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## *December 2016 Newsletter*



**Luke 2:7** - And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Shortly after becoming your Pastor I began using an adapted version of my family's "brag" letter for my December newsletter article. I was surprised by the positive response that I received from members about that glimpse into our family's home life so I continued the tradition until last year. No one complained about that change, but a few people said they missed my annual Christmas letter. So I have decided to return to that tradition for this year.

As we approach the Christmas season it is time once again to share with all of you how we have faired since last Christmas. It has been a year of change, some good, some sad.

Dan is now in his senior year at Washington Township High School. As I look over my desk to the bookshelf and see a picture of him at ten months old (taken in August 1999) I have to wonder how the seventeen years since then have passed so quickly. Dan has become more serious about school and finished his junior year by advancing forty spots in his class rank. He enjoys music, video games and is thinking about a career in culinary. This year Dan was selected to participate in a special culinary class that spans two class periods.

Jake is now a sophomore. In the spring he played high school lacrosse. Jake has become an avid fan of the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Champions) and Connor McGregor is his favorite champion. Inspired by Mixed Martial Arts of the UFC, Jake is now training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He is very dedicated to his training and attends four classes a week. In three months he has earned two blue stripes on his white belt.

After nine years with Verna and Associates, Amy has returned to a firm she was working with prior to our moving to this area twelve years ago. She has enjoyed this change since it has required her to work with some areas of public accounting that she was not too familiar with so she continues to build and hone her skills as a CPA. She brought fifty of her clients with her to her new firm and has added twenty one more in the year that she has worked for Murray & Becker CPA's. Amy has been quite the traveler this year going on a trip to Costa Rica with her friend Angel, visiting her sister in St. Thomas with Jake and then a trip to Las Vegas with friends. Our sad news was that after a period of rapidly declining health, her father, Robert E. Solly died on October 5th. He was ninety-three years old. In November we were honored to attend interment services for Amy's Aunt and Uncle, Dolly and Pete Kreamer at Arlington National Cemetery.

I have been serving as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Runnemedede for twelve years. Last December I was asked to work with a student pastor (David) from January to May. Although it was a little time consuming, I was glad to have the opportunity and challenge of working with a young person beginning a path toward ordained ministry. Working with David brought back many memories from my past that had been buried under nearly three decades of ministry. This fall I have gotten involved with the Rutgers Camden Alumni, again. Our activities are usually a combination of social, informative and fun gatherings. Our next meeting is a Christmas social at the alumni house on the Camden campus. This will be my first visit to the alumni house that opened earlier this year.

Our family has been very busy this year with many activities, but I like to keep this letter to a single page, therefore we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Pastor Andy, Amy, Dan and Jake





**The Handbell Choir** is scheduled to perform the advent number "*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*" at the one 10:00 AM Service on November 27th. They will perform "*In the Bleak Midwinter*" with chimes and handbells at the 8:00 and 11:00 PM services Christmas Eve. They will also do "*Still, Still, Still*" and "*O Little Town of Bethlehem*" during the pre-service music at 10:30PM on Christmas Eve. Look for us at these services.

### **SERMON PREVIEW**

November 27- THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Romans 13:11-14*

**"BEAT" THE CLOCK**

December 4- THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Pastor Andy on Vacation

December 11- THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*James 5:7-10*

**"WAITING" ON THE LORD!**

December 18- THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Matthew 1:18-25*

**AND THEY NAMED HIM JESUS**

December 24- THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve Family Service 6:00 PM

*Titus 1:11-14*

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE GIFT**

FESTIVAL OF HOLY COMMUNION 8:00 PM & 11:00 PM

*Titus 2:11-14*

**THE GIFT OF BLESSED HOPE**

December 25- CHRISTMAS DAY

Unity Service- 10:00 AM only

*Titus 3:4-7*

**HEIRS OF ETERNAL LIFE**

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

*Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for promising to send your Son to deliver us from sin and death. Thank you for fulfilling Your promise, so that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we may have everlasting life. Be with us as we read, hear, and study your promises, so that we may dare to live and work as your people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

The members of the Confirmation Class are finishing their study on The Apostles' Creed. Some of the members can recite the creed without looking. We want to finish this unit by Christmas. In January 2017 we will be starting God's Gifts (Confession and the Sacraments). They will also be seeing a movie on Martin Luther and the eighth graders will begin working on their final report on Martin Luther.

Thank you so much to the class helping to serve at the breakfast and at the Congregational Dinner meeting. As they were cutting the desserts I only saw a couple disappears (Just kidding). We will also be working at packing the Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets.

