

Trinity
Trumpeter



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, TOWANDA, PA

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

Annual Meeting January 28

The Annual Congregational Meeting for Trinity will be held January 28 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 January 7th. The report will be available on January 14th to give everyone three weeks lead time before the meeting.



Pastor's Eleventh Annual Chili Cook



Again this year, and after the Annual Meeting, 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, fun and laughs!!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!!

Love Baskets will be assembled on December 19. You can leave donated items on the table in the Hart Center.



In This Issue

Annual Meeting	1
Chili Cook Off	1
Love Baskets	1
Pastor's Message	2
The Question Box	2
Worship Highlights	3
Adult Education	3
Youth Group	4
Women's News	4
Caring and Sharing	4
Thank You	4
Advent Happenings	5
Parish News Contd.	6
Calendars	7
Calendars	8
Synod News	9
Synod News	10
Directory	11

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

908 S. Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848

570-265-5322
trinluth@epix.net
www.trinluth.com



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



The "What if" of Christmas



A Message From
Pastor Jira Albers

*"The light
shines in
the
darkness,
and the
darkness
did not
overcome
it."*

- John 1:5

What if?

What if love could become flesh
and walk around?

What if you could see love
walking and know exactly what it
looks like?

What if the dirtiness of your life
could be cleaned away so that you
would not feel ashamed to show
your face...your true face?

What if you could walk in the
company of love?

What if you could become love
yourself?

What if?

Do you want to know the true
meaning of Christmas?

Do you want to see the true
meaning with your own eyes?

Do you want to experience it?

Do you want to become a part of
it?

Do you want to know love deeply;
love that will not betray or forget?

What if love could become flesh
and walk around?

What if you could be happy once
again?

What if?

The wonder of Christmas is that
love came to us, walked with us,
taught us, and died for us. The
majesty of Christmas is that God
came to be with us. We are not
forgotten. We are not left alone.
We are loved. May you feel the
love of Jesus this Christmas!

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

"Are we celebrating Christmas on the wrong day?"

Here is the truth: we do not know the day the Jesus was born. That fact is lost to history. Early Christian historians tried to track it down and came up with December 25th. Modern historians think that Jesus was actually born sometime in the summer. As for us, it does not matter. Though we sometimes have fun and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus for the sake of the children; on Christmas we are technically not celebrating Jesus' birthday. We are not marking the day of Jesus' historical birth. Instead, Christmas is a celebration of God's light coming into a world of darkness. It is a celebration of God's love taking on flesh and walking with us. Really, this could be done any time of year, but we do it during the dark days of December 25th to give light to a dark time of year. — Pastor Jira Albers



Parish News

Advent Services



Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th, & 20th.

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



Sunday, December 24, at our regular **9:30 am** service, all the children of Trinity will present their program, "The Birth of Jesus". In keeping with the tradition of Trinity Lutheran, a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held also at **8:00 pm**. So if its at morning or evening service, let us enjoy the birth of the Christ child.

Lessons and Carols, December 31



Sunday, December 31. Lessons and carols will be the theme of the worship service using Christmas texts and carols of the season.

Epiphany of Our Lord



**Saturday, January 6th-
Epiphany of Our Lord**
Sunday, January 7th. First Sunday after the Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord.

Worship Highlights

Advent Services

**Wednesdays
December 6th
December 13th
December 20st**

**Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24th
9:30 am
&
8:00 pm**

**Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 31**

**Epiphany of Our Lord
-Saturday, January 6th
The Baptism of Our Lord**

Adult Education Opportunities



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

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



Sunday Afternoon Book Club
1:00 pm at the Thomason's

December 10, 2017



Parish News Continued



Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth Group (grades 1st through 6th) will meet Sunday, February 4th at 1:00 pm 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 19.

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

Bible Study with Pastor Jira will be on the 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!



<http://creationsdaydream.net/pictures/poinsettia.html>

Caring and Sharing

Don't forget your orders for Poinsettias. Order forms are in the bulletins and the deadline is December 17th or call the office/leave a message. They are \$8.25 each.

