



The **Lighthouse**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

38307 Royalton Road, Grafton, OH 44044

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



December 2011



Sunday Service Schedule

Worship Service at

10:30 a.m. September—May

9:30 a.m. June—August

Communion Service is held
the first and third Sunday of
each month

Children's Sunday School is
held during worship service
from September - May

Adult Bible class is held on
Sunday at 9:15 a.m. from
September—May

Pastoral Services: Vicar John Ramsey

Phone: 440-748-2154

E-mail: Trinitygrafton1@frontier.com

Website: trinitygrafton.org

Church office hours: Mon., Wed. & Fri. 10:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool

Phone: 440-748-3445

Website: trinitylutheranpreschool.org

Trinity Lutheran Church Mission Statement

The mission of Trinity Lutheran church is to be a Christian family that nurtures and sustains its members, reaches out in witness and love to gather others into God's family, serves and shares it's physical and spiritual resources with all persons in need. We accept this mission through worship and the Word of God. We praise and give thanks to our God for his saving grace, which we receive through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

The ultimate purpose is to gather people into God's Kingdom



FROM THE VICAR



This Month's
Scripture Reading

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. John 17:22-23 (ESV)



As we begin a new Church Year, I think back to my early days at Trinity in 2006. I arrived at a time of turmoil, in a situation that some doubted could be made whole again. But together, in unity, look at what we have accomplished! And this is not our doing, but it is clearly the work of our gracious Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ empowering us by the blessed Holy Spirit. As John relates in his Gospel, Jesus tells all His disciples that the glory God has given to His Son, Jesus has given that glory to us who come to believe and trust in Him. What wonderful news this is!

So the glory we receive from Him by our faith in Him brings us into fellowship, into unity as the people of God. Luther commenting on this passage says, however, that *“it is not enough (says Jesus) that they be one, but they must be perfected in unity.”* Perfectly unified? Luther knows this will not happen—we look forward to the next life for perfection. Yet in this life, perfection walks alongside our faith. *“As we have faith, so also shall we move toward perfection in accord with the Lord’s Will.”*

The Season of Advent reminds us to be living in expectant faith of the return of Christ Jesus. God has called us who are imperfect to be the means by which the Word of God is announced to those who have yet to repent and seek the salvation offered by Christ. Our mortal bodies that include heart and mind have been misshapen by sin, but our once dead spirits have been made alive through baptism. The glorious Good News for us as the people of God is that we share all the fullness of God that Christ has bestowed upon us as God’s Holy Son.

To what end? So that the world will know how much God loves all of His people, not desiring that any should ever perish, i.e., be separated from Him for eternity. Jesus wants the Holy Christian Church to communicate this great truth—that the Father has sent the Son into the world to demonstrate how great is His love for us through His immeasurable love for His Son. And this is a perfect love given to people who are not able to grasp its magnitude, yet are called to share it in humble servitude, just as Jesus has done for all who trust in Him.

On Christmas Day, while still looking forward to His Second Coming, we remember the birth of the perfect Son of God born into a fallen world in order to bring physically & spiritually the message of God that His promise to offer sinners grace and mercy has been fulfilled. Jesus came not just to save us, but to raise up, equip and send out disciples to touch other people’s lives with healing, love and fellowship.

Living simultaneously as saints & sinners, we struggle with God’s message and His mission for us. Yet Christ Jesus has elected us to be His witnesses to the truth of God’s plan & purpose for each person. As His witnesses, Luther explains how we are to live with what God has graciously given to us.

“The treasure is present with us, and collected together into one place, but the vessel is weak, for which reason we cannot hold it securely as perfectly as we ought; for ‘we have this treasure in earthen vessels.’ On that account, therefore, we are to labor daily in unceasing prayer, continual preaching, and much admonition, and to fight against all opposition and temptations, that we do not lose such a great and precious a treasure, nor give the devil an occasion or opportunity for plucking it out of our hands, but that we pay the more earnest heed to guard it and hold it fast, and shun no peril for such a treasure’s sake.”

Advent Blessings in Christ Jesus who has come and is coming again!

Vicar John





Mrs. Suzy Snider
Director of
Music
Ministry



“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.”

Luke 2:8



Our composer of the month is George Frideric Handel, born in 1685. He was recognized as a musical genius at an early age. Seven his father grudgingly sent him to study with F. W. Zachow, organist of the Lutheran church at Halle, Germany. Handal started to compose religious music. He is est known for his oratorio, The Messiah, composed in 1741 and completed in just twentyfour days.

One of Handel’s most famous hymn tunes is “*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*”. We’ll learn more about his life in a few months.

