

PASTOR'S DESK

I hope you and your family have Advent and Christmas family rituals. For the longest time, a cherish Advent ritual in our house was the after-supper lighting of our Advent candle and the reading of seasonal devotional material. The entire family looked forward to this time around the supper table.

Another Christmas activity I still enjoy is watching the George C. Scott version of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol. Jesus is in this film in the person of the Christmas spirits and the effect they have upon Scrooge. For me, this film is the heart of the Christmas message. The season is about love and how we experience a love that comes to us regardless of our unworthiness to receive this life-giving gift. Every significant thing that happens in the film is about the making and preserving of relationships. Scrooge does a poor job of relationships; he cuts himself off from every significant person in his life until he is left alone and lonely. It is the spirits of Christmas past, present and future which come to him as a gift, against his will and certainly not of his choosing, who break his hardened shell of "self" and open him up to the possibility of this love.

Jesus had this same effect upon people during his earthly ministry. He helped the sinner and outcast experience themselves as God's precious children. He broke the shell of the self-righteous and arrogant so they could more properly understand themselves as in need of this freely offered love. Jesus' ministered to people to transform them and restore them.

This is the power of Christmas. Jesus, as little baby and crucified man, has the power to transform our closed-in selves that we might live joyfully and lovingly in this world. I pray that you experience the power of this gift this season and throughout the year. May God change each of us to become like Jesus.

*Love,
Joe*

TRINITY HI-LITES "ABOUT US"

First Edition

December 2015

Published by:

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Editors: Mrs. Susan Brown

Mr. Ross Cunningham



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

Emily Saylor	Karen Saylor
Amanda Ales	April Ellis
Elouise Himes	Lorraine & Don Hair
Steve Riddle	Rick Moser
Carol Holman	Lena May Itnyre
Sam Neubauer	Marsha Leach
Bill Beer	Jeff Himes
Scott Auby	Linda Fizer
Nelson Semler	Esther Semler
Jean Carr	

ATTENTION

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

Newsletter article should be submitted into the church office **NO LATER** than the **15th of the month**.

SECRETARY AND PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM – Noon



December Birthdays

Dec.	1	Arthur Poffenberger
	3	Parker DeBaugh
	4	Emma Smith
	5	Alexandra Bowl
	5	Mark Poffenberger
	5	Louise Richardson
	6	Theresa Foster
	7	Katie Clevenger
	8	Joshua Bikle
	8	Bryce Davis
	9	Christine Fazenbaker
	13	Brody Norris
	13	Carter Norris
	16	Cathy Beachley
	16	Jacob McElroy
	17	Roxanne Coe
	19	Bob Harshman
	21	Brandi Hutchinson
	22	Rebecca Crawshaw
	22	Tony Nally
	23	Janice Gantz
	23	Jeanette Richmond
	26	Benjamin Otto
	27	Owen Smith

Do you want to use the social room for a church, community or personal family activity? Contact the church office at 301-432-2226 or email Pastor Donovan at pastortrinity@yahoo.com for permission.

Worship schedule for December:

Nov 29 First Sun. of Advent with Holy Communion
Dec 6 Second Sun. of Advent - Contemporary Service
Dec 13 Sunday School Christmas Program and party
Dec 20 Fourth Sun. of Advent
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service **7:00 PM** with Holy Communion
Dec 27 First Sun. of Christmas – Service of Lessons and Carols



DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 6	Bikle
Dec. 13	Smith
Dec. 20	Hutchinson\
Dec. 27	

The above dates are for flowers to be placed on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one. The 2016 Flower Calendar is on the podium in the narthex. Persons wishing to place flowers on the altar may fill in the spaces for their Sunday so that the secretary can have their dedication in the bulletin. any questions--- phone Karen Cunningham*** 301-797- 8274

As Altar Guild chair, I would like to thank the individuals and families who placed flowers on Trinity's altar this past year. Your flowers truly added beauty and life to our altar and services. Please know that I appreciated your generous gift to Trinity.

Sincerely,
Karen Cunningham,
Altar Guild Chair



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 3rd and 4th Sunday's of the month as part of our 10:15 A.M. worship service. Volunteers are needed! A sign- up sheet with the month's still needing volunteers will be available when picking your child up from children's church. Please consider leading two Sunday's a month so that we are able to continue this ministry. Thanks so much!

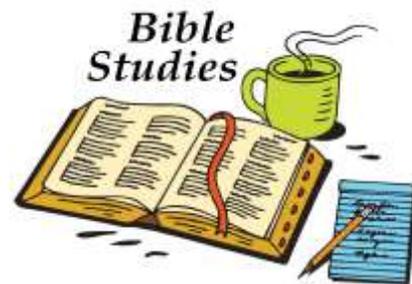


Joyful Noise Choir

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.**



The Men's Bible Study meets in the Funk Education Center on Sunday, December 6 & December 20 at 8:00 AM. Join us for this very meaningful opportunity for fellowship and study.



SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

God's Yellow Pages The sessions of this Bible study peruse Scripture for spiritual guidance for all types of emotions, circumstances, characteristics and situations that Christians experience or encounter. We will meet from 7:00-8:00 PM on December 3. The study will be conducted in an informal, conversational manner with emphasis on group participation. Those interested in joining are invited to join us in the lounge.



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2016 will soon be available in alphabetical order on the table in the education wing. Please look for the envelopes in the near future and stop by and pick up your set of envelopes.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT

For quite a while now, Meritus Medical Center has NOT informed area clergy when one of their parishioners is hospitalized. The only way clergy can know of a patient admission is for the pastor to physically go to the hospital and check the clergy information available at the information desk or for you to call the pastor and inform him. If one of your loved ones is admitted to the hospital and you wish Pastor Joe to visit, please let him know IMMEDIATELY that your loved one is in the hospital. Please call him on his cell phone, 240-675-1604. He would love to visit any patient in the hospital but needs to know they are there!



Prime Timers will have a luncheon at noon in the social room on Wednesday, December 2. We ask folks interested in attending to sign the interest sheet on the podium in the narthex and indicate if you will bring a main course, side dish or dessert. You do not need to be retired or a seasoned senior to participate in this festive occasion. Please join us!!

**Advent Family Gathering
Sunday, December 6 1-4 pm**

Bring your family and friends and start a new tradition! Enjoy the warmth of our woodstoves and campfires, create some holiday crafts for your home, make a beautiful wreath with greens from the property and fellowship over a delicious meal in Agape Hall.

The cost is \$7/adult - \$3/youth ages 3-11 - Children under 3 are free

Please RSVP by December 1: mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org 800.238.9974

Note: Please bring your own wire and wire wreath frames, all other supplies included in the cost.



Gaggle Gathers to Giggle

The Gaggle will celebrate Christmas with dinner out at the Braddock Inn on Tuesday, December 1st. Women ages 18-105 are welcome to come along. Cost is generally around \$25 per person and includes dinner, soft drinks and gratuity. Space is limited, so please let Kristy Smith know as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

If you are on Facebook and would like to be added to the Gaggle page, please let Kristy know. We wouldn't want you to miss any scoop!



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) WFRE (99.9 FM)
WJEJ (1240 AM)

FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP FOR DECEMBER

First Friday in December will actually be on the second **Friday, December 11, 2015** in conjunction with the children's Christmas pageant rehearsal. We will be having a taco bar. Those planning to attend are strongly encouraged to RSVP with the number of eaters and what you might contribute to the meal. Contact Kristy Smith at kristyathome@hotmail.com or leave a message at 240-285-8894.



COMMUNITY TRAINING EVENT

The Washington County Health Department will offer a one hour course to train individuals to recognize people in the midst of a heroin overdose and to administer to them a life-saving drug called Naloxone. This course is **free** and is offered to the public. The course will be held in **Trinity Lutheran's social room from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9**. To enroll, please contact Pastor Joe by phone or send him an email indicating your interest in taking the course and include your name, phone number and email address. You must be at least 18 years old to enroll in the course. If youth and adults are informed about the heroin epidemic in Washington County and provided with a few tools to address it, we can make a difference and save lives.



We have started our Toys for Tots Program in Washington County. Please donate; we need your help. Please place your new, unwrapped toys into the box in the corner of the social room. Last year we provided toys to more than 3,700 verified needy children in 900 families in Washington County. The need may be greater this year. Thank you for your help in the past.



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 Donovan. The master event calendar is kept electronically through Google calendar. Before you contact the office, you may view the Google calendar at Trinity's web page at <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!



WOW! Christmas Season is fast approaching, so tune up those voices for Christmas caroling. We will lead carols for the Olde Time Christmas Celebration on December 4th and visits to other locations during the season. If you are interested in joining us watch for announcements in the bulletins or contact Barbara Holder at 301-432-8933, bholder@myactv.net



Cookie Walk 2015

**Ready for another Cookie Walk?
Bakers will be needed!**

The annual Cookie Walk to support Micah's Backpack is on again for the Christmas season. The Cookie Walk will be in the social room of Trinity and we need bakers again. The date is **Dec. 5, 2015**. The time is **10 am - 4pm**. Start thinking of baking those delicious cookies and bars, now for that event. Contact Melissa Schwalbe at mashogan@myactv.net or **240-469-4569** for information.



COUNCIL DINNER MEETING

As has become our custom the past few years, the December council meeting, on **Tuesday, December 8**, will be a Christmas party/dinner/organizational meeting. The dinner begins at **6:00 p.m.** in the social room. **All 2015 council members and the newly elected members are invited to attend.** Following the meal, we conduct our December council meeting.



If you wish to contribute a monetary Christmas gift to Pastor Joe, please place your gift into the offering plates in a brown envelope and mark Christmas gift for Pastor Joe. We will receive these gifts from now until Dec. 20.



LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

Rehearsals are beginning for the Christmas program, so it is essential that your child comes to Sunday school so that we can practice our lines and songs during that time. This year we are including any extra talents that the children want to share with the congregation, so please encourage your child to share.

If you could send an email to cinhutch@myactv.net, and verify that your children want to participate and will be there on **Friday, December 11th** and especially **Sunday December 13th** for the program during worship service that would be helpful. Once again, the First Friday meal will be held on **Friday, December 11th** right before our dress rehearsal. More information will be forth coming.

We are currently looking for a big pair of angel wings and a black hooded cape to be used as costumes for the program that we can borrow. Please let us know via email at cinhutch@myactv.net or call **301-432-2602**.

Merry Christmas



Join us to celebrate Christmas at our Christmas Eve service. The Christmas Eve service begins at 7:00 p.m. The festival service includes favorite Christmas carols and Holy Communion. Please join us to celebrate Christ's birth.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Every year we like to decorate the chancel with lovely poinsettias for the Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 21) and Christmas Eve. If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church for a loved one, order it from your favorite florist and have it delivered to the church by **1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19**. We would like for them to have **green foil** and a red ribbon. The color of the flower may be red, white or pink (red preferred!).

Please have your dedication information to Susan by **Wednesday, December 16**, so that it can be ready for the Christmas bulletin. If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Karen Cunningham @ 301-797- 8274**.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Everyone is invited to attend!!!!
Immediately following the

Christmas program on Sunday, December 13th the Sunday School classes will be hosting a Birthday Party for Jesus. We will enjoy a mini luncheon together provided by the Sunday school classes. If you would like to contribute something but don't attend Sunday school items such as cheese and crackers, vegetables and dip, meatballs, mini sandwiches, fruit etc. would be graciously accepted.

We will conclude the party by singing Happy Birthday to Jesus.



REACH

Fall is upon us. The days are getting shorter, the air is turning cooler and soon we will be snuggling in our warm homes as the weather turns from cool to freezing. For the homeless of Washington County there is no warm home and they will be coming to the REACH Cold Weather Shelter seeking shelter and a hot meal. Now is the time to renew our commitment to this ministry. The shelter will open on Sunday, October 25th. Gene and I are the coordinators for the week of **Dec 20-27**. Last season, Trinity provided coverage at the shelter for three evenings. This included the evening meal, coverage for all volunteer positions (check-in, intake, laundry assistance, hospitality) and donations of time, food, snacks, handmade hats and scarves, and prayers. Several members of the contemporary choir came to sing and some volunteers came back on other evenings to help. This season, Trinity has again agreed to cover three evenings. The tentative days are Dec 20, 21 and 22. The Trinity Youth are providing volunteers and the meal for Sunday, Dec 20th. If you are interested in volunteering your time by helping to organize one of the meals on Dec 21 or 22, or if you are interested in helping in one of the positions, please see Jane or Gene Walkley or call Jane at 240-675-6781.

High school youth interested in attending Roadtrip 2016 should contact Jennifer Poffenberger at her email jenjpbaskets@aol.com or call 301-988-6626.

January 22-24, 2016

[Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel](#)

Ocean City, MD

2016 Registration opens October, 2015

Bring your High School youth for a weekend of service projects, faith-filled discussions, and relationship-building in small groups. **RoadTrip** includes workshops and networking for adults, as well as opportunities to worship with brothers and sisters in Christ from throughout our Synod. Come make new friends and renew friendships with attendees from throughout our synod! You're invited to learn how God is speaking to and through you – to the world.



MISSING attachments to church vacuum cleaner also a bottle of carpet cleaner, whom ever has borrowed these items, please return them. Thank you.





The Bulletin Board

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6 PM Gaggle Braddock Inn 7 PM 11 th Step	2 12 PM Prime Timers Luncheon 7 PM Adult Choir	3 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA Meeting 7 PM Bible Study	4 7 PM Christmas Caroling Shafer Park	5 10AM-4PM Cookie Walk
6 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM – Contemporary Worship – Communion	7	8 6 PM Council Dinner & Meeting 7 PM 11 th Step	9 3 PM Girl Scouts 5:30 PM Training Drug Treatment 7 PM Adult Choir	10 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 7 PM AA Meeting	11 5:30 PM First Friday 6:30 PM Christmas Program practice	12
13 9 AM SCS - 10:15 AM – Sunday School Program & Party	14	15 7 PM 11 th Step	16 7 PM Contemporary Choir	17 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA Meeting	18	19
20 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM Worship	21 4:30 PM Gaggle	22 7 PM Outreach 7 PM 11 th Step	23 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Adult Choir	24 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 7 PM AA Meeting 7 PM Christmas Eve Service - Communion	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26
27 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM – Worship	28	29 7 PM 11 th Step	30 7 PM Adult Choir	31 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 7 PM AA Meeting		