

Tidings

Thanksgiving Eve Service - 11/25 7PM
First Sunday in Advent - 11/30 9AM & 11AM
Used Toy Drive - 12/6
Sunday School Christmas Program &
White Gifts - 12/21 6PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Services - 12/24 7PM & 11PM
Lessons & Carols - 12/28

Holy Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Burlington, N.J.

"Let the church in the center of
town
be at the center of your faith.

December, 2008

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1308 Mt. Holly Road
Burlington, NJ 08016
609-387-7-1202
www.holytrinityelc.org

Pastor

Rev. Harald Peeders, S.T.M.
609-747-0181

Organist

Miss Shirley A. Worthington

Choir Director

Mr. Rick Krause

Secretary

Mrs. Barbara Faulkner 609-387-1202
Barbarahtlc@comcast.net

Congregational Council

Debbie Mayo - President
Wayne Goerlich - Vice President
Bill Tootell – Secretary
Glenn Savary – Treasurer

Cheryl DeRita

Bobbi Goerlich

Bill Hines

Jack Jacob

Mike Jacob

Mike Manning

Jarett Mazza

Mary Beth McSweeny

Laura Poethke

Russ Simpkins

Chris Storz

Confession of Faith

This congregation confesses the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

PASTOR'S REPORT

IT'S THAT "TIME" AGAIN

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." Jesus, speaking for the first time in Mark's gospel, offers us this startling message.

The "Time" that has come is the time of the fulfillment of Jewish dreams, the time when God will show his special love for the Jews by breaking the bonds of their servitude and exalting them among the nations. It is the time they have been waiting for -- waiting so long that they had almost ceased to believe that it could ever come to pass...They are invited to shake off their worldly preoccupations and 'open their hearts.'

Christians today, hearing these words, understand that Jesus is speaking not just to his Jewish contemporaries, but also to all who are willing to listen in our own place and time. But what an extraordinary thing for him to say! "The kingdom of God draws near." Believe the good news." No wonder the season of Advent offers as its climactic story the unexpected news of a pregnancy brought to a young girl, news from out of the blue, news wholly unexpected, and news not entirely welcome.

Mary recovers, as we know, from her initial shock and goes on to sing her great song of rejoicing, the Magnificat. But that shock - receiving good, yet unsettling, news - that shock is also something we share with Mary. For this message of Jesus is not just glad tidings of hope for a weary and war-torn world; it also is a calling, an invitation to turn from our "worldly preoccupations" and "open our hearts." Something from us, then, is required. We're going to have to step up, get to work, prepare, watch, wait, turn, open, change.

And so we begin our journey once more around the great circle of the Christian year: Advent has come again. Advent is a joyful season. It is a time of hope amid crisis, light in deep darkness, a growing sense of expectation, a growing trust in the promises of God. Advent offers an optimistic outlook: a way of looking at the world and our troubled human problems that may seem senseless at first. "Do not be afraid," the angel tells Mary. A nervous mother listens to the hopes of her heart. A prophet stirs people to action, encourages their expectation of a coming age of justice and peace. Wake up! The news will be good, even if, like the Judeans of Jesus' time, we have "almost ceased to believe that it could ever, come to pass."

(from Sundays and Seasons, 2009)

A Note From Rick

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hansen asked in the October 2008 issue of *The Lutheran* for church members to come up with four words that describe the ELCA--and more specifically four words to describe our own congregation. The purpose of this activity is for us to realize how the ELCA's tag line of "God's Work - Our Hands" happens around us everyday. As we are seeing through the NCD assessment, we all have wonderful abilities to share. As the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season draws closer, would you please consider how God is working through your hands here at Holy Trinity?

For example, would you be willing to give a little time (and I truly mean "a little" time) to the Adult Choir? We are always in need of a few additional voices. Perhaps this short season would be a great time for you to use your voice to sing praise to our Lord. The songs are easy to learn, and just because you come out now **DOES NOT** mean you are giving a life-time commitment to the choir. We are simply a warm, fun-loving group that loves music and wants to sing praise to our Lord. We'd love for you to join us!

