

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
200 E. Clements Bridge Road
Runnemede, NJ 08078
Rev. Dr. G. Andrew Engelhart III Pastor
856-939-4411 www.trinityrunnemede.org
E-mail: Pastorandy62@Comcast.net
Office: Janet4411@Comcast.net

Sunday Services: December 1st, 8th & 15th - 8:30 & 10:00 AM

December 22nd & 29th – UNITY SERVICE 10AM Only

December 24th- 6:00 PM Family Service 8:00 & 11:00 PM-Festival Service of Holy Communion

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. LUKE 2:8-11



One of my favorite Christmas stories is Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol." Since I was a young child, I have always been fascinated by the mean Mr. Scrooge who on one fateful Christmas Eve is visited by four ghosts, who each do their part to change the heart of a stubborn uncaring person. It is such a wonderful story, that it has been retold numerous times on stage and screen. Yet, none seem to compare to the 1951 version starring Alastair Sim. There was a time in my life where it just was not Christmas unless I had watched this version of the story. I can remember one year, long before on demand, cable and dvd's, when I woke up at five o'clock in the morning to watch it, since it was the only time it was being shown that year. I always found the second ghost, the ghost of Christmas past to be the most interesting, because he shows Mr. Scrooge the man he was before his heart was hardened.

We all have memories of Christmas past. Our memories of past events are important. Such memories guide us in our daily lives and help us to plan our futures. They also may give us a safe place to retreat when facing difficult times. For some the memories may not be the best, maybe a loved one died during a previous holiday season, or a relationship fell apart. But for most of us, we focus on the warmer memories. I can still remember many of the gifts I received over the years (even as far back as the early sixties). I can remember various Christmas meals of the family gathered together. I can remember some of the fun things we did. I can remember the year the Christmas tree fell over, or the year our cat was missing only to be found asleep nestled in the branches of the Christmas tree.

Each year as I prepare for Christmas both in the church and at home I am flooded with various memories of Christmas past. Whether it be picking out a tree, decorating the church, wrapping gifts, decorating the tree, or downloading a Christmas music playlist to my iPhone.

Memory is also an important part of our faith. Remembering God and being remembered by God is essential. Jesus knew this and used it in instituting his last supper, for we are instructed to receive his body and blood in remembrance of him. The thief on the cross knew this as well for his dying words to Jesus were, "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom." How important this realization is. For we are reminded that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. Jesus was not born to be a king of this world, for it is in his death and resurrection that he becomes king and enters his throne room.

As we go about this season of preparation, let us always be mindful that we remember what God has done for us, not so much through the child of Bethlehem, but through his son who was willing to die for us so that we might live with him in his true kingdom, in paradise

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Andy



Advent & Christmas at Trinity

ADVENT AT TRINITY

December 1, 2019 - Lighting the First Advent Candle
Pastor Jack Slotterback to Supply

December 8, 2019 - The Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10

FROM DESOLATION TO SALVATION

December 15, 2019 - The Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Service - 10:00 AM Contemporary Service
Luke 1:47-55

MARY'S SONG, 'WHERE THE PAST BECOMES THE FUTURE'

December 22, 2019 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM UNITY Service only
Matthew 1:18-25
STRANGER GIFTS

CHRISTMAS EVE AT TRINITY

Tuesday December 24, 2019

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/ CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00 PM Family Service: Luke 2:1-20
WHAT GIFT CAN WE BRING TO THE BABY JESUS?

FESTIVAL SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
8:00 & 11:00 PM
Luke 2:1-10
WHAT'S A WELKIN



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

WOW! I could not have imagined the surprise waiting for me on Oct 11th.

I certainly didn't expect such a wonderful retirement party and your incredibly generous gift! You all know how to keep a secret!

Many thanks to the Social Concerns Committee for taking care of all the arrangements including the wonderful food and decorations. Your special presentation was tremendous and the "Guest Director" stole the show!!

Thanks also to Pastor Andy and the Church Council for the beautiful and touching plaque. It will certainly find a place of honor in my home for all visitors to enjoy.

It has been my honor and a true blessing to have been Trinity's Adult Choir Directress for 45 years, but all the glory goes to the LORD. Thank you all for your cards, gifts and kind thoughts for my retirement. I have always enjoyed our times together and look forward to many more. I will be joining with you all in song for many Sundays to come.

God Bless all of you and as always...Keep Smiling!

