



The **Lighthouse**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

38307 Royalton Road, Grafton, OH 44044

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



January 2012



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



“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”

1 Peter 1:1-2 (ESV)

The man we often call St. Peter, the same Simon Peter who was known as the “rock” for his statement that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, writes his first letter to congregations scattered throughout western Asia, the country we know today as Turkey. These congregations are suffering persecution. They want to know from an apostle whether their faith in Jesus Christ is justified. They thought Jesus was coming very soon. Now they are suffering. They want to know the reason for such suffering.

I want to discuss this passage in two ways. First, as we enter the new year of 2012, we are going to be confronted with many challenges as a nation. Will our economy improve? Who will be our next President, and what will Congress look like? Are there men and women in this country who have the courage to step forward and make the difficult decisions required to stop the deficit spending and debt that looms ahead of us like the sword of Damocles? Finally, the Mayan calendar ends on Dec. 21, 2012. Does this mean the end of the world, as some sages have predicted?

As an apostle, Peter was called to provide leadership to the young Christian Church. Even though he would soon die as a martyr, he took the time to write encouraging words to these fellowships of believers who were beginning to doubt their salvation. At the very beginning of the letter, Peter lets them know who they are:

- † Elect—they have been chosen by God as believers in Christ Jesus.
- † Exiles: having been chosen by God for faith, they have a future heavenly home to look forward to, meaning that for now, in this life, they are exiles from heaven.
- † Dispersion—many of them have been forced to leave Jerusalem and other cities because of their faith. This is God’s plan to grow the new Church—to scatter the new believers everywhere around the world.
- † Foreknowledge--They have been elected to salvation by the foreknowledge of God—God knew they would believe before He even brought them to life!
- † Dispersion--Their faith is being sanctified, that is, empowered, by the Holy Spirit; they will not lose their faith even in the midst of the persecutions they suffer because the Holy Spirit is working in & through them.
- † Obedience—According to their faith in Christ Jesus, they will be obedient because they are placing their faith, hope & trust in Christ.
- † Sprinkling with His blood—All of this is God’s plan of action for the Church, including that work of Christ, the shedding of His blood, that brings us salvation and the assurance of everlasting life.
- † Grace & peace—God has given believers His favor even though no one deserves it, and He has made peace with believers through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross to atone for our sin and to rise from the grave to give us eternal life.

Christians who believe in these words of Peter have the promise of salvation and everlasting life. What comfort such assurance brings to us in these troubling times. The early apostles had the authority of Jesus Christ to preach, teach and minister to those coming to faith by the Holy Spirit’s power. At the same time, the apostles were training the next generation of church leaders who would carry on this vital apostolic work.

This leads me to my second point—Trinity Lutheran Church has a need for a few leaders to carry on the vital work that God has called this congregation to do. Without effective leadership, how can we continue to provide effective ministry to our fellowship, our preschool and our community?

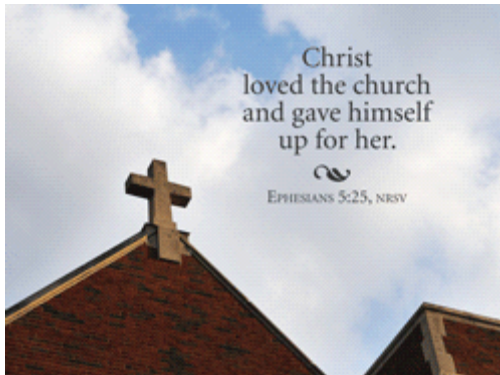
Therefore, as we look forward this month to our annual congregational meeting (January 22), we are in need of a few people to serve as leaders. One office that is very important is that of congregational president. Our trustees have the responsibility to oversee the building and property of the church. At least two individuals are needed to serve as trustees. Although not an elected office, the chair of the Christian Education committee is important in planning & fulfilling the various educational adventures of the church and working alongside the Preschool staff to develop joint functions

We are very blessed to have many people doing a variety of tasks for our congregation. Many of our workers are performing multiple duties. To have so few offices and a committee chair open for new leaders is a statement of how willing everyone is to serve. If you are so inclined to give us your name as a willing candidate, please let us know. Nominations from the floor on Jan 22 will also be part of our process if we have no “announced” candidates.

