

The rinitarian

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

SAYINGS ABOUT LIFE AND FAITH

Here are some quotes I have collected or shared over the years:

- 1) In John 13-17, Jesus gave his disciples this commandment, "You should love on another as I (Jesus) have loved you." The foundation of any relationship or ministry in the church is that we love people.
- 2) Always look for the best in people as most people have good sides for us to see.
- 3) Consider serving or helping others to be a honor because that is the example Jesus has shown us.
- 4) Look at each day as a new start and, if possible, do something to help out another person.
- 5) See life as a blessing and thank the people who contribute to your well being.
- 6) Find a time to pray-mornings (when one gets up) and evening before bedtime are good times. Before meals or before an activity work, too. Daily prayer certainly helps things go positive each and every day.
- 7) Remember when things go bad that there will still be good days. Count on God to bless your life and God will not let you down.

Have a most blessed Christmas,

Pastor Mike

FOCUS GROUP UPDATE: CHOOSING HOPE

During the 1st Sunday Fellowship on 10/7/18, a FOCUS update was provided to the congregation. The following is the information that was shared at that time. We waited until then to provide a formal update because we wanted to make sure that we first had a clear understanding of the next steps, so that we could provide the correct and most up to date information to you, and those details were settled at our most recent FOCUS meeting. During September, both St. Peter's and Trinity's councils formally accepted the FOCUS group's recommendation to pursue a Co-Op Ministry.

To refresh your memories, a Co-operative (or Co-Op) Ministry is a joint ministry of congregations that have been called to come together to serve God by sharing staff (such as a Pastor, etc.), resources, and ministry programs. This joint mission is created through a formal agreement which provides flexibility and the opportunity to grow.

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The purpose of this co-operative ministry shall be to share resources and opportunities for renewal in mission and ministry, to grow disciples of Jesus Christ, to discern a shared vision for God’s mission in the greater Steelton-Highspire area, and to share the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ with our communities and with the world.

The most immediate next action is forming the group, comprised of 6 St. Peter’s members and 6 Trinity members, to draft the formal Co-Op Agreement, which will be the governing document for the Co-Op. This group is going to be creating a proposal, part of which will be the agreement, for all of the details concerning the structure and operation of the Co-Op. At the October Council Meeting, the following Trinity members were appointed to participate in drafting the agreement: Richard Martz, Jim Canning, Shelley Radic, Jan Holwig, Matt Hunt, and Anne Lentz. Of those, Richard, Jim, Shelly, and Anne were the Trinity representatives to the FOCUS group, and it was felt that their familiarity with the topic and process would be beneficial.

Hope comes when we discover that God is at work among us, doing wonderful things. Hope emerges when we realize that by the grace of God our future is not determined by past problems or social movements or economic trends. Rather, our future belongs to God, for whom the past and the present are no obstacle to the future. To move into our future with confidence we need to take the best out of our past.

The group will meet regularly throughout the fall and winter, and it is estimated that it may take about 6 months to finalize the agreement. Once completed, the agreement will be approved by the synod, by the councils from both churches, and finally by both congregations. The congregational votes must pass with 2/3 in favor.

After the initial meeting to get organized, every Co-Op Agreement meeting will be announced so that those who wish to attend may. We really encourage you all to come out and share your thoughts, ideas, questions, and concerns; your input is vital. And, as always, please continue to pray.

We understand that a Co-Op ministry was not the first choice for all of you, but there was no consensus on a top choice. However, there was agreement from both congregations that we do not want to maintain Status Quo. We came to this recommendation after over a year of prayer and listening to God and you, our members. Therefore, we envision Co-Op as the first step to which God is calling us towards renewal and growth together as one. We do not know exactly what the future holds, but there is the possibility that our Co-Op ministry could become the



November Birthdays (* 80 or older!)

- 1st Maxine Wertz
- 5th Jan Holwig
- 15th Donna Schenfelt
- 18th Harold Cobb
- 24th Elizabeth Faul *
- 25th Sarah Canning
- Jim Canning
- 30th Ann Kline *

Dec. Birthdays (* 80 or older!)