Blessings to you and your loved ones this Christmas.

The Worship Committee



Advent-a season of Anticipation



We are entering Advent, and our Sunday School calendar mirrors the season’s focus of looking to the coming of our Lord. Lessons for the first two Sundays in December concentrate on Mary’s anticipation of the birth of Jesus, the baby who would be her son but also the Savior of the world. There will be no Sunday School December 18, as that Sunday our Preschool classes will present a program focusing on their anticipation and celebration of Jesus’ birthday. Neither will there be Sunday School on December 25, for on that joyous day children and staff will be celebration Jesus coming in worship with their families.



The anticipation of His birthday will then be over for this year, but we will begin to look at how the people in Jesus’ day responded to the anticipation of His coming- people like Simeon and Anna, King Herod, the three Wisemen. Some of them, like us, celebrated in worship; some did not. But all wanted to learn more about what His coming meant for them. So too, will the Sunday School staff and children explore this question in the coming year.

Anticipation, joy, wonder, and response in blessed Christmas wishes to you all.



Serving Others Through Love INC

Thank you, thank you, thank you! To the many people in the congregation and to the families of our preschool who donated food to provide a Thanksgiving basket for a family served by Love INC. Response from the people of Trinity was so great that we were able to provide Thanksgiving boxes to two other local families as well. And we had excess food which we donated to the Grafton Salvation Army so that we could share our Lord's blessings with more of our community. (We began to feel as though we were living the loaves and fishes story!)

While there is help available around the holidays, help during January and February is very scarce. Love INC is going to have a gift card collection again this Christmas season. They are asking that we churches who would like to participate collect gift cards to such places as Wal-Mart, Giant Eagle, and Walgreen's. Gasoline cards to BP, Speedway and Get Go are also needed. Having these cards available allows the agency to stretch their crisis fund further in helping with unexpected needs, for which resources may not be available elsewhere..

Trinity will once again participate in the gift card collection. If you wish to contribute gift cards from any of the merchants suggested, please give your cards to Linda Lee. If you wish to contribute cash toward the purchase of such gift cards, please put your contribution in an envelope marked with your offering number and the designation of "Love INC gift cards" and drop it in the offering plate any Sunday in December or early January. After January 8 Linda will ask our church treasurer for a check totaling all of the gifts so designated and will then purchase a deliver as many cards as our pooled funds can buy. We will start the New Year by sharing love in the name of Christ ...a fitting beginning.

May each of you have a blessed Christmas and extend those blessings to know and share renewed love and joy in the coming year.



Thank You

A special Thank You to the congregation of Trinity for all their support and especially their prayers during David's illness. God has put us both with the most generous, caring, loving people I know.

Thank You,

Janet Hill



I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.





Ladies Aid annual Christmas party is December 6th at Gray Hawk Country Club. Look for more information on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. All ladies of the congregation are invited.

Celebrate Jesus' Birthday!

Who looks forward to a birthday more than a child? On December 18 our congregation is going to be able to share that anticipation and excitement as our Preschool students present their Christmas program during the worship service! See and hear their joy and wonder as they tell the story of the Savior's birth. Enjoy the perspective of a child; share the exuberance as they look forward to Jesus' coming birthday. Give thanks not only for His coming, but for the chance to remember and celebrate God's greatest gift every year.

There will be a time of fellowship following the service so that members and preschool families may get to meet and greet one another. Any donations of cookies for the fellowship will be appreciated. Come, stay, celebrate.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.

Kathryn Gritts



Annual Church Election of Officers

There will be a Congregational meeting in January to elect new officers. These are to include president and two trustees. Opportunities to serve on other committees can be announced, but these are not elected positions (including Christian Education Chair, Preschool Board, LWML President and others).



The Mitten Tree is in the entrance hall. Please remember to bring in mittens and hats for children in need.



December Birthdays

- 3 Tim Farkas
- 13 Elinor Wildenheim
- 14 Kim Weber
- 14 David Hill
- 17 Ron Dennis
- 25 Steven Popowski
- 25 Carol Ramsey



January Birthdays

- 4 Christine Shannon
- 5 Mary Galish
- 13 Jenny Matoy
- 15 Sarah Shannon
- 22 Jeanne Wildenheim
- 28 Matthew Potts

December

2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4  2ND SUNDAY @ Advent	5	6  Ladies Christmas Luncheon	7	8	9	10
11  3RD SUNDAY @ Advent	12	13	14	15	16	17
18  CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	19	20	21	22	23	24 7:00 PM  Christmas Eve SERVICES 4:30-11
25  Come, let us adore him!	26	27	28	29	30	31  Looking Toward the New Year