



*Trinity  
Trumpeter*



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017

## Annual Meeting January 22

The Annual Congregational Meeting for Trinity will be held January 22 immediately following the worship service.

In order to prepare the packet and give the congregation ample time to pursue all the items, all committee reports need to be in the office by December 26. The report will be available on January 1st to give everyone three weeks lead time before the meeting.



## Pastor's Tenth Annual Chili Cook Off



Again this year, there will be three awards in the chili cook off: best traditional chili, hottest chili and most unusual chili—think of the strangest thing you can put in a chili and surprise everyone. Prizes will be awarded for the best in each category.

A sign up sheet will be out soon so keep an eye out for it. Also, you can let the office know if you want to enter. It is always a fun day with lots of good food and fun and laughs.

### ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!!

Love Baskets will be assembled on December 13. You can leave donated items on the table in the Hart Center.



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### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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### Waiting: The Long Forgotten Virtue



A Message From  
Pastor Jira Albers

***"Wait for  
the Lord;  
be strong,  
and let  
your heart  
take  
courage;  
wait for the  
Lord!"***

- Psalm 27:14

Alright, I admit the title is a little provocative. I know that there are plenty of people who know the virtue of waiting, but I wanted you to read it right now!

Putting my own impatience aside, our culture does not make it easy to wait for anything. You can get next day shipping on your order. You can buy gas at any time of the day or night. You can download or stream music or a movie in an instant.

Many of these conveniences are wonderful things. Getting a doctor over your mobile device within minutes has the potential to be a life-saving advance in technology. In no way am I yearning for the good old days of waiting six – eight weeks for a music CD or Christmas socks to come in the mail.

The drawback, of course, is that people now expect you to return their message within minutes rather than days. This adds to the stress of the normal day as you try to accomplish your work and respond to any number of people. And, it also has a surprising impact on the spiritual lives of people.

You see, God is not the God of instant gratification. It took God six days to create the world, and on

the seventh day, God refused to return any messages (God rested). It took years for God to save the Israelites from Pharaoh, and even more years for the Israelites to get to the promised land.

In a very counter-cultural move to today's world, God takes God's time to work goodness in people's lives. I think something has to be said about quality, which takes time. This is especially true for the gifts we receive in relationships: joy, forgiveness, intimacy, and love. These things cannot be rushed through a one night stand. But, in time, God can make something beautiful grow.

I know very well one woman who did not hear the call of the Jesus to follow for over 50 years. For 49 years, her mother prayed that she would hear Jesus. And, for 49 years, God did not seem to pull through on the request. But, on the 50<sup>th</sup> year, the wind of the Holy Spirit breezed through her life and now she is one of the most devoted followers of Christ one could find.

It took time. It took waiting. This season of Advent is all about the virtue of waiting. In Advent, we learn to wait patiently for the Lord, and we keep awake for the Lord's arrival.

### ***The Question Box***

*(Questions About Our Christian Life)*

***"How do I forgive myself?"***

I thank you for asking the question, because it is on many people's minds as they toss and turn from guilt and shame through the night. It is one thing to remember that you are forgiven by God; it is another to know it for yourself. I will say straight up that it is hard to forgive yourself. Forgiveness is a gift from the very start. It is a gift that comes from the outside. Therefore, confessing your sin to your accuser or to a minister has always been the most effective way to relieve guilt because it allows you to hear those precious words that come as a gift from outside: "You are forgiven." – Pastor Jira



## Parish News

### Advent Services



**Wednesdays, December 7th, 14th, & 21st.**

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas through Advent devotions, the Advent wreath and weekly evening services.

Before the service at 6:00 pm, we will have a soup supper for all! Various soups are being planned. At 7:00 pm, Holden's Evening Prayer Service with song liturgy & scriptures.

### Christmas Eve



**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.** In keeping with the tradition of Trinity Lutheran, a Christmas Eve Service will be held.

Starting at 8:00 pm, the service will center around the joyous birth of the Christ child.

### Lessons and Carols, December 25<sup>th</sup>



**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.** Lessons and carols will be the theme of the worship service using Christmas texts and carols of the season.