- 2nd Bob Carrillo
- 3rd Mike Sanders
- 4th Katharina Schuech *
- 19th George Gabel *
- 21st Doris Reynolds
- 29th Brian Holwig



November Anniversaries

- 1st Ken & Kim Smith
- 22nd Vince & Judy Krovic

(no anniversaries in December)

launching point for a formal merger, or we may come to realize that remaining a Co-Op is where God is calling us. Either way, we all (St. Peter's, Trinity, and God) are taking this journey together.

We'd like to leave you with some Bible verses and book excerpt that we shared with both councils:

- o **2 Timothy 1:7** For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.
- o **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- **Excerpt from *Discovering the Other* by Cameron Harder:** Change is caused by fear and by hope. In many churches, change is driven by fear, with concerns such as “We’re losing our young people; or, we don’t have enough money to maintain our ministry”; and so on. Fear can work, to some extent, but it simply drives us away from the things that dissatisfy and hurt us – once we’ve got a little distance, we stop moving; it is short term. Hope is the other change agent, and it is more powerful. It is a better long-term motivator than fear, it draws us toward the things that satisfy us, that make life good and whole. Hope comes out of an experience with the gospel. Hope comes when we discover that God is at work among us, doing wonderful things. Hope emerges when we realize that by the grace of God our future is not determined by past problems or social movements or economic trends. Rather, our future belongs to God, for whom the past and the present are no obstacle to the future. To move into our future with confidence we need to take the best out of our past.

We can approach our future with a spirit of fear, or a spirit of hope. ***Let us choose hope.***

If you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback, please feel free to approach any FOCUS member to talk.

Anne Lentz

The foundation of any relationship or ministry in the church is that we love people.

FROM THE EDITOR

My plan was to do a combined November/December issue of the *Trinitarian*, which would come out either right before or December or the first week of November. However, that plan fell apart when my laptop died right before I was finished with the issue, about two weeks before I was scheduled for surgery on November 19.

So, in the middle of preparing for surgery, I was resurrecting an older desktop computer we have laying around the apartment, and, trying to recover my data files from the laptop. I was unsuccessful in getting the *Trinitarian* done before I my surgery, for which I apologize.

After my surgery, however, I was able to access my old data, and was therefore able to complete the issue you are now reading.

I will say, I am proud of this issue of the *Trinitarian*.

What I am most proud is the number of people sending thanks to this congregation. We have over two pages of thank you notes, all of which are due the generosity of Trinity.

In his column this month, Pastor Mike encourages us to, “consider serving or helping others to be a honor because that is the example Jesus has shown us.” Based on the number of thank you’s this month, here at Trinity we take that example to heart. In this issue, you will also see more opportunities to continue to follow this example.

I am always grateful to be part of such a loving and lovely congregation.

As always, let me know about any feedback (praise and criticism) or if you have any content (articles, pictures, etc) you would like to contribute.

Matt Hunt

STEWARDSHIP AND GRATITUDE

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. –Psalm 9:1

Gratitude is the attitude, the key that can unlock the doors of our lives to more joy, satisfaction, contentment, love and peace. Gratitude undergirds everything we do as disciples of Christ and stewards of the gifts with which God entrusts us. Are these bold claims? Yes! Are they true? Without a doubt!

Blame it on our consumer culture that constantly implores us to buy more, or simply blame it on human nature, but many of us focus way too much on our unfilled desires, our unmet wants. Whether it's a fancier car, a bigger house, whiter teeth, more friends, a fatter paycheck or skinnier body, our wants can overwhelm and define us if we're not careful. Want and desire can blind us to the blessings we already have in this wonderful life that God has given us.

What's the cure? Gratitude! It's an attitude that can be developed through prayer and practice. And since we are gearing up for Thanksgiving on November 22, why not make it a monthlong effort?

Start by making a list of things for which you are thankful today. (If you have a smartphone that enables you to take notes, use it. A small pad or index card will also do.) Include *at least* 20 items on the list.

Carry the list with you and pray over it several times a day, saying, "I thank God for *this*. I thank God for *that*," and so on. Make it a working project, adding to the list as you think of new blessings or reordering them in priority.

As the weeks unfold, see if you won't develop an attitude of gratitude for the things you already have and a deep satisfaction and peace for your life. Gratitude unlocks our lives to the abundance that God intends for us.

--Rob Blezard

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WEDNESDAY MORNING SERVICES

Join us for our 9:30 AM Services every Wednesday. The service is different from our Sunday Worship including the format, lessons, and sermon.