With a grateful heart,

Pat Henry

Greetings in Christ,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. It's one of my favorite holidays as family and friends gather to give praise to our heavenly father for the blessings we receive throughout the year – not to mention the awesome food, football and those who are in to the Black Friday madness. I prefer the last-minute madness myself.

For the property committee November is one of our busiest months of the year. Between the annual and council meetings, reports, hanging of the greens, workdays and last-minute projects. Our other ministries are also quite busy, and we give thanks to the Lord for the work that keeps us engaged in him.

As we go into the Advent season, we still have a laundry list of things to do on our next work day which will be on Saturday, December 7th starting at 8 a.m.

Here's a short list of some of the jobs we will be doing:

- Fire Code violation corrections
- Mounting of carbon monoxide detectors
- Some electrical work
- Inspections
- Setting up the outside Nativity Display
- Cleaning and organizing

We know that December is a very busy month for everyone. We understand and appreciate anytime you can give – even if it's only an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated.

Come out and join us for some good fellowship, a great coffee break and a good feeling that we did work in the Lord's house to keep it a great place to worship.

Your servant in Christ,

Rich Greiner on behalf of the Property Committee

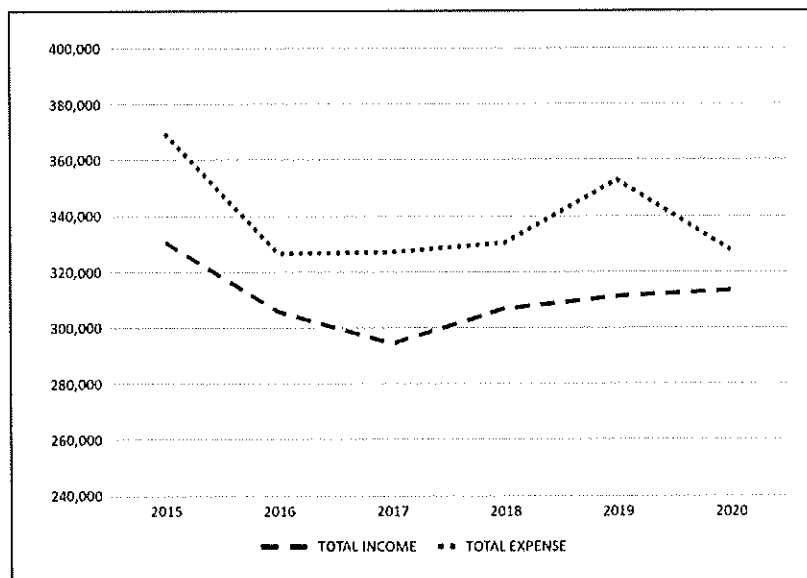


Finance Committee - 2020 Budget Summary

The Trinity Church budget for 2020 was approved at our annual congregation meeting in November. Here are some highlights of the budget and our financial state.

This chart is a comparative Income and Expense trend since 2015, with 2019 projected forecast and 2020 budget. The chart plots Total Income, which is the lower line on the chart, against Total Expense, which is higher than income. The gap between is Net Income, or the difference between the two, which is showing as a deficit each year ☹. ***We are forecasting to narrow that deficit gap in 2020.*** Net Income for the end of 2019 is expected to be within 12% of budget, and we expect a negative deficit of (\$46,670) at the end of 2019.

We are budgeting 2020 Net Income to improve by %70 to a deficit of (\$14,350). ☺ This comes from expected expenses to stay about the same compared to previous years, and for expected total income to increase from anticipated investment income, which is thanks mostly to a bequest, plus a trending increase in offerings.



To put that deficit of (\$14,350) in perspective, we could get it to zero ***if offerings increased on average by \$3 per week per envelope.***

- Projected 2019 Building Income and Expense are higher than other years. This is from the fund-raising for the carpet. The Income and Expense offset each other from the \$21,000 raised and spent on the carpet.
- Projected 2019 Operating Income is trending lower this year, but the money donated for the carpet offsets this in Total Income. The 2020 Budget for operating income is increased to maintain the total income trend.
- The forecasted 2020 Budget for Building and Operating Expense is decreased by 9% and 3% respectively to be in line with savings seen in the 2019 actual and projected totals.
- Outreach and Memorial Budget is maintained the same for 2020 at \$7,000 and \$3,000 respectively, and Payroll is increasing 4% between 2019 and 2020 budgets.

Expenses would be much higher if it wasn't for all the folks that serve by volunteering their time and skills in so many ways. ***We are truly blessed with an active congregation.*** That helps on both sides of the budget equation, not only saving money, but also making our church a place where people want to come to worship and serve.