Some of us need inspiration. Well, perhaps the words to part of the first verse of "Joy To The World" (ELW #267) may be the best inspiration for us all:

. . . And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

In addition, the Christmas Eve service is truly a sight to see from the balcony! As the lights are dimmed and the candles are glowing, our view of the sanctuary cannot help but fill you with the love that embodies this night. I cannot think of a better witness to "God's work - Our Hands" than this. Please consider joining us during this season, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rick

PASTORAL ACTS

WEDDINGS

10/18 Andrew Scelso & Jaime Lynn Hunter

10/18 Joseph Hart & Michelle Rzucidlo

11/8 Francis Markel & Theresa Wilson

“The Greatest Gift is Love” (I Corinthians 13)

MEMORIALS

A Memorial gift has been given to the Glory of God by Dr. Carl Weber in loving memory of Marion Weber.

A Memorial gift has been given to the Glory of God by Marjorie K. Lewis in loving memory of George Jackson.

A Memorial gift has been given to the Glory of God by Lynn Immendorf in loving memory of Rev. Charles Immendorf.

Dear Holy Trinity,

Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards and love. I ask that you please continue your prayers as I will need them for quite awhile.

Faithfully,
Trish Eaves

In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God.

John 1:1,2

PARISH NOTES

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch meets as usual at the Dolphin Diner on Rt. 130, the first Friday of every month for fun, fellowship and, of course, what Lutherans do best, chow down food. No business is discussed, it is just a Christian gathering for pleasure.

The birthdays for December are Lillian Cordes, Ruth Guse, Ronnie Hanquist, Ilda Kerr, Rich Mick and Audrey Volgarino. Come on out and join us at any time. Sheila Powell can be contacted at 386-1231 if you have any questions.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee needs some new members. Please consider being a part of this important ministry. See Pastor Harald or Gunda Simpson if interested.

POINSETTIAS

It's time to start thinking about poinsettias. The chart is on the bulletin board. The flowers are \$10.

WHITE GIFTS

Many years ago the decision was made to eliminate the giving and receiving of Christmas gifts between teachers and students. Because there are so many needy children in our area, Sunday school teachers and students are asked, instead, to show their generosity by giving their gifts where they are most needed. In honor of God's gift of the tiny Christ Child, we give our small gifts to others. White gifts are wrapped in white tissue paper and marked as needed (for example: boy/girl/age/size). All members are invited to join with the Sunday School in bringing white gifts to church on Sunday, December 21st at the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. services OR at 6 p.m. for the Christmas Program. Thank you for continuing to support this custom at Holy Trinity.

Opportunities to Serve

- If you are interested in serving as an usher, please contact Al Brusco or Sheila Powell.
- Love to sing? Then come join our choir for Advent/Christmas rehearsals, each Thursday at 7 p.m.
- We are getting ever closer to paying off our mortgage. Will 2009 be the year? \$7 per week really does help. Let's keep the goal alive.

Holy Trinity Christmas Cards

For those who like to get a head start on the holidays, we are offering cards with a beautiful photograph of our chancel in Christmas décor. Sold individually and in packs of ten and twenty, the cards are available now! Please stop by the table in the narthex before or after worship services.

Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people.

John 1:3,4

Christmas Lights

Plan to join us for an evening of Christmas joy! This year's Sunday School Christmas program, "Christmas Lights" will be held Sunday, December 21 at 6:00PM. All students are asked to arrive no later than 5:30. Immediately following the program, the fun moves to the parish hall for refreshments. Parents, please speak with Pat Paul if you can help with goodies and sweets.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

John 1:5

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sunday, November 30 Advent I 9AM & 11AM

Sunday, December 7 Advent II 9AM & 11AM

Saturday, December 13 10AM Rehearsal for
Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14 Advent III 9AM & 11AM

Saturday, December 20 10 AM Rehearsal &
Happy Birthday
Jesus Party

Sunday, December 21 Advent IV 9AM & 11AM

Sunday, December 21 Sunday School
Christmas Program
"Christmas Lights" 6PM

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve
7PM & 10PM

Sunday, December 28 Lessons & Carols 10AM

The people who walked in darkness have
seen a great light. They lived in a land of
shadows, but now light is shining on them.