So, if you worship on Sunday, you will find the Wednesday Service to be a little different.

ROLLER PACK MINISTRY SCHOOL

The Roller Pack Ministry continues to help needy families in the Steelton School District. Lyn Clark capably leads this program, but help is needed to work with the students and pick up and unload the food from the Food Bank.

Right now, the days and times are Tuesday from 11:30am-1:00 pm and Wednesdays 10am-11:30am.

If you are interested in helping, please see Pastor Mike.

RAINY DAY FUND BIRDHOUSE

Our RDF birdhouse is back in action! We are collecting funds to help pay for repairs to the leaky roof, an air-conditioning unit for the 2nd floor of the social hall, and our parking lot fencing. Every little bit helps so give as generously as you can and give often! Thanks in advance!

Thank You Notes

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our ministry received the following thank you

Dear Trinity,



Thank you so much for sending me the beautiful prayer shawl. The colors are so pretty and it is so, so soft and comforting. I am always cold – must be my blood problem – so I snuggle up with it as I sit by my windows waiting for my home delivered meals to come. I use that time to pray my Catholic prayers. I always pray for you, Gay, and now have added Trinity Lutheran Church. I welcome and appreciate all prayers from all religions. This is a wonderful ministry Trinity is doing. Again, thank you so much and love and prayers right back to you!

Rosey (a friend of Gay Rezin)

This note means so much to us! It's great to know that we can help others with such a small gesture of love and concern. If any of you are in need of a shawl or know of someone who is, please contact Jan Holwig or Peg Bowling and they will see that you get one. We have quite a few waiting for good homes!!!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift. Your compassion and your generosity are a source of inspiration as we work together to end hunger.

Blessings,

Kari

Bread for the World

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

As the long green season of Pentecost brings images of seeds and bread, deep and abiding growth and abundance in Christ, so your generosity brings deep and abiding hope to communities dealing with a disaster, providing water, supplies, shelter and support. Your generosity makes possible both short- and long-term care, sustaining communities throughout the recovery process and into new life.

Thank you for joining with the whole church, Lutheran Disaster Response and our local partners. Your gifts are bearing the love of Christ to many in need.

With gratefulness,

Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Christian Churches United. United. **United.**

I keep hearing talk of how divided our country is. I get it, there is much people disagree on.

But then I come to work and see or hear the following:

- A young girl did a drive for toiletries to help the homeless and wants to drop them off.
- Numerous churches are RSVP'ing for our planning meeting to coordinate our winter overnight program at Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven: a safe, warm sleeping space for men throughout the winter staffed by volunteers from these churches.
- Donations arriving to help kids have winter coats and school supplies through Project A.S.K.
- A church calling to schedule a Healing Communities training, so they can be more welcoming to people affected by the criminal justice system.

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- A family walking out of HELP ministries to their new apartment, leaving homelessness behind.

Each time you give or volunteer or pray for our work, you are uniting in love with others who care about the hurting, the homeless, the despite...those facing poverty or crisis or incarceration. This is the mission of CCU. This is your legacy.

At CCU, what unites us is much greater than what could divide us.

Thank you for uniting in love. Thank you for loving your neighbor who needs a helping hand at a difficult time in their life. You are changing lives everyday through the work of CCU!

With grace and peace,

Steve Schwartz

Director of Development

[Gift received: \$50.00 from Humanitarian Fund]

Dear Friends,

Becoming the person that God created us to be can be a daunting task at times. Luther was no stranger to this struggle. Throughout his life, he was plagued by bouts of depression, insomnia, and crippling self-doubt. Nevertheless, he discovered grace in the midst of these challenges, changing our understanding of God's love forever.

We are created to love God and one another, and in this, we become ministers of the Gospel. The process of becoming Christian leaders is not without challenges similar to Luther's. Those of us who work, pray, and teach at United Lutheran Seminary are privileged to engage in this process alongside our students. The relationship we build with them makes us better ministers, better people.

That you have chosen to support this seminary links you to the process of becoming that is the bedrock of theological education. Your faithful stewardship is a reflection of your own progression of becoming. A

gift is your way of ministering to the Christian leaders who are also part of this timeless process.

