



HiLites Newsletter

Boonsboro, MD 21713

www.trinitylutheranboonsboro.org

Pastor's Corner

"A problem not worth praying about is a problem not worth worrying about."

How many times have you lost sleep over some matter or another? Maybe it was something that, at the time, seemed huge or profound. Maybe it was something that, at the time, just seemed nettling or bothersome. Either way, how many times has your peace and rest been sacrificed in the face of some sort of trouble?

If you are "typical", at least occasionally some sort of trouble has intruded upon your sleep. It happens. Our minds sometimes have trouble "letting go" of the day's labors and cares. In fact, if modern sociologists are to be believed, we may be having a harder time (literally) "unplugging" ourselves since we are ever-more connected to news and events through our text-messaging, social-networking sites, and 24-hour news cycles. It may be that we are, quite literally, worrying ourselves to death.

Believe it or not, the point of this article is not to dabble in the science of sleep or sleep disorders. Those things belong to other disciplines. Rather, the point of my observations is to highlight the increasing amount of stress that we put ourselves under and to ponder why there is not a corresponding level of prayer. I suspect that, had I phrased the question like this: "How many times, when confronted with a problem, do you first PRAY?" the answer would be substantially less than if I had asked, "How many times you have ever lost sleep over some problem or another?"

It may seem somewhat simplistic or naïve to say, "A problem not worth praying about, is a problem not worth worrying about." but stop and consider it for a moment. Nowhere in the Scriptures are we commanded by God "to worry" but we are commanded and invited many times by God to pray. The Second Commandment reads **"You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord, your God."**

The unspoken question hangs in the air: "What then is the right use of the name of the Lord, our God?" Luther explains the Second Commandment like this: We are to fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using Gods' name, but instead **use that name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.**" In other words, the rightful use of the name of the Lord our God is in prayer. We are commanded in the Second Commandment to pray. So why is it, that we feel our worry (which is not commanded of us) is somehow worthier of our time, but our prayer (which is commanded of us) is not?

The first and primary Christian response to any problem is prayer; to stop everything and call upon God's holy name and seek God's guidance and help. Worrying takes no special faith. Praying, on the other hand, requires faith. Many good and fine people with no faith may identify a problem and be concerned with it, but it takes a Christian to identify a problem and pray about it. If our rule of prayer is that "We won't bother God" with our worries, then what will be our rule of belief or faith be? In other words, just how strongly can you believe in God's help if your first response is not to ask for it?

On the other hand, we are often driven into God's mercy by the winds and storms that buffet our small boats. When the apostles woke Jesus, who was sleeping in the stern of the boat, he calmed the winds and the waves. When we dare to call out to Jesus because we are being overwhelmed by the storms and waves of our troubles, we find out that we have not been driven upon the rocks, but into the arms of his mercy. Prayer is heard, prayer is answered, even where we sometimes fail to see it right away. Calling out to God "in every time of need" is not only a commandment, but it is how God reveals his love for us, by calming the winds and the waves.

Pope John Paul II was once asked, in the midst of the sexual abuse scandal in the Roman Catholic Church, how he was sleeping. "Fine, fine," he answered the reporter. "How can you find rest in such a troubled time?" the stunned reporter asked. "I have a crucifix above my bed," the pope explained. "I say my prayers every night, I look up at Jesus and I tell him, 'It is your Church, you take care of it now' and I sleep soundly." Prayer is part of our admission that "God is God and we are not." It is allowing God to do what only God can do; still the wind and the waves and to save us. And having done so, we may rest in peace.

TRINITY HI-LITES "ABOUT US"

Published by:

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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 December:

Emily Saylor	Karen Saylor
Kristi Lescalet	Leonard Summers
Elouise Himes	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
Dixie Patton	Dylan Starkey

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 **15th of the month**.

