

Trinity Parish

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church · Camp Hill, Pennsylvania · January 2014 Edition
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Stewardship at Home: New Year's Resolutions--Improving our Stewardship

BY THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Happy New Year: 2014! Twelve months from now we will look back on 2014 and determine if we have been proper stewards of the gifts God has given us. So, why not look back on 2013, and determine if we have been proper stewards of the gifts God has given us *this past year*? Stop! We have to be fair to ourselves. No one told us in January 2013 that we were going to do this. If only we had known, we surely would have practiced better stewardship than we did.

But we can make it official - 12 months from now, January 2015, we are going to reflect on 2014 and assess whether or not we were proper stewards of the gifts God has given us. First, let's develop a 2014 New Year's Resolution together. We found the thoughts of the Rev. Thomas Soltis appropriate, and want to augment and share them with the entire congregation; here's a summary:

▶ **TIME** – Engaging in long insignificant conversations, or excessively watching TV, will eliminate time to do better things for yourself...such as reading *beneficial* books, watching *good* DVDs, taking a class for self improvement, and gleaning useful self-improvement

information on the internet. Procrastinating clock-watchers at work never get ahead.

▶ **TALENT** – Those in a vocation should not coast. Fine-tune your talents via self improvement. Seek continuously to prove to your employer that you are worth more than you are currently paid. Young people struggling to determine a future vocation should answer these questions: What do I have a passion to do? What can I do best? How can I envision the future, without dreading failure?

▶ **TREASURE** – “Waste not, want not.” Haphazard money management can be disastrous; credit card debt is a dark pit. Be specific about money flow by establishing a personal budget. To accumulate wealth, live within your means and increase your means. Keep your finances disciplined.

These are Rev. Soltis's temporal “Ts” - he also has some spiritual “Ts.” Would you like to know about the spiritual “Ts”? We share them with you in a bonus Stewardship at Home on Page 7.

It's time to set your stewardship improvement resolution for 2014. Do it now. Write it on a 3 x 5 card and read it every day. By January 2015 (or sooner), you want to have an accomplishment.

4G's: God, Gifts, Gratitude, Grace

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

“New Life in the New Year”

BY PASTOR NANCY EASTON

Which resolutions have you broken yet? Did those visions of sauerkraut, pork roast and mashed potatoes dancing in your head put the kibosh on that diet? Did the “one-bowl-game-after-another” keep you from taking that brisk, healthy walk? Did your promise to organize those basement shelves get shelved? I, for one, hesitate to count up the resolutions I’ve made and ultimately broken over the years. Too many to number. Yet we persist in making resolutions as January nears. We see the days ahead of us as a time of limitless opportunity to make ourselves over or make our lives new—and often faltering on those resolutions come February.

But someone else has resolved to make us over and make our lives new. God alone has both the will and the power to do so. Even though all my promised good intentions fall by the wayside, my Lord God made promises to me at my baptism many years ago, and I can trust God to keep them. On March 2, 1958, those baptismal waters—with God’s gracious word attached—poured over my head: “Nancy Lynn, you are

baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” My old sinful self was put to death; my new forgiven self rose up out of that water. Baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I was forgiven, adopted as God’s child, gathered into the family of the Church, re-created in my humanity as God intends, granted gifts of the Holy Spirit, and offered a future of limitless opportunity to serve in God’s kingdom. Here were baptismal blessings, too many to number!

On the weekend of January 11-12, we will celebrate the festival “Baptism of Our Lord.” The appointed scripture (Matthew 3:13-17) describes Jesus’ own baptism—surely not needed by the sinless Son of God, but surely needed by humanity, so that we might know God fully entered this world for us. In our worship services we will give thanks to God for our baptism, and remember this gift of new life by having water sprinkled on us—the ritual known as *asperging*.

As this New Year opens up, let’s resolve to remember our baptism, and claim these promises daily. Then, renewed by God’s gracious love, we can go forth “bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.”

Council Update

From the Dec. 9 meeting:

- ▶ Reviewed staff and committee reports.
- ▶ Approved housing allowance values for Pastors Horner, Brock and Easton per IRS guidelines.
- ▶ Approved policy page revisions for Support Pastor in Residence, Seminary Internship (including roles and responsibilities, Fellowship, Youth Ministry, and Parish Ministry.
- ▶ Approved deletion of policy pages for Director of Learning Ministries, MTA Room and CD Ministry Equipment that are no longer relevant.
- ▶ Approved names submitted by the Nominating Committee as candidates for Congregation Council.
- ▶ Approved the Balanced Budget for 2014 as submitted by the Finance Committee, which required a reduction of \$159,110 from the original requests. The reductions affected staff expenses, facilities and property expenses and deferral and/or curtailing of mission and ministry requests.

