

The Newsletter of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Trinity Lutheran Church is on Facebook
<http://www.trinitymcalisterville.org/giving.html>



TRINITY TIDINGS

Partner Congregation: Reed Memorial Lutheran Church, Liberia

Staff

Interim, Pastor Graham Fowler

Doris Watts, Organist

Betty Lou Naylor,
Parish Secretary

Worship Team,
Jean Barnard, Malea Haflett, Allen
Hulslander, Betty Lou Naylor, and
Derek & Hannah Shelley

Malea Haflett, Faith Connection
Coordinator

Jean Barnard, Choir Director

Jessica Startzel, Assistant
Director, Sonbeam Early
Learning Center
(717) 463-9571

Officers

President, John Monteleone
Vice President, Charles Rishel
Secretary, Angela Monteleone
Cheryl Wilson, Treasurer
Betty Ryan, Asst. Treasurer

Congregation Council

Jean Barnard
Susan Hackenberger
Susan Leister
John Monteleone
Charles Rishel
Geroge Snyder
Matthew Snyder
Dorothy Spancake
Jerry Wagner

JANUARY 2021

Upcoming Ministry

Worship will continue virtually through our website, <https://www.trinitymcalisterville.org/> or our YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc_G0FWoTSGQB51iZMScujA?view_as=subscriber.

January 03 - Pastor Allen Hulslander, preaching

January 10 - Stephen Rodgers, preaching

January 17 - Pastor Allen Hulslander, preaching

January 24 - Stephen Rodgers, preaching

January 31- Kirk Freed, preaching

Proclaiming "Jesus is Lord,"
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran
Church, endeavors to grow and
build itself up in Christ's love,
as each member, using God-given
talents and resources, works to
reflect God's grace,
to each other and the world.

Lost Creek Presbyterian Church

I know some have seen the post about The Christmas Star appearing this year on December 21st. I couldn't help but take a deeper look at how amazing this occurrence is, considering that it's happening in the year 2020.



In the year when Jesus was born, there was violence, chaos, political and social unrest. It was dark. The Magi found Jesus by following a star. This star may well have been the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 BC. It occurred not just once, but 3 times: Once in May in the East, a second time in September, and a third time in early December more toward the south. It appeared against the backdrop of the constellation Pisces, which astrologers like the Magi believed ruled the kingdom of the Jews. A triple conjunction in Pisces would have meant a momentous occasion, like the birth of a new King of the Jews. So the Magi traveled to Jerusalem to seek this newborn king. When they left Jerusalem the third conjunction would have been south of them in the direction of Bethlehem. They followed the star until it rested on where he was and they began to worship him.

In a time when life was filled with darkness, Light was brought into our world. Jesus stepped into the chaos and brought peace. Fast forward to this year, 2020. It's a time of violence, chaos, political and social unrest. It is dark. December 21 is the Winter Solstice, the shortest day and the longest night of the year...it's literally the "darkest night" and is the beginning of what most would say is the cold, dark winter season.

But on the darkest night this year, Jupiter and Saturn meet, giving us the Christmas Star! How fitting...that in this moment of time during the Christmas season we get to see this beautiful reminder...that even in the darkest of times...Light will, and has, stepped in. In our chaos He is there. In our darkest time, He is there. He brings Light, and makes all things new.

So as you looked out on Dec 21st for the Christmas Star, hope you were reminded of Christ's power, and His Light that he brings for all people. He is perfect at stepping into chaos and bringing peace.

Adapted from a Facebook post.
Interim, Pastor Graham Fowler

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The Juniata County Food Pantry



Thank You Trinity ~ because of your generosity we collected \$490 for the Food Pantry Thanksgiving and Christmas meals that were given out over the holidays. Thanks for helping our neighbors who may be struggling with food shortages this winter.

