

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
200 East Clements Bridge Road
Runnemede, NJ 08078-1461
Rev. Dr. G. Andrew Engelhart III Pastor
856-939-4411 www.trinityrunnemede.org
E-Mail: Pastorandy62@comcast.net
Office: Janet4411@Comcast.net
Sunday Services: 8:30, 10:00 & 11:15 AM
DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.” *Luke 2: 9-11*





Celebrate The Holidays With Us!
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 24th

The 4th Sunday of Advent

Unity Service 10 a.m. only

Sermon: ***"GOD BUILDS DAVID'S HOUSE"***

2 Samuel 7:1-7,16

Christmas Eve at Trinity

Sunday December 24th, 6:00 p.m. Family Service

Special Music by our Junior Choir

Sermon: ***"THE GIFT THAT DOESN'T WEAR OUT"***

Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 24th, 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: ***"WHEN GOD WALKS AMONG US"***

Luke 2:1-20



CHRISTMAS 2017

I have often heard people say, "I wish Christmas would last all year!" I think this past year was Christmas all year in our home, since we got a new hot water heater, a new washer and dryer, a new dishwasher, a new garbage disposal and we will be needing a new heater very soon (not to mention both of our patio tables were destroyed during storm in October). Maybe we have had enough Christmas this year.

In other ways it has been a great year. Dan is now nineteen years old and proudly was graduated from high school in June. Dan will begin his college career in January as he has been accepted to Rowan College at Gloucester County. After years of talking about getting a degree in culinary arts, Dan has declared digital photography as a major. Since we have never seen him cook anything, I can't say I am disappointed. However, we have never seen him take any pictures either. Dan still enjoys playing video games and spending time with his friends.

Jake is now a junior at Washington Township High School. For those who have not seen him lately he is well over six feet tall. Jake is doing well in school and loves making things in wood shop. He is now in his second year of studying Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and really enjoys learning new moves and grappling with his opponents. He is still a big fan of the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Champions), and usually gets to watch a series of bouts once a month.

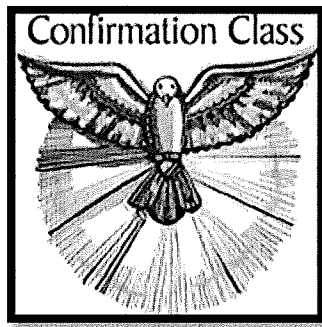
Amy has had a difficult year. Memorial Day Weekend, she was diagnosed with shingles. Then on June 22nd she fell off the attic ladder and broke her shoulder. A month into her recovery her doctor recommended surgery, because she was not healing properly. She was unable to drive for the entire summer and as a result was off from work. Amy's mom was a great help in driving Amy to doctor appointments, therapy and any place else she needed to go. We spent much more time together this summer, since she was home and amazingly we are still married! Amy has just completed her therapy (she must continue her exercises at home on her own) and has been told it will be about a year for full recovery. She is beginning her third year at Murray & Becker CPA's. This past May Amy went to Cozumel Mexico with her friend Angel and had a fantastic time. She also enjoys spending time with her friend Melissa, whom she has known since jr. high school.

I have been so busy that the year seems like a blur. Amy and I were both invited to attend the 75th anniversary of the St. Paul in Beachwood, the first congregation I served. It was great to see so many people from our past and catch up on their lives. However, it was shocking to know that the children from our first youth group are now in their forties and have children of their own. We also attended the 90th anniversary of our home congregation, Our Savior in Haddonfield. Although it was a terribly wet and stormy night, we had a wonderful time. It seems incomprehensible that we met there 39 years ago. I enjoy going to the gym and have been working hard at dieting and losing weight. In the spring I began attending the cardio fitness boot camp about twice a week. It was really tough at the beginning, but I needed to do something to boost my workout and it has paid off.

Despite all the things that broke this year (including Amy's shoulder) we would be hard pressed to say it was not a good year. We have been blessed in so many ways. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Amy, Andy, Dan and Jake





God condemns every dishonest way of taking what is not rightfully ours. In Christ, He forgives our sins and empowers us to manage our possessions in a God-pleasing way and to serve others in the care of their possessions.

As we are preparing for the Advent season, we are just beginning our study on the Seventh Commandment- Thou Shall Not Steal. We want to learn to manage God's gifts with honesty and respect and to the benefit of all people through our faith in Christ.