God Bless,

Bill Ciuffo, Council Liaison to Finance Committee



JUNIOR CHOIR

As I am writing this article for our church newsletter, I am amazed that by the time it is printed we will have celebrated Thanksgiving! And I want to share with you the reason the Junior Choir hasn't sung in November. A combination of special services/programs/trying to get downstairs to practice necessitated our rehearsal time to be cancelled or not having the full 15 minutes to practice. Yes, I DID say 15 minutes! I am so proud of our children to accomplish singing for the congregation with such a short rehearsal time. Now we have already started to rehearse for our Advent and Christmas music. (This situation has not happened before in my 34 years of directing!) I'm sure you understand.

On December 15 we will be doing a special anthem highlighting Joseph! Can you imagine planning to walk so far to find a place to stay overnight? Of course, there was no telephone or computers to "call ahead" for a reservation. And that was just one thing Joseph and Mary had to accomplish! Wow! (Of course you know how the story ends and that we celebrate the birth of Jesus who became our Saviour!)

Then on Christmas Eve we will be doing "Jesus Came". It is a lovely melody and message which some of us will remember singing in Bible School years ago.

The choir has welcomed a new member: Lilyana Amato. We welcome her and look forward to telling the story of Jesus through music throughout the church year.

Looking forward to January we will proclaim our joy of the birth of Jesus as we sing "Celebrate God's Love".

In this special time of year let us remember
The real "Reason for the Season".
Love and blessings to all of you,
Mrs. Schmidt



To my Church family:

Please accept my sincerest thanks for all of the beautiful cards, balloons and flowers while I was in rehab and even now that I have moved to assisted living. Thanks also for the many visits—time spent with each of you is precious and most appreciated. I am truly blessed to be part of this congregation.

Fondly,
Sarah Whelan

ADULT CHOIR

Where did the Summer go? It is hard to believe we are in December and getting ready to start the Advent season and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Anybody singing Christmas carols yet? I was going for my walk this morning and especially saw two houses together, one with Halloween decorations up and the next one with Christmas decorations up.

The Adult Choir has been busy learning new and old music together. Last week we learned what some music symbols were for loud and soft. Thank you, choir. You are so much fun to work with. We laugh, we pray, and we sing some of our favorite songs. Last week the choir did a beautiful job on a favorite hymn, Here I am Lord, receiving many compliments on their use of dynamics and louds and softs.

We want to welcome a new member into the choir, Janice Powell. Janice has such a delightful personality and is so much fun to be around. Welcome Janice!

The choir will be combining with Chews Methodist, St. Teresa, and possibly other choirs at Chews on 11/27 at 7:30 for a combined number the night before Thanksgiving. Our choir will be performing one of our new numbers at our church for Thanksgiving Day.

We practice every Thursday at 7:30-8:30. We would love for you to come and join us. We sing every Sunday at the 8:30 service and every 1st Sunday of the month at 10:00. If you don't think you can sing, we will help you learn. No one is forced to sing by themselves. Just come out and enjoy the fellowship while having fun at the same time.

Enjoy and stay warm! Hope to see you out!

In Christ's love, Jim Shisler



God, in Christ, calls us to repentance and forgives our sinful disregard for human life; His Spirit enables us to help and befriend our neighbor in every bodily need.

The students are continuing their study on The Ten Commandments. We just finished studying The Fourth Commandment, "Honor your father and mother". The students are learning to demonstrate a desire to honor their parents and others in authority as a grateful response to God's forgiving love through Jesus Christ, their Lord. We had a good discussion especially on this topic.

One of our teachers, AnnaMarie Wright has been out and recuperating from surgery. I am so proud of this class. We sent her a card asking them to write a little comment to cheer her up. The comments they wrote were very thoughtful and uplifting. Anna said how much it made her day and cheered her up. Thank you, parents, for the great job you are doing with them. The class is large but always respectful and fun to work with.

The students had a fun time serving at the Fall Breakfast. Some of them even stayed and helped clean off tables afterwards. Thank you, Social Concerns, for giving us the opportunity and guidance for this.

Upcoming activities: 11/24- Help pack Thanksgiving food baskets after 10:00 service, 12/14- Help to serve Breakfast with Santa 8:45 Sat., 12/22 after 10:00 service, help to pack Christmas food and toys for needy families.

Thank you so much for your support; Confirmation Class and teachers.



