

# Pastor's Desk

During the week leading to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there was much conversation in the media about giving and generosity. We were informed that Americans are the most generous people in the world. We also read and hear the touching stories of people, both young and old, who reach out to people with all sorts of needs to help make their lives better.

Christians understand generosity as a stewardship issue. We believe God is the creator of everything and that God is the premier giver (“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son....” John 3:16). From the Genesis creation narratives and the ministry of Jesus, we learn that giving and generosity is a lifestyle composed of the many individual decisions we make on a daily basis. How do we learn about generosity? How do we teach this lifestyle to both children and adults?

In an old issue of The Lutheran magazine, I read an article titled “Will our children be generous?” The article, written by Kathy Hauelsen Cashen, presents several concrete ways parents and grandparents can model and teach generosity (stewardship) to the next generation. Below I quote from the article.

**“Model the behavior you want.** Let your children see you giving donations to church and other charitable causes. Talk about why you support the organizations you do and why you help other people.

**Take your children shopping for people they will probably never meet** – other children, new mothers and infants, the elderly, people with special needs. Donate the items they select to local organizations that serve the specific group. Talk with your children about why these people may need additional support. Participate in your community’s holiday gift-giving to charity programs.

**When you buy groceries for your family, shop for your local pantry too.** Let your children pick out favorite food items to share with others who are hungry. Explain why the items have to be canned or boxed and how the food will be distributed.

**Give your children catalogs from nonprofit organizations or look on their Web sites.** Let your children pick out a project they’d like to know more about and support. The ELCA Good Gifts catalog is a good resource ([www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)). Give a year-end gift to a nonprofit in a child’s honor and ask the organization to send the acknowledgement to him or her. If you’re on the mailing list, look for the children’s names in the next list of donors.

**Teach your children how to write thank-you notes.** E-mail and text messaging notes count.

**Help your children learn the difference between a need and a want.** Together do an inventory of what they have and things they’d like to get some day. Without a purchasing plan we all tend to mindlessly shop and splurge, which does to our spiritual health what grazing on snack food all day does to our physical health.

**Provide your children a method to set aside some of their money** – for charity, for savings and then a way to track how they spend the rest. Use envelopes, jars or separate places to separate their allowances, cash gifts, and earned income. Give them a notebook in which to record what they do with the money that passes through their hands.

Generosity is a life-style we can pass along to all with whom we have contact via our actions and what we say. This New Year, let’s all become more conscious of living the life Jesus modeled for us.

"Reprint permission was granted by The Lutheran for this article as it first appeared in the December 2009 issue of The Lutheran".

*All my love,  
Joe*

# TRINITY HI-LITES "ABOUT US"

First Edition

January 2015

Published by:

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Pastor: The Rev. Joseph I. Donovan  
Editors: Mrs. Susan Brown  
The Rev. Joseph I. Donovan  
Mr. Ross Cunningham



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

Sissy Miller	Gene Foltz
Jim Swisher	Jean Dalton
Sarah Ellis	John Michael
Warren Jamison	Milton Hah
Saylor Family	Barbara Ficklin
Glenn Springer	Patty Burkett
Lorraine Hair	Ginger Jones
Kathy Price	Andrew Himes
Jesse Homan	Bruce Martens
Debbie Knight	George Oden
Jean Thomas	Kenny Overstreet
Kevin Knight	Nancy Itnyre
Ginger Jones	Linda Donovan
Brian Eckridge	

## 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

## January Birthdays

Jan.	2	Thomas Bikle
	2	Jason Semler
	3	Ethan Foster
	3	Cole Hoffman
	5	Joseph Howell
	5	Brady Semler
	6	Bradly Hoffman
	6	Laura Iager
	7	Brian Fouche
	8	Jerry Landsman, Jr.
	8	Jeff Himes
	11	Nathan Semler
	11	Leonard Summers
	12	Lauren Mann
	15	Cathy Landsman
	15	Judy Single
	19	William Garrison
	19	Jeff Hoffman
	19	Seth Hutchinson
	19	Bernard Kave
	20	Jared Tribett
	21	Angie Deater
	21	Beverly DeBaugh
	25	Dale Karraker
	26	Beth Thomas
	27	Tammy DeBaugh
	29	Susan Layos
	30	Connie Cline
	31	Melissa Hinlicky
	31	Garrett Ward



### JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

- Jan. 4
- Jan. 11
- Jan. 18
- Jan. 25

The above 2015 dates are for flowers to be placed on the altar. The 2015 flower calendar is on the podium in the Social Room. You may sign up at any time to place flowers on the altar for a Sunday service.



