucifers. It may seem like a small role, but it is an important one. I look forward every week to greeting our young people and to watching them fill those needed roles.

We offer training and support for those who wish to serve. Please call Nancy Martin at the church office (737-8635) to sign up. We will schedule a brief training session when we have enough names. Won't you please be a part of this important ministry?

Thanks for the Support of Gettysburg Seminary

I had asked the folks at Gettysburg to let me know the total number of pledges/gifts that were offered by Trinity members, so that I could write a personal "thank you" note at some point. I also wanted to be able to report what those totals are to demonstrate the level of support and care for our seminary.

I am happy to announce that as of the writing of this article (7/9) the seminary has received about \$41,000 in gifts and/or pledges toward the Crossroads Campaign. Over 35 families or giving units have responded so far. Even though the campaign officially closed on 6/30, if you haven't already made a gift and/or a pledge, it is not too late.

A huge "Thank You" to all who have pledged/given so far. You are helping those of us who work in theological education to continue to offer quality training for church leaders now and into the future.

Letters to Trinity

Dear Friends,

Four days in an Orlando, Florida hospital (and another two days in their hospitality house till I could return to Camp Hill) was not at all what I expected for my summer vacation, but that is what it turned out to be. Knowing that my Trinity family was keeping me in prayer was a supreme comfort so far away from home. The delectable edible bouquet from FaithX was a treat I could gaze at, but not taste. Fortunately, Randy enjoyed some of the fruit, and then shared it with the wonderful nurses just outside my door. Since returning home, I have received lovely cards and flowers to wish me well, and my family has appreciated the meals brought to them. Thank you for such kindness and concern.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Nancy Easton and Family

Dear Trinity Friends,

I am grateful to the support of Trinity during my recent surgery – the pastoral calls and visits, the beautiful altar flowers, the many cards and prayers.

Most comforting is my membership in such a caring, loving and supportive Christian fellowship.

With heart-felt thanks,

Carol Greenlund

Dear Trinity,

Thank you so much for your prayers, support, cards, and flowers for me with my recent breast cancer diagnosis and surgery. My prayers have been answered and I am blessed beyond belief that I do not require ongoing treatment.

Thanks from the bottom of my heart,

Michelle Jones

Dear Trinity,

Once again I come to the people of Trinity, both pastoral and lay members, to thank all of you for your cards, gifts, flowers and visits during my most recent hospitalizations and now for my rehabilitation at home. There are not enough words to express how special and rewarding these acts of kindness meant to me. Thank you to the pastors who came to see me with communion. I am fortunate to be part of such a caring organization. Thank you for all you have done for me in my time of need.

Peace,

Judy Messinger

YG News



Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. The YG campaign has officially ended for the season. It was a great year. We are truly blessed to have such a great YG group and such qualified advisors to lead the way. It was definitely awesome, and certainly one of the best seasons to date.

Our YG SUMMER started with a bang in June. The week of the 17th through the 23rd we took eight kids and three advisors to CONFIRMATION CAMP at Nawakwa. Even though camp as a whole was smaller this year, the kids had a blast. As usual, this was a great week in which the kids would learn more about their baptisms. Through the years this camp has always helped with leadership formation as well, so that's an added bonus. There was large group worship, small group time, all camp rec., pool time, campfires, coffeehouse, and even a dance. The week was awesome, and I know our kids learned a lot about themselves and God and made friends in the process.

We closed the month on the 24th with a YG POOL PARTY at Matt Kuentzler's house. Fifteen YG and advisors came out for this afternoon of total fun and fellowship. We grilled burgers, sausages and hot dogs and enjoyed home baked goodies. We also enjoyed lots of fun pool time, since the day was so beautiful. Pool parties are an awesome time to just chill out, so that's what we did. And they are a great way to keep YG kids (not on vacation) connected throughout the summer.

That's all for now. I am currently in full planning mode for the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. It is a big trip with lots of responsibilities, thus a lot for me to do to make sure it is a success. In my next article some of the YG will tell you about their experiences at the gathering. It should be awesome! But for now, I gotta go, I have lots to do to prepare.

Yours In Christ,

Peter A. Fox
Youth Ministry Director

School Supplies Needed

School supplies are needed for first and second graders at Downey and Foose Elementary Schools in the Harrisburg School District. We all have read about the budget issues in the Harrisburg School District and cuts to everything from athletics to kindergarten programs. Teachers of all grades struggle to reach a growing number of children in each of their classrooms and are doing it often with limited supplies as the budget for pencils, crayons, paper, scissors and even tissues are cut. What can we do and why did Trinity choose Downey and Foose?