The students are very active this time of year. This is a great class. They are required to do two service activities the first half of the year and two activities in the second half. Some members have shown up for every activity this year. They had a lot of fun serving at the Fall Breakfast. They also worked very hard doing the same thing at the Congregational Dinner. This week some of them will help to pack food baskets for the Thanksgiving holiday. In December, they will help with the Christmas gifts and food. It is nice to have some young strong arms to help the people carry the baskets out to the car for them.

We want to thank all the parents for their support with their children in working with them and bringing them out for the activities and on Sunday.

In God's Love,

The Confirmation Class Staff
submitted by James Shisler

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Our second Trunk or Treat was a great success. Thank you to all who came out and participated. We were blessed with a beautiful day!

Thank you to all who donated Turkeys and/or food for our Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to help over 45 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.

A big thank you to the Runnemedede Fire Department. As we were packing the baskets, they pulled up with car or truck loads of turkeys and trimmings.

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 **11:30 A.M. on December 17th**. 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:

December 16th- Breakfast with Santa. **PLEASE LOOK FOR THE
REGISTRATION FORMS!**

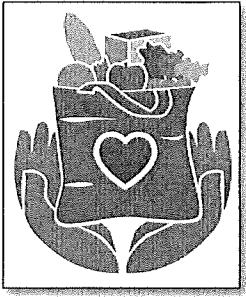
December 17th – Pack and distribute Christmas Gifts and Baskets after the 11:15
service

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



A GRATEFUL THANK YOU for PANTRY DAY 2017

Each year the church council has designated one Sunday during October to be Pantry Day. That day and on each Sunday before and after there will be envelopes in the bulletin for the purpose of you giving a monetary gift to the work of the Church Pantry. This is the ONLY time that you are asked for money to be used for the pantry. And this year it was held on October 8, 2017.

It has been said that when anyone mentions Trinity Lutheran Church in Runnemede, New Jersey, people conjure up the idea of family. At one time members of the church really were related to one another. Today you, the people in the pew, are the family of people who compose the “family” of Trinity church. As you know, a family is for the purpose of loving and caring, wisdom and understanding. A family is genuinely interested in each member of it. And so, the people who serve in our pantry sincerely care about each person and/or family who come to us for food or clothing (especially at Back-to-School time). At Christmas, we have an Angel Tree on which are representations of each of the children among the families we serve each month. On the back is the age of the child and some ideas for possible gifts to be purchased. There are also baskets that one person or several may go together for purchasing items necessary to prepare a nice Christmas feast. Sometimes people who take a basket choose to add some staples that will “hold” the family until next time Pantry is held.

You may be wondering how many families are served each month. The average number this year is 45. The total spent from November – September of this past year is \$6,027.53 for just the bare essentials.

When presented a need, Trinity Church always “comes through”. This year is no exception. I am pleased to report that \$2,795.00 was realized for Pantry Day 2017. A sincere thank you to everyone who participated from the Social Concerns ministry and the very people who are served through both of the houses. One often wonders if people listen to special Temple Talks and/or requests. This shows that each one of you care. Thank you so much!

May God continue to bless Trinity and the people to whom it serves. We love you, Lord, and are sincerely grateful!

