

TIDINGS

Cluster Meeting - 1/29
Covered Dish Fellowship - 1/31
"Souper Bowl" Sunday - 2/1
Senior's Valentine Brunch - 2/15
Youth "30 Hour Fast" - 2/20, 2/21
Youth Rummage Sale - 2/21
Pancake Supper Fellowship - 2/24
Fastnacht - 2/24
ASH WEDNESDAY - 2/25
New Member Inquirer's Class - 2/22
Tidings deadline - 2/22
Mid-week Lenten Service at Holy Trinity -
3/4

HOLY TRINITY
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Burlington, N.J.

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

February, 2009

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1308 Mt. Holly Road
Burlington, N.J. 08016
609-387-1202
www.holytrinityelc.org

Pastor

Rev. Harald Peeders, S.T.M.
609-747-0181 (PastorPeedershtlc@verizon.net)

Organist

Miss Shirley Worthington
609-291-9083

Choir Director

Rick Krause

Secretary/Church Office

Barbara Faulkner
609-387-1202 (Barbarahtlc@verizon.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
JJ Mazza

Mary Beth McSweeny
Laura Poethke
Izzy Rivera
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

What would a passionately spiritual person do? What would a passionately spiritual congregation do? What would a passionately spiritual pastor or council member look like?

These may seem like strange questions to ask. You're either spiritual or you aren't, right? Well, not exactly. Let me back up a bit.

A little more than a year ago Holy Trinity took part in a congregational health survey called the "Natural Church Development (NCD) Assessment." About 30 Holy Trinity members were surveyed about their church involvement and their perception of the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity. The findings indicate that Holy Trinity is a pretty typical Lutheran congregation. Now, that's not a real exciting revelation. But the details tell the story of a congregation that has good empowering leadership and gift-oriented ministries, inspiring worship services, and loving relationships among us!

We're not really weak in anything, but there's quite a bit of room to grow in a few areas, too. We could be better at reaching out into the community at large. And there is a clear need to expand and deepen participation in small groups. But the area in which Holy Trinity has been working on to improve the most is..."Passionate Spirituality." After one year of focusing on "Passionate Spirituality", may be it's good just to ask once again the basic questions.

What IS Passionate Spirituality, anyway? Did I mention that the NCD tool showed us to be a pretty typical Lutheran Church? Did I mention that most Lutheran congregations using this survey have low "passionate spirituality" scores?

(Continues on the next page.)

Hence the question: What would a spiritually passionate person do in a situation like this? This is a crucial question because, if we can answer it well, we can develop this aspect of our congregation's life together, making us a stronger, healthier, more effective witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, individually and as a church.

According to the NCD materials, "passionate spirituality" involves:

An awareness of my relationship with Christ in daily life;

A practice of spiritual disciplines like Bible Reading, prayer, tithing, and weekly worship;

Opportunities to testify to others in the church about what God is doing in my life;

A devout, vibrant devotional life;

Understanding my spiritual giftedness and serving in those areas of ministry;

A praying congregation; intentional prayer ministries and ministers.

Is all our work and focus helping us grow in our passion for Christ and His gospel? God knows! But we also know that a congregation that is becoming more passionately spiritual will be a congregation made up of members better equipped to introduce their friends and neighbors to the God who created them, loves them, and has a purpose for their lives.

The survey materials invite us to take Romans 12:11-12 to heart: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

You know what? That sounds just like what a passionately spiritual person would do, don't you think?

Angel Food Ministries

What is Angel Food Ministries?

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief to communities throughout the United States. The Angel Food program is currently helping more than a half a million families in 37 states each month!

How is Holy Trinity involved?

Holy Trinity has partnered with another church in town, Destiny Family Worship Center, to bring Angel Food to our friends and neighbors. Destiny has been taking orders for Angel Food for nearly a year, but they don't have a permanent church home. Here at Holy Trinity, we have a large social hall and are centrally located which led to a partnership between the two churches. Not only is Holy Trinity providing the distribution site, but we are taking orders and have volunteers from our church helping on distribution day.

How does it all work?

Angel Food Ministries buys food from suppliers at substantial volume discounts. Families are able to purchase approximately \$65 - \$75 worth of food for \$30. Generally, one box of Angel Food assists in feeding a family of four for about a week, or single senior citizen for almost a month. There is no limit of the number of boxes you may purchase and there are no applications or qualifications necessary to purchase. Each month Angel Food Ministries offers "specialty boxes" of meats, fruits and vegetables that can be purchased in addition to the basic \$30 box. Also, there is a Senior/Convenience Box which contains 10 nutritionally complete meals that just need to be heated then served.

