



Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2012

Prayer Requests:

- Marilyn Doyle
- Judy Heckert
- Tim VerHaar
- Jean & Marilynne Lampson
- Sally Magruder—cancer
- Steve Roche
- Anne Stark
- Myrna & Mack Rankin
- Beverly Ann Davis
- Kelly Hannon

Military in Action.

- Wesley Davis
- Matt Head—USMC
- John R. Hill—Air Force
- Matt Olson—USMC
- Franklin Barr—US Navy

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I am penning this article, the local newspaper is sitting on my desk detailing what the local retail stores are going to do on “Black Friday”, including opening earlier than last year and offering magnificent buys for those willing to wait for the mad dash that sets off the Christmas buying season. I wouldn’t be surprised to see “Black Friday” moved ahead of Thanksgiving in the not-too-distant future as local stores vie for that almighty buck.

Before you start shopping to obtain that one gift that says how much you love that particular person, let me invite you to a conversation and maybe a simpler way to celebrate Christmas without the stress usually associated with this part of the church year.

I would like to share some words from a book entitled *Advent Conspiracy-Can Christmas Change the World?* This is the resource I’ll be using in our upcoming class on Consumerism in Christmas which starts on December 2nd during the regular Adult Sunday School hour:

“There is a sense of prophetic mystery surrounding Christ’s birth. The story reveals something divine to us; it drives our quest to look closely at our own stories. Who are we? Why are we? How do we? Where, in the midst of our questions, is this Immanuel, this God-with-us?

Sadly, for all our questioning, the mystery of the Incarnation escapes us. Jesus comes, in his first Advent, into the midst of our great sin and suffering. This was God’s design. But apart from the angels nudging a few scared shepherds and a cryptic star decoded by a handful of distant astrologists almost everyone else missed it.

Missing out should feel familiar; most of us habitually miss it every year at Christmas. Our story is consumption and consumerism, and we’re obsessed with the climax. We worship less. We spend more. We give less. We struggle more.

Less, more. More, less. Time and nerves stretch thin, and we reduce family and friends to a card or a present that costs the “right” amount to prove our level of love. Our quest to celebrate mystery exhausts us. Another Christmas passed by like a blizzard, and we are left to shovel through the trash of our failure.

Missing the prophetic mystery of Jesus’ birth means missing God-with-us, God beside us-God becoming one of us. Missing out on Jesus changes everything.”

The author of this book offers four simple, but powerful, countercultural concepts:

Worship Fully – because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus!

Spend Less – and free your resources for things that truly matter.

Give More – of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, your heart.

Love All – the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference.

For a church that believes that one does not have to do “good works” to earn God’s free gifts of forgiveness, protection from the Devil and eternal life, we seem to fall back into our old ways by getting wrapped in the practice of consumerism that constantly plagues our preparations and celebrations of Christmas. What are some other ways we can show others our love with our time, money and compassion? Without spending a dime to show others how much we love them with the trinkets of the world or pithy cards, what are some “long-lasting” gifts that leave indelible impressions for years to come on those we hold not only near and dear to ourselves, but also for those who do not know Christ at all?

Come and be part of this “Advent Conspiracy” as we learn to practice the true meaning of Christmas—God giving himself away in and through Jesus so that we might give ourselves away for others with no strings attached.

Let us prepare to receive Christ again and REJOICE!

Pastor Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Lunch Bunch will meet at K-Bob’s on December 3rd at 11: 45 a.m.

The Women’s Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. Please come for some great fellowship. They also have a prayer chain. If you have prayers, please call one of the following:

Linda Pike [327-4624]
Barbara Barr [325-3124]
Kathleen Lamb [327-1562]

Trinity Lutheran Church

Pastor:	Larry Davis
Sunday School Leader:	Tami Baker
Youth Leader:	Richard Baker
Newsletter Editor:	Terri Cross
Website Editor:	Terri Cross

2012 Church Council

President:	Bruce Glade
Vice President:	Carla Lich
Financial Secretary:	Joan Emrich
Council Secretary:	Sharen Glade

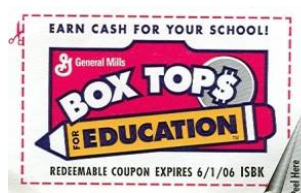
At-large members:	Gary Rollstin
Marie Schumacher	John Penney
Cindy VerHaar	Richard Baker
Terri Cross	George Head

Youth Representative:	Sarah Head
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The first of every month, we are collecting food for Daily Bread. You can get the large cans at Sam’s Club and at Wal-Mart for less than \$5 sometimes.