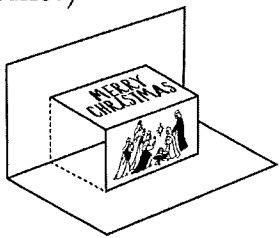
Pat Schmidt
For Social Concerns

POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

Kids Page



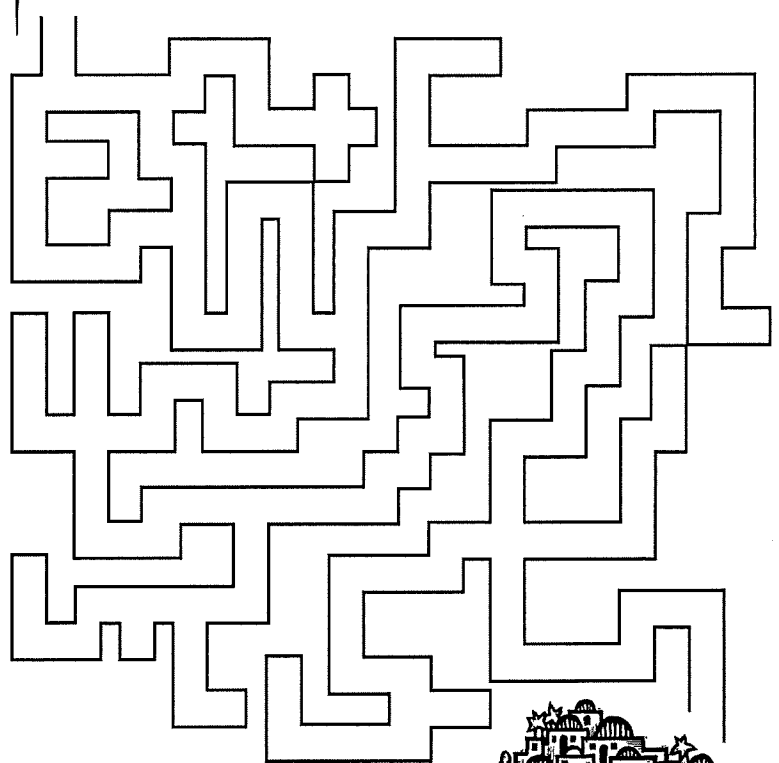
JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



START

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM





Despite having to sing twice in November, the Junior Choir did a great job! We may be small, but we are mighty in blessings from the Lord!

December is also a month in which we sing twice. On December 17th we will be doing an Advent song "Prepare the Way". The writer manages to direct our attention to getting ready for Christmas within our heart instead of running around, shopping, dreaming up special gifts one would like to have. Let's try to share our JOY with all we meet, with a big smile and a "Merry Christmas"!

Those of you who have been here before know that on Christmas Eve we have three Services. The Junior Choir will be singing "From the Manger to the Cross" and it contains two solos. The Service begins at 6:00 p.m. (be sure to get here early for a good parking space and a good seat). In addition to our song, the Nursery and Kindergarten children have a presentation to make about the birth of Jesus.

Then the Senior Choir and Bell Choir will be leading the congregation in worship at 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. From 10:30 – 11:00 p.m. there will be special music from the choirs and soloists. Holy Communion will be offered at both 8 and 11.

The Junior Choir will be sitting in the choir loft where the Senior Choir usually sits. They will be singing only at the 6:00 Service. When it is time for the Passing of Peace, the children will be staying in the choir loft.

Looking forward to the New Year, the Junior Choir will be singing "Just Imagine" on January 21st. Does that peak your curiosity?

On behalf of the children and I, we wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings!

Love to all,
Mrs. Schmidt



The meeting officially started at 10:10 a.m., with The Lord's Prayer. We were then busy counting all the items below, thanks to our members and those who help us attain such large numbers of contributions. Again, thanks to Beth Shute, Elaine Kehrer and Flossie Bowers.

We received the following:	5 Lap Blankets, and 5 Baby Bags
Cathedral Kitchen:	42 Hats, 8 Scarves and 5 Gloves
Osborn Family Med:	3 Baby Hats and a set of Mittens
Purple Crying Caps:	24 Baby Caps.
UR Important 2 Us	11 Hats, 2 Scarves, 3 Mittens, 9 Gloves and 2 Pair of Socks.

Distribution: Prayer Shawls were given to MaryLou Venella and Floss Bowers with wishes for a speedy recovery. The above items for UR Important 2 Us were distributed.

Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Anconetani read the following Thank You notes from:

Floss Bowers, who has supplied us with so many beautiful works of art, received one of our prayer shawls when she was recently in the hospital.

Dot Rein thanked us for her prayer shawl which was given when her husband of almost seventy years died.

Debbie Edwards of the GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede (they help us reach some of our recipients) sent us a letter that included the following distributions they made: 100 purple hats for Prevent Child Abuse-NJ that will be provided to hospitals all over the state; the baby hats, sweaters and blankets for the Osborne Clinic at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden; the many lap robes for the Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland; and the sweater for Angels Outreach in Pitman. Debbie went on to thank us for our ministry which is invaluable to the community.

Baptismal Historian: Mary Raws reported that there were two baptisms: Easton Matthew Martinez was baptized on October 8, and James Thomas Slotterback was baptized on October 29.

Pastor Andy stopped by and admired some of the various items we were cataloging. He also reminded us of the Ecumenical Service that will be celebrated at Trinity Lutheran on November 22nd.