Sunday School News: December 2019

And David speaks likewise of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." Romans 4: 6-8

Blessed is the person who is pardoned by God, forgiven of all sins past, present and future. By the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the blessed are given freedom from the demands of the law without punishment. The Holy Spirit dwells within them; they received Christ and thereby received forgiveness of sin and deliverance from the power of Satan. Those blessed possess grace in their heart, live by faith and lay hold of the promises of Christ as their own. The law of God is written in their heart and they have the right to enjoy all the blessings of his covenant. The blessed are daily conforming more, and more in his image; partakers of the inheritance of the saints. By his saving grace the believer is "a new creature", created in Christ to perform good works. The reliance of this new person upon Jesus and confidence in him is true faith.

We are getting ready for Christmas. Our teachers are busy with lessons to prepare their students for Advent, learning about the Christmas story. Giant Advent Calendar Sticker Scene (K - 2nd), and Advent Calendar with Story (3rd - 8th) were handed out. Our Christmas program will be presented at the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, December 15th. Pre-K thru 2nd will be singing the "Candy Cane Song" and then 3rd thru 6th grades will present the skit "No Room at the Inn". On Saturday, December 14th Social Concerns is again having "Breakfast with Santa".

As your faith leads you, please give support through offerings, donations and memorials. This will enable us to purchase supplies needed for teaching our children. We continue to be in need of volunteers to teach and support our youth group and other programs. Kindly remember "UR Important 2 US. Join us Saturday, December 21st at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall to help make PB&J. This past November besides all the sandwiches, bottles of water and snacks we donated; we purchased 144 blankets to be given to the homeless thanks to the generosity of our congregation. Also please remember to donate to help Mission Teens. Their motto is "Help for the Desperate - Those willing to seek God as the Answer to their Problems". This is done by ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. Donation envelopes are available in the main church. Make checks payable to "Trinity Lutheran Sunday School".

During this Christmas season while you are rejoicing and celebrating the birth of Jesus allow your faith to grow to a new higher level. Be bold in your faith; be a blessing to others. All children are very precious in the sight of our Lord, Jesus. If likewise, they are precious to you, join us. They need help and guidance to live a life that grows in true faith. You will feel truly blessed in doing so.

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

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

The Prayer Shawl monthly meeting was held on Friday November 1, 2019. In attendance were Ann Carter, Peg Cochran, Val Colasuonno, Nanci Fallon, Linda Finch, Dolores Keller, Helen McGarvey, Dorothy Martin, and Mary Raws. Janet stopped by to see the latest creations. The meeting officially started at 10:10 a.m., with The Lord's Prayer.

We received the following:	4 Prayer Shawls/Lap Blankets 1 Baptismal Blanket 6 gift bags
Cathedral Kitchen:	22 hats, 13 scarves and 11 pair of gloves
Osborn Family Med.Ctr.	3 Baby hats, 2 pair of mittens and 1 blanket
Vineland Veterans Home	2 Blankets

Thanks go to Marie Thatcher and Beth Shute for their contributions. A lap blanket with a foot warmer was an ingenious idea. Also, many thanks to Sarah Whelan for donating the yarn. Many of the homeless will appreciate warm hands and heads with all the hats, scarves and mittens we can now make.

Distribution: Prayer Shawls/Lap Blankets were given to Peggy Warwick (Amy Englehart's aunt) and Barry Lowder (Florence Adler's son). The following will be distributed to the Osborn Medical Center--14 baby hats, 2 pair of mittens and 1 blanket. A delivery will be made to the Vineland Veterans Home of 2 Blankets.

Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Anconetani will update us when she returns at our next meeting.

Baptismal Historian: Mary Raws reported there were no baptisms.

Ann Carter confirmed the date for the Cathedral Kitchen distribution as December 19th. Also, Ann's pumpkin Snickerdoodle cookies were delicious!

The rest of our meeting was spent packing up the gifts for UR Important 2 US and Cathedral Kitchen. Actual numbers will be presented at next month's meeting. We also discussed the various projects we can make with the new yarn we received.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday December 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. We wish everyone a Happy Holiday and thank you all for your support. The closing reading was from Psalm 74:12 and we adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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



SOCIAL CONCERNS

Thank you to all who donated Turkeys and/or food for our Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to help over 35 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. We will be shopping for 35 families and 22 children. All items are due back to the church by **10:00 A.M. on December 22nd**. We will start packing after the 10:00 service. 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 10th Clothing Closet open 10 AM-12 Noon

