
THE TRINITARIAN

January 2019

FOCUS Update

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.

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.

continued on page 2

From the Pastor...

As I write my column during the Advent Season, I would like to share these thoughts about Advent (the New Year in the Church).

On the Second and Third Sundays in Advent, we read from Luke 3: 1-6 and Luke 3: 7-18. In these passages John the Baptist cites Isaiah 40 reminding people "to prepare the way of the Lord" as Jesus' ministry was beginning. Further John called for people to repent. Repentance was more than asking for forgiveness, it also included the idea of orientation toward God which results in a change in the way in which we see the world, how we live and what we do.



John the Baptist

In my thinking, John the Baptist set the stage for what Jesus would be doing. To be truthful, on the one hand Jesus did not make the changes many wanted to see. To the disappointment of many, the Romans still ruled Palestine, cruel acts

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Tutoring Program
- 3 From the Editor
- 5 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 7 Prayer List
- 8 Calendar
- 9 Participant List

The original FOCUS group has been expanded to include six of St. Peter's members and six of Trinity members, to draft the formal Co-Op Agreement, which will be the governing document for the Co-Op.

The group will meet regularly, and 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.

*Focus Group Meeting
Schedule:*

*Jan. 7 at Trinity following the
SOHL meeting*

Jan. 21 at St. Peter's at 7pm

Feb. 11 at Trinity at 7pm

Feb. 25 at St. Peter's at 7pm

March 11 at Trinity at 7pm

March 25 at St. Peter's at 7pm

Tutoring Continues at Steel-High Elementary

As of the date of this article (December 11th), we have a group of five of us working with 13 elementary age children. We could raise the number of students to 25, but we need more tutors.

One of the most helpful things we can do for our children is mentor and teach skills for them to stay in school until graduation. A high school diploma will produce a greater income potential during a person's lifetime. Developing skills at the elementary school level will greatly increase the possibility that they will stay in school.

Please consider joining our tutoring group. We meet at the elementary school every Monday and Thursday from 3:15pm - 4:15pm.

For more information, talk to Pastor Mike.

Roller Packs

Lyn Clarke does a wonderful job with our Roller Pack Program.

This program provides food assistance to families in the Steelton-Highspire School District. But Lyn could use more help.

Pastor Mike goes to the elementary school Wednesdays from 10-12 Noon. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Pastor Mike.

Rainy Day Fund

Our Rainy Day Fund Birdhouse (started by Kenn Higgins) is back in action! We have three building fund projects that must be done over the next several months: repair of a roofing issue, repair of an air-conditioning unit for the 2nd floor of the social hall, and repair of a piece of fencing above the parking lot. There is also a Building Fund (green) envelope coming up in your box of offering envelopes that you may use for this purpose. That way, you'll get credit on your tax statement!! Every dollar is appreciated! Thanks in advance!

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

The Tuesday Evening Bible Study, led by Mary Hunt, will resume in January, beginning Jan. 8, 2019 at 6:30pm in the social hall.

Since January is when many people make resolutions for the new year, our theme for the month will be covenants and promises in the Bible.

As always there will be snacks, prayer, discussion, and fun. All are welcome!

Please join us Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the social hall.

From the Editor

As I write this, we are in the final weeks of Advent. Advent is one of two preparatory seasons in the Liturgical calendar (the other being Lent).

Preparing is not quite the same as waiting. Waiting conjures up images of standing or sitting until something happens. During Advent there are things we do to get ready for Christmas – praying, lighting candles on an Advent wreath, decorating the sanctuary, etc.

During most of Advent this year, I have been recovering from surgery. At times, I was waiting, but I had things to do as well. I had to taking the medications prescribed by the health care providers, following the soft food diet while my body heals, and do the exercises recommended.

Here in Trinity we have another preparatory season related to the co-op ministry with St. Peter's. The FOCUS group is preparing the co-op agreement, and members of both congregations are both encouraged and invited to attend those meetings.

I would also draw your attention to the number of memorial gifts that were made in December, a listing of these can be found on page 6.

As always, please give me any feedback on the newsletter. The deadlines for submission and the production schedule is on page 10.

Yours in Christ,

Matt Hunt

did not cease, and many people did not take Jesus' teaching to heart.

On the other hand, Jesus touched the hearts of many people who because they changed the way they saw and acted in the world, they were able to change a good part of the world. The Spirit of the resurrected Jesus still has the power to do this.