### Epiphany of Our Lord



**Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.** An Epiphany Worship (Prayer Around the Cross) will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

#### Worship Highlights

### Advent Services

**Wednesdays  
December 7th  
December 14th  
December 21st**

**Christmas Eve  
Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Lessons and Carols  
Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Epiphany of Our Lord  
Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

## Adult Education Opportunities



**Afternoon Fellowship**  
Studying the scriptures with enjoying each other's company.

**January 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st  
In The Hart Center**



**Wednesday Night Book Club**  
Reading and talking about faith issues  
"Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy"  
By Eric Metaxas

**In The Troup Home—Monroeton  
Discussion in late Winter**



## Parish News



### Youth Group

Keep your ears open for an impromptu sledding party!!



### Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth Group (grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>) will meet Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm in the Hart Center.

## Women's News



Vesper Guild will not meet in the month of December. They will be helping with the assembling and delivering of the Congregation's Love Baskets on December 13.

Beginning in January, we will only be meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month..

Bible Study with Pastor Jira will be on the 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st of January at 12:30 p.m. No Bible Study on the 10th as Wysox Church's noon luncheon is held. These meetings are all subject to the uncertain January weather, so stay tuned to minute notices!



### Caring and Sharing

Don't forget your orders for Poinsettias. Order forms are in the bulletins and the deadline is December 18th.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

### Columbarium Space Available

As you make your end of life arrangements do not forget that the church has columbarium space available.

Call (570) 265-5322

### *Thank You Members Of Christ!*

- \*Thank you to Joyce Detharidge for putting the Rock Garden to sleep.
- \*Thank you to the Willing Workers and Vesper Guild for their hard work on the Fall Bazaar, providing Christmas for Grace Connection families and putting together the Love Baskets.
- \*Thank you to the Alter Guild for serving our congregation so faithfully.
- \*Special thanks for all who helped with the flooding of our basement.
- \* Thank you to the bell ringers for the Salvation Army





## Advent Happenings

No question about it ....preparing for the celebration of the baby Jesus is one of the busiest times of the year. Although we get hung up with the glitter and glamour of the season we often forget that this is the beginning of the church year. A time we can say so long to the previous year and start a new. A time when we can slow down, quiet ourselves and prepare our hearts to receive God's greatest gift....His son, Jesus. A time to share His love and message to all. The Worship and Prayer Team would like to extend an invitation to you to join in a few festivities during Advent.

Instead of mailing a Christmas greeting to your church family members just sign the Christmas card on the bulletin board in the back of the church. Your Christmas message will be received as we check it out each week. Money saved by not mailing individual cards can be donated to Grace Connection, TACO, or a charity of your choice.

One is the gift of remembering. Remembering our shut-in's. A "mail bag" for each of our shut-in's will be placed in the south entry during the Advent Season so you can place a Christmas greeting card in it. These will be delivered the week of December 11<sup>th</sup> and will hopefully bring a smile and a warm memory.



And finally on December 11<sup>th</sup> a potluck meal will be held after children's service. A sharing time of your Christmas traditions will be a fun time. Bring a "traditional" dish and a story or a fond memory of your Christmas past or present. The children will love to hear them.



Baby Jesus birthday cake will be served for desert.



10/01/16

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I, Joseph Snyder (President/Founder Rolling Souls Inc.) want to briefly offer my sincere gratitude for your support, prayers and love which you have blessed us with for our efforts in the 2016 Dream Ride. As you are aware we rode our motorcycles over 2,000 miles this summer from Florida to Connecticut. We are proud to share that our experience was nothing short of amazing. With your help team Rolling Souls raised over \$9,000! All of that funding directly supports our local Bradford / Sullivan Counties Pennsylvania Special Olympics programming.

Overall efforts resulted in \$1.5 raised for the Hometown Foundation ([www.hometownfoundation.org](http://www.hometownfoundation.org)). The Foundation focus centers on the military, children in need, intellectual disabilities, life threatening illness, emergency response personnel, and animal rescue. These key program areas are the heart strings that allow the Foundation to make a difference in the community. The Foundation core purpose, much like Rolling Souls Inc. focuses on community development and positive networking to more effectively meet needs.

Equally or more important to the funds raised are the personal connections that we established. Throughout our ride we met and got to know many people that are or will undoubtedly be an important part of our lives. We pray that the Spirit of the Lord and our ongoing interactions are blessed and good fruit results.