Thank you for this gift – this part of yourself that is witness to your process of becoming. We are grateful to be on this journey with you.

Rev. Dr. Angela Zimmermann

Vice President for Institutional Advancement
United Lutheran Seminary

Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmerman

Director of Church Relations and Major Gift Officer

United Lutheran Seminary

[Gift received: \$200.00]

Dear Reverend Larson and Friends,

Today, we are thankful.

Thankful for friends like you who are making a difference in your community.

Thankful for your generous gift of \$50.00 that will enable us to provide nutritious food to hungry children, seniors, families and veterans in our neighborhoods.

Thankful that these neighbors will not have to choose between food and paying their bills and tonight, their children will go to bed knowing they will have a meal in the morning.

We are thankful to you and your commitment to our mission **of fighting hunger, improving lives and strengthening communities.**

On behalf of everyone at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, we wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving season.

Yours in Service,

Joe Arthur

Executive Director

Central Pennsylvania FoodBank

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Peg Bowling for donating the wall hanging above our new sofa and chairs.

Pastor Seifried for continuing to visit our shut-ins and hospitalized on such a regular basis.

Jacqueline Acri for always being willing to wash and dry those tablecloths!!

Doug Martz for rehangng the crucifix in the church entrance.

ADVENT TREE ORNAMENTS



During this Advent season here at Trinity, you will again have the opportunity to purchase a gift for a needy family with NO SHOPPING involved. Our Advent tree will be back and again we will be collecting donations for animals that can make a world of difference for a family in need.

Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family (anywhere in the world) escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

Beginning on December 2, you will see an Advent tree in the foyer decorated with Advent ornaments. We are asking that you prayerfully choose one or more of the ornaments, make out a check (cash will also be accepted) to Trinity Lutheran – ELCA Good Gifts, place it into a marked envelope, and place it in Jan’s mailbox. Then fill out the back of the ornament and place it back on the tree. Your donation will be included on your end-of-the-year giving statement so it will be tax deductible. At the end of the Advent season, one check will be made out for the total collected and sent to ELCA Good Gifts.

We will be offering the following choice of ornaments:

Chicks: \$10 Honey Bees: \$20 Pigs: \$30 Goats: \$50 Pair of Goats: \$100
Rooster: \$15

CHURCH DECORATING AND “UN”DECORATING

We will meet at 9 AM on Saturday, **December 8** to decorate our worship spaces for the upcoming Christmas season. Please come and help if you possibly can.

We will then take everything down on Saturday, **January 12** beginning at 9 AM. Mark your calendars now! Thanks.

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

On Sunday, **December 30**, we will hear again the stories telling and foretelling the birth of the Christ-child in song and scripture. Join us at Trinity at 10:30 AM for this four-church combined worship, followed by a light luncheon.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Monday, **December 24**, we will begin our service of carols and candlelight at 9 PM with a prelude beginning a bit earlier.

FOOD PANTY COLLECTION

During October and November, we will be collecting food pantry items, which will be donated to St. Peter’s Highspire’s Food Pantry. There is a table in the narthex set up as the collection point for the donated items.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our meeting will take place on Sunday, December 9th immediately following the service. We will vote on the 2019 budget and discuss several other topics. The proposed budget will appear in your bulletins beginning November 25th. Changes to our constitution that will be voted on have been emailed to you. If you didn't not receive this email, please call the church office & speak to Barb.

COMMUNITY MEAL



Our second Community Meal on Saturday 11/17/18 had a Thanksgiving theme and went well! Despite the cold, approximately 35 meals were served. This was a lovely opportunity to meet our neighbors, everyone who came was very friendly! This is a great opportunity to meet those who live around us, come check out the next one!

HARRISBURG AREA YOUTH INIATIVE DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 9th 6-8pm: Faith Formation at St. John's in Hoernerstown. Join us as Deacon David and Pastor Matthew Best lead us through an exploration of the "Single Story" and how we are called into relationship with our neighbors.

Sunday December 16th 4-5:30pm: Feeding the Homeless at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, in Downtown Harrisburg

Join us as we partner with Helping Hands Ministries to provide a community meal for the homeless in Harrisburg. Please RSVP to Deacon David

Sunday December 23rd, from 6-8pm: Worship and Christmas Party!

at Little Amps Coffee Shop on Green Street in Harrisburg. Join us for worship, Christmas fun, coffee, food and friendship, all are welcome!