I pray that for those who have been blessed by being a part of this congregation that you prayerfully consider returning that blessing by serving all the people of the congregation as a church leader. Please talk to me if you have any questions.

In praise, glory & honor of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

Vicar John



Thank You

To our Trinity family:

Carol and I want to thank you for the gifts, cards and messages that we received during the celebration of our Lord's birth. Your expressions of love are so meaningful to us as we serve alongside you in this ministry. We also want to give thanks to the congregation for your very generous financial gift. This money will come in handy as I prepare to purchase some appropriate pastoral attire in anticipation of being ordained as your pastor.

*In Christ's love,
John and Carol*



Mrs. Suzy Snider
Director of
Music
Ministry



"How good it is to sing praises to our God!"
Psalm 147:1

In our Christmas anthem the Trinity Choir sang "Peace came to earth at last that chosen night when angels clove the sky with song and light." These words were written by Jaroslau J. Vajda.

Other words of peace are found in our Christmas hymns . . . "And praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth"

May you have the peace and joy of Christ Jesus in your life throughout this coming year.

Blessings,

The Worship Committee



A special Thank You goes out to all who participated in the Holiday Services with their special gifts of music.

A New Year: New Beginnings

Our new Sunday School year began Jan. 1 with stories of the presentation of Jesus, the visit of the Wisemen, the baptism of Jesus, and Jesus' calling of the first disciples.

As the children follow the Growing in Christ curriculum, they learn how Jesus grew and accepted His role of leading others to accept Him as their Lord and Savior. The children are growing in Christ and learning to become His followers.

Thank God that it doesn't take a New Year's resolution for any of us to do this, but simply acceptance of God's gift of grace: love and forgiveness. Let us begin.



Vestry ~ Behind the Scenes

Vestry ~ Behind the Scenes

Trustee at Work



Many of the members of Trinity's congregation may not be aware of what goes on behind the scenes to maintain the building and grounds. Here is a sample of what is being done for you.

I walked into the narthex to do some minor repairs today and it was like walking into a freezer. Checked temp and it was 45 degrees and I could hear the water running in the boiler room. Thoughts of frozen pipes quickly bombarded my brain. In the boiler room I found water running across the floor to the drain. I shut off water supply valve to the boilers. I also found that the boiler breaker was tripped. I called Geisel but all of their technicians were out so I had to wait until one was free. I formulated a plan to keep the pipes from freezing in case they couldn't get out today. Fortunately, Mike who was the last one to work on the other boiler was free first and came about 3 PM. Apparently the backflow preventer failed and allowed water from the heating system to flow back toward the water supply system, but we have another backflow preventer on the main system so the water went out the 'escape overflow' pipe. We don't know if the water from that got onto the boiler and ran down onto electrical parts and tripped the breaker or if it was the pump motor drawing too much amperage. You know it has been making quite a noise lately and was on my list to check once we got other heating system issues resolved (I hadn't mentioned those since the repairs were related to the change in boilers and didn't cause heat failure). We isolated the pump from the motor to determine the source of the noise and found that it was the motor- probably bearings. We checked the amperage on the motor and it was 8.5 and it's rated at 5.8. That plus the smaller boiler pumps came close to the 15 amp rating of the circuit. When a pump starts up it takes more than when it's running, so it could have exceeded the 15 amp upon start up and tripped the breaker.

Mike said he just replaced 2 similar motors in an apt. bldg. and it cost \$1745 each. I told him I would like to see if it could be rebuilt. He called their source and was told that to rebuild this model motor would cost about the same as a new one and didn't recommend doing so. Mike told me to think about what we wanted to do. After he left he called me and said he could get a motor tonight and install it tomorrow if I wanted to do so. I told him to go ahead.