Parents, thank you for raising such a group of caring individuals. If somebody is absent they always ask if that person is ok. They are very respectful of each other and respectful of me. It is really a pleasure to work with them every week.

In Christ's Love, Jim Shisler



## Sunday School News

And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Just then, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! And this will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12

It must be taken as highly significant, that God announced to humble Hebrew shepherds that the Messiah has come into the world. He chose the humble rather than the high. God grants his divine favor to those who are conscientiously serving him and doing their best in the position he has placed them. Realizing that the Messiah has come and that he is "Christ the Lord" is to find true rest and joy by submitting ourselves to the Lord of all hearts and lives and while in his service we find abiding peace and great joy.

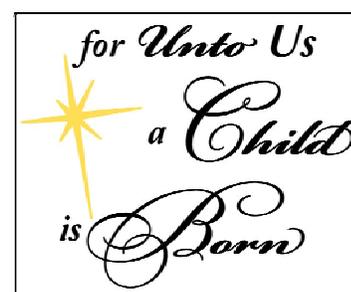
On November 27<sup>th</sup> during the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary unity service we sang "Jesus Loves Me" & "Jesus Loves the Little Children" while wearing our "I Love Jesus" - Rally Day T-shirts. Commemorative mint tins, "Trinity's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 11/28/2016" were given to the congregation. We hope to encourage our youth to grow in love and faith for Jesus through Luke 18:16: "But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

We are getting ready for Christmas. Our teachers are busy with lessons to prepare their students for Advent, learning about the Christmas story. "Waiting for Jesus" and "Prepare the Way" activity calendars were handed out. For our Christmas presentation we will be singing at the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> while wearing our T-shirts. Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star", and "Happy Birthday Jesus". The upper grades will sing "O Holy Night". Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will again sing their songs at the 6:00 PM Christmas Eve service.

Remember throughout the year to donate to Cathedral Kitchen to help them feed the poor. *The \$3.00 dime folders are no longer available.* We will be supplying envelopes marked "Cathedral Kitchen" for your donations. Also, remember "UR Important 2 US", donate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bottles of water, packaged snacks and warm socks. Our next Sunday for donations will be December 11<sup>TH</sup>, *this is one week earlier.* Come join us the Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall to make PB&J. So far this year we have supplied 110 blankets to the homeless through them. We would like to purchase another case of blankets. If you would like to help, please make a donation.

May this Christmas bring great Joy, Peace and Blessings to all in the Name of Jesus,

Carl Nagel  
215-852-3217  
[dadx3d@comcast.net](mailto:dadx3d@comcast.net)



## SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our first Trunk or Treat was a great success. Thank you to all who came out and participated. We were blessed with a beautiful day! After, we enjoyed our first Chili Cook-Off, tasting 5 delicious kinds of chili. It was hard to decide! The winner was Pastor Andy.

Thank you to all who donated Turkeys and/or food for our Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to help over 50 families thanks to your generosity. Thank you also to all who came out to help. It was a wonderful sight seeing everyone working together, especially our young people.



Our Angel Tree is up and you can pick an angel or basket from it to shop for those families. All items are due back to the church by 12:00 on December 18th. We will start packing at 12:15 PM. We will be having Pizza and hoagies for lunch before we start packing so please come and join us in fellowship hall. We are looking forward to having you join us as we help others this Holiday Season.

### **WHEN BAGGING UP YOUR USED CLOTHING PLEASE DON'T OVER-STUFF THE BAGS.**

The volunteers who carry, sort and organize the clothing cannot carry the bags into the house when they are too heavy. They would really appreciate it if you could divide the heavy bags into two more manageable bags. Thank you VERY MUCH.

Some dates to remember:



November 27th – Angel Tree

December 10th- Breakfast with Santa. **PLEASE LOOK FOR THE REGISTRATION FORMS!**

December 18th – Pack and distribute Christmas Gifts and Basket after the 11:15 service

New members are always welcome. We meet on the third Sunday of the month at 11:15. Please come out and join us. Remember God loves a cheerful giver. You will love the fellowship and the great feeling you get from helping others.