We look forward to what the future holds as well as any additional opportunities that may arise where we can once again collaborate and support each other. Once again we thank you! Enclosed is a photo of our group and one of our PA athletes.

Peace be with you!

Joseph M. Snyder  
President / Founder  
Rolling Souls Inc.

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("Home address")  
34872 Route 6  
Wysox, PA 18854

("Business address")  
64 Bailey Park Drive  
Benton, PA 17814





## Parish News Continued

Words cannot express the thankfulness felt during the recent flooding of the basement in the Hart Center. Even though it did not feel so good to look at the destruction that day the coming together of all lightened the load and many positive actions followed.

First off I want to especially thank Judy and Ken from Grace Connection who put out a few phone calls explaining our distress to a few of their friends. It seemed like it was within minutes that they appeared, without question or worry, armed with love, determination, smiles, mops, buckets, shop vacs and muscles to help undertake the enormous task of drying out the basement. Without their help and encouragement, that day would have seemed at least, a year long. A huge thanks to Judy and Ken, Renee Arnold and her son Dalton, Steve Homet and his friend ( don't remember her name) and Louie Vega.

Not one room was spared. Every corner of every room had water touch them. Baseboards were removed to allow the walls to dry out. Professional services were provided by Servpro to assist in the drying process. Through everyone's efforts the carpeting in the pastor's study and the secretary's office was saved. Nothing of great expense was lost. A huge thank you to the Vesper Guild for paying for the professional attention so greatly needed.

And to all who helped from the congregation...thank you. A call out to work after church was a great success. A lot of tasks, beyond the list of hoped for expectations, was achieved that day. Everyone enjoyed the pizza that was supplied by Maureen Engelhard for all the hard and willing workers. To those who couldn't physically help, thank you for your prayers, patience and guidance.

Ladies of the Vesper Guild, led by Cindy, diligently went through and sorted all of the items stored over the years. A monumental task especially since they did this while all of the rooms were in complete disarray while waiting for the dry out process to be completed. Thankfully no one was injured with all the booby-traps that were around.

To Dave for the use of his trailer and trips to the dump. He has so many hidden talents.

And a special thank you to Thelma Allis. As I mentioned before the "fun" process is the "tearing up" at the start of a project. The tedious and time consuming process is putting everything back together again. Thelma was there from the beginning to the end and probably went through 4 pairs of protective gloves. Cleaning, rearranging, re-applying the baseboards and sprucing up was on her list of duties and she wasn't finished until every line was crossed off. Very thorough and conscientious person.

Special muscle help (and ingenuity) from Nate and Debbie Chilson helped Pastor's office take on a slightly new and different look. (Pastor...call me if you can't find something - it is probably in the hamper)

The age-old question of "Why does bad things happen to good people" can be answered by... bad things happen to good people to humble us so we can come together and be one with Him.

God Bless all of you and may His love, grace and mercy be upon you.

In Christ's love,

Cathy



## Parish News Continued

### **CLEANING UP THE CHURCH PROPERTY**

**Some of our helpers! Many thanks to all who helped. A task well done!!!**



### **OUR BEAUTIFUL DRIVEWAY**

**Special thanks to Bill & Marian Feathers  
and the Vesper Guild**





# December 2016 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Katie Dolbey	3
4	5 Scott Bracken	6	7 Ryan Hart Lars Thomason Michael & Patricia Browning	8	9	10
11	12 Phyllis Morrison	13	14	15	16 Jacob Kapson	17 Diane Danko
18	19	20	21 Madelyn Clark Patricia Thomason	22 Robert Horton Nicholas Dunn Rose Treimann	23 George & Florence Johnson	24
25 Carl Danko	26	27	28 Agnes Cook	29 Janet Seaberg	30 Mikayla Post	31 Sara Lynn Troup Mary Lou Vanderpool

# January 2017 Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Eric & Doreen Secor	2 Gerald Foreman Janice Jackson	3 Duane Danko Brittany Runner	4 Erik Danko	5 Mary Beth Coldren	6 Florence Johnson Lawrence Stoudt	7
8	9 Tracey Rosner	10 Andrew Vanderpool	11 William Johnson	12	13	14
15	16 Joyce Detharidge	17	18 Daniel Troup	19	20 Debra Chilson	21 Tom & Phyllis Morrison
22 Thomas Foreman Janelle Hart Heller	23	24 Crystal Hart Matthew Keeney	25	26 Deana Horning Roger & Betty Blatz	27 Lisa Horton Doreen Secor	28
29	30	31				