Thank You from the Giving Tree

“God, take my gifts and invest them in the well-being of others to your glory alone.”

We thank you, for your giving to the Gettysburg Seminary seminarians, Bethesda Mission, CROSS residential community, the Emergency Winter Shelter, Camp Curtain Y kids programs, Channels Food Rescue and Trinity members in need.

~Missions, Social and Parish Ministries

Letters to Trinity

The following was sent to Sophie Rice, who coordinates Trinity's Coupon Program.

Ms. Sophie Rice,
Thank you for sending us grocery coupons. The Yokota Air Base community appreciates it, and we are thankful that the folks back "home" are thinking of us. Happy Thanksgiving!

v/r,
Joyce Kuwae
Work/Life Specialist
Airman & Family
Readiness Center

Book Drive for Camp Curtin YMCA

Trinity is holding a book drive for new or almost new books to support the Camp Curtin YMCA. The Camp Curtin YMCA recently renovated a locker room to create a new library and needs our help. Please bring your new or almost new books, one to two years old, to the church and drop them off in the box marked Camp Curtin Book Drive. The box will be located in the Nave of the church throughout the month of January.

The Camp Curtin YMCA supports Harrisburg children from kindergarten through high school through a variety of programs including after school tutoring, mentoring and athletic programs. For more information or to make a donation to the Camp Curtin YMCA, please contact Cheryl Akers at 579-5753 or cakers444@gmail.com.

Blood Pressure Screening

First Sunday of
the Month
Chapel
Narthex
9 a.m. - Noon

Save the Dates!

Trinity's Weekend of Caring is March 21-23, 2014

BY SUE ERDMAN

Preliminary projects include a pizza party and games at CROSS, a food pantry drive, visits to nursing homes, a community meal at Christian Churches United, card making, prayer beads, prayer pockets, prayer shawls, love baskets, and projects at Camp Curtin YMCA and Pink Hands of Hope.

More details to follow next month. Contact Barb Musselman at bdmusselman@verizon.net or 717-329-3710 for more information.

PRAYER CONCERNS

A new year, a new beginning, another chance we pray to hear, listen and respond to the words of Jesus.

For the Lord will give you understanding in all things. 2 Timothy 2:7

❖ We pray for a Holy New Year. May the gift of God's love be accepted by the world and bring us peace.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift. 2 Corinthians 9:15

❖ We pray for the unchurched, the unloved and misunderstood.

The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10

❖ We pray for all our volunteers, the countless numbers of people who work on numerous programs within our church.

❖ We pray to use our time wisely. The greatest waste in all of our earth ... is our waste of the time that God has given us each day.

Where are the boys?

(Following are excerpts taken from (national) Lutheran Men in Mission President Rich White's Fall 2013 President's Column)

We have all heard and/or read about young men leaving the church especially after Confirmation and when in college. Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) funded a research project on why this is happening and worked to identify the root cause. The results of that work were published in the book "Coming of Age."

Recently additional research states that boys start to disengage from the church at the age of nine – typically the age of fourth grade students! To me that is very disconcerting. It says that we have even less time to demonstrate to boys that being active in a worship community is the right thing to do! If they start disconnecting that early, how will they realize that a strong faith is a key component to a rich, rewarding, productive adult life?

▶ Actively participate in worship each week ... make it an

important family activity with all attending together...even Dear Old Dad!

▶ Personally thank boys and girls for their participation in worship (be it as an acolyte, crucifer, choir member, etc.) tell them how it added to your worship experience.

▶ Attend a regular Christian Education opportunity such as a Bible study to show to the boys that learning is an on-going process.

▶ Consider teaching Sunday School.

▶ Be a mentor to a Confirmand ... this is a great opportunity to get to know a boy and personally witness to him.

▶ Be a Merit Badge Counselor with a local Boy Scout Troop.

For further thoughts please read "Searching for Tom Sawyer: How Parents and Congregations Can Stop the Exodus of Boys from Church," by Tim Wright.

Your servant in Christ,
Rich White, President

Communion: the Kingdom of God is a Party

BY VIRGINIA HINE ELY

Hey, let's have a party; turn off that TV set!

Call the neighbors on the phone and tell them where it's at. Music, laughter, dancing -- lots of lights and sound.

Break the bread and pour the wine, and pass the love around.

YG NEWS

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord.

Here is what we did in the month of November. We started off the month a YG NITE on the 3rd. Around 40 YG and advisors came out for the evening. The topic of this nite was "COME TO GROUP: PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, SPIRITUALLY" and it focused in on how being present, in person, is not enough in life sometimes. It is increasingly easy to "phone it in." Just because you come to church or YG every week, doesn't mean that are "truly" there. YG calls for more and so does the Lord. Your experience would be that much greater if you are present physically, mentally and spiritually. Come to YG ready to be immersed in this Christ-centered community. All and all, this was an awesome YG nite.