Annual Christmas Angels Program

Our program provided families from all over Juniata County clothing and gifts for 83 children this week. We had to think outside the box this year (thanks 2020!) and with everyone's help created Family Blessing Bags full of household consumables for 31 families! This program would not be possible for the past 25 or more years if it weren't for the sponsors! Thank you to the churches and individuals and group sponsors from every part of the county and denomination who so generously give each year... this could not happen without each of you ♥ Thank you to the volunteers/ "Runnin Reindeer" from Trinity Lutheran and Lost Creek Presbyterian churches for helping last night and this morning ☐! And a special thank you to Miss Dot (she's a gem!) Thank you to the Lions Club! Also, many thanks to Betty Lou for manning the phones ☎ ☐



It is amazing the good we can do
TOGETHER.



Trinity's Birthday Calendars

TIDINGS contains calendars listing the birthdays of members of Trinity for January & February. We hope that you will use this calendar to greet our members as they celebrate another year of life.

January

01 Charles Gutwein
01 Tanner Truitt
02 Bob Lauver
09 Cody Nipple
10 Josephine Tittler
11 Sandy Snyder
14 Lindsey Hamilton
14 Garrett Nipple
15 Dale Shelley
18 Phyllis Weller
20 Nicole Wilson
26 Jerith Bowman
27 Amber Rowles
29 Timothy Rendall
31 Mashana Cunningham

February

03 Matt Haflett
04 Jasmin Hunter
07 Riley Naylor
09 Joy Stailey
09 Kris Varner
10 Eton Spancake
13 Deen Lauver
13 Peggy Inch
14 Shay Evanoski
18 Kadence McCleaf
19 Jack Wilson
20 Vince Boyer
21 Cooper Hamilton
27 Judy Kauffman
28 Nate Freed

Birthday cupcakes



USS ARK

News of God's People in Action from the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA



DECEMBER

10th Seafarers Collection

On behalf of Director Marsh Drege and Seafarers International, we extend an enormous word of thanks for the number of Seafarer's Christmas-at-Sea bags donated by members and congregations of this synod. In total, 698 bags were picked up from the synod office on November 10th by Seafarers International.

In conversation with Pastor Drege, he spoke of how grateful they are for this response, especially in the midst of a pandemic. Most of the seafarers cannot leave the ship and some have been on board for a year, so these gifts will be a blessing. So, THANK YOU to all who contributed to this outreach ministry. Pastor Drege also shared his concern for the continued ministry of Seafarers International House. The House is their main source of income and during the pandemic the Seafarers International House has been closed to visitors – overnight visitors that pay for this housing. With the pandemic continuing, and the House staying closed, there is a growing financial need by Seafarers this year.

PCM Celebrates 50

This November marked the 50th Anniversary of Protestant Campus Ministry at Bloomsburg University! Since 1970 PCM has had a presence on BU's campus nurturing students in faith, growing Christian leaders, providing pastoral care, and serving the Bloomsburg community. Their ministry to young adults is as important as ever! In these uncertain times they have not stopped offering vital pastoral support, authentic faith community, and vocational discernment tools to students, even if primarily virtually. PCM is also listed in BU's new "Husky Success" portal, which is a place where students can access various resources and supports on campus and set up appointments to meet via Zoom.

Continued on next page...

Up and Down the Valleys

You are encouraged to consider a year-end gift to the synod. This year is a great year to give because of new tax changes for 2020. The CARES Act included a provision to expand access to the tax benefits of charitable donations so that eligible individuals *who do not itemize deductions* can now deduct \$300 in charitable donations from their adjusted gross income. For itemizers, the upper limit has increased. If you are itemizing on your return, the IRS has increased the limit for charitable tax deductions from 60% to 100% of your Annual Gross Income. For itemizers, contributions above that 100% threshold may be carried over into the next tax year. To donate to the synod and other ministries, visit <https://www.uss-elca.org/give/>. You can designate to several synod ministries via this link.

Due to the pandemic, **Camp Mount Luther** will not be holding a Summer Brochure Release Party this December. However, the summer schedule for 2021 is being developed and it will be shared by the end of the year. Then, be looking for some videos in early 2021 as they tell you all about next summer.

Pastor Tom Glasoe (*Follmer Parish*) resigned from his call due to his family relocating to the Erie area. He also resigned as synod secretary. **Pastor Cinda Brucker** (*Trinity, Hughesville*) retires December 31. Her last Sunday was November 29. **Deacon Shelby Wyland** was granted On-Leave-From-Call status by synod council. **Pastor William Jones** (*Emmanuel, Middleburg*) has been granted disability. **Pastor Craig Miller** will serve as interim, in addition to his synod responsibilities.

