



# HiLites Newsletter

Boonsboro, MD 21713

[www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org](http://www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org)

## Pastor's Corner

### "Gifts Given, Gifts Received"

According to St. Paul, our Lord Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). I am sure you have experienced the blessing Jesus is referring to - the blessing you realize as you give a gift to another person. Remember, for instance, that special gift you bought for your lover. It cost more money than you expected to spend, but you knew how deeply he or she would rejoice in receiving it. So you bought it, and even as you made the monetary transaction, you began to rejoice inside, anticipating your lover's delight in the gift. That's a blessing.

Likewise, you can remember being the recipient of a very special gift. And likewise, you have felt that joy well up inside you when your lover presented you with the gift. The gift was a blessing - but the deeper blessing was what the gift represented - the love that someone had for you.

Gifts given, gifts received, are not for lovers only. Gifts signify and bring joy to us as kids, parents, friends and neighbors - and even, I am happy to say, as pastors and parishioners. Before I became a pastor, I never expected that this blessing of giving and receiving would take place in ministry. But it does, and receiving gifts as a pastor does the same for me as receiving gifts as a father, husband, friend or neighbor.

Let me explain. For the first seven years of my ministry as a pastor, there were not many gifts to go around. I struggled in my first congregation. There was division and suspicion, and I didn't seem to be able to make any helpful changes in that place. It seemed there were very few gifts being given or received there. I remember coming home from church on many Christmas Eves tired and depressed, and just glad that the service was over and I was home.

What a surprise it was on Christmas Eve at my second call. When the church service was over and I was taking my robes off, the president of the congregation came into my office and handed me an envelope. In it was a Christmas card and several hundreds of dollars. Unbeknownst to me the congregation had taken up a special offering and presented it to me as a Christmas present. I know Jesus says it is more blessed to give - but let me tell you - it was a wonderful blessing to receive such a generous surprise that evening. Vickie and I had little kids at home, and like any young family, we put that gift to use very quickly. But the deeper

blessing of course was what the card and hundreds of dollars signified; wonderful people cared about us and received us into their fellowship. And they wanted us to know they loved us, so they did for us what they did for the other people they loved - they gave us a special gift.

Not all congregations do this. I have served four congregations as pastor. Three of the four have let me know of their love for me every Christmas by these special gifts. I want to say thank you - not only for the gift Trinity's president Chip Rockwell gave me on your behalf at Christmas this year, but for what it means to me and Vickie. Thank you for receiving me and my family into your midst. Thank you for your love. I know our time together is temporary, and that is the way it should be, but I want you to know that I enjoy ministering to you and I love and care for you too. I was blessed to receive your gift. I hope and pray that you will be blessed in my time with you.

Pastor Ron

PS - It was also a delight to walk into the Pastor's Office on the Sundays of Advent, because each Sunday there was some kind of special surprise gift sitting on my desk just waiting for me to discover (and devour). For all the food gifts - I and my family give you thanks. Thank you everyone.

## TRINITY HI-LITES "ABOUT US"

Published by:

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

64 South Main Street

Boonsboro, Maryland 21713

Office Phone - 301-432-2226

Pastor's Cell/Home - 304-561-4482

Pastor's e-mail: ronschlakjr@aol.com

e-mail: [hello@trinitylutheranboonsboro.org](mailto:hello@trinitylutheranboonsboro.org)

Web site: [www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org](http://www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org)

Pastor: The Rev. Ron Schlak

Editors: Mrs. Susan Brown

The Rev. Ron Schlak



The following members and friends of Trinity were included in our prayer list during January:

Pam Weaver	Karen Saylor
Kristi Lescalet	Leonard Summers
Dixie Patton	Jean Carr
Gene Walter Lewis	Peggy Costion
Jim Everline	Mary Wolfe
Andrew Himes	Rose Popovich
Rose Sours	Barbara Douglas
Bill Hughes	Martha Harshman
Jeff Stewart	Lori McLaughlin
JoAnn Plicta	Declan Bennett
Don Hair	Sarah Ellis
Levi Vance	Sandy Powell
Brady Crawford	Lucy Eshelman
Jean McCammon	Betty Swain
Chris Kalmasy	Angy Kalmasy
Katie Kalmasy	Mike Flores
Pam Weaver	Dylan Starkey
Rose Marie Ciprich	Laura McDermitt
Karen Cunnginham	Richard Bennett

### ATTENTION

Announcements for the bulletin must be submitted to the church office **NO LATER** than **9:00 Friday morning**.

Newsletter articles should be submitted into the church office **NO LATER** than the **20th of the month**.



### February Birthdays

Feb. 1	Karen Cunningham
3	William Dellinger
6	Robert Glausier
6	Amy Landsman
6	Elaine Scrivener
7	Joseph Donovan
10	Douglas May
10	Jason McElroy
10	Joseph O'Brien
11	Matthew Bikle
12	Larry Dalton
13	Kenneth Hoffman
14	Peggy Beeler
14	Laura McElroy
16	Lucy Eshelman
17	Jean Bridges
17	Stephanie Holder
17	Julie Seabright
18	Klaire Williams
19	Margaret Bidle
21	Tuba Greenfield
21	Laurie Metz
22	John Talley
24	John Everline
26	J. Gilbert Everline
26	Jacob Rockwell
26	Lisa Talley

### SECRETARY AND PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday	9:00 AM - Noon
Friday	9:00 AM - Noon



### FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

Feb. 5

Feb. 12

Feb. 19

Feb. 26

TAKEN

The above dates are open for flowers to be placed on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one. Flowers and appropriate greenery add a great deal to the beauty of our church.



## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Bible Study meets in the parsonage at 8:00 AM each month on the first and third Sundays. We meet on February 5 & 19. We always have room around the table for a few more men. Join us as we gather over pastries and coffee to discuss scripture.



### Joyful Noise Choir

Children ages 3 and older are encouraged to participate in the Joyful Noise choir. We practice the last 15 minutes of Sunday school and sing to the congregation on the 4th Sunday of each month. Any questions, please call **Jen Poffenberger** at **301-432-0456**.



Our Children's Church Program at Trinity is a wonderful ministry to our young people ages 4 through grade 3. Children's church is offered the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month as part of our worship service. Volunteers are needed! Please consider leading two Sundays a month so that we are able to continue this ministry. Thanks so much!



### NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Feb 5	Theresa Foster
Feb 12	Julie Hartman
Feb 19	Andrea Smith & Jean McCammon
Feb 26	Jennifer Poffenberger

Please be considerate to others when placing your children in the nursery during worship time. The nursery is for children age infant to 4 years old children 5 and older should not be in the nursery. Thank you for your cooperation to ensure our little ones are properly cared for.



**First Friday Fellowship  
Friday, February 3rd at 5:30 PM**

Enjoy a steamer and your favorite side dishes. Following the meal, Pastor Ron will share a few stories from his cross-country bike ride.

RSVP by Thursday, February 2nd at noon.  
kristyathome@hotmail.com or 240-285-8894.

**There will be no First Friday in March due to the Family Fun Night on March 4<sup>th</sup>.**



The Prime Timers is Trinity's fellowship group for ANYONE available during the day to get together with other folks for a meal or to take an excursion to a local (and sometimes not so local) attraction. Our next event is a covered dish meal at 12:00 PM on Wednesday, February 15. We ask you to sign up on the sheet of paper in the church narthex to bring a main dish, side or dessert. Beverages are provided. Join us for good conversation and great food!



**THANK YOU** to the wonderful people who helped sew and make almost 100 mission bags. They will go with the people who are traveling to the Nicaraguan Mission in late February. We had a neat group of people sewing ages 19 to 86 and lots of fun too. Thanks! Elaine Scrivener.