As we at Trinity Lutheran Church continue our plans for the co-op ministry with St. Peter's and our future in Steelton, this is certainly a good time to pray and discern what God is calling us to do to as a church and as individual Christians.

And as a final thought, I believe that life is about God's call and plan for us to be part of his work in this world. Let's consider that God is working. in us, changing our hearts, and calling us to be prepared for what God is doing in Steelton.

Pastor Mike

Repentance was more than asking for forgiveness, it also included the idea of orientation toward God which results in a change in the way in which we see the world, how we live and what we do.

The next SOHL meeting is January 7, 2019 at Salem-Oberlin. We begin with a meal and fellowship time.

All are welcome!

Stewardship of time

O God, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. - Psalm 90:12

What does it mean to count our days? Certainly, the poet who wrote Psalm 90:12 was thinking of more than arithmetic, which may not necessarily gain us a wise heart. Wisdom comes from perspective, from painful introspection and prayerful deliberation.

We count in order to know not only how many days we have *lived*, but to ponder how many days we might have *left*. Counting, we remember that we are finite creatures whose lives march forward in steady 24-hour steps, carrying us from birth to death. Knowing, then, that our days are numbered, we appreciate each one more fully.

We count our days to gain the wisdom that every day is sacred; every day presents opportunities to live more fully in relationship with God and our neighbors; every day is for love and joy and peace and fulfillment. Yet it's all too easy to let the days slip away.

This month consider a focus on stewardship of your time – how you spend every day God gives you. Here is a “to do” list for making the most of every day:

- **Pray:** Begin each day communicating with the creator of the universe, meditating on Scripture or a wise Christian author. Even 10 minutes. End by praying Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
- **Care:** Convey through word or deed how much you care about someone in your life. Call up an old friend or relative. Invite a co-worker to lunch.
- **Help:** Look for some way to assist someone. Volunteer. Hold a door open for someone entering a store behind you. Stop for a pedestrian who wants to cross the street.

- **Enrich:** Find something that will deepen your knowledge, understanding or appreciation of the world. Read a poem or book. Listen to a sermon podcast or educational news program.
- **Stop.** That's right, do nothing. For at least 10 minutes (use your smart phone timer) sit quietly, breathe deeply and try to clear the busy thoughts from your mind. Open your spirit to God's presence.
- **Be healthy:** Do something to increase your physical health, such as eating a nutritious meal or taking a walk.
- **Pray:** End every day thanking the creator of the universe for another wonderful day. A day you have counted and that you have made count.

Focus on stewardship of time and see how your own life will change. Make it a permanent part of your discipleship.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2019, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.



Live Nativity

The four churches of SOHL participated in performing a live Nativity on Friday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m. It was held at Salem-Oberlin.

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.

Lessons and Carols

Our service of Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, December 30th beginning at 10:30am here at Trinity. This will be a joint service of the four SOHL churches. Come and enjoy singing your favorite Christmas carols one last time before the new year! Cookies and coffee will be available after the service during which time you can mingle and get to know members from the other congregations. If you are able to contribute any cookies, please sign the sheet downstairs. Thank you.

Church “Un”decorating

We will meet at 9 AM on Saturday, **January 12** to undecorate our worship spaces from the Christmas season. Please come and help if you possibly can.

First Sunday Fellowship

The January 1st **Sunday Fellowship** will be held on January 13, immediately following the service. It will be sponsored by Bill Lux and Ben Whittington. This will mark the return of Mike Anthony to the kitchen, so you know there will be good food. Be sure to join us!

World Cafe--VFW Church

Rose Tonkin leads a worship service at the Highspire VFW once a month. The next date for VFW Church is December 27th, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Let the Cooperative Competition Begin



Beginning on Sunday, January 6, 2019 we will be collecting cans of soup for a “Souper” Bowl Sunday donation to the United Lutheran Seminary Food Pantry at Gettysburg. This year, Trinity and St. Peters are challenging each other to see who can collect the most cans **during the entire month of January**.

Each week, the totals for the week before will be announced in church so that we know who is ahead and who needs to work a little harder at collecting!

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, the winning church will be announced! (There will be a trophy involved.) Everyone will also be encouraged to wear a football shirt of their favorite high school, college, or pro team to church to set the mood.

Let's start buying those cans of soup as you see them on sale. Bring them to church beginning in **JANUARY** (not before). This will be a friendly competition, **BUT** let's face it, **we want that trophy!!!!!!!!**



Communities of Hope at Salem-Oberlin

This is something new for families that work all week or for those who have off one day a week and want to sleep in on Sunday Mornings. Come as you are on Saturday night, there is no need to dress up. Come in your jean or sweats!