January Birthdays

Jan.	2	Thomas Bikle
	2	Jason Semler
	3	Ethan Foster
	3	Cole Hoffman
	5	Joseph Howell
	6	Bradly Hoffman
	6	Laura Iager
	8	Jerry Landsman, Jr.
	8	Jeff Himes
	11	Leonard Summers
	13	Vickie Schlak
	15	Cathy Landsman
	16	Mike Norris
	18	Mary Frances Rooney
	19	William Garrison
	19	Jeff Hoffman
	19	Seth Hutchinson
	20	Jared Tribett
	21	Angie Deater
	21	Beverly DeBaugh
	26	Beth Thomas
	27	Tammy DeBaugh
	29	Susan Layos
	30	Connie Cline
	31	Melissa Hinlicky
	31	Jack Panther

SECRETARY AND PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM - Noon

You may reach the pastor and secretary by leaving a message on the church answering machine. Messages are accessed several times a day.



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**.

NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR 10:15 WORSHIP

January 1	Jennifer Poffenberger
January 8	Lindsay & Mike Norris
January 15	Laura Iager
January 22	Karen Cunningham
January 29	Julie Williams

Please be considerate to others when placing your children in the nursery during worship time. The nursery is for children ages 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 people are properly cared for.



MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Bible Study will meet in the Funk Education Center on **Sunday, January 1 & 15 at 8:00 AM**. Join us for this very meaningful opportunity for fellowship and study.



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 Sundays of the month as part of our 10:15am worship service. Volunteers are needed! Please consider leading two Sundays a month so that we are able to continue this ministry. Thanks so much!



**OK, Show of hands...
Who's tired of snow?**

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)

Announcements will also be posted to Trinity's Facebook page.



Installation

The Congregation Council Installation will be Sunday, January 8 during the 10:15 AM service. We ask all council members to attend this service.

The following members are the 2017 Congregation Council:

Larry Dalton, John Everline, Theresa Foster, Susan Layos, Christina McClellan, Tony Nally, Tim Panther, Tom Piston, Zane Poffenberger, Chip Rockwell, Melissa Schwalbe, John Talley, Karen Tribett, Gene Walkley, Julie Williams.

We will elect the council officers and appoint the committee chairs and liaisons at the January 10 Council meeting.



Friday, January 6th is First Friday. We will meet from 5:30 to 7 PM. Enjoy a hot potato bar and warm conversation. RSVPs are really, really important. Kristyathome@hotmail.com

Since January 6 is also Epiphany, we will move our tradition of the Epiphany Stars from the Sunday morning service to that Friday evening. We will distribute the Epiphany star(s) to guide you the rest of the year during our First Friday worship gathering and we will explain the significance of the star(s) prior to the distribution.



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 2016, please contact **Tony Nally** at 301-432-4431 or tnally@myactv or **Christina McClellan** at 240-461-4225 or whatever@myactv.net



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!



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Did you enjoy the special Advent music? If so, let the music and worship committee know so that we might offer similar programs during Lent or other seasons.

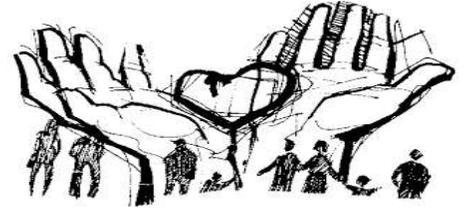


Gaggle News

The Gaggle is taking the month of January off! See you in February, weather permitting.

Stewardship Ministry

On the table in the church office hallway is a "Stewardship Request Form". Trinity's Stewardship Committee is very eager to assist South County residents or organizations that serve those residents who are experiencing hardship such as loss of job, medical emergency, or other short term specific need.



Just fill out the form, or give it to someone who needs it, and either return it to the office or mail it to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 64 South Main Street, Boonsboro, MD, 21713. The Stewardship Committee will review the request and notify the applicant of the decision. All information is kept confidential.



ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS & TREASURERS: All committee chairs, heads of organizations and treasurers should have their **year-end reports** for 2016 into the church office **no later than Sunday, January 22**. 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 markpoff84@yahoo.com. This usually involves a few hours one evening in January, if we have several volunteers.

THE YOUTH GROUP will host a soup luncheon for the congregation immediately following the service on Sunday, January 29. A variety of soups, salad and bread will be provided.



Plan now! Trinity's Annual Chili Cook-Off Extravaganza is planned for Saturday March 4th.