### JANUARY FIRST FRIDAY IS COMING QUICKLY!

In the hustle and the bustle of the holidays, plan now to take a break and attend **First Friday of Fifteen!** Come have a bowl of soup and some conversation on Friday, **January 2nd** from **5:30 - 7 pm** in the social room. **RSVP as soon as possible** to Kristy Smith, [kristyathome@hotmail.com](mailto:kristyathome@hotmail.com) or call **240-285-8894**.



The Men's Bible Study meets in the social room at 8:00 AM each month on the first and third Sundays. In January, we meet on January 4 & 18. We always have room around the table for a few more men. Join us as we gather over pastries and coffee to discuss scripture.

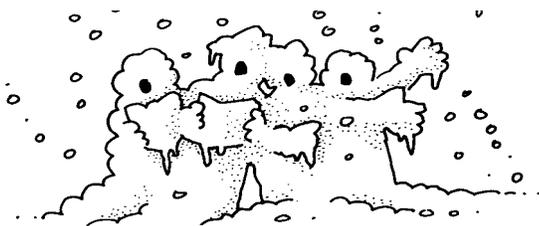


### CHILDCARE

#### NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR 10:15 WORSHIP

January 4	Jennifer Poffenberger
January 11	Theresa Foster
January 18	Julie Williams
January 25	Andrea Smith & Jean McCammon

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. Older children 5 and older should not be in the nursery. Thank you for your cooperation to ensure our little ones are properly well cared for.



### CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may learn of the cancellation of Sunday school and/or worship services due to snow or ice by calling the church office (301-432-2226) and listening to the outgoing message, by checking your email for an email blast or by tuning to the following local radio stations:

- WCRH (90.5 FM)
- WJEJ (1240 AM)

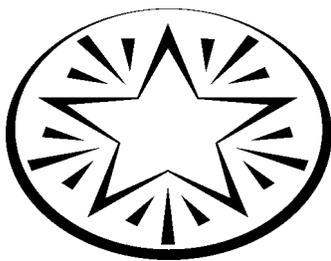


Our Children's Church Program at Trinity is a wonderful ministry to our young people ages 4 through grade 3. Children's church is offered the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's of the month as part of our 10:15 A.M. worship service.



### 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. If you have any questions, please call Jen Poffenberger at 301-432-0456



### EPIPHANY STARS

January 6 is Epiphany, the festival that celebrates the Magi's visit to Jesus in Bethlehem. We will distribute an Epiphany star to guide you the rest of the year during worship on Sunday, January 4, and will explain the significance of the star prior to the distribution.

# Installation

The Congregation Council Installation is Sunday, January 4 during the 10:15 AM service. We ask all council members to attend this service.

The following members are the 2015 Congregation Council: **Larry Dalton, John Everline, Theresa Foster, Susan Layos, Christina McClellan, Tony Nally, Tim Panther, Zane Poffenberger, Chip Rockwell, Jean Talley, John Talley, Beth Thomas, Karen Tribett and Gene Walkley.** We will elect the council officers and appoint the committee chairs and liaisons at the January 13 Council meeting.



### OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes for the new calendar year are ready for you to pick up. Please check for yours on the table in the education wing hallway. If you want a printed contribution statement for 2014, please contact the church office or Tony Nally at 301-432-4431 or [tnally@myactv](mailto:tnally@myactv) or Christina McClellan at 240-461-4225 or [whatever@myactv.net](mailto:whatever@myactv.net)



Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and wonderful monetary gift you gave my family and me this Christmas season. Words cannot express my surprise at its amount. I truly thank you for all your love and support throughout the years!

All my love, Joe



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Check out the tentative schedule of middle and senior high youth activities for 2015. Laura Iager, Jennifer Poffenberger and parent volunteers have wonderful events planned. All they need is the support of the parents of youth group aged folks and youth from grades 6 through 12. Want to be a part of the wonderful opportunities for service and spiritual growth?