(Continues on the next page.)

When can I purchase the food?

All orders are pre-paid. At Holy Trinity we will take cash orders in-between services two Sundays* of the month. If you wish to pay with food stamps or money orders, you will need to place your order in Burlington City. We can provide the location, days and times that orders are accepted there.

Can I donate to help needy families?

YES! Some members of our congregation have already donated boxes of food and others have given money which we can combine with other donations. Holy Trinity will also be donating one box a month.

Can I volunteer?

Absolutely! We need people to volunteer in all aspects of this ministry. You can volunteer to take orders one or two Sundays a month and/or you can help on distribution day from 9:00 – 11:00.

Where do I get more information?

Stop by the Social Hall on the Sundays we are taking orders or you may call Theresa Vernon, Debbie Mayo, Wayne or Bobbi Goerlich for more information.

*February orders will be taken on February 8 & February 15.
Distribution day is February 28.

CONFERENCE ON CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES

The 20th Annual Conference on Congregational Ministries will be on Saturday, March 28 at Steinert High School in Hamilton Square, N.J. It is a day that Lutherans from all over the state gather to share and learn from each other. Look for workshop information and registration forms coming in early February.

BAPTISMS

1/25 Donato James Perro

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”
(Matthew 18:19)

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 Sharon Shedaker in loving memory of Vernon & Natalie McDougall.

A Woman Explains The Five Finger Prayer

THUMB - “Before I pray, I hold my hand up in front of my face, with my thumb pointing back toward me. The thumb reminds me to pray for those closest to me—my family, my friends, my neighbors.”

INDEX FINGER - “Teachers used to point at us in school, so as I come to this finger, I pray for those who have been my teachers and spiritual leaders.”

MIDDLE FINGER - My middle finger is the largest one. This brings to mind the leaders of our country. So I pray for them.

RING FINGER - The next finger is called the weak finger. When I come to it, I think of the weak, the sick, those who are poor and need help.”

LITTLE FINGER - Coming to the last finger—the little finger—she concludes: “Last is my little finger, which stands for me. That’s when I finish praying for myself and my needs.”

(Source: Anonymous)

Social Ministry Page

- **Souper Bowl Sunday of Caring**

Sunday, February 1st Holy Trinity will join other ELCA congregations in the fight against hunger. Did you know that 38.2 million people out of the 298 million in the U.S.A. go to bed hungry? Or that 1 out of every 8 households in the U.S. has reduced the quality of its diet to utilize money elsewhere, such as rent, clothing, or day care?

Isaiah 58:10 says: “If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.” We are asking everyone who is planning to watch the *Super Bowl* to let their light rise by dropping a dollar or two into our soup bowls for the hungry. Please make a donation to fight hunger here in our own church family.

- **Salvation Army Dress a Bear Program**

This year Holy Trinity dressed 50 teddy bears for the Salvation Army to distribute to disadvantaged children for Christmas gifts. To say thanks, the Salvation Army has sent “Certificates of Appreciation” for all those who took the time dress a bear and make Christmas happier for these children. Certificates will be distributed in the rear of the church after services. Thanks for supporting this program.

Monthly Food Collection

Each month the Social Ministry Committee collects food items such as peanut butter, tuna fish, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, etc. for area homes and food kitchens.

Food donated for the month of January will be given to the Home for Aged Women in Burlington City.

Please leave food donations on the Social Ministry table in the Social Hall on Sunday, February 22nd.

Thanks for your continued support of our food drives.

FROM THE BENCH

HARD TIMES

Every time you turn on the radio, TV, or open the newspaper someone is letting you know we are experiencing “hard times.” “Times are tough.”

For a moment I'd like to focus on the positive side of the life we are privileged to live. I'm talking about all the things God gives us that are free. How about the FREE opportunities we have at Holy Trinity? Fastnacht will soon be here and it is sure to be a night of fun and games. Oh yes, love those pancakes, too! It's FREE. Have you had a chance to attend Pastor's Bible study? It's only an hour, but packed full of history, scripture interpretation and much, much more. And it's FREE. Debbie Mayo and Betty Schwoebel also have two ladies' Bible studies each month. They're FREE. Do you want your children to have a great hour of education and fun? Get them to Sunday School. It's FREE. Would you like those same children to learn basic music skills and how they can enjoy them with other children in a religious setting? Take them to choir practice, or encourage them to play the chimes, or, if they already play an instrument, why not have them get together with their peers and play in church? It's FREE and they would get so much out of it. Are your pre-teens and teens looking for something to do? Try Youth Group. It's FREE. Do you like to socialize? Try volunteering for one of the causes we support – Social Ministry has a list of things to do and could always use an extra hand. The fellowship as they gather to plan events for us to enjoy is wonderful.

