

TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2011

A monthly newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church - Greencastle, PA
"Sharing Christ in Word and Deed"

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 & 11 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM

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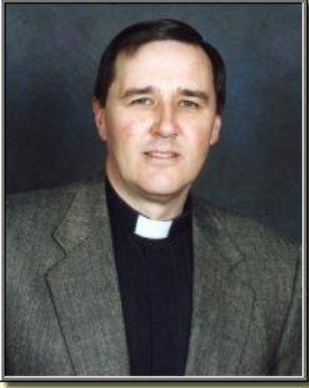
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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

FROM PASTOR BILL



In a conversation the other day someone mentioned the Terror Level Color Chart. You know, the one where we were or are told what color we are at – with red being severe terror threat and green being non-existent. I really only remember two colors since 9/11 – yellow and orange.

Yellow is medium and we would be at that level a good bit of the time and then every so often it would be pushed to orange. And the reason? We never knew – except for “credible evidence” that could not be revealed. Does anyone pay attention to that anymore? Honestly, what were we supposed to do when the color went up? Pull down the blinds and shut the drapes and stay put?

Since Christmas is close, I was wondering what a Holiday Emotional Chart might look like. Maybe yellow is “I’m OK”, red is down in the dumps and green is euphoria. Why I thought about it at Christmas is this -- on a national level, the indicator would run to both opposites. For whatever reason, Christmas brings out the very best emotional feelings in some and the very worst in others.

Goodwill and joy spikes at this time of the year but so does depression and abuse and violence. Christmas will cause us to suddenly feel good about others that we can’t stand the rest of the year. At the same time, domestic abuse, suicides and the like increase at Christmas. Why in the world does that happen? Just because of a holiday? Well, yes.

My take on this is that it exposes our deepest longings in life and the vast emptiness in our hearts left by grief, loneliness or brokenness in life. The irony is that God came to us in Jesus Christ to speak to and deal with all of that and more. But God didn’t give us a holiday as the remedy – God gave us Jesus of Nazareth. A holiday comes and goes. The euphoria evaporates but the emptiness clings to us.

On Christmas Eve we read a few verses from the short book of the Bible, Titus. But these words get to the heart of the issue. *“But when the goodness and*

loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7)

In Jesus, God has drawn as close as God can get – coming to us in human flesh. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Through him we are connected to God. Jesus meets us where we are, most especially he meets us when our Holiday Emotional Chart is on red. Jesus knows our suffering, our sorrow, our grief, our brokenness and our disconnection from God. He doesn’t come to show us how worthless and ungodly we are. He came to meet us in the midst of heartaches and sorrows. He came to die for us, to be raised for us and to live for us. He has the last word over all things including death. And right now he opens our eyes to the love of the God whom we cannot see. He transforms lives and he sets us free to serve Him as we serve others.

There is nothing evil about our celebrations at this time of the year. The Gospels indicate that Jesus enjoyed a good party as much as the next person. And he didn’t really care about whose party it was. He dined with the Pharisees (the ultra-religious) and he dined with people who were known as outsiders and sinners. But Jesus also knew that a party wasn’t any long term answer to the deepest needs of life.

There is nothing evil about gifts and gift-giving, but we get so consumed in possessions that we forget what we really need at Christmas – the gifts Jesus brings to us - forgiveness, peace, worth, and love. As the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, “For you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is both the Messiah and Lord”. He came in the simplicity of being born in the place where animals were kept. He comes to us in the simplicity of bread and wine. A gift with no expiration, no strings attached and it always fits.

God’s richest blessings and his peace be with you!

In Christ,
Pastor Bill DeHass



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Because of the dates of Sundays in December and January, we have modified the worship schedule for the holiday season. For three Sundays we will have one worship service at 10 am.

Sunday December 18 – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 am. Children's Christmas Program.

Saturday December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 7:30 pm.

Sunday December 25 – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 am. Christmas Day Holy Communion

Sunday January 1 – ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 10 am. Service of Holy Communion.

One note – since we are having but one service on these Sundays we will be using the 8:30 am style worship on Christmas Day and the 11 am style worship on New Year's Day.

FINAL FOLLOW-UP FROM COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Since our last report in the newsletter we have received more commitments. Our new total for the next three years is \$245, 224. Again, thanks be to all of you for your faith and your commitment!

As has been reported – we were able to pay off the original mortgage in November. We only had about \$4000 left. From this point on all the gifts to the building fund will go toward the building expansion.

A "mortgage burning" will be celebrated in the very near future!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

The Adult Class will complete the series on Lutheran Basics - The Small Catechism. On December 4 the class will be led by **Seminarian Victoria Larson**. The topic is "The Ten Commandments". On December 11 **Dave Wolfe** will lead the final session with the topic - "The Lord's Supper".

Please remember these people

There are some folks from Trinity that are not able to be with us on Sundays at the present time. We ask that you would remember them with a card, call – and always – in prayer.