I know this exceeds the \$500 limit that trustees have w/o Vestry approval but I don't want to take the chance with it going out and having to deal with frozen pipes again.

Even though we have the system back together and running, as a precaution for tonight I set the thermostat in the fellowship hall for 68 all night and opened to double doors at both ends of the hall.

By the way, during Christmas break I drafted to Lopez family and we removed the covers on the heaters in the fellowship hall and cleaned the fin tubes. The preschool ladies said they noticed that it was warmer when they came in every day this week. This was before I told them what we had done. So I figure the ones in the sanctuary haven't been cleaned since the church was remodeled in 1971 and most likely need doing also.

This brings me to the concern that I have expressed for the last several years- we need trustees who are available and willing to learn some of the things I've picked up over the 40 yrs. I've been working at maintenance and repairs at TLC. Please give some serious thought and prayer to the consequences of not having someone who knows what to do in emergency situations such as happened today. If I hadn't decided to complete the repairs of the chalkboard today, the pipe could have frozen tonight. Fortunately, God was watching out for us.

In His service,

Dick

PLEASE CONSIDER THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH. THERE IS A NEED FOR SOMEONE TO STEP UP TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING OUR BUILDING AND GROUNDS. THIS IS THE HOME OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

YOUR VESTRY PRESIDENT,

LINDA MERRYMAN



Christian Education Committee Meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in being on this committee, you are welcome to attend.

We are still looking for someone to take over leadership of the Christian Education Committee and our outreach programs. If interested see Vicar John Ramsey or Marge Potts.

Marge Potts
Christian Education Committee Chairperson



QUILT SILENT AUCTION

This hand made queen size quilt was made by our Ladies Aid Group, and is up for auction starting now until January 31, 2012. A fund raiser for L.W.M.L. is sponsored by the Ladies Aid group. For our contribution for newsletters and quarterlies that we receive. Opening Bid is \$100. If you are interested, please fill out your name, phone number, along with your bid and fold your paper and put it in the jar.

Thank you and Good Luck!

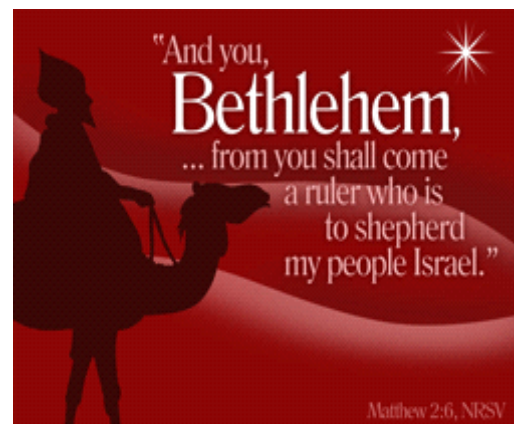


Recycling is Good Stewardship

Keep those ink and toner cartridges coming. Not only are you being good stewards by keeping waste out of the landfills but you are saving Trinity Lutheran Church and Preschool hundreds of dollars! Preschool parents have joined us in our recycling program and helped cut the cost of their supplies. Last year you recycled enough cartridges to earn **\$418.31** in rewards that were used to purchase office and school supplies. Keep up the good work as good stewards of God's resources.



Congregational meeting after service on January 22. Looking for 2 Trustees and a President.





MIGHTY MITES

Since LWML Sunday, the congregation has turned in \$155.97 in mites. This money is forwarded to the Ohio District LWML to fund mission grants.

If you would like another mite box to keep on contributing, please see Linda Lee.

Following is an excerpt from an article from the Winter LWML Quarterly that outlines the mission projects being funded at this time

MISSION GRANTS

Where are your Ohio District Mites going this Biennium?

At the June 2010 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Ohio District Convention in Perrysburg, Ohio, delegates voted to fund seven mission grants for the 2010-2012 biennium. The LWML Ohio District is in the final months of paying these Mission Grants. Continue collecting mites and sending them to the LWML Ohio District Financial Secretary. Your mites have touched many people in our district and across the country.