Need something to get you out of the doldrums? Make it a point to get to worship service every Sunday. Participate with others as they sing, pray, praise the Lord and give Him all their problems. It's FREE. If you want to help support the church, it is up to you to determine how to do this. There is no admission or club membership to pay.

I have saved the best for last. God gives us His unconditional love now and forever, if we accept it. AND IT'S FREE!!! He will get us through the “hard times.”

Shirley

PARISH NOTES

THANK YOU'S

Dear Holy Trinity Congregation,

Thank you so very much for the wonderful food basket given to me for Christmas. It is greatly appreciated.

Ethel Matz

+++

Dear Members of Holy Trinity,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful gifts you gave our family for Christmas. It was so greatly appreciated and unexpected. Alex was so excited with the toys and gift card. It made our holiday so special.

Thanks and God Bless,
The Csaszar Family

+++

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for my Christmas cookies in the very unique "Cookie house." I know of the time and energy given with so much love and they are delicious.

Sincerely,
Mary Middleton

+++

To Members of Social Ministry,

I would like to thank you for the attractive and delicious gift I received at Christmas. The container is so clever that I will always keep and treasure it. Thank you also for the lovely Christmas cards.

In God's love,
Sophia Heiss

To My Dear Friends at Holy Trinity,

I just wanted to thank everyone for their generosity over Christmas and Thanksgiving. I was worried that I would not be able to provide Christmas for my two sons, but thanks to the wonderful support and generosity that my church family has shown, my boys said that this was the best Christmas that they ever had. I believe this too. I am very thankful for all the support and compassion that all my friends at Holy Trinity have given to me and my family. This has made an impossible time a true blessing. I thank you all.

Mary Ann Alfred

+++

To Pastor Peeders,

Thank you for visiting with me at my home. I look forward to those visits, receiving communion and talking with you. Thank you, too, for the beautiful flowers from the church. Everyone who came for Christmas commented on them, which are still on my dining room table. To the women of the Social Ministry, thank you for the holiday cookies. I enjoyed them very much, and appreciate your thinking of me.

George Kanyuck

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To Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council & Members,

Thank you so much for your Christmas gift! Your love and your Christian charity have been an inspiration to so many in Burlington and grateful people around the world!

Sincerely,
Carl Weber

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Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Luke 18:16

Dear Rev. Peeders,

God bless you. My family and I cannot begin to put into words how much we so deeply appreciate your wonderful, caring and loving gift. From our hearts we thank you and your congregation. Your gift came at such a time that it was so needed. Our son, Chris, is doing much better, although we just learned today that his body is producing far too many red blood cells and we have learned to take one day at a time. There is no doubt that all the prayers from so many people and God watching over Chris and our family has brought us this far. People such as Bill Lawrence and yourself are so special to care and to help. You and yours are always in our prayers. Thank you so much.

Harry, Bettie & Chris Edmiston, Orlando, Florida

To the Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Your generous donation of toys and gifts is sincerely appreciated. Your contribution certainly helped our efforts to provide essential support to those in need in the Camden area. We rely so heavily on the support of caring individuals and organizations to help the homeless and at risk in the Camden area. Your gifts truly made a difference in the lives of our homeless and poverty-stricken population. An ever-increasing proportion of our funding comes from individuals, places of worship and businesses; without this support we could not exist. Without your caring help we could not assist the 100+ persons who come to our doors each day for food, clothing, shelter, referrals, and all sorts of aid. We are truly grateful for the support you provide, through our organization, to the unfortunate members of our society.

With sincere appreciation,

Lee Zandstra, Interim Executive Director

New Visions Community Services of Camden, Inc.

PRAYER LIST

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

Thanks for prayers answered

Edna Graham Family (+), Sara Voza (T), Trish Eaves, Eleanor Thompson, Lillian Cordes, Bentz Family, Sallie Hogeland, Dennis Damm, Baby Estelle, Linda Anderson, Frank Daly, Harold Fawcett, Diane Rogers, Paul Faherty, Jim Halstead, Baby Donato Perro, Janie Scarano, Faye Manilo, Emma Kiesel, Fran DeNucci, Richard Grant, Lois Frazier, Sharon Young, Jeff, Michael, Meredith Farr, Buster Hayes, Tom Roundtree, Diane Stahl, Janet Brusco, Edith Veach, Lisa Sickler, Pat Nagy, Bill Marshall, Jenny, Grace & Don Ryan, Sherry Ferguson, Ralph Notaro, Rusty Notaro, Jennine Lund, Brian Lund, B.J. Lund, Eric Winter, Josie Montgomery, Donnie Borman, Eric Borman, Robert Tipton Family, Tony Gallagher.