Members of Trinity have been tutoring first and second graders at these two elementary schools for years (if you're interested in this effort, contact Jane Hess or Doug Bonsall). We have seen the progress these children gain in one crucial short year, due to the diligence and skill of wonderful dedicated teachers who are increasingly hampered by large pupil numbers and many times lack of basic supplies. These are children who are hungry to learn; they work hard and are very proud of their successes.

We at Trinity in the past have shipped school kits overseas through Lutheran World Relief. This year the kits will go to these Harrisburg students where our tutors work. It is estimated that there will be 255 students this coming year in these classrooms.

You can help by either providing a full kit, any part of one or by purchasing a bulk pack of any one item (like a covered dish dinner, it will work out that we won't end up with 1,000 pencils and no crayons). These are the items needed:

- #2 pencil (wood, not mechanical)
- Pencil tip erasers
- Small pack of crayons
- Small pack of markers
- Plastic pencil box
- Individual container of hand sanitizer
- Small pack of tissues

So, check the store sales – many start in July -- and bring your items to the box in the Gathering Space. If everyone pounces on this opportunity really early, we can give the kits at the beginning of the school year. Happy Shopping!!

Christmas in July was Successful "Thanks be to God!"

Thank you for supporting our Giving Tree celebration of "Christmas in July."

For sharing with God's people who are in need.
Romans 12:13

Those who received your gifts are most grateful for your sharing of God's grace and goodness. We ask Him to infuse our gifts with His love, that we might reach those who do not know Him.

And we pray that every gift will be treasured and put to good use for it is not the size or price that determines the extent of love.

Social, Parish Ministry and Missions Committees

Social Ministry Corner



Trinity tutor Elizabeth Bush helps a student select books for summer reading from among more than 1,000 gently used books contributed by Trinity members and friends. The recent book distribution and an ice cream party for the students completed another year of our church's regular outreach work with children in special need. Each week during the school year Trinity disciples work with first and second grade students in Harrisburg's Foose and Downey Elementary Schools. New and returning tutors for the 2012-2013 school year are now being recruited; contact Jane Hess (612-6633) or Doug Bonsall (921-1957) for more information or if you wish to get involved.

Parish Ministry Corner

Prayer begins with God and God has invited us all.

Prayer does not depend on a clear or complete understanding of God. As we pray, we expand our ways of experiencing God's grace, love and guidance.

One of the most important things we accomplish by praying is learning the value of being, versus doing. Be willing to waste time with God! Don't decide what will happen. Don't expect certain things. Be patient, aware and open to surprises. It's possible to just relax and enjoy being with God.

A monthly list of **Prayer Concerns** is available for all of us, that we may include in our daily devotions. This ministry, like so much of what we do in service to our Lord is just one of the ways we can witness to our Lord.

The **Prayer Concerns** can be found each month in *Trinity Parish*, on the back of the weekly sick list in the Narthex and *Trinity Today* each week.

"Prayer is not asking, prayer is listening to God's voice in the depths of our hearts."

Mother Teresa

Women of Trinity General Meetings

Save the dates for the Women of Trinity General Meetings for 2012-2013 are scheduled as follows:

- ⇒ **Wednesday, September 12, 2012**
– Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of WELCA
- ⇒ **Saturday, December 1, 2012**
– Tea for the Presidents
- ⇒ **Wednesday, May 8, 2013**
– Installation of Incoming Officers

All three meetings will begin at 6 p.m. Further information will be provided as it becomes available. Mark your calendars now!

Congratulations Graduate!

Congratulations to **Samantha Brinley**, a graduate of Red Land High School. She will attend West Virginia University and major in photography with a minor in biology. Samantha has won local, district and state competitions for her photography. She is the daughter of Kimberly Lamarca and grandparents are Richard and Lois Lamarca!

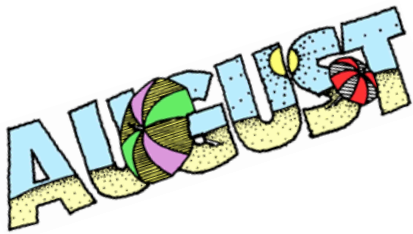


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Trinity Parish Deadline

The deadline for the September 2012 edition of *Trinity Parish* is **Friday, August 10, 2012 – no exceptions**. If e-mailing articles, please send to: parish@trinitycamphill.org Please keep all articles to 300 words or less. Articles may also be dropped off in the *Trinity Parish* mailbox in the church office.