Carl Clark
12170 Randy Drive
Greencastle, PA 17225

Helen Clever
Hearthstone Retirement Home
102 S. Potomac
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Betty Goetz
Quincy Home Room 203
6596 Orphanage Road
Waynesboro, PA 17268
(Betty hopes to be home in a few weeks)

Karl Higgins
834 Buchanan Trail East
Greencastle, PA 17225

Jean Jimick
Room 324 Providence Place
2085 Wayne Avenue
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Helen Wingert
The Villiage of Laurel Run
6375 Chambersburg Road
Fayetteville, PA 17222

WORSHIP SCHEDULE – December 2011

Dec 4 Advent 2 - 8:30 & 11 am – Holy Communion
Isaiah 40:1–11 Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13
2 Peter 3:8–15a Mark 1:1–8

Dec 11 Advent 3 -- 8:30 Service of the Word
11 am Holy Communion
Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 John 1:6–8, 19–28

Dec 18 Advent 4 – ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM
Children's Christmas Program
2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 Luke 1:46b–55
Romans 16:25–27 Luke 1:26–38

Dec 24 Christmas Eve - 5 and 7:30 pm
Holy Communion
Isaiah 9:2–7
Titus 3:4–7
Luke 2:1–20

Dec 25 Christmas - ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM
Holy Communion
Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12] John 1:1–14

Normal Sunday Morning Schedule
Worship at 8:30 AM followed by a fellowship time
Sunday School at 10:00 AM
Worship at 11:00 AM

Happy Birthday

For those celebrating birthdays in
December



5 - Sue Wunderlich	15 - Rev. Susan McCarthy
6 - Carolyn Clark	16 - Vonita Bair
7 - Mabel Higgins	18 - Carol Swart
Ginger Shriver	19 - Gust Barbuzanes
8 - Elizabeth Cramer	20 - Doris Burdick
11 - Debbie Gordon	Sarah Wolfe
13 - Dody Clever	22 - Jack Phillippy
Chuck Wunderlich	31 - Joan Hall
14 - Ray Reihart	Annabelle Peake Markey



*Happy Anniversary to those Celebrating
Anniversaries in December*

*1 – Owen and Betty Henry
 Doug and Rhonda Swart
11 – Carl and Carolyn Clark
13 – Robert and Betty Goetz*

YOUTH GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

THE JR./SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP is still selling continuous discount cards that include discounts from 17 local businesses. This money goes to pay for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2012. They have been reduced to \$2.00 each and are good until December 31, 2011. See Cameron, Megan, Rachele, Andy or Don for your discount card today!

They are also having a Sheetz FUNdraiser: Christmas is quickly approaching. Let the youth help you with your shopping Stuff lots of stockings with Sheetz coupon booklets. There is a Sheetz on almost every corner or every part of town. These coupons are good at ANY Sheetz store for two years. Cost per booklet \$10.00 for over \$25 worth of items!

What coupons are in the books?

Free M•T•O® item, Buy One Get One Free M•T•go!® Sandwich or Parfait, Free M•T•O® Breakfast Sandwich, Free Bag of Fryz, Free Hot Dog (2), Free Specialty Coffee, Buy One Get One Free Nutz, Free Self-Serve Brewed Coffee or Fizz City® Fountain Drink (2), Free Sheetz Donut, Buy One Get One Free Nova Blue® Bottled Water.

The group meets the first Sunday of each month at Trinity from 5-7 p.m. and the third Sunday at Evangelical from 5-7 p.m.

LITTLE LAMBS YOUTH GROUP - Parents - here is a list of dates, times and programs for the Little Lambs December through February. All children K-6 are welcomed to attend.

December 18th - Take crafts to Luther Ridge and sing Christmas carols. Check with Deb Cline for times.

January 15th - Start of the SOUPER BOWL...3-5 p.m.

February 19th - Bowling (time and place to be decided).

**AROUND THE CHURCH
DECEMBER 2011**

- 1- Praise Band – 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice – 6:45 p.m.
Hand Chime Choir – 8:00 p.m.
- 3 – Advent Potluck Dinner and Decorating – 5:30 p.m.
- 4 - Worship with Holy Communion – 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Annual Congregational Meeting
Fellowship time
Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.
Jr/Sr. High Youth Group at Trinity – 5-7 p.m.
- 5 – Mutual Ministry Meeting – 2:00 p.m.
- 6 – Outreach Committee – 2:00 p.m.
- 7 - Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 - Praise Band – 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice – 6:45 p.m.
Hand Chime Choir – 8:00 p.m.
- 11 - Worship – Service of the Word – 8:30 a.m.
Fellowship time following worship
Harvest Committee Meeting – 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.
Worship with Holy Communion – 11 a.m.
- 13 –Youth Committee – 6:15 p.m.
Christian Ed. – 7:00 p.m.
- 14 – Greencastle Homemaker’s Group – 9:00 a.m.
- 15 - Praise Band – 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice – 6:45 p.m.
Hand Chime Choir – 8:00 p.m.
- 17 –Rehearsal for Christmas Program – 10 a.m. – 12 Noon
- 18 –Worship– **10:00 a.m.**
Youth’s Christmas Program –One Service only
Fellowship time following worship
No Sunday School
Little Lambs –to Luther Ridge
Jr/Sr. High Youth Group at Evangelical - 5-7 p.m.
- 22 – Praise Band – 5:00 p.m.
Choir Practice – 6:45 p.m.
Hand Chimes – 8:00 p.m.
- 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.
- 25 - Worship – Service of the Word – **10:00 a.m.**
One Service only. No Sunday School
- 31 – Wedding – Elizabeth Marsh and Charlie Ford

AA Meetings are held every Monday and Friday nights at 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room.