Joan Fulkroad of St. Stephen's, Licking Creek (*Interim Pastor Jerri Carlin*) was featured in the Fall 2020 issue of ALS Greater Philadelphia's newsletter. The publication featured ALS healthcare heroes. Joan has been battling the disease for five years. She has been very active in Women of the ELCA.

Congratulations to **Mitzi Kurtz**, longtime treasurer of St. John's, Delaware Run (*Interim Pastor Justin Lingenfelter*). Mitzi is retiring at the end of December after 50 years as the church treasurer.

The **Upper Susquehanna Synod Office** will be closed from Thursday, December 24, 2020, to Friday, January 1, 2021, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The office will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021. If you have an emergency, please call the synod office (570-524-9778) and the voicemail will give you phone numbers that you can call. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Upper Susquehanna Synod Staff.

USS ARK is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Permission is granted to reproduce **USS Ark** for congregational communications. Send your mission stories and ministry ideas to Editor Chad Hershberger at news@uss-elca.org.



Sonbeam Newsletter

January 2021

Greetings from Sonbeam ELC! What a year! 2020 was full of challenges, blessings, growth and unity. We have faced challenges this year that we have never anticipated and feeling the love and generosity of the church and the families of Sonbeam ELC was tremendous and so appreciated. Just when things would look grim, you would get a random message that we are being prayed over, thought about and supported, made a world of difference. So, in summary all of us here at Sonbeam are so very grateful for all of you!

Our children here at the center have been enjoying learning about the Birth of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas! The children enjoyed the snow fall we received.

A special thank you to the Willing Workers for your generous Christmas gifts. And also a special thank you to the Sonbeam board for our generous gifts in lieu of party this year for our safety!

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas ham lunch with all of our children at Sonbeam! Santa (Pastor Graham Fowler) came and visited the children at the center! They were so very excited and had lots of questions for Santa! He read them the Birth of Jesus story and gave out candy canes! Thanks Pastor Fowler for bringing joy to the children and staff of Sonbeam!

Blessings from our Sonbeam Family to each of you! Thanks for supporting us as your ministry!

Peace and Blessings,
Jessica Startzel
Sonbeam Director Team



We have an Amazon smile page that benefits the daycare. You can look up Amazon smile for all of your shopping needs. It is listed under Trinity Lutheran Church McAlisterville. Thank you!

Stewardship In Action

The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

Charles "Chick" Lane, Author of *Ask, Thank, Tell*

" Good things are happening because of your giving."

Trinity and Lost Creek Churches,

We would like to say thank you for honoring all of our 1st Responders last month. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and your generous gift. It will help us continue our work of caring for others in this community. Please continue to pray for us all.

Fayette Fire Co #4

Fayette Township EMS

The Council voted to send an extra \$250.00

to the Juniata County Food Pantry besides what we give as our budgeted amount.

Thank You So Very Much

For your recent food donation to the "Tiger Treats" program. We hope to help even more students in 2021.

God bless you all,

St. John Lutheran "Tiger Treats" Team



The McAlisterville Churches in our area donated \$50.00 each to repaint the church sign at the end of town that was vandalized.

Cookies were not delivered to the shut-in's in December because of COVID 19. Sorry



Please take time to check in with your neighbors. Just a phone call, text or card. Maybe a bag of food on the porch if needed. Pay forward at McDonalds. Everyday try to make a small difference in someone's life.

JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  New Year's Day	2
3 Second Sunday of Christmas 9 am Worship Live Online only www.trinitymcalisterville.org YouTube, Facebook or CD's	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord 9 am Worship Live Online only www.trinitymcalisterville.org YouTube, Facebook or CD's	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Second Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Worship Live Online only www.trinitymcalisterville.org YouTube, Facebook or CD's 6 pm Zoom Council Mtg.	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Third Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Worship Live Online only www.trinitymcalisterville.org YouTube, Facebook or CD's	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Worship Live Online only www.trinitymcalisterville.org YouTube, Facebook or CD's						