

The Messenger

January 2019

Volume 84, Issue 1

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From our Pastor

Grace and peace to you from the One who was, who is and who is to return again.

As you read this, we are either preparing for or are in the midst of celebrating the Epiphany — the revelation of Christ to all nations, becoming known to the entire world.

It also means we have survived our first month of ministry together. There was probably no better time to begin than the start of a new church year and a full immersion into the worship life at Holy Trinity with its rhythm of morning prayer, evening prayer, weekend Eucharists and amazing celebrations of the Nativity of Jesus. Thank you to all who had a hand in planning, decorating, singing, leading, teaching and making our worship life so glorious.

Even while we celebrated the birth of Jesus, we experience his continual presence among us even now — living with us, healing us, forgiving us, lifting us into relationship and urging us to continue to share his good news for the sake of our neighbor.

As we enter this Epiphany season, you will be asked to join for one of a series of small group gatherings that will be held in people's homes that will give us a chance to get to know each other better. At these House Masses, we'll first be fed at the Lord's table, then have guided conversation about your hopes for the future of our ministry together. We'll talk about where we see God active among us now, and how we might see God urging us into a future so rich with promise. Come prepared to dream a little bit. And yes, kids, we want to hear your voices, too!

Watch for more details in coming weeks and sign-up sheets in the narthex.

Blessings as we continue to experience Emmanuel, God with us.

Pastor Brenda

Save the Date

Sunday, February 10, 2019

A 4:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion and Installation of The Rev. Brenda Martin will be held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville.

A reception for all will be held in Brath Hall.

Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins and the February Messenger.



Office Closures in January

The Church Office will be closed **Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2** so staff may enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Have a Happy New Year celebration and be safe.

Twelfth Night Congregation Fellowship

The 33rd annual Twelfth Night Party will begin at **6:45 p.m. on Saturday, January 5, 2019**. Brath Hall will be festively decorated to celebrate the final night of the 12 days of Christmas and the close of the Christmas season.

You are invited to enjoy music, poetry, the singing of carols, with food and fellowship. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Come and share in this lovely, moving Twelfth Night tradition. Our thanks to event planners and coordinators Ruth Heil, Billie Hollenbaugh, Bonnie Massing, and Director of Music Maidene Hackett.

Un-Decorating Day

On **Sunday, January 6**, after Sunday Church School, members of the Worship and Music Committee will gather to “un-decorate” the church from the Christmas Season. Would you like to lend a hand? Contact Anna-Marie Shears, chair of the committee. Many hands are needed to make the work lighter and the time go faster. Please join in!

The Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 13, the First Sunday after the Epiphany, is the day in the life of the Church Year when we commemorate the Baptism of Our Lord. In worship there will be a focus on Holy Baptism through hymns, lessons, sermon, and prayers at each of the liturgies, and, we will include the opportunity to Affirm our Baptisms. Be part as our community of Jesus’ disciples observes the Baptism of Our Lord, and probes its meaning for our lives and our part in God’s saving mission.



Congregation to Meet January 27, 2018



The Congregation Council has set **Sunday, January 27, 2019**, as the meeting date for the winter Congregation Meeting. **The focus of this meeting will be, according to the congregation's constitution, financial reporting, and the adoption of the income and expenditure budgets for 2019.**

All voting members (defined as those who have communed and contributed of record during 2018) should attend.

The Mercer County Housing Coalition Needs You

“We don’t want *those people* here.” “Why don’t they just get a job.” “We don’t have a problem with homelessness in Mercer County.” These are all some examples of comments that I’ve heard from people about homelessness. I serve on the Mercer County Housing Coalition where we discuss current housing needs, homelessness, and work together to help individuals who are having a housing crisis. Annually, HUD (Housing and Urban Development) requires each county in the country to do a Point In Time Count. This always occurs within the last week of January. The purpose of this is to determine the number of homeless people across the country which can help with funding from the Federal Government down to states and counties. This year, as our Housing Coalition members and volunteers go out during the late afternoon and early evening of January 23 in search of people living under bridges, living in their cars, parking garages and tents, we are hoping to be able to give them something small. Please see below what we are looking to collect.

Please consider donating some of those items during the 12 days of Christmas. We would like to have items collected by January 14 and the Housing Coalition will assemble bags the following day. .

I hope that as we have celebrated the birth of Christ, enjoyed opening our gifts and spending time with family and friends, that you also remember those who are not as fortunate and will consider buying a little something extra for those less fortunate.

Anna-Marie Shears

Items to be collected

- Gloves / mittens,
- Scarves,
- Travel size toiletries,
- Blankets
- Hand/feet warmers
- Thermals
- Matches/lighters (to heat food)
- Nonperishable food
- Gallon size Ziploc bags



Items can be dropped off in the church office or in the box placed in the narthex beginning December 30.



Columbarium Expansion Completed

After a year of planning and construction, the addition to the columbarium at Holy Trinity has been completed. One hundred six additional niches were dedicated during the liturgy on All Saints' Day. A total of 186 niches now grace the baptistry area providing resting places for the next generations of Holy Trinity members and their families.

Many individuals gave of their time and talents to plan, coordinate, and install the additional niches. First, a big thanks to the Columbarium Committee: Bob Dorfeld, Marj Stubert, Chuck Lanning, Rusty Saverino and Mike Bradley, and to the Columbarium Task Force which included all of the aforementioned, with the addition of Ed Pitcher, Beth Harpst, Jason Oros, and Jonathan Oros.

We are thankful for the technical advice from former member Carl Long who offered his expertise and experience to the task force, making the installation process much smoother. Ken Black, Chuck Lanning, Ed Pitcher and Rusty Saverino provided expert construction skills in assembling the components of the columbarium. We appreciate the efforts of Jason, Jonathan and Ryan Oros, Pastor Denny Blauser, Ed Pitcher, Bob Massing, and Mike Bradley in unloading the unbelievable heavy materials from Armento Visual Designs, unpacking and moving the components from the parking lot to the stage and back upstairs to the columbarium - a challenge to be sure.

Professional woodworker Jon Loreno incorporated his many skills in designing, finishing and installing the woodwork that provides the wonderful finished look to the new components of the columbarium. He skillfully matched the newly installed woodwork to the twenty-plus year-old original woodwork.

And we are thankful for the efforts of Tammy Williams, Office Administrator, who is preparing a revised columbarium booklet which will include the policies and prices for acquiring a niche at Holy Trinity.

Good Shepherd January Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **January is soups and stews**. Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister.

Second Mile

Second Mile is being re-examined by Council and the Social Ministry Committee for new and exciting ways to get our Congregation involved in outreach to the community. Until this re-examination period is complete during the 2019 year, please continue to give generously in the many other opportunities that are made available. If you have any questions, feel free to ask any Council member.

January Birthdays

- 1 Evelyn Ramming
- 4 Linda Batemen
- Sally Roth
- 6 Elysa Farrell
- Krista Oros
- 8 Billie Hollenbaugh
- Dolly Lineman
- 9 Emily Marshall
- 10 Colin Banco
- Kelly Gilmore
- 11 Julianne Eppley
- 15 Brycen Miller
- 16 Ken Black
- 17 Christopher Oros
- 20 Darlene Ferguson
- Lana Mozes
- 21 Bryce Stubert
- 22 Pastor Jayne Thompson
- 24 Vicki Coxson
- Todd Gruber
- 25 Marilyn Green
- 26 John Weaver
- 27 Lauren Faber
- Betty K. Junk
- Mark Wasser
- 30 Jack Leipheimer
- 31 Grant Abraham
- Helga Marguglio
- Charles Shultz
- Joran (Thompson) Ducham

January Anniversaries

The following members of our congregation are celebrating anniversaries this month. Congratulate them when you see them.

Dan and Alecia Eppley	26 years	January 2, 1993
Henry and Ruth Heil	61 years	January 24, 1958
Rusty and Linda Saverino	41 years	January 28, 1978

Altar and Columbarium Flowers Sign Up Sheet

The sign up sheet for Altar and/or Columbarium flowers is up in the Narthex if you are interested in signing up for the coming year.

The cost is \$22.50 for Altar vase or \$45.00 for both. The cost is also \$22.50 for each Columbarium Vase or a total of \$45.00 for both.

Please fill out an information sheet, which are available on the long table in the narthex, and return to the church office.



Spark House Fun Pages

Beginning in January there will be “fun pages” for children available in a basket in the narthex each week. These pages coincide with the lessons used in liturgy that Sunday. There are two levels, one for pre-readers and one for readers. There are also crayons in the basket to be used to solve the puzzles each week.

Please ask an usher for them if you cannot find the basket. Use this tool as a way to be more connected to the liturgy each week.

John the Baptist Proclaims Jesus' Coming



The people loved John and came to see and hear him whenever they could.