Jesus loves you just the way you are.

Worship will be held at Salem at 1152 Main Street, Oberlin at 5:30pm on the following dates:

January 26
February 16
March 30
April 20
May 18
June 15

The following note and a monetary gift were received this past week in our office:

Dear Trinity Family,

My mother, Hedy Hoffman Hocker, went home to be with our Lord, September 30th this year, 13 days shy of her 99th birthday.

Even though we have lived in Florida for many years, she still considered Trinity "her church". She was raised in the church, confirmed and married there. Our family was an active part of Trinity's ministry for many years.

I would like to honor my precious, wonderful, caring, loving, giving mother with a gift to Trinity in her honor and memory.

In His love and service,
Hedy Hocker McKee

Dear Trinity Family,

The family thanks you very much for prayers and cards. No words I can say of all the love in this church has.

My mother is in better place and I do not have to worry about her anymore.

God bless you all,

John Michtich.

There are plenty of opportunities to sponsor altar flowers as well as the candles and bulletins in January. Please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin boards near just outside the chapel and the fellowship hall.

Memorial Gifts

Contributions have been received in memory of the following. We thank the contributors for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

in memory of Hedy Hocker by
Hedy & Gerald McKee

in memory of Kathleen Michtich
by Carl & Anna Zeiders
by Richard Schultheisz
by Anna Gawel
by Henry & Vicki Koller
by Lenny & Peg Bowling
by Ed & Jan Holwig
by Jacqueline Acri
by Virginia Michtich
by Richard Martz
by Bob & Edie Carillo

in memory of Carl & Anna Guyer
by Carl & Anna Zeiders

Memorial gifts may be given at any time and in memory of whomever you would like.

Envelopes are available by the Memorial Book in the entryway of the church.



We pray for those...

In need:

Debbie Bernhard
Kirk Douglas
Matt Hunt
Bill Schick
Elizabeth Faul

John Brunner
Pastor Sharron Blezard
Darlene Martz
Fletcher Smith
Michael Brown
John Schenfelt
Joyce Stickle
Anna Zeiders

Bereaved:

family of Kathleen Michtich

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 Edenvue 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

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 17111

January 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary	4	5
6 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 6pm Life and Death Group	7 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling 6pm SOHL @ Salem FOCUS following SOHL @ Trinity	8 6:30pm Bible Study	9 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary 6:00pm Council meeting	11	12
13 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 12pm Worship & Music following service 6pm Life and Death Group	14 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling	15 6:30pm Bible Study	16 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Newsletter deadline 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary	18	19
20 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 6pm Life and Death Group	21 9:30am Bible Study 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling 7pm FOCUS @ St. Peter's	22 6:30pm Bible Study	23 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary	25	26
27 9:45am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship 6pm Life and Death Group	28 9:30am Bible Study 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary 6pm The Tribe – Youth Wrestling	29 6:30pm Bible Study	30 9:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	31 3:15pm Tutoring @ Steelton Elementary		

January Participants in our Services

Date	Communion Assistants	Ushers	Lay Reader	Acolyte	Flowers \$25	Bulletins, Candles \$17
Jan. 6	Judy Krovic, Jan Holwig	Carl Zeiders, Dick Schultheisz	Matt Hunt	Zachary Anthony	?	?
Jan. 13	Sandy Canning, Doris Reynolds	Jim Canning, Lenny Bowling	Jim Canning	Judy Krovic	?	?
Jan. 20	Judy Krovic, Jan Holwig	Shelley & Mark Radic	Mary Hunt	Gabe Whary	?	?
Jan. 27	Shelley & Mark Radic	Ed Holwig, Zack Szekeres	Lenny Bowling	Ni'Shaun Ward-McMullen	?	?



January: Shelley & Mark Radic, Jan Holwig
February: Judy Krovic, Peg & Lenny Bowling
March: Jan Holwig, Matt & Mary Hunt

January Birthdays (*80 or older)

- 8th Peg Bowling
- Leslie Martz
- 18th Robert Emrich
- 21st Anna Gawel *
- 22nd Cheryl Hippensteel
- 30th Nancy Paine
- 31st Beth Szekeres



TRINITARIAN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue	Deadline	Publication Date
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
October 2019	9/19/2019	9/26/2019
November 2019	10/17/2019	10/24/2019
December 2019	11/14/2019	11/21/2019

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
221 S 2nd St.
Steelton, PA 17113