Mondays in December from 6-7pm (Except the 24th and 31st): Caitlin's Smiles Projects at Trinity Steelton

Come out and help put together craft kits for children in the hospital. Appropriate for all ages, all are welcome! **On December 17th, rather than Caitlin's Smiles projects, we will go out Christmas Caroling around the neighborhood!**

Poinsettias for Christmas - Order Form



It's time to start thinking about Christmas! We need to get our order in for the red poinsettias that we use to decorate the church on Christmas Eve. A tentative number must be called in to our florist by December 3 and an **absolute final** number must be called in on December 10. All poinsettias will be red and wrapped in gold foil. You need to fill out the following order form and return it **with your payment** (checks should be made out to *Trinity Lutheran Church*) to Barb

Johnson. You may put it in her mailbox at church or mail it to the church office (221 S. 2nd St., Steelton, PA 17113). *Orders will not be called in for flowers for which payments are not received.*

Each donor will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletin including their name and the name of the person(s) for whom the flowers are **in honor of (living) or memory of (deceased)**. If you are planning to order, please do it promptly before you put this form aside and forget about it! Thanks!

2018 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

I wish to order _____ poinsettia plants at a cost of **\$10.00** each. These plants will be used to decorate the church on Christmas Eve.

Please fill out the following completely, making sure first names and last names are exactly the way you want them put into the bulletin.

Given **In Honor of:** _____

by: _____

Given **In Honor of:** _____

by: _____

Given **In Memory of:** _____

by: _____

Given **In Memory of:** _____

by: _____

Your name _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please make an effort to pick up your poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service or the following Sunday. Any left after that will be given away.

We pray for those...



In need:

Matt Hunt
Bill Schick
Elizabeth Faul
John Brunner
Pastor Sharron Blezard
Darlene Martz
Fletcher Smith
Michael Brown
John Schenfelt
Joyce Stickle
Anna Zeiders

Bereaved:

Serving in our military:

Kyle Anthony
Anthony Szekeres
Scott Whary

Continued prayer:

Rana Sweiden
Jackie Day
Chuck Korte
Our homebound members

**The following are those who cannot get to church because of physical problems, etc.
Please remember them with a card, a visit, and/or your prayers.**

Alice Brown
71 Edenvew Road
1802 Folkemer Circle Apt. 103
York, PA 17404

Nancy Brunner
2115 James Buchanan Dr.
Elizabethtown 17022

Bernie Campbell
100 Freemason Drive
Masonic Village
Elizabethtown 17104

Jackie Day
335 Wesley Dr. Apt. 601
Mechanicsburg 17055

Fran Dubesky
517 Kelker St.
Steelton 17113

Darlene Martz

97 Brompton Rd.
Hummelstown, 17036

Kathleen Michtich
S2 -228A Spring Creek
1205 S. 28th St.
Harrisburg 17111

Christine Miller
4800 Lancer Court Apt. C
Harrisburg 17109

Katarina Schuech
4805 E. Circle Dr.
Harrisburg 17111

Rene & Joyce Stickle
224 Elm St.
Steelton 17113

Ray Stoner
S310-A Spring Creek
1205 S. 28th St.
Harrisburg 17

SOHL NEWS

DO YOU HAVE CHRISTMAS STUFF YOU DON'T USE?

St. Peter's will be holding their Annual Pancake Breakfast & Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 8th (all are invited to attend). Due to unforeseen circumstances all the donations left over from last year had to be thrown out so they are starting from scratch. We are asking everyone who would like to donate to please look through your Christmas decorations & if you aren't using it anymore & would love to "recycle" them to please consider donating them to St. Peter's. It's a great way to give "new life" to decorations you may no longer be using.

All donations would have to be here at Trinity by Sunday, November 25th. If you can't get your stuff here by then please call Shelley Radic at 717-564-4809 to make other arrangements. Shelley has been gracious in offering to get our donations to St. Peter's. Any questions you may call Barb in the church office at 717-939-4998. Thank you.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST/CHRISTMAS BAZAAR FUNDRAISER

St. Peter's will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast & Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 8th from 8-11am. The cost is \$8 per person. There will also be a Silent Auction. All are invited to attend! The fundraiser will go towards defraying the cost of the mold removal in St. Peter's Social room.