## December 2016 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent	5	6	7 6PM Soup Supper 7PM Advent Service	8	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Service for Children Pot Luck Luncheon	12	13 Filling & Delivering Love Baskets	14 6PM Soup Supper 7PM Advent Service	15	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent	19	20	21 6PM Soup Supper 7PM Advent Service	22	23	24 8PM Christmas Eve Service
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS Lessons and Carols	26	27 5:00 pm Council @Riverstone	28	29	30	31

## January 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3 12:30 Bible Study	4	5	6 7PM Epiphany of Our Lord Service	7
8	9 1:00 PM	10 11:45 Wysox Lunch	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 12:30 Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 12:30 Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29 Annual Meeting Chili Cook Off	30	31 12:30 Bible Study 6 PM Council				

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Meet Your Synod's Staff



Debbie Frey

Debbie is responsible for several key administrative tasks. She is the registrar for most synod events, and serves on the planning committee for the Bishop's Conference and the Synod Assembly.

She also collates the information submitted by a congregation experiencing a pastoral vacancy and then prepares the parish study book.

In addition, she works with Karen Matthias-Long to keep track of materials in the synod Resource Center.

Debbie has worked for the synod since June 2004. Prior to that she served as parish secretary at St. Paul, Catasauqua. Some years ago, before starting a family, she worked at Air Products.

Debbie's husband, John, recently retired. They have two children and one granddaughter, with a second granddaughter on the way.

Debbie enjoys traveling, and works at crafts, including jewelry and sewing. She is member at St. Paul, Catasauqua.

## San Martin de Porres, Allentown



Four years ago on Easter 2013 the Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation, San Martin de Porres, relocated from St. Paul's on 8th Street, Allentown, to St. John's on 5th Street, Allentown. San Martin's move was evangelistic in nature, seeking more visibility and collaborative ministry opportunities. Admittedly, long time members are not as young as they once were and walking up two flights of steps before worship helped the congregation make the decision to move.

On December 11, 1988, San Martin was organized as a Lutheran congregation. Then Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom of the ELCA wrote a letter to the members of San Martin in which he stated - "Your congregation's service of organization last December was historic: you are the first new congregation organized in your synod since the ELCA was formed. And, as a Hispanic congregation, you are a living expression of our deep hope that the ELCA will become a truly inclusive church."

In December San Martin celebrated its 28th Anniversary as a Lutheran Congregation. The existence of San Martin has been a collaborative effort within The Lutheran Church in America, the ELCA, the NEPA Synod, and churches of the Lehigh Mission District. A number of key individuals have played a significant role as well.

San Martin de Porres gratefully gives thanks to God and acknowledges the prayers and generous financial gifts, along with gifts of time and talents, from so many in our synod. This collaborative effort brings God's message to the Spanish-speaking community as together we proclaim God's inclusive Gospel of new life.

## ELCA Mission Builders

### "Building Structures, Community, and Faith"

Mission Builders are people from all walks of life—carpenters and others who have an interest in building for the church, meeting fellow-Christians across the country, having fun, and helping others.

Working side-by-side with folks from a local congregation, mission builders help the congregation construct or improve a church building at significant cost savings.

On our territory, a number of years ago, Mission Builders helped the members of Holy Trinity, Dingmans Ferry construct their facility.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry of our church or are interesting in becoming a mission builder, check out their web site: <http://www.elcamissionbuilders.org>.

### Update Congregational Officers for 2017

Please send the Congregational Officers Form to the synod office as soon as the information is available. It can be downloaded as either a Word document or a PDF file from the synod website under "Publications" and then "Documents, Forms, & Policies."

## Tri-Congregational Worship



Three Northern Berks congregations joined together on Sunday, October 16, to share in Sunday School and in worship. The three congregations have gathered together before, and they are really getting the hang of it now!

More than 240 people attended the worship service held at Zion, Perry Township. Pastor Inge Williams, of Frieden's, Shartlesville, was the preacher; and Pastor Burl Latshaw, Interim Pastor at St. John, Hamburg was the Assisting Minister. Pastor Latshaw also taught an Adult Sunday School class about Martin Luther and the Reformation. More than 90 attended Sunday School classes including 23 catechetical age youth in grades 7 and 8. St. John's Youth Director, Lydia Beck, was thrilled to have that many young people together.