**Family Fun Night Fundraiser  
Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>**

We're changing it up! Instead of a chili cook off, we'll hold a family fun night. Enjoy pulled pork barbecue and a pot-luck of the congregation's best comfort food. Live entertainment and an auction, too! Tickets go on sale February 1<sup>st</sup> and will be \$5 each in advance and \$8 at the door.

Plan now to bring a dish, entertain the crowd, and/or donate a special item to the auction. Proceeds will support the purchase of portable sound equipment for our music ministries.



# ANNUAL MEETING

TRINITY'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place immediately after worship service on **Sunday, February 26**. There will be a dinner in the Social Hall after the meeting in the sanctuary. The Council will provide fried chicken, rolls, and beverages for the luncheon. We ask everyone planning to attend to bring a **potato, pasta, or rice dish; vegetable or other casserole, salad, fruits, cheese plates, or desserts**. This meeting is an opportunity to review the treasurer's reports and committee reports for 2016 and to discuss program ideas for this calendar year. Please come and be involved! We plan on seeing you all there February 26.



The Boonsboro Cemetery Association will hold its yearly meeting in the Social Room at **3:00 PM on Sunday, February 26**. The members of Trinity's Congregation Council are members of the Association and asked to make every effort to attend this important meeting.



## Four Fast Family Meals Take 3

Cooking classes on Tuesday nights in March. \$75 includes the class and most ingredients to make the dishes at home. Please see Kristy Smith to register. Space is limited. [kristyathome@hotmail.com](mailto:kristyathome@hotmail.com) or 240-285-8894.



## New Council Officers

The church council met in January and elected the following people as officers for the year 2017: Susan Layos - president, Karen Tribett - vice president, Theresa Foster - secretary, John Talley - treasurer, Christina McClellan & Tony Nally - financial secretaries.

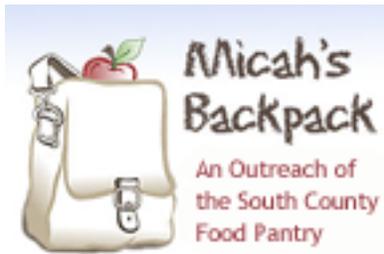
## CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The announcement of the cancellation of Sunday school and/or worship services due to snow or ice can be heard on the following radio stations:



WCRH (90.5 FM)  
WJEJ (1240 AM)

WFRE (99.9 FM)



The steering committee for the Micah's Backpack program countywide is looking for ways to help the 465 transitional/homeless students in this county. (Statistics provided by the Board of Education as of 11-14-16.) They are classified as transitional because they have no permanent residence. Of those 465 students, 226 are Elementary school age and are presumably being taken care of by the current Micah's Backpack program. The remaining 239 middle and high school students are not currently being assisted. In talking with Kathy Powderly from the steering committee, she revealed that these students are homeless for a variety of reasons including abusive / dysfunctional home lives.

After learning of these statistics at our last Micah's community meeting, we inquired about how many of these students were at Boonsboro Middle and High school and learned that there were a total of 15 at both schools. We expressed an interest in helping them and was told that they were working on a program. At a more recent Micah's steering committee meeting they decided that they would like to start a pilot program at the schools with the most need. Those schools are South Hagerstown High School with 51 students and E. Russell Hicks Middle School with 20 students. We were asked to participate in that pilot program.

Beginning February 1st, we will be packing 20 bags for delivery to E. Russell Hicks. A small pantry has been established in the area behind and to the left of the stage area. Packing will be done on Wednesday evenings in the social room by various youth groups, including Trinity's.

Jerry and Cathy Landsman have graciously agreed to deliver the bags after delivering 13 bags to Rockland Woods Elementary. Thanks Jerry and Cathy! Thanks to all the youth groups who have enthusiastically embraced this project. Thanks to all of the members of Trinity for your continued support of this ministry.