Isaiah 9:2

PRAYER LIST

Members and friends ill, hospitalized, or convalescing for whom prayers were offered on Sunday mornings:

Thanks for prayers answered

Trish Eaves, Paul Faherty, Diane Rogers, Jim Halstead, Harold Fawcett, Diana Flowers, Carla McElven, Linda Anderson, Our Church & Country, Emma Kiesel, Dennis Damm, Sallie Hogeland, John Miller, Richard Grant, Fran DeNucci, Joe Ricci, Art Dulla, Gail Keohane

Doris Cliver, Eric & Marie Jaggars, Sharon Young, Patti Gross, Phil Bauschard, Roger Peters, Tony Gallagher, Gene Staer, Diane Stahl, Edith Veach, Lisa Sickler, Pat Nagy, Bill Marshall, Jenny, Grace & Don Ryan, Janet Brusco, Elsie Daniell

Josie Montgomery, Ralph & Rusty Notaro, B.J., Brian, Jennine Lund, Eric Winter, Wayne & Mary, Mary Fitzpatrick, Family of Jeff Schwoebel (+), Lillian Cordes, Jack & Donna Csaszar, Frank Daly, Bob Powell, Betsy, Pat Nelson, Nicole, Sarah, Jim Halstead, Faye Manilo

Janie Scarano, Randy Howell, Eric & Virginia Hunt, Bob Irwin, Joe Dugan, Melissa Downing, Robin & Kids, Brandon & Heather, Dolly & Family, Elizabeth McSweeny, Blundin Family, Eileen Prange, Norm Clegg, Ed Shewell, Boots, Janet Kerr, Paul Komer, Clark Family, Phil & Cheryl

December Calendar Highlights

Worship

- 7** 9AM & 11AM Communion Services
- 14** 9AM & 11AM Services
- 21** 9AM & 11AM Services
- 24** 7PM & 10PM Christmas Candlelight Services
- 28** 10AM Lessons and Carols

Meetings

- 2** Music & Worship 7:30PM
- 11** Property @ 7:15PM
- 15** Finance @ 6:45PM
- 15** Church Council @ 7:30
- 16** NCD Health Team @ 7:30PM
- 22** Evangelism @ 6:59PM

Fellowship

- 5** Lunch Bunch at the Dolphin Diner @ 12 Noon

Adult Study

- 3** "Hannah" @ 10:30AM
- 9** "Lydia" @ 7:00PM

Sunday School

- 7, 14, 21,** @ 9AM
- 13, 20** Program Rehearsals @ 10AM
- 20** Happy Birthday Jesus Party
- 21** Christmas Program @ 6PM

Communication

- 14** Tidings Deadline

Confirmation Classes

- 1 & 8** @ 6:45PM 7th AND 8th Grade
- 15** @ 6:30PM Christmas Party

Music Ministry

- 3,10, 17** Cherubs @ 6PM
- 4,11, 18** Adult Choir @ 7PM

Word of Faith Ministry

- 13** 6PM to 9PM in the Parish Hall

Outreach

- 6** Used Toy Collection 9AM to Noon
- 21** White Gifts are received

Mini Directory

Bell Choir - Cheryl Chiarello

Christian Education - Laura Poethke

Sunday School - Cheryl Chiarello

Finance – Steve Anderson

Financial Secretary – Izzy Rivera

Hospitality – Gunda Simpkins & Leslie Manning

Lunch Bunch - Sheila Powell

Memorial Fund - Louise Sena

Property – Chris Storz & Andy Nelson

Social Ministry - Joan Schnabel

Stewardship - Pastor Harald Peeders

Tidings - Laura Poethke

Youth - Bonnie Mazza

Vacation Bible School - Bonnie Mazza , Debbie Carberry, and
Susan Chiarello

Women's Ministry - Debbie Mayo & Betty Schwoebel

Worship and Music - Walt Mayo

Acolytes - Gunda Simpkins & Julianne Peed

Altar Guild - Terry Tholen

Greeters - Louise Sena

Ushers - Al Brusco & Sheila Powell

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