Greetings from Theresa Sauerstein: Missing my Trinity family but loving the warmer temps! Lutheran Churches are not to be found close by. I know the Lord will lead me. You are all in my prayers!

Her address is: 4535 Austrian Ct. ,Orange Park, FL 32003

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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. & for decoration the four flower pots.
- *Thank you to the 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.
- *Thank you to the bell ringers for the Salvation Army.
- * Thank you to Cathy Bellanca for directing the children's Christmas program.



ADVENT 2017

Once again we enter a new church year. We begin the season of Advent on December 3rd with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath. Each candle in Advent will be lit by a family or group of people as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All are invited to prepare and practice what God demands of us...Keep awake!...Be ready!...Change our ways!...Remember the Good News and that God is with us.

Looking for some new ways to follow God's Word and prepare for his second coming? Here are a few ideas to help keep your Advent season refreshed and rewarding.

Read your Advent devotional hand out each day
(available at the church)

Send a card to someone and let them know you prayed for them today

Do a scavenger hunt mystery by going about your community looking for good deeds to do, e.g.; carry groceries for someone, do your brother or sisters chores for a day, shovel someone's sidewalk, tape a quarter to a machine in the laundromat, take goodies to public servants, visit nursing homes, etc. Be awake!

Look for the opportunity to do a good deed. It will be interesting to share what good deeds we did.

Each day select a Christmas card you received and pray for that person and/or family

Take blankets, sheets, quilts to the Methodist Church in Towanda to be used by the homeless

Take towels, food, bleach, shampoo, etc. to animal shelters

Place one food item in a bag each day of Advent for the food pantry and bring the bag to church each week

An Advent table will be set up in the Hart Center all during Advent with some of these reminders and a basket for the collection of the food pantry items.

Yes. This is a very busy time of year but let us not forget the real reason for the season.

Third Annual Advent Luncheon



Bring your favorite dish to pass and join us for a



fun time on Sunday, December 10, right after church!



(Secret Pal to be revealed at the luncheon)

Acolyte Recognition

This year Trinity will honor our acolytes during the service on December 3rd. These young people faithfully serve our congregation each week. We thank them (and their parents) for their dedicated service.

Thank you to:

Delaney Carrington

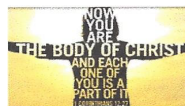
Alli, Brock, Olivia, and Rachel Champuvier

Emily Chilson

Kynlee and Tanner Kunkle

Satchel Manchester

Abby and Kate O'Connor



Remember our faithful servants who are unable to attend church and worship with us by sending them a Christmas greeting. Cards are available on the Advent table in the heart center. Completed cards can then be placed in "mail bags" decorated by the children.



PARISH NEWS CONTINUED

THE ENGELHARD COMPASSION FUND 2017

On the afternoon of Reformation Sunday Daniel Vogel was presented with a check for \$500.00. He and his wife Kelly truly appreciated this monetary help and they were very excited that we thought of him. Danny is a kind, hard working man who has medical problems and the expenses that go along with that. There is a thank you note on the bulletin board in the back of the church for our congregation. Thank you for your contributions to the fund so that we can help give some help to others. Please remember this fund throughout the year.

God Bless You All,
Maureen Engelhard

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell on the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

CHICKS: \$10.00, HONEY BEES: \$20.00, PIG: \$30.00, GOAT: \$50.00, SHEEP: \$125.00



The Christmas tree in the Hart Center has these cute donation ornaments for you to donate as you wish! There are also plain monetary ones for just a donation of your choice.

SHOP ELCA GOOD GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS for 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives! **ELCA.org/goodgifts** -catalogs are also provided!