### TLC Youth Group Calendar 2014/2015

Sunday, Jan. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Soup & Bread Luncheon - Fundraiser
Friday, Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Road Trip- High Schoolers
Sunday, Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Meet after church to construct Sleds;
Sunday, Feb. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Meet after church to finish sleds
Saturday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Tentative: Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cedar Ridge Cardboard Sled Derby; Registration 1-2:45pm; Race time 3pm (Tubing afterwards 5-7pm)
Sunday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Soup & bread for Seniors; play Bingo
Sunday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bowling after church
Saturday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>	MS Walk; Help @ rest stop or form a team
Sunday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group will help with the service
Sunday, June 14-18 <sup>th</sup>	Help with VBS



**ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS & TREASURERS:** All committee chairs, heads of organizations and treasurers should have their **year-end reports** for 2014 into the church office **no later than Sunday, January 25**. Copies of last year's report are available from the office if you should need one as a guide.

**AUDITING CHURCH ACCOUNTS:** If you are willing to help audit the church accounts in January, please contact Mark Poffenberger at 301-432-0456 or [jenjpbaskets@aol.com](mailto:jenjpbaskets@aol.com). This usually involves a few hours one evening in January, if we have several volunteers.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
MINUTES OF THE  
NOVEMBER 11, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING

**Financial Secretary's Report** - Tony Nally

Council reviewed the Financial Secretary's Report provided by Tony Nally.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Reports for Christian Education or Mutual Ministry.

**Outreach** – Chuck Schwalbe

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. While Chuck did not have an official Report with him, his memory served him well. He related that the Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Three meals were provided at the Reach Center. This initiative is a great opportunity for congregational youth participation. Consideration should be given to appeal to the Congregation to donate monies in order to defray the cost of these meals.

There was a consensus at the meeting that the Committee focus on ways to engage those casual members of our congregation into fuller activities in our congregation. Thoughts on how we might engage them, thus far, include recruiting them into greeting, ushering and lecturing roles during worship; pursue if they would like to start a mid-week Bible study and also pursue what they value in their Sunday worship.

Dale added that casual worshippers are participating in things outside the community, as well.

**Property** – Matt DeBaugh

Matt reported that the light sensor was repaired.

Dale, Steve, Bob, Chip, Keith and Chuck replaced the roof on the garage;

The Committee followed up on the matter of the toilet;  
Tony took care of changing the furnace filters; and the  
Committee will ensure that outside water faucets are turned off

**Music and Worship** - Pastor

The Committee is continuing its discussion on new choir robes. Mike has contacted a distributor. The estimated cost is approximately \$1,200 for new robes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Council Nominations**

Dale Ford, Matt DeBaugh and Chuck Schwalbe's Council terms will expire the end of 2014.

Council nominations thus far: Teresa Foster, Zane Poffenberger, (serve in the same capacity as Klaire Williams) and Larry Dalton (associate member status). Other hopefuls are Gene Walkley and Tim Panther.

Melissa Schwalbe is graciously already serving on Council, having replaced Jenny Garver and will continue to serve.

The **Kitchen Dedication** will take place Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The plaque, denoting the names of contributions through memorial funds, will be hung in the kitchen. Coffee call will be held.

The **Congregational Meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 23, during which time the projected 2015 Budget will be distributed and discussed.

Susan Layos has approximately a dozen blank cards remaining from the **Homefront Hugs USA initiative**. After discussion, it was concluded Sue will keep the cards until next year. (possibly incorporate youth group cards)

Respectfully submitted, Jean Talley  
Council Secretary

# The Bulletin Board

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	2 First Friday 5:30 – 7 PM	3
4 8 AM Men’s Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM Worship – Communion - Install Congregation Council members 11:30 AM Music& Worship Committee	5	6	7 7 PM Contemporary Choir	8 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	9	10
11 9 AM SCS - 10:15 Contemporary Worship Soup & Bread Luncheon	12	13 7:00 PM Council	14 7 PM Adult Choir	15 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	16	17
18 8 AM Men’s Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship – Children’s Church – 11:30 AM Coffee Call	19	20	21 7 PM Adult Choir	22 1-3 PM Food Pantry 7 PM AA Meeting	23 Youth Road Trip	24 Youth Road Trip
25 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship Children’s Church/Joyful Noise Choir <b>Year End Reports Due</b>	26	27 7PM Outreach Committee	28	29	30	31