LAUNDRY LOVE MINISTRY

Pat Hawkins' Christ Care Group has begun a new ministry at the laundromat across the street from St. Peter's. Once a month they provide money, detergent, and other laundry supplies for those in the community to do their laundry for free. They are accepting monetary donations (coins and bills). There is a container at the back of the sanctuary, please consider helping to support this ministry!

LIVE NATIVITY

At Salem, the four churches will put on a Live Nativity on Friday December 14th at 7pm and Saturday December 15th at 4 pm. Put it on your calendar and come check it out!

WINTER WEATHER DONATIONS

World Café, VFW Church is a Communities of Hope Expression that meets at the VGW in Highspire. They are collecting warm blankets, socks, waterproof gloves, hats, and scarves for folks in Harrisburg. They will put them on the trees in Harrisburg in December, so they are available to those who need them., These items are needed by December 2nd. To donate items or for more information please contact Rose Tonkin at 717-350-6536 or mtonkin@comcast.net.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

The next combined worship service with all four churches in SOHL will be on Sunday, **December 30**, at Trinity at 10:30 AM. It will be the service of Lesson & Carols, where we will hear again the stories telling and foretelling the birth of the Christ-child in song and scripture. It will be followed by a light luncheon.

NEXT SOHL MEETING

The next SOHL meeting will be Monday, December 3rd, at St. Peter's in Highspire. As always, we will begin with a meal and time of fellowship. Then we will have the business portion, which includes each congregation sharing their various events and triumphs. Those performing in the Live nativity will be looking through costumes after the meeting.

Odds & Ends

SOUP/BAKE SALE UPDATE

We had a very successful Soup/Bake sale on Election day, November 6, 2018. We had 3 delicious soups to sell and lots of baked goods. Thanks to everyone who made all the items that were sold. We were sold out by 4pm and we raised \$805.00.

NOVEMBER'S 1ST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

We want to thank everyone who helped make the November 1st Sunday Fellowship such a delicious success! About 40 people enjoyed a meal of chicken cordon bleu, stuffing, mashed potatoes, peas, and homemade pumpkin pie! A special "shout out" to our chefs, Mike Miller and Gay Rezin, and our sponsors, Betty Slavecki and Anna Grawel. What a wonderful time together!

STEWARDSHIP FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Many of us cherish everything about the Christmas season -- except those incessant advertisements telling us to buy this and by that. We ask, "Where's Jesus in all this commercialism?"

This is the right question. Though it asks us to examine every aspect of our lives, stewardship particularly challenges us to question the role money plays in our personal lives and our culture.

Christmas presents are wonderful expressions of love that makes both giver and recipient feel good. At the same time, we want to be wary of advertising's lure to make us overspend, or to think that the cost of our gift is proportionate to our love.

Most of all, we need to be sure that the main point of our Christmas is not the gifts *we give*, but the gift *we receive* from God – Jesus. Here are some ideas:

- Challenge yourself to spend less for presents this year. Set a budget and stick to it.
- Attend worship regularly in Advent and Christmas.
- Give some handmade presents: A scarf or hat, a photo album, a batch of fudge, a card, a poem.
- Prayerfully read Advent daily devotions (Richard Rohr's *Preparing for Christmas* is amazing!).
- Give your time: a concert together, a shared meal, a day at a museum, a walk in the woods
- Use an Advent calendar to help you remember all that God has given you.
- Give service: wash a loved one's car, help clean the garage, paint a room, babysit for an evening.
- Play Christmas music that has religious themes (More "Silent Night," less "Frosty the Snowman.")
- Instead of buying a present, make a donation to a charitable organization in honor of your loved one (or check out ELCA Good Gifts!).
- Make a generous year-end contribution to your congregation.

Our thoughtful practices for Advent and Christmas not only make for good stewardship of our time, talents, relationships and money, they also help us to draw near to Our Lord and experience God's greatest gift to us.