At our next meeting we will be readying Cathedral Kitchen's distribution. Please, come and join us on Friday, December 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

The closing reading was from Psalm 125:4, and we adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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

Sunday School News

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 NIV

Christmas has always been a time of great giving. God himself started this tradition. He gave his only begotten son to be the sacrificial lamb for our redemption. Our only response is to believe that he sent an infant named Jesus unblemished without sin, who is one with him, and who died on the cross to pay our sin debt. Out of love God created us. Out of love he paid our debt. God by his own example shows us that love requires giving of one's self. To say we love God or love others truly requires giving part of our self, a sacrifice. Charles H Spurgeon wrote: "Let us learn, then, - the great lesson, that to get, we must give; that to accumulate, we must scatter; that to make ourselves happy, we must make others happy; and that to get good and become spiritually vigorous, we must do good, and seek the spiritual good of others." This Christmas grow spiritually, be one with him, give yourself, never be alone and truly blessed.

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 17th. Pre-K through 2nd grade will sing "Ring, Ring, Ring the Bells" and "Christmas Bells". The upper grades will sing a couple of their favorite Christmas song. Pre-K through 2nd grade will again sing their songs at the 6:00 PM Christmas Eve service.

Please remember to donate throughout the year to help Cathedral Kitchen feed the poor. There are envelopes available for your donations as you enter the church. Sunday school children please use the new coin banks sent home for your contributions. Also kindly 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 10TH, *this is one week earlier*. Come join us on Saturday, December 9th, at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall to make PB&J. This November besides all the sandwiches, bottles of water and snacks we supplied 180 blankets to the homeless thanks to the generosity of the congregation, along with lots of warm socks and gloves. Thanks to our Prayer Shawl Ministry we donated more than 80 handmade knit hats. Please help us purchase another case of blankets. We already have a little more than half the amount needed.

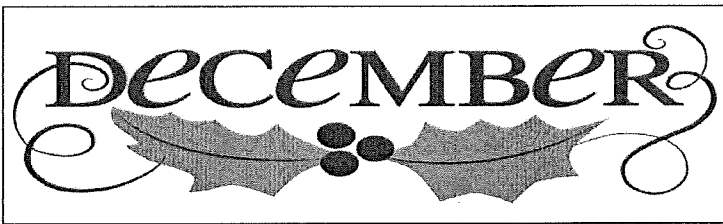
We are still in need of volunteers to teach, and support our youth group and other programs. Please volunteer. Remember that the future of our children is of utmost importance. They need help and guidance to develop their faith. We have a current need for someone who is familiar enough with Microsoft Excel to help with our attendance records by entering names, addresses and attendance. If you wish you may use your own computer with Excel.

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

Carl Nagel
Cell: 215-852-3217
Home: 856-784-2360
dadx3d@comcast.net

Birthdays

1- Aubrey Cook
1- Rebecca Phillips
1- Amy Engelhart
2- Diane Haines
4 -Ciara O'Connell Halko
4- Elaine Hartranft
6- Frances Knorr
7- Richard VanArsdale
8- Doris Menchaca
10- C. Kenneth Bennett
11- Ruth Burns
11- Cindy Henry
11- Lou Sheairs, Jr.
11- Johnathon Martell
12- George H. Guenette
12- Alexander Hunt
12- Charlotte Spaeth
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 Broomall
17- Amanda Garrett
17- Patricia Lynn Burns
18- William Dixon
19- Eric Grant
21- Amanda Meyers
21- John Garrett, Jr.
22- Charles Repp
23- Anna Howell
23- Rose Kopcha
25- Christine C. Lindstrom
25- Eric Otero
26- Kim Razavi
26- Scott Hill III
29- Eleanor Epley
29- Lee Ann Errickson
31- Kristina Guenette Moen



Anniversaries

26- Dana & Justin Dugary

New Members

Ruth G. Burns
Judy Del Bono
Gavin Campbell
Kaitlyn Campbell
Colleen Gagliardi
Clarice "Chris" Haas
Peggy Higman
Wayne Rand
Anna Sharp
Jeff Slotterback
Kristan Slotterback
Elaine Spaeth
Joyce Vincent

Funerals

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

On October 25, 2017

JOHN F. QUINN (70)

Of Deptford, NJ

On October 27, 2017

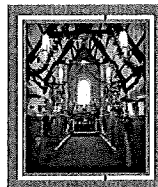
ELSIE DASH (87)

Of Plymouth NH

On November 15, 2017

JOAN S. MANCILL (84)

Of Blackwood, NJ



"Christmas at Trinity Lutheran Church"
Cover photo by J. Lipski