

# TELL Newsletter

Monthly Publication of  
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Music Director

Issue #6

February 2012

## Congregational Council And Committee Assignments 2012

Carol Cawthern.....	Fellowship
Kevin Gasswint .....	Property
Mary Karl.....	Youth
Trish Klinger.....	Mutual Ministry
Linda Moffett.....	Worship & Music
John Perry.....	Stewardship
Patti Snover .....	Memorials & President
Dennis Stark .....	Social Ministry
Robert Threnhauser.....	Christian Education & Treasurer
Jen Yingling .....	Endowments & Bequests & Secretary
Steven Yovicich .....	Finance & Vice President
Shirley Zimmerman.....	Evangelism

**Deadline for the Trinitarian is by NOON on the Wednesday  
before each Sunday Worship**

**TELL Deadline is Tuesday, February 14, 2012**

## PASTOR'S PAGE

The three days between Transfiguration Sunday and Ash Wednesday takes us from the top of a mountain to the bottom of an ash pit. In between, we bask in the light of revelation, we feast at the table of Shrove Tuesday (to shrive someone, by the way, means to acknowledge their sins and to assure them of God's forgiveness – the word survives today in the idiom “short shrift”), and we watch in disbelief the parade of debauchery that is Mardi Gras. No wonder we feel burned to a crisp on Ash Wednesday.

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return”

Epiphany is a season of revelation – the glory of Christ, His Kingship, and the nature of His profound teachings are all revealed throughout this season. Also revealed is the nature of discipleship for the followers of Jesus – it is peeled away layer by layer, opened to us like an onion. In that process, we begin to realize how utterly unprepared and unworthy we are of the calling to true discipleship.

We need Lent to review each of those layers within us – to lay them open and reflect on what needs lopped off and tossed into the ash bin, and what needs to be pruned. Lent is, after all, a journey where we will experience the joys of a relationship with the Risen Christ, while we look inward at ourselves and the many ways that we fall short in that relationship. Lent is our time of spiritual, spring cleaning. And we all know that spring begins with digging out, uprooting the old, so that we can plant the new. Of course, we can choose not to participate in that pruning and tilling. But if we choose not to participate, we run the risk of weeds springing up and choking out our spiritual life, while “misplaced” priorities, like “volunteer” flowers sprout in places we never planned or hoped.

While we are on the mountain top poised to begin this Lenten season, while the view is clear, resolve now to take seriously this 40 day journey of reflection, prayer, fasting, penitence, and self-denial. We know that storms are brewing out there in our lives. Lent strengthens us to weather those storms, because the closer our relationship with Jesus Christ, the better we can hear Jesus say “Peace; Be Still”; “Do not be Afraid.”

Peace

Pastor Dave

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## **FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

- February 5      Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalms 147: 1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- February 12     2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalms 30  
1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45
- February 19     2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalms 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
- February 22     Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalms 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20B-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- February 26     Genesis 9:8-17; Psalms 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

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- February 12      Annual Congregational Meeting 9:30 AM  
With Breakfast at 9:00 AM
- February 22      Lemoyne Ministerium Lenten Luncheons (watch  
the Trinitarian for more information)  
Ash Wednesday Supper 5:30 PM  
Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM
- February 24      Family Promise is holding an Open House
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## NOTES FROM COUNCIL

- Mary Karl has been appointed to fill the Council Representative opening for Youth.
- The downspout that was stolen has been replaced.

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## ALTAR FLOWER & WINE SCHEDULE

We will publish the upcoming two months for altar flowers and wine in lieu of receiving a reminder in the mail. If you have a question, please contact a member of the Worship and Music committee.

Cost \$25 per week with check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and mark "Flowers". Also include your envelope number, so you receive proper credit for tax purposes.

Feb 5	Ellen Verbos & family
Feb 12	Steven & Marlene Yovicich
Feb 19	Jeff & Deb Richter
Feb 26	Edith Stouffer
Mar 4	Jerry & Sue Seiler
Mar 11	Ed & Sally Conrad
Mar 18	Gerry & Sara Jane Crawford
Mar 25	Kathy Grey

### **Wine for Month - \$20 per month.**

Feb	Tom & Linda Dinsmore
Mar	John & Lisa Heycock

You may also sponsor a bulletin. The cost is \$20 and is memory of someone.

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*Submissions to TELL may be dropped off in the TELL box in the office or e-mailed to Patti Snover at [pattis522@yahoo.com](mailto:pattis522@yahoo.com). Thank you.*

# HOLY COMMUNION

## **So are we or aren't we celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday?**

Though we may not want to admit it, the Lutheran Church must own its roots, at least according to practice and liturgy, by being birthed out of the Roman Catholic Church. Martin Luther was a monk and priest before he led the movement to reform the Catholic Church. In fact, Dr. Luther did not want to establish a “new” religious movement, he just wanted to reform the one he loved, which worshipped the God he loved. And concerning worship practice, this church celebrated communion every Sunday. This practice continued from the time the “Protestants” were finally recognized by the Catholic Church in 1555 with the Peace of Augsburg, which officially ended the struggle between Charles V and Lutheran Princes in the Holy Roman Empire allowing them to decide if their region would be either Lutheran or Catholic, until the Thirty Years War.

The Thirty Years War (1618 – 1648) was one of the most destructive conflicts in European history, fought mainly in the territory we now know as Germany. The destruction was so immense that it sparked the migration of people to the “New World” to escape the devastation. In the process, not only were the people losing their homeland and cultural identity by coming to America, but many of their religious practices were also temporarily augmented because of circumstances. One of the first structures that settlers would build would be a church – usually at the center of the community. However, while many of the congregations were founded by lay ministers, there was a severe shortage of ordained Lutheran pastors to fill the pulpits every Sunday. While the lay ministers often read “tracts” or sermons sent over from Germany in the absence of a regularly called pastor, the churches would rely on circuit preachers like Henry Melchior Muhlenberg to preach and provide the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion whenever they could attend. Therefore, over time, the practice of every Sunday communion was relegated to four times a year, first beginning out of necessity, and continuing on after so many generations as regular practice.

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## HOLY COMMUNION (CONTINUED)

Sometime late in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the synods of the Lutheran Church attempted to recapture the practice of every Sunday communion. Understanding that change happens slowly, over the last 30 years the frequency of Holy Communion has increased in small increments. First, Holy Communion was celebrated once a month. Then communion was celebrated once a month plus on major festivals, and then minor festivals as well. Next a congregation would increase to two Sundays a month and soon whole seasons were added, especially the seasons of Advent and Lent. This has been the practice of Trinity Lutheran Church, as least as far as I have been able to discern from listening to the leadership of the congregation. Still, the question remains, are we or aren't we now celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday at Trinity?

The first answer to that question comes to us from the website of the ELCA:

*A congregation with an ordained pastor should celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday. Celebrations are also appropriate on other occasions: Saturday evening preparation for Sunday, festivals and lesser festivals, midweek services, the Christian marriage and the burial of the dead, and other occasions on which the congregation assembles.*

*The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament* states the principle this way:

*According to the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Lutheran congregations celebrate the Holy Communion every Sunday and festival. This confession remains the norm for our practice.*

The website of the ELCA continues:

*The basic pattern of Christian worship is a weekly pattern: from Sunday to Sunday. Even before all Christians could agree on when to celebrate Easter, this weekly pattern was in