**Remember, Jesus IS the reason for the season and HE is our greatest gift.**

**The Social Concerns Ministry wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

Caring and Sharing  
Diane Kochon





Celebrate The Holidays With Us!  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve at Trinity

Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. Family Service

Special Music by our Junior Choir

Sermon: ***“What’s Your Favorite Gift”***

*Titus 2:11-14*

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Holy Communion with Traditional Candle-lighting

Special Music by our Senior Choir,

Handbell Choir and Special Solos

Sermon: ***“The Gift of Blessed Hope”***

*Titus 2:11-14*

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

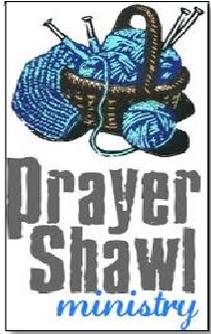
Christmas Day

Unity Service 10 a.m. only

Sermon: ***“Heirs of Eternal Life”***

*Titus 3:4-7*





The Prayer Shawl monthly meeting was held on Friday November 4, 2016.

In attendance were:

Barbara Anconetani, Ann Carter, Val Colasuonno, Linda Finch, Dolores Keller, Helen Mc Garvey and Mary Raws.

We began packing our goodies for future distribution and therefore began late. The meeting started at approximately 10:20 a.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

We received from      Beth Shute - Girl's Hat, Scarf and Gloves  
                                  Cookie - 8 Scarves, 5 Prayer Shawls and 1 Lap Blanket  
                                  Marie Thatcher - 2 Prayer Shawls  
                                  Peggy Floro - 4 Lap Blankets, 9 Scarves, 33 Hats, and 2 Baby Hats  
                                  Donation of two baby sweater and hats sets  
                                  and a blanket for Cathedral Kitchen.

Our members produced 4 Prayer Shawls, 4 Hats, 9 Baby Hats, 1 Scarf, 4 Gloves and a pair of Mittens.

Distribution:   Prayer Shawls/Lap Blankets were given to the following:  
                          Jane Brashear  
                          Pat Henry  
                          Cheryl White's Mother

**Corresponding Secretary:** Barbara Anconetani reported a sympathy card had been sent to Helen McGarvey for her recent losses. Our Ministry also received a \$20.00 donation from Darlene Euter.

**Baptismal Historian:** Mary Raws reported that Charlotte Harris was baptized on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Ann Carter made arrangements to make the Cathedral Kitchen donations on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Ann also suggested that we take some of our goods and make them available for the Outreach Program. All members present agreed. In the spirit of the holidays, the membership agreed to make a \$20.00 donation for the purchase of two blankets for this needy group.

Everyone continued to work to separate our work to the various charities, Cathedral Kitchen, Osborn Medical Center, the Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland and the Camden Outreach Program.

The closing reading was Proverbs 18:19 and we adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 2, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. please come and visit us.

Val Colasuonno  
Vice President Prayer Shawl Ministry  
"May God Hold You in the Palm of His Hand"





# birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



### What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

### What you do:

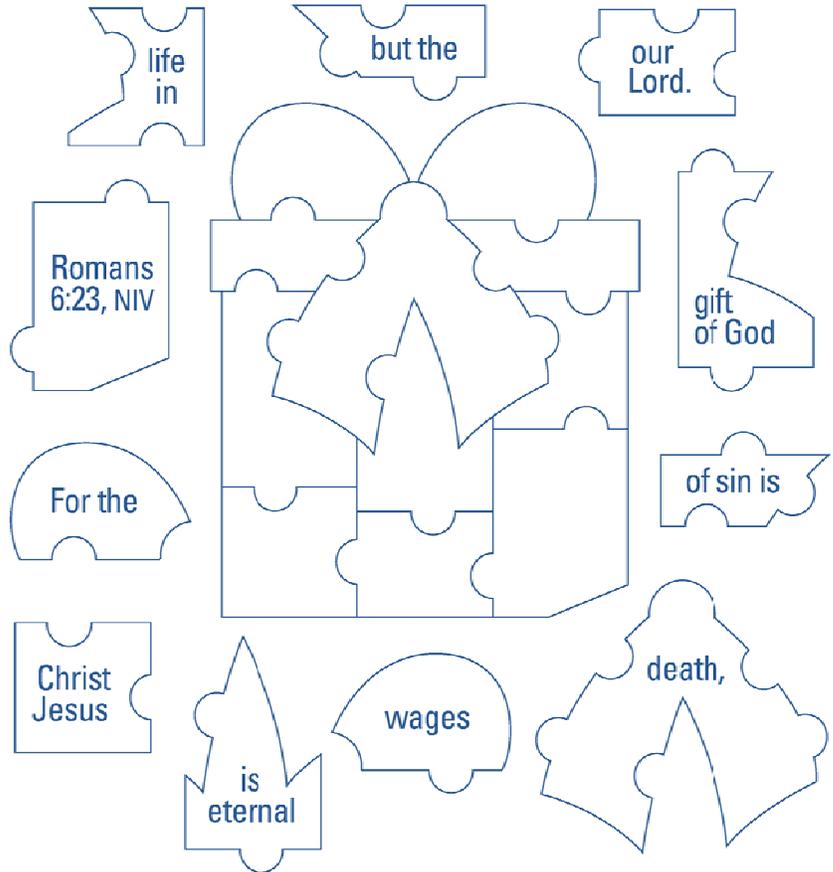
1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