December 14th- Breakfast with Santa. **PLEASE LOOK FOR THE
REGISTRATION FORMS!**

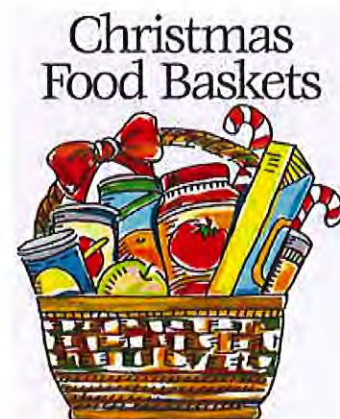
**December 22nd – Pack and distribute Christmas Gifts and Baskets after the
10:00 service.**

New members are always welcome. We meet on the second Sunday of the month after the 10:00 service. 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, Sand HE is our greatest gift.

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

Caring and Sharing
Diane Kochon





Saturday December 14th at 9:00 AM

In the Fellowship Hall

BY RESERVATION ONLY

ALL ages welcome!

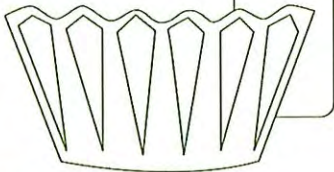
Please make reservations through your child's Sunday School teacher, filling out a reservation form which are located throughout the Church
or by calling the Office at 856-939-4411



Kids Page

Light the way

Make some Christmas candles to remember Jesus, the Light of the world.



What you need:

- Unlined white notecards
- Hot glue (and adult help)
- Yellow tissue paper
- Mini muffin liners
- Clothespins

What you do:

1. Roll a notecard from side to side into a "candle" tube. Secure with glue.
2. Insert a piece of tissue paper "flame" in one end.
3. Glue the other end to a muffin liner. Then glue the liner to a clothespin.
4. Repeat to make many paper candles. Pin them to the branches of a Christmas tree.



Symbols of the season

Many traditional decorations convey the meaning of Christmas.

Directions: Use the picture clues to the right to complete the words. Then write the boxed letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV.



shepherd's staff

☐ ☐ _ _ _ _ ☐

tree that keeps its leaves

_ _ _ _ ☐ _ _ _ _

shines to lead the way

_ _ _ ☐

green for eternal life,
red for Jesus' blood

☐ _ _ _ _ &
_ _ _ ☐ ☐ _ _

sounds to announce
good news

☐ _ _ _

has no beginning or end

_ _ _ _ ☐ _

Th ☐ ☐ ks b ☐ to ☐ od fo ☐ ☐ is
indesc ☐ ☐ ba ☐ le gif ☐ !

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15, NIV

Answer: candy cane, evergreen, star, holly & berries, bell, wreath; Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV



1- Aubrey Cook
 1- Rebecca Phillips
 1- Amy Engelhart
 2- Lucas Morrow
 2- Diane Haines
 2- Beverly Moore
 2- Treva Stewart
 3- Angelique Copsetta
 4 -Ciara O'Connell Halko
 4- Elaine Hartranft
 6- Frances Knorr
 7- Richard VanArsdale
 8- Doris Menchaca
 10- C. Kenneth Bennett
 11-Barbara Hoffman
 11- Ruth Burns
 11- Cindy Henry
 11- Johnathon Martell
 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
 16- Jeff Nicholas
 17- Arden Broomall
 17- Amanda Garrett
 17- Patricia Lynn Burns
 18- William Dixon
 18- Eric Landis
 19- Eric Grant
 19- Terry McAleer
 21- Amanda Meyers
 21- John Garrett, Jr.
 23- Anna Howell
 23- Rose Kopcha
 25- Christine C. Lindstrom
 25- Eric Otero

26- Kim Razavi
 26- Scott Hill III
 27- Elizabeth Talotta
 29- Eleanor Epley
 29- Lee Ann Errickson
 31- Kristina Guenette Moen



10- Paul & Barbara Hoffman

Funerals

On November 15, 2019
WILLIE MAE WILLIS (87)
 Of Magnolia, NJ

On November 16, 2019
ANNA G. MONROE (80)
 Of Bellmawr, NJ

On November 22, 2019
PATRICIA RODI (76)
 Of Runnemede, NJ

On November 23, 2019
HUGO H. STEIN (92)
 Of Audubon Park, NJ

On November 30, 2019
DONALD R. SHEPP (85)
 Of Ellendale, DE

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



Cover Photo- "Christmas Joy"
 Platts Farm Market, Clarksboro, NJ
 by Janet Lipski