December 2017 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	8	9
10	11	12	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 2018 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 Weed	10 Andrew Vanderpool	11 William Johnson	12	13
14	15	16 Joyce Detharidge	17	18 Daniel Troup	19	20 Debra Chilson
21	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 2017 Meetings and Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent Acolyte Recognition	4	5	6 6PM Soup Supper 7PM Advent Service	7	8	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Secret Pal reveal Pot Luck Luncheon	11	12 6:00 pm Council Meeting	13 6PM Soup Supper 7PM Advent Service	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent	18	19 Filling & Delivering Love Baskets	20 6PM Soup Supper 7PM Advent Service	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Children's Program 8:00 pm Candlelight Service	25 	26	27	28	29	30

31 Lessons and
Carols
Service

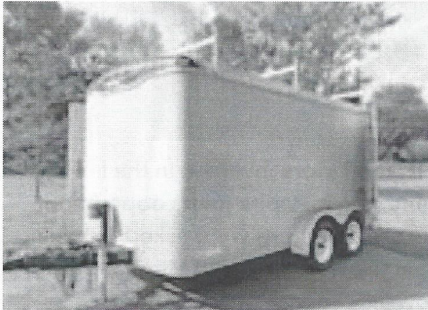
January 2018 Meetings and Events

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

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Disaster Relief Trailer



There is a disaster relief trailer full of tools and supplies that anyone can borrow. It is located at Ziegel's, Breinigsville.

The contact person for scheduling its use is Lori Brawn; and she can be reached at lori1962@verizon.net or at 610-285-6157.

Thank you to the folks at Friedens, Oley for taking care of it in the past, and to Ziegel's for taking it on now.

Download information on the trailer and its contents at <http://nepasynod.org/documents/2017-10-distaster-trail-info.pdf>.



Friday Evening "Sunday" School



Like many congregations, St. Luke Union Church in Shoemakersville had experienced a decline in Sunday school attendance. There are many factors involved, sports being the most dominant. As pastor Walt Breiner told one parishioner: "Sadly, the church doesn't own Sunday morning anymore." With that in mind and with a prayerful approach, St. Luke began J.A.M. (Jesus And Me), an alternative "Sunday" school on Friday evenings, offered in addition to the usual Sunday morning classes.

J.A.M. is offered every Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM using VBS site rotation as the model. The evening opens with singing a song, hearing a story from the Bible, a children's message, and a closing prayer. Then comes a "Dance Party" where the children learn songs with dances or games. Next is crafts, followed by a snack. From there the children see an animated Bible movie and always have ice cream during that time.

To date there are 26 children enrolled in the program, six of whom are special needs children. Parents are invited to stay. Those who do remain seem to enjoy the evening and most participate fully in all activities as well as meals. However, some parents use the time for grocery shopping or for an "adult" dinner. A mother of two special needs children returned after two hours with tears in her eyes telling how much she and her husband cherish this time of respite.

Most important, the children and their families hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and know that Jesus loves them.

Talking About Racism

TWO BOOK STUDIES

Waking Up White (Debby Irving)

The synod staff recently studied Debby Irving's book, *Waking Up White*. This book is Irving's personal story of awakening to her own racism, how racism has been built into our societal structures, and how she has benefited from her insights.

Her book is a helpful resource for white people to understand the insidiousness of racism and their complicity in it. Discussion questions follow each chapter. This resource is appropriate for senior high youth as well as adults.

America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, And The Bridge To A New America (Jim Wallis)

The book jacket states: "In *America's Original Sin*, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society.

"He speaks candidly to Christians--particularly white Christians--urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing. Whenever divided cultures and gridlocked power structures fail to end systemic sin, faith communities can help lead the way to grassroots change.

"Probing yet positive, biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America, galvanizing a movement to cross the bridge to a multiracial church and a new America."

Martin Luther's Bier, Brats, and Bible Klub



What can a congregation do to get its men more involved in the life of the church? And how, at the same time, can it inspire joint cooperation with a neighboring congregation? These questions were asked last year within our synod. One answer came in the form of a new Men's Ministry Group - one that would involve fellowship, service and devotion.