# The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

**Directions:** Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV



## Junior Choir

This article is being written after the Junior Choir sang "*The King of Glory*" at all three Services. Christ the King Sunday comes just once a year just about now. To sing this song just seemed to be perfect. And so, at 8:30 Tori Veigel sang a solo as no one else came at that time. Then the other members of the choir came about 9:30-9:45. They sang at both 10:00 and 11:15 and what a terrific job they all did! The congregation gave them a thunderous applause at all three Services!

Now we are looking forward to singing at the Thanksgiving Service when we will be singing "*Thank the Lord*" and then sing it again with motions! I am sure that this will also be well received.

Needless to say, I am so proud of all of these girls and boys who so eagerly come to rehearsals and learn the words to their songs.

As we begin to prepare to sing on the Fourth Sunday in Advent, we will be practicing "*Joseph's Dream*". I am sure you will be interested in the message of the Angel Gabriel coming to Mary in a dream to tell her that she was about to bear God's Son. Then later, the same angel came to Joseph to assure him that indeed Mary had been faithful to him in their engagement. Now on Christmas Eve we will be singing about the results of those dreams as we do "*Let's Go See*". Then we will be singing about going to see the little tiny baby! Won't you come to hear them?

I'd like to thank Mr. Robert Kraemer for being our able and enthusiastic accompanist. He is so eager to go over the music and sing with the children. And a thank you to Miss Taylor Veigel who serves as the one to see that our children are robed and ready to sing and afterwards to take off the robes and see that they are hung up correctly and ready for the next time we sing.

A very blessed and heart-felt JOY and happiness as we relive the birth of Jesus who came as a Baby to grow, teach the people about God and how much He loves each and everyone, and then to be put to death on the cross at Calvary so that our sins are forgiven. All we need to do is confess those sins and turn from evil to serve and love Him throughout all eternity.

Merry Christmas and love to all,  
Mrs. Schmidt



## Birthdays

- 1- Aubrey Cook
- 1- Rebecca Phillips
- 1- Budd Donofrio
- 1- Amy Engelhart
- 2- Diane haines
- 4 -Ciara O'Connell Halko
- 6- Frances Knorr
- 7- Richard VanArsdale
- 8- Doris Menchaca
- 10- C. Kenneth Bennett
- 11- Cindy Henry
- 11- Lou Sheairs, Jr.
- 11- Johnathon Martell
- 12- George H. Guenette
- 12- Alexander Hunt
- 12- Charlotte Spaeth
- 13- Christine Dutil
- 13- Jacqueline Lloyd
- 13- Thomas Epley
- 13- Jackie Lloyd
- 14- Jeff Koltys
- 15- Kristy Kane DeSanto
- 15- Robert Sheairs, Jr.
- 15- Alexas Carr
- 16- Melissa Guenette
- 17- Arden Margaret Broomall
- 17- Amanda Garrett
- 17- Patricia Lynn Burns
- 18- William Dixon
- 19- Eric Grant
- 20- Doris Donofrio
- 21- Amanda Meyers
- 21- John Garrett, Jr.
- 22- Charlie Repp
- 23- Anna Bowell
- 23- Rose Kopcha
- 25- Christine C. Lindstrom
- 25- Eric Otero
- 26- Kim Razavi
- 26- Nicole Dutil
- 29- Eleanor Epley
- 29- Lee Ann Errickson
- 31- Kristina Guenette Moen

## Anniversaries

- 18- Ed & Jennifer Smith
- 26- Dana & Justin Dugary

## New Members

W. Scott & Sandi Hill III

## Funerals

Our deepest sympathy is extended  
to the family and friends  
of those listed.

On November 3, 2016

**STEPHEN G. CLARK (62)**

of Somerdale, NJ

November 3, 2016

**JANE A. MROWCZYNSKI (72)**

Of Mullica Hill, NJ



“The Birth of Our Lord” Stained Glass –  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Cover photo by J. Lipski



**OH HOLY NIGHT!**