Helen Goodlin, Jack Jacob, Seamon Family, Helen & Earl Hillborn, Jane Leiber, John Gramlich Family (+), Family of Janie Scarano, Gale Keohane, Joe Ricci, Janet Kerr, Charlie & Ruth Giberson, Nicole, Sarah, Rhode Island Food for the Poor Mission to Haiti, John Miller, Chip Williams; Bet, John, Ed (T), Janis Greiber, Betty Thompson, Barbara Estano, Margaret Nagle, David Swartz, Jeff Schroder, Sarah Strelsin, Patricia Nelson, Eric & Marie Jaggars, Carla, Walter Goodline, Andy Nelson, Melissa Downing, Family of Robert Irwin Sr. (+), Tipton Family, Kathy Deblaker, Florence Bartolomei, Judy Dillion, McConchacy Family.

Doris Cliver, Family of Kathleen Schneider (+), John Miller Family (+), Donald Eller (+), Carolann (+), Verda Tryon, Wayne Chiodo & Mary, Esther Peeders, Ronnie Hanquist, Jeff & girls, Jack Kane, Ed Shewell, Rachelle & Cassie Beaudwin, Bertha & Bob, Ellie Brusco, Mike Sultzer, Judy Dillion, Natalie Lehrman, Carlos Llames, Mary Ann Alfred, Jarret Beckoff, David Quinn, Kelly Tunney, Meredith Hill, Bob Powell, Dolly McCabe & Family, Allison Marshall, Dorothy Manee, Ester Veselka, Victims of Burlington Fire, Ann Swaboda (+), Coatesville, Pa. Fire Victims, Dean.

Military (M) Deceased (+) Travel (T)

February Calendar Highlights

Worship

- 1** 9AM & 11AM Communion Services “Souper Bowl Sunday”
- 8** 9AM & 11AM Services
- 15** 9AM & 11AM Services “Seniors’ Valentine Brunch”
- 22** 9AM & 11AM Communion Services “Food Collection”
- 25** 7:30PM Ash Wednesday Service

Meetings

- 2** Social Ministry @ 1:00PM
- 2** Evangelism @ 6:59PM
- 3** Worship & Music @ 7:30PM
- 9** Christian Education @ 8:00PM
- 12** Property @ 7:15
- 16** Finance @ 6:45PM
- 16** Church Council @ 7:30PM
- 17** NCD Health Team @ 7:30PM

Fellowship

- 6** Lunch Bunch at the Dolphin Diner @ 12 Noon
- 15** Seniors’ Valentine Brunch
- 24** Fastnacht 6PM Pancakes
- 24** Fastnacht 7PM Party

Adult Study

- 4** “Hannah” @ 10:30AM
- 10** “Lydia” @ 7:00PM
- 22** New Member’s Inquirer’s Class @ 12:30PM

Sunday School

- 1, 8, 15** @ 9AM
- 22** @ 9AM Family Worship with children’s sermon

Communication

- 22** Tidings Deadline

Confirmation Classes

- 2, 9, 23** 7th & 8th Grades @ 6:45
- 16** No Classes

Music Ministry

- 1, 8, 15, 22** Cherubs @ 7PM (Note change to Sunday evenings)
- 5, 12, 19, 26** Adult Choir @ 7PM

Outreach

- 20-21** Youth “30 Hour Famine”
- 21** Youth Rummage Sale for World Vision 9AM – 2PM
- 22** Monthly Food Collection
- 28** Angel Food Ministries

Mini Directory

Bell Choir - Cheryl Chiarello

Christian Education - Laura Poethke
Sunday School - Cheryl Chiarello

Finance - Izzy Rivera

Financial Secretary - Izzy Rivera

Hospitality - Gunda Simpkins & Leslie Manning

Lunch Bunch - Sheila Powell

Memorial Fund - Louise Sena

Music & Worship - Walt Mayo

Property - Chris Storz & Andy Nelson

Social Ministry - Joan Schnabel

Stewardship - Pastor Harald Peeders

Tidings - Laura Poethke

Youth - Bonnie Mazza

Vacation Bible School - Bonnie Mazza & Susan Chiarello

Women's Ministry - Debbie Mayo

Worship & Music - Walt Mayo
Acolytes - Gunda Simpkins
Altar Guild - Terry Tholen
Greeters - Louise Sena
Ushers - Al Brusco & Sheila Powell