-- *Rob Blezard*

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NOVEMBER 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
				6pm Council Meeting		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:45am Choir Rehearsal	9:30am Bible Study	Soup & Bake Sale	9:30am Morning Worship			
10:30am Worship	6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling		6:30pm Choir Rehearsal			
6pm Life and Death Group	6pm SOHL @ Salem - Oberlin					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
St. John's Family Promise Host Week						
9:45am Choir Rehearsal	9:30am Bible Study		9:30am Morning Worship	7pm FOCUS @ Trinity		Community Meal
10:30am Worship	6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling		6:30pm Choir Rehearsal			
6pm Life and Death Group						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:45am Choir Rehearsal	9:30am Bible Study		Barb on vacation	Thanksgiving		
10:30am Worship	6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling		9:30am Morning Worship			
6pm Life and Death Group			6:30pm Choir Rehearsal			
			7pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:45am Choir Rehearsal	Barb on vacation	Barb on vacation	9:30am Morning Worship			
10:30am Worship	9:30am Bible Study		12:30pm Golden Agers			
6pm Life and Death Group	6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling		6:30pm Choir Rehearsal			

DECEMBER 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 6pm Life and Death Group	3 9:30am Bible Study 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling 6pm SOHL @ St. Peter's 6pm HAYI Caitlin Smiles	4	5 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 8am St. Peter's Pancake Breakfast & Christmas Bazaar 9am Trinity decorating the church
9 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 6pm Life and Death Group 6pm HAYI Faith Formation @ St. John's Hoernerstown	10 9:30am Bible Study 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling 6pm HAYI Caitlin Smiles 7pm FOCUS @ St. Peter's	11	12 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 Newsletter deadline 6:30pm Council meeting	14	15
16 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 4pm HAYI Feeding Homeless @ St. Michael's Harrisburg 6pm Life and Death Group	17 9:30am Bible Study 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling 6pm HAYI Christmas Caroling	18	19 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 6pm Life and Death Group 6pm HAYI Christmas Party @ Little Amps	24 9:30am Bible Study 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling 9pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 9am Christmas day worship at St. Peter's	26 9:30am Morning Worship 12:30pm Golden Agers 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 6pm Life and Death Group	31 9:30am Bible Study 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling					

November and December Participants in our Services

Date	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Flowers \$25	Bulletins, Candles \$17
Nov. 4	Mary & Matt Hunt	Ed Holwig, Richard Schultheisz	Jan Holwig	Gabe Whary	Judy Krovic	Holwigs
Nov. 11	Gay Rezin, Doris Reynolds	Mark Harkins, Matt Hunt	Gay Rezin	Brady Holwig	Doug Martz	Carrillos
Nov. 18	Judy Krovic, Sandy Canning	Shelley & Mark Radic	Jim Canning	Zachary Anthony	Bowlings	Gay Rezin
Nov. 25	Jan Holwig, Doris Reynolds	Bob Emrich, Richard Martz	Lenny Bowling	Ni'Shaun Ward-McMullen	Ben Whittington	Dick Schultheisz
Dec. 2	Mark & Shelley Radic	Ed Holwig, Zack Szekeres	Jim Canning	Gabe Whary	?	Pastor Seifried
Dec. 9	Tom Lupkie, Judy Krovic	Jim Canning, Lenny Bowling	Jan Holwig	Grace Holwig	Helen Bailey	Emrichs
Dec. 16	Mark & Shelley Radic	Mark Harkins, Matt Hunt	Matt Hunt	Jan Holwig	Barb Brunner	?
Dec. 23	Anne Lentz, ?	Shelley & Mark Radic	Anne Lentz	Ni'Shaun Ward-McMullen	Nancy Paine	Stovers
Dec. 24	Jan Holwig, Judy Krovic	Ed Holwig, Dick Schultheisz	?	?	not needed	X
Dec. 30	no communion	Bob Emrich, Richard Martz	Matt Hunt, Jan Holwig, Anne Lentz	Zachary Anthony	Pastor Seifried	?



Nov: Jan Holwig, Peg & Lenny Bowling

Dec: Judy Krovic, Matt & Mary Hunt

TRINITARIAN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
January 2019	12/13/2018	12/20/2018
February 2019	1/17/2019	1/24/2019
March 2019	2/21/2019	2/28/2019
April 2019	3/21/2019	3/28/2019
May 2019	4/18/2019	4/25/2019
June/July/August 2019	5/16/2019	5/30/2019
September 2019	8/15/2019	8/29/2019

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