If you would like to make food donations, we could use jars of peanut butter, 15 oz cans of any pasta, and canned vegetables. Cans with pop-tops are preferable when available. Please leave donations either in the kitchen or on the food pantry cart beside our freezer off the social room, as we keep track of all donations to the Micah's Backpack program.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Blessings,  
Lisha Bikle



### **PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT**

If a loved one is admitted to the hospital and you wish Pastor Ron to visit, please let him know that your loved one is in the hospital.

Call him on his cell phone at 304-561-4482. He would love to visit any patient in the hospital but needs to know they are there!



A Taize style prayer service will be held at St. James Catholic Church in Boonsboro on **Friday, February 24, at 7:00 PM.** This candlelit service is intended to help people calm the distractions in their minds so they can listen closely to the Holy Spirit. During the service, passages of scripture are read slowly, simple Christian songs are sung, periods of silence take place, and some prayers are said. It's a powerful way to pray corporately and privately at the same time. The service will be held on the fourth Friday of every month throughout the year. St James is located at **121 N. Main St. in Boonsboro.**



Do you want to schedule the social room or other space at Trinity for a church-related or family activity or an event for an organization to which you belong? To schedule an event, contact the church office, Steve Jamison or Pastor Ron. The master event calendar is kept electronically through Google calendar. Before you contact the office, you may view the Google calendar at [www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org](http://www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org).

Click "home" at the top of the page to make certain you are on the home page then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Calendar - See What's Happening at Trinity". This takes you to the Google calendar and you will be able to scroll through the entire year to find available dates.

Knowing Trinity's schedule in advance will help you plan your events! We try to keep the calendar up-to-date as best we can! Please tell us if you see obsolete information on the calendar.



**Singing For Our Lives**  
**A Women's Retreat led by Rev. Karen Brau and Amanda Weber March 24-26.**

Our very beings were created to be instruments, but what songs do we sing? Join us as we gather a group of women around scripture, music and narrative, seeking empowerment through both our own and communal voices. Together, we will spend the time reflecting and creating, honoring music of the past and creating a songbook for our lives. Go to [mlr@ar-lu-ridge.org](mailto:mlr@ar-lu-ridge.org) or call 800-238-9974.



**Mar-lu-Ridge Summer 2017 Registration is Open!**

Are you ready for the best week of your summer? We have camps for any interest: Horseback, Hammock, Night Owls, Sports, Wild and Crazy, Arts, Cooking, Makers, and so much more! Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp offers Day and Residential camp opportunities for ages 6-17, plus Family Camp and Grand Adventure. Register before February 18 to take advantage of our Early Bird Discount!

**Open House Dates: A great way to see the camp and meet staff!**  
**March 26, April 30, May 21.**  
**Agape Hall 2-4:30 pm**

Visit [www.mar-lu-ridge.org](http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org) to view the brochure and choose your camp today.



# The Bulletin Board

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Adult Choir 7 PM Support Group	2 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA Meeting	3 5:30 - 7:00 pm First Friday Gathering	4
5 8 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM Worship w/Communion - 11:30 AM	6	7 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class	8 7 PM Contemporary Choir 7 PM Support Group	9 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah's Backpack 7 PM AA Meeting	10	11
12 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM Contemporary Worship	13	14 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class 7 PM Church Council	15 Noon - Prime Timers 3 PM Girl Scouts 4 PM LEO meets in Social Room 7 PM Adult Choir 7 PM Support Group	16 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA Meeting	17	18
19 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship Children's Church.	20	21 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class	22 7 PM Adult Choir 7 PM Support Group	23 1-3 PM Food Pantry & Micah's Backpack 7 PM AA Meeting	24	25
26 9 AM SCS - 10:15 AM worship Children's Church/ Joyful Noise Choir - Children's Church Congregational Meeting following Worship 3 PM Boonsboro Cemetery Assoc	27	28 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class				