We're recruiting chili cookers, auction items and performers! See Kristy or Tom Smith to let them know how you will participate.

A Message from Mark Poffenberger...



YTD Budgeted \$168,383

YTD Offerings \$175,067

We have made budget for 2016 with a surplus of \$6,684.96!! The Finance Committee is very excited about our finish to 2016 and we thank the congregation for their support.

Just a reminder that our yearly budget increases to \$188,993.00 in 2017 which works out to approximately a 12% increase and if everyone could keep that in mind when making your offerings this year. Thank you again!!

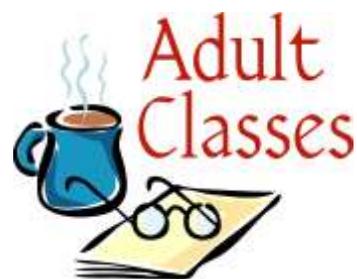


Read the Bible in a Year

Have you ever wanted to read the entire Bible but didn't know where to begin or, after a short time, found yourself giving up? A new class will start in early January where you can read the Bible in a year. There will be a structured reading list which will require 20 to 30 minutes of daily reading. Then we will meet as a group once a week to discuss some of the readings from the prior week. It is hoped that by being part of a group, you will feel a commitment to stick with your reading plan. The weekly meeting will be during the evening. The day will be decided by the group, but we will lean toward Wednesdays. If you have an interest in this study, please see Gene Walkley, or email him at gwalkley@comcast.net.

Starting in January, we will offer a fifth class for adults.

This class will not concentrate on Scripture as our other adult classes do, but like the other classes, it will help people discover a deeper understanding of themselves and provide some tools to enhance and support their walk as disciples of Christ. This class will make use of the enneagram, a spiritual / psychological theory that helps people become familiar with their capital sin and their corresponding spiritual strength.



The class will be taught by Rev. Roy Oswald, a Lutheran pastor who is a member of Trinity. Roy has enjoyed teaching adults here in the past and has offered to do so again. For its first meeting, the class will meet in the Front Room of the parsonage and then decide whether to change location based on size of the class.



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.

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.

SUMMER CAMP!

MAR-LU-RIDGE SUMMER CAMP

We know that you are basking in the wonderful glow of Christ's birth and the beautiful songs of the angels still fill your ears and hearts. A wonderful thing! Even as you do this, our Lutheran campground is announcing its summer plans! Come and join us for a wonderful week of camp. The summer camp brochure with the full schedule and camp descriptions is available here at the church (in the track rack in the educational wing) as well as online at www.Mar-Lu-Ridge.org. Mar-Lu-Ridge offers:

- a fun, small group, Christ-centered week in the woods.
- affordable pricing starting at \$405 per week for overnight and \$210 for day camp.
- friendships and memories that stay with your child
- camperships to ensure that all children can attend camp
- a wide variety of unique specialty programs for all ages!
- ACA certification means MLR meets the highest safety standards.

Interested families may consider joining us at one of our three open houses from 2:00-4:30 p.m. on Sundays March 26, April 30 and May 21.

If you have any questions, please contact MLR by e-mail at MLR@Mar-Lu-Ridge.org or by phone at 301-874-5544.

Registration opens January 1, 2017!!!



January



The Bulletin Board

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM Worship - Communion - 11:30 AM	2	3	4 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Adult Choir 7 PM Support Group	5 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA	6 5:30 PM First Friday - distribution of Epiphany Stars	7
8 9 AM SCS - 10:15 Contemporary Worship - Install Congregation Council members	9	10 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class 7 PM Council	11 7 PM Contemporary Choir 7 PM Support Group	12 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA	13	14
15 8 AM Men's Bible study 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship - Children's Church -	16	17 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class	18 3 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Adult Choir 7 PM Support Group	19 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA	20	21
22 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship Children's Church/Joyful Noise Choir Year End Reports Due	23	24 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class	25 7 PM Adult Choir 7 PM Support Group	26 1-3 PM Food Bank & Micah's Backpack 6 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM AA	27	28
29 9 AM SCS 10:15 AM worship Children's Church Youth Group Soup Luncheon	30	31 9:15 AM Ladies Bible Class				