Schwarzwald, Jacksonwald and Reformation, Reifton (both in Exeter Township Berks County) formed the "Martin Luther's Bier, Brats and Bible Klub." This summer, the men of St. Mark's, Birdsboro also joined the group. Known as the BB&B, the group meets monthly at area restaurants or homes of members for fellowship, a meal, devotion, and project planning. Each meeting opens with prayer followed by a spirituality moment. Then, of course, there is the food, with bratwursts a usual staple of the meal!

But, the group isn't just about fellowship and devotion. It also focuses on service to the church and the community. Recent projects include support for local law enforcement, meals for senior citizens, food drives for seminarians and for the homeless, moving a local Vet into a new home, meals for the homeless, labor for the Humane Society, yard work at the The Lutheran Center, financial support for the Wittenberg English Ministries, and assisting with various church-related projects. The BB&B funds its projects through church fundraisers and through the use of Thrivent Action Teams.

Membership in the BB&B is free and open to all men. It is an ecumenical group claiming not only Lutheran members but also men from Roman Catholic and Episcopal parishes. Other congregations are encouraged to form their own BB&B's or to participate with the existing group.

For more information, please contact Pastor Jim Farnsworth, St. Mark's, Birdsboro at PastorJimSMILC@gmail.com or at 610-582-8167. You can also check out activities on [Facebook](#) at Martin Luther's Bier, Brats and Bible Klub - Berks County.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

Trinity Leadership Directory

Officers & Staff:

Pastor – Jira A. Albers, MDiv..... 265-5322
Organist - Kay Champluvier..... 746-3641
Vice President – Debbie Philippi.....247-2353
Office Manager – Cindy Estelle 265-5184
Treasurer – Cindy Estelle... 265-5184
Fin. Secretary – Doreen Secor265-3832
Ministers—All the members of Trinity

Council Members:

Chris Griffith268-4123
Cassidy Estelle.....268-4123
Maureen Engelhard.....247-2678
Doreen Secor265-3832
Paul Cook.....247-7383

Contact Trinity

Office Telephone: 570-265-5322
Homepage: <http://www.trinluth.com>
Email: trinluth@epix.net
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, Thelma Allis

December 3—First Sunday of Advent

Acolyte– Cindy Estelle
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Counters—Debbie Philippi
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell

December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Communion Assistant– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Counters– Chris Griffith and Cassidy Estelle
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook

December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

Acolyte– Abby O'Connor
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Counters– Doreen Secor
Ushers– Janet Seaberg & Thelma Allis

December 24—Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve Morning

Acolyte– Brock Champluvier
Lector– Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Counters– Debbie Philippi
Ushers–

December 24—Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

Acolyte– Olivia Champluvier
Torch Bearers--Alli and Rachel Champluvier
Lector– Dave Estelle
Communion Assistant– Dave Estelle
Counters—Debbie Philippi
Ushers–

December 31—First Sunday of Christmas

Acolyte– Kate O'Connor
Lector– Cindy Estelle
Communion Assistant– Cindy Estelle
Counters–
Ushers– Doreen Secor

January 7—Baptism of Our Lord

Acolyte– Tanner Kunkle
Lector– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Communion Assistant– Mary Lou Vanderpool
Ushers– Ron and Ruth Russell

January 14—Second Sunday After Epiphany

Acolyte– Kynlee Kunkle
Lector—Cathy Bellanca
Communion Assistant– Cathy Bellanca
Ushers– Paul and Aggi Cook

January 21—Third Sunday After Epiphany

Acolyte– Emily Chilson
Lector– Bill Serfass
Communion Assistant– Bill Serfass
Ushers– Peggy Cranmer and Satchel Manchester

January 28—Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Acolyte– Abby O'Connor
Lector– Ron Cunfer
Communion Assistant– Maureen Engelhard
Ushers– Duane and Lois Carrington

Trinity Lutheran Church
908 South Main Street
Towanda PA 18848

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.