Concordia Seminary Food & clothing Co-op
Lutherans Do Care in Appalachia
Mission Team Formation Grant
Ohio District Student Aid Grant—Full time ministry
Ohio District Student Aid Grant—Full time Pastoral
Refugee Ministry—Southwest Ohio
Trinity Lutheran Blind Ministry
Victory Lutheran Church Food Bank
Worship for Shut-Ins.

Totals: GRANTS—\$80,000 PAID—\$64,175 BALANCE- \$15,825

At this point in the biennium, we have paid 80.22% of the \$80,000 mission grant goal. Let us meet the challenge and bring in our mites before the close of the biennium, March 31, 2012, so that the balance of grants can be paid.

Leslie Lindsey, Vice President Gospel Outreach



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



- 2 Doris Farkas
- 12 Richard Popowski
- 13 Rose Wildenheim
- 16 Don Merryman
- 20 Larry Wildenheim
- 24 Nicole Thiedemann

in February!



LOVE INC. GIFT CARDS

December and January is our gift card campaign for Love INC. If you would like to participate, please place your contribution in an envelope marked with your offering number and labeled 'LOVE INC Gift Cards'. Linda Lee will pool all funds in mid-January and buy gasoline and grocery cards to enable the agency to help with clients emergency needs over the winter.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Trinity was able to help several families in need with Thanksgiving food; but instead of doing the same or "adopting" a family for Christmas, we have decided to join in Love INC's gift card campaign. Through mid-January, we will be collecting funds to purchase gift cards for groceries or gas for the agency's clients' emergency winter needs. There are many sources of help during the holiday season; but very few are available during the lean winter months, so we've chosen this way to get maximum impact for our help.

If you wish to participate, please put your contribution in an envelope, mark it with your offering number, and label it "Love INC gift cards". Linda Lee will pool all funds collected and purchase gift cards from Walmart, Giant Eagle, Walgreen's, Speedway, etc. and turn them over to Love INC to meet their clients' winter emergencies. If you prefer to donate actual gift cards, please give those to Linda as well, by mid-January.

Trinity is a member congregation of the Love INC. organization and supports their efforts to share God's love and care with those in need, especially the people who "fall through the cracks" and don't qualify for government or social service benefits. As I sat after a worship service one Sunday this summer, I was struck by the words of the hymn we were singing. "Sent forth by God's blessing," I thought, that's why I feel as if I'm doing God's work when I contribute to Love INC's requests. The last lines of the first verse "The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all." are my reason for serving as the contact person between the agency and this congregation.

Monthly, I see the congregation's response to requests, as you live out the words in the second verse of the hymn: "Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring... then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving, give honor to Christ and His name that we bear." On an individual basis, I know of one family who aided a burned-out family this fall with care and concern, clothing, furniture and toys.

We've even been able to extend this response to our larger community. The VBS children collected enough funds to buy 2 pillows, 2 sheet sets, and 2 fuzzy blankets for their "kid-to-kid" mission project. These items went to Love INC to outfit the next bunk beds donated to children in need. In addition, our preschool families, many of who are not members of Trinity, joined us in our Thanksgiving food drive to benefit local families who were clients of Love INC.

Thank God for these opportunities to serve our Lord through an organization that stresses sharing the Word as well as meeting material needs. Thank God for all who are sent forth by God's blessing!

Linda Lee

Warm Hearts, Warm Coats

Thanks to all who participated in the coat drive for Love INC clients. The people of Trinity donated two dozen new or gently used coats. Your warm hearts will help spread a bit of warmth to those in need this winter. And the gospel story will be shared as well to each person who gets a coat. We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in this way.





JANUARY

2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Communion SERVICE	2	3	4	5	6  the Light shines in the Darkness	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15  Communion SERVICE	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	17  VESTRY	18	19	20	21
22  Congregational MEETING	23	24	25	26	27	28
29  Pot Luck Supper	30	31				