On the 10th we had a YG BOWLING NITE at Trindle Bowl. Around 35 YG and advisors came out for this nite of total fun and fellowship. It was a blast! One week later on the 17th we had a JR. HIGH NITE. Around 35 JR. HIGH YG and advisors came out for the evening. The topic of the nite was "TIME FOR SERIOUSNESS, TIME FOR FUN," and it focused in making time in your life for both of these. Even Jesus knew when to withdraw to be in community with his followers and have some fun. There were times, after preaching all day that He would leave for the mountain to relax, speak to his father, dine with friends. We can learn from this ability to adapt to the situation in

which we find ourselves. The most important part is that we realize and understand the need to be serious at the appropriate moments in life and to not be afraid to have fun in our faith when that's called for as well. Both are of equal importance in God's eyes. This was an awesome Jr. High Nite, the first of many.

The month of December started off with our YG WINTER RETREAT at Nawakwa. Around 35 YG and advisors came out for the weekend of faith, fun and fellowship. The topic of the retreat was "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" and it focused on getting the YG to know who Christ is better. This in turn helped them to realize who they are better as a child of God. This was hands down one of the best retreats to date! The discussions in large and small group were deep and powerful. Everyone got tons out of this weekend!

Lastly, I wanted to put a reminder out there that SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd is SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY at church. The YG will once again be collecting money and canned foods to go to THE BRIDGE food pantry in New Cumberland. On that morning we will be collecting any financial contributions after each service. We will also be collecting any canned food items on that morning at our table in the Gathering space.

Yours In Christ,
Peter A. Fox,
Youth Ministry Director

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

January 5-11

Dorothy Acric; Megan Ackerman-Yost; Gordon and Gail Ackerman; Glenn Ackerman; Daryl and Maggie Ackerman; Adam, Susan, Lilly, and Samuel Abram; Ints and Mary Ann Abolins; Ed, Lidija, and August Abolins; Gerrit, Patricia, Sarah, Nicole, and Samantha Zwergel.

January 12-18

Marija Zorkic; Charlotte Zorger; Sarah and Natasha Zook; Dean Zirkle; Bob and Jean Zimmerman; Rich and Robin Zerbe; Harvey and Gloria Zerbe; Bob and Shirley Zellner.

January 19-25

Darlene and Alicia Zelazny; Michael, Stephanie, Shawn, and Mandy Zeiders; Deborah Zeiders; Paul, Joanne, A. J. and Teddy Zanger; Jon, Sandra, Drew, and Sara Yuen; Anna Yon; Victoria and Michelle Yohe; Ben, Beth, and Grace Yoffee; Gary, Debra, Kevin, and Mark Yocca.

January 26- February 1

Pamela Yerger; Glenn and Vickie Yeager; George and Karen Yeager, and Kathryn and Jessica Hollinger; Deb Yannone and Heath Koser; Rachel Wright; Karen Wright; Austin and Henry Wright.

"The Lutheran" Adult Forum - Sunday, January 26

Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in Room 237 for a discussion on **"Beyond Biblical Literacy to Fluency....Putting Life into the Word"** from pages 20-27 of the December 2013 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine.

Every Christian agrees that the Bible is the primary source for learning about God and knowing how to live as children of God. Yet many – *perhaps most* – don't know the Bible as well as they should or how to take what they do know and apply it in their life. Biblical fluency may help make the Bible more relevant and accessible to God's people.

If you do not have access to the articles, paper copies will be available about two weeks in advance of the session and may be picked up at the reception desk in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact class coordinators Craig Staller or Doug Bonsall (921-1957).

PARISH MINISTRY CORNER: COLLEGE/MILITARY OUTREACH

BY DONNA SPROWLS

The **Parish Ministry Spotlight** recognizes Marie Bake. Marie sends cards of congratulations, birthday wishes, Easter cards and Christmas cards to our graduates. In addition to these above listed cards, inspirational messages are also mailed throughout the year to all whose names Marie is able to gather for members of Trinity and family of Trinity serving in the military as part of our Military Outreach Ministry. Thank you also to Tom Notestine, staff who has been a great help supplying this information for Marie.

Parents and family members are encouraged to give mailing information to the church office or contact Marie at 676-1317.