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR DECEMBER

The Special Appeal for December is designated for Women In Need. If you desire to make a monetary donation, please mark your envelope for Special Appeal or use the white envelope in the pew rack and mark it “Special Appeal”.

Worship Assistants for December

8:30 AM

Lay Readers:

- 4 – Dave Wolfe
- 11 – Carol Swart
- 18 – Don Swart
- 25 – Rob Marsh

Ushers:

- 4 – Richard Miller and Darrell Swart
- 11 – Don Swart and Dave Wolfe
- 18 – Bruce DeMaster and Bud Wolfe
- 25 – Andy and Rachelle Gehr

Acolytes:

- 4 – Faith Miller
- 11 – Conner Cline
- 18 – Logan Cline
- 25 – Cameron Schroy

Greeters:

- 4 – Ralph Burdick and Peggy Eichelberger
- 11 – Charles and Nancy Freshman
- 18 – Gust and Mimi Barbuzanes
- 25 – Jack and Nancy Dunn

Nursery

- 4 – Linde Cessna and Nancy Freshman
- 11 – Jen Barbuzanes and Deb Cline
- 18 – The McKenzie Family
- 25 – Mary Thomas and Sarah Wolfe

Communion Presenters:

- 4 – Doris Burdick, Evelyn Pensinger and Donna Wolfe
- 18 – Dave, Stacie and Sarah Wolfe

Communion Assistants:

- 4 –Tracye McKenzie, Cheri Roth and Bud Wolfe
- 18 – Doris and Ralph Burdick and Donna Wolfe
- 25 – Richard Miller – One Service at 10:00 a.m.

11:00 A.M. Service

Ushers

- 4 – Dot Potter
- 11 - Dale Thatcher

Communion Assistants:

- 4 – Cameron Schroy
- 11 – Victoria Larson

POINSETTIAS



Poinsettias will be placed in the church during the Christmas season to fill the Poinsettia tree. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please complete the order form located on the table in the

Fellowship room or on the Welcome Table or you can call the church office at 597-9348. Return forms to Donna Wolfe with your cash or check, made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, in the envelope provided. The cost is \$10.00 each. The poinsettias will be placed in the church on December 11th. Place your orders as soon as possible.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET

The Lutheran Church Women will hold their annual Christmas banquet on Wednesday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. at Casey's Grill (across from Pizza Hut), in Greencastle. All women in the church are invited to attend. Each person will order from the menu. If interested, you are asked to bring a \$10 gift to exchange. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to attend or call the church office.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

WE NEED PEOPLE to provide snacks and cold drinks for Sunday morning fellowship time. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship room if you or a couple people would be willing to provide snacks. If you are providing snacks, please either refrain from items with peanut butter or nuts or mark the items. We have several members who have allergies to these foods.

NURSERY HELPERS NEEDED

People to care for small children in the church's nursery during worship. Two people are assigned to the nursery each week. Please see Donna Wolfe if you are able to help.

ITEMS TO SAVE

Please continue to save postage stamps. The "Stamps for Missions" program is ongoing. One pound of stamps provides a Bible for someone. When you cut them leave about 1 inch around each stamp. Please continue to save your used cell phones, ink cartridges, Campbell soup labels and General Mills Box Tops for Education. There is a box in the kitchen for all these items. Thanks to all!

CHAMBERSBURG CONFERENCE NEWS

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT LUTHER RIDGE

Join Luther Ridge this December for our holiday tours showcasing four distinct cottage styles. With maintenance-free living and an abundance of amenities and services, we've wrapped up the perfect retirement lifestyle for you! The tours will be held on Wednesday, December 7 at 2:00 PM at the Fleck Center. Call Lizzie at 267-1665 to make your reservation or for more information.

WELLNESS TALK AT LUTHER RIDGE

Lutheran Home Care & Hospice will give a Health & Wellness talk on Thursday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. at The Fleck Center at Luther Ridge. The program is free of charge and open to anyone in the community. No registration is required. The topic is Fibromyalgia

Join Lutheran Home Care & Hospice to find out how fibromyalgia can affect you and interfere with the joys of daily living. Find out the top ten ways to ease nighttime pain and get the rest you need for a great day. What is fibromyalgia? How can I exercise when I am in so much pain? Where does depression fit in with fibromyalgia?

CHURCH DAY BUFFET

Members of our congregation and their friends are invited to the Church Day Buffet at the Fleck Center at Luther Ridge on Wednesday, December 14 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. The menu for October is Creamed Lettuce, Cornflake Chicken, Oven Fried Potatoes, Baked Corn, Dessert and Beverage. Cost for the buffet is \$6 per person. To reserve your place, please call 264-5700.