Zion's Brass and Zion's Bells played. More than 35 Adult Choir members sang a joint anthem led by Donald Ryan, Zion's Organist and Choir Director. During the Children's Message, the congregation sang all the verses of "We Are the Church Together."

More than 140 stayed for a robust lunch in the Zion's Fellowship Hall. Zion's provided the main dish (baked ziti) and the other congregations brought salads and desserts. It was an amazing spread that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Because of family roots and close community ties through the work of the Hamburg Cluster and the Northern Berks Ministerium, members are well acquainted with each other and with working together.

On March 31- April 2, 2017 the three congregations will share in their second annual Catechism Retreat at Bear Creek Camp with a theme "The 3 Great Days." Synod Congregations with up to 5 catechetical students are invited to join in that weekend, until the house is full!

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
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# Trinity Leadership Directory

## Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv..... 265-5322  
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641  
Vice President – Cathy Bellanca.....265-6049  
Office Manager – Cindy Estelle .... 265-5184  
Treasurer – Cindy Estelle... ..265-5184  
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor .....265-3832  
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

## Council Members:

Chris Griffith .....268-4123  
Cassidy Estelle.....268-4123  
Cathy Bellanca.....265-6049  
Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678  
Debbie Philippi .....247-2353  
Dave Estelle .....265-5184

## *Contact Trinity*

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In case of emergency, you can contact Pastor Jira at his home: 570-363-2951  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday—8:00 am—Noon.

## **Serving us in worship:**

**The Rev. Jira A. Albers, presiding minister**

**Altar Guild– December**

**Cindy Estelle**

**Alter Guild– January**

## **December 4—Second Sunday of Advent**

Acolyte– Tanner Kunkle  
Lector– Bill Serfass  
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass  
Counters—Maureen Engelhard & Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Doreen Secor & Cindy Estelle

## **December 11—Third Sunday of Advent**

Acolyte– Olivia Champluvier  
Lector– Cathy Bellanca  
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca  
Counters– Cathy Bellanca & Debbie Philippi  
Ushers– Nate Chilson & Peggy Cranmer

## **December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Acolyte– Emily Chilson  
Lector– Bill Serfass  
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass  
Counters– Chris Griffith & Cassidy Estelle  
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Thelma Allis

## **December 24—Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve**

Acolyte– Delaney Carrington  
Torch Bearers--Nate Chilson & Mike Wallitsch  
Lector– Cindy Estelle  
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle  
Counters– Dave & Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Paul & Aggi Cook

## **December 25—Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day**

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector– Cathy Bellanca  
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca  
Counters—  
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Peggy Cranmer

## **January 1—First Sunday of Christmas**

Acolyte– Rachael Champluvier  
Lector– Mary Lou Vanderpool  
Communion Assistant– Mary Lou Vanderpool  
Counters– Maureen Engelhard & Cindy Estelle  
Ushers– Ron & Ruth Russell

## **January 8—Baptism of Our Lord**

Acolyte– Tanner Kunkle  
Lector– Bill Serfass  
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass  
Counters– Cassidy Estelle & Chris Griffith  
Ushers– Duane & Lois Carrington

## **January 15—Second Sunday After Epiphany**

Acolyte– Olivia Champluvier  
Lector—Cathy Bellanca  
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca  
Counters– Cathy Bellanca & Debbie Philippi  
Ushers– Peggy Cranmer & Satchel Manchester

## **January 22—Third Sunday After Epiphany**

Acolyte– Emily Chilson  
Lector– Cindy Estelle  
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle  
Counters– Cathy Bellanca & Debbie Philippi  
Ushers– Thelma Allis & Nate Chilson

## **January 29—Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle  
Lector– Dave Estelle  
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle  
Counters–  
Ushers– Doreen Secor & Cindy Estelle

Trinity Lutheran Church  
908 South Main Street  
Towanda PA 18848

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## **TRINITY TRUMPETER DECEMBER/JANUARY**

**“Challenged to witness and share Christ’s love with all”**

**Sunday Morning Schedule  
Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 AM**

Spreading Christ’s word of peace to all through service.