We want to be sure our list is up-to-date and that we are sending to all students and military that are connected to Trinity, especially our military to let them know they are on Trinity's prayer list and are prayed for regularly.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Our Homebound

- Jan. 4 Hal Mowery Jr.
2849 Vista Circle
Camp Hill, PA 17011
- Jan. 24 Jean Hempt
P.O. Box 36
Routes 413 & 213
Alcare Cottage
Langhorne, PA 19047
- Jan. 25 Miriam Culton
2802 Yale Avenue
Camp Hill, PA 17011
- Jan. 26 Doris Hookway
5225 Wilson Lane
Suite 219
Maplewood Assisted Living
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
- Jan. 28 Thelma Roof
355 S. Sporting Hill Road
Suite 27
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Our Staff

- Jan. 16 Peter Fox
Jan. 18 Amy Koch
Jan. 21 Pastor Brock
Jan. 30 Criss Floray
Jan. 30 Kelly Falck

Bonus Stewardship at Home: Spiritual Resolutions

BY THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

When it comes to setting your stewardship improvement resolutions for 2014, the future is now. Welcome to your Bonus Stewardship at Home column. If you missed the Stewardship at Home column on Page 1, go back and read it now, then return and read this one.

We promised to share some of Reverend Thomas Soltis's spiritual "Ts," here they are:

- ▶ **TIME** – Christian stewards should not be vague about daily devotions. A specific time should be set for a two way conversation with God via His Word and prayer. Also prioritize time for Church worship. Christian stewards take the time to be good care-givers on behalf of family members and those in need.
- ▶ **TREASURE** – God doesn't need your money; but, he greatly rejoices when you cheerfully share it through His Church (2 Cor. 9:7). Don't be vague about your offerings. Be specific. Predetermine no later than January what you will contribute weekly on a percentage-of-income basis (1 Cor. 16:2).

Don't be afraid to fund God first with the tithe (10% of income); trust God to provide.

- ▶ **TALENT** - Volunteers are the dynamos of the Church, producing the power to perform god's will in the world. Don't be vague about your talents. Know them and specifically put them into action. Prayerfully eliminate feelings of inadequacy. Moses felt inadequate when called upon to lead Israel out of Egypt. Trusting God, he accepted the challenge and worked wonders (Exodus 3 & 4).

Reverend Soltis has shared some powerful words with us. There's a lot to think about. Are we ready to improve our stewardship in 2014? Are we ready to take on the challenges? Get some more 3 X 5 cards and write down your resolutions - and read them at least once every day. Let's make 2014 a great year, one to remember. Twelve months from now, when we look back and reflect on 2014, what will we think? How will we feel? Will we have been proper stewards of the gifts God has given us?

4Gs: God, Gifts, Gratitude, Grace

January Gathering Space Art Display

Remaining on display from December through the month of January, this is the third year for the Women of Trinity's Prayer Shawl Ministry to display its beautiful shawls for our monthly art exhibit.

Formed in 2004, it has become a vital part of Trinity's outreach to those hospitalized, confined to their homes or nursing facilities, and family members who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

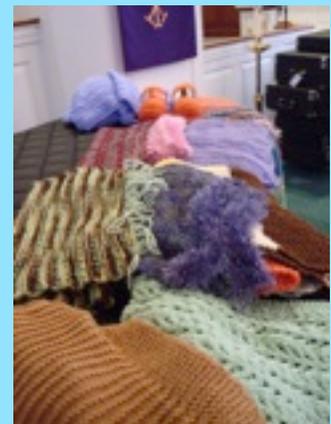
As of October, 814 shawls have been made and 765 distributed. Currently there are approximately 23 members who support this ministry. The group meets the fourth Thursday of each month from 1- 3 p.m. in Room 125. Ideas

are shared, shawls completed and handed in and God is asked to bless them that they may be tangible evidence of the love and prayers of our congregation.

In addition to prayer shawl knitting, the group scheduled two field trips to an alpaca farm. In October 2012, they gathered for lunch and then visited the Bent Pine Alpaca Farm in Mechanicsburg where they raise Suri alpacas. In July 2013, they again met for lunch and then traveled to Carlisle to the Celtic Knot Alpaca Farm where they raise Huacaya alpacas. The visits included presentations highlighting the raising, shearing and wool processing with questions and answers, the opportunity to meet alpacas face-to-

face (babies too), feed them, touch them (oh, so soft), and observe a spinner and a weaver.

The group welcomes anyone who crochets, knits, cro-knits, or wishes to learn. For more information, contact coordinator Kay Range at 697-1871.





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Trinity Parish Deadline

The deadline for the February 2014 edition of ***Trinity Parish*** is **Friday, Jan. 10-- no exceptions**. If emailing articles, please send to: parish@trinitycamphill.org. Please keep all articles to 300 words or fewer. Articles may also be dropped off in the ***Trinity Parish*** mailbox in the church office.