We are still collecting motel necessities for the Family Crisis Center. Please put your donations in the silver bag in the large gathering room. The Family Crisis Center really appreciates the kindness of the Trinity family. Thank you from the Women’s Bible Study. Motel amenities should be unopened



Kathleen Lamb is collecting Box Tops for Education. If you have any, please bring them to church.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

GREG & SHANNON LOBATO 8TH

“Why We Do What We Do When We Worship”
(running series, part 5)

PRAYERS

First, we were nursed by God’s Word. Now we pray for the needs of the world, the church, this congregation and the particular needs of people in our community. When we come to worship, the world is not left outside of the church door because God created it, cares for it, loves it, died for it and has a future in it. The format provides for flexibility from week to week and allows us to pray for the specific needs of our own situation and time.

THE OFFERING

Our response in faith takes concrete shape in the offering. In the giving of our gifts we acknowledge this is God’s world. We also acknowledge that we are making a tangible commitment to His ministry in the world. In many congregations, bread and wine are brought forward during the offertory. Bread and wine, symbols of our lives, are offered to God. He takes them, blesses them and comes back through them to nourish us in the eucharist. The offering is the first action of the Eucharistic portion of the service. The words which we sing as the offering is brought forward are words sung in anticipation of a meal that we will share in common.

(In the January issue of the church newsletter, we will discuss why we have the Preface and The Thanksgiving in our worship service. Thanks to Gary Rollstin for this information.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- ANDREW ROLLSTIN 3RD
- LINDA PIKE 4TH
- FRANCIS JOHNSON 5TH
- ANDERS STROMBERG 6TH
- KYLA JOHNSON 7TH
- JAMES COLE 8TH
- EUGENE MEYER 9TH
- MYRNA RANKIN 9TH
- LAVERNE JAHRLING 10TH
- ANDREA DAVIS 18TH
- MARIE SCHUMACHER 23RD
- EMILY LAMAN 26TH
- PASTOR LARRY DAVIS 27TH



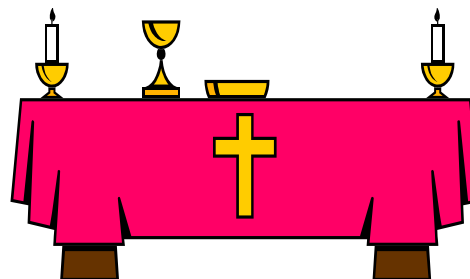
Advent Services
Leaders/Accompanists

- Dec. 5 Cindy VerHaar/Christine Dunlap
- Dec. 12 Terri Cross/Todd Doyle
- Dec. 19 Cindy VerHaar/Luwil Aligarbes

Wednesday night Advent Soup suppers will start at 6:00pm followed by the service at 6:45 pm. Offerings taken will go toward the Malaria Project. Please join us for an evening of fellowship and worship.

DECEMBER ALTAR
GUILD

- 8:00 a.m. Susan Wykoff
- 10:30 a.m. Carol Sanchez





Calendar of Events:

- Dec. 3.....K-Bob’s Lunch, 11:45 am
- Dec. 3Church Council, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 5.....Soup Supper & Advent Service 6:00pm
- Dec. 7Women’s Bible Study, 9 am
- Dec. 12.....Soup Supper & Advent Service 6:00pm
- Dec. 16.....All Church Christmas Caroling, 1:00pm
- Dec. 17.....Worship & Music, 7 pm
- Dec. 19.....Soup Supper & Advent Service 6:00pm
- Dec. 21-Women’s Bible Study Potluck brunch,10 am
- Dec. 24.....Christmas Eve Services 7:00 & 10:30pm

Coffee Hour Host List:

- 2nd 8 a.m. Carol Forman
 10:30 a.m. Marilynne Lampson
- 9th 8 a.m. Susan Wykoff
 10:30 a.m. Nicole Baker
- 16th 8 a.m. Rose Marie Cole
 10:30 a.m. Marilyn Wright
- 23rd 8 a.m. Linda Weiss
 10:30 a.m. Linda Weiss
- 30th 8 a.m. Joan Emrich
 10:30 a.m. Ann Jost



DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

Assistant Minister:

- 2nd 8:00 Gary Rollstin
 10:30 Dale Wirth
- 9th 8:00 Luanne Davis
 10:30 Carla Lich
- 16th 8:00 Gary Rollstin
 10:30 Carla Lich
- 23rd 8:00 Luanne Davis
 10:30
- 24th 7:00 Gary Rollstin
 10:30
- 30th 8:00 Gary Rollstin
 10:30

Lector:

- 2nd 8:00 Joan Emrich
 10:30 Terri Cross
- 9th 8:00 John Penney
 10:30 Terri Cross
- 16th 8:00 Lynaya Groth
 10:30 Terri Cross
- 23rd 8:00 Lynaya Groth
 10:30 John Penney
- 24th 7:00 Carol Sanchez/Joyce Grimm
 10:30 Lynaya Groth/Cindy VerHaar
- 30th 8:00 Larrie Wright
 10:30 Carol Sanchez



Ushers/Greeters:

- 2nd 8:00
10:30 Sandy Samson
- 9th 8:00 Tami Baker
10:30 Shawna Cuevas
- 16th 8:00
10:30 Carol Sanchez
- 23rd 8:00
10:30 Shawna Cuevas
- 24th 7:00
10:30 Carol Sanchez
- 30th 8:00 Tami Baker
10:30

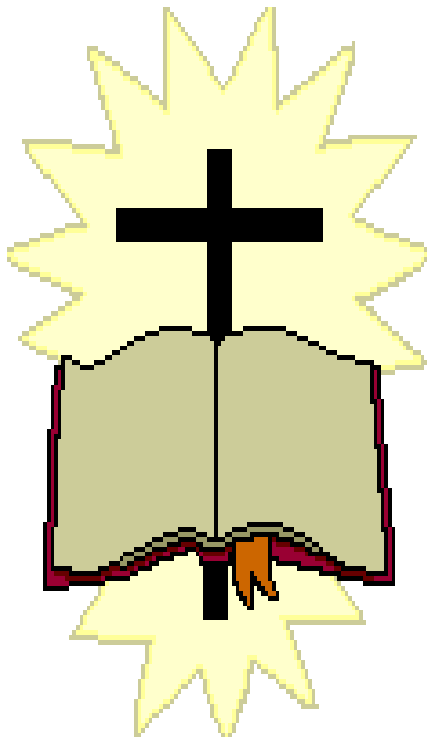


As you know, Matt Head is residing in San Diego at USMC boot camp. Please contact him during this time with a simple card or note of encouragement.

Matt Head
Recruit Head
2nd BN Echo Co. Plt. 2109
38001 Midway Avenue
San Diego, CA 92140

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

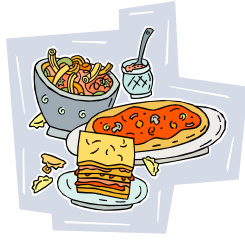
A congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 9th, between the services. We will be electing new Council members and approving the preliminary budget for 2013. Please plan on attending.



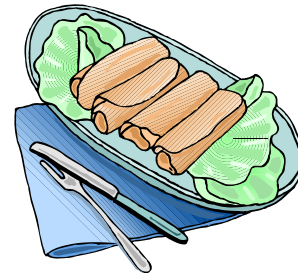
Thank you volunteers for serving
the Lord!



"All church" Christmas caroling will take place on Sunday, December 16th. Meet at TLC at 1:00pm to visit our shut-ins and bring them the Good News in singing. Please bring a dozen cookies to share with those we visit. (Carol with us even if you can't furnish cookies!)



TLC's Women's Bible Study group is inviting all the women in our congregation to join them for a Christmas Brunch Potluck on Friday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please call Barbara Barr at 325-3124 or Avis Olson at 325-0310 if you have any questions and to RSVP!



TLC's Youth Group will be selling sausage and bacon burritos on Sunday, December 16th between the services. Bring your appetite & support our youth!



Have you ever wondered how and why elements get set up on our altar each and every Sunday? Have you wanted to be a part of that group and their spiritual offering to TLC? Our *Altar Guild* is looking to expand the number of women who participate in this ministry. The Altar Guild will be meeting in January to set up the schedule for the new year. If you are interested in learning more, please call Rose Marie Cole at 326-5612.



2013 Summer Camp at Rainbow Trail!

RTLTC's theme for 2013 is
"Blessed to be a Blessing"

Many programs available for youth groups, families, adult groups, etc. Check out the summer brochure in the Fellowship Hall. Call RTLTC at 719-276-5233 or their website at www.rainbowtrail.org for more information.

Merry Christmas!

**May our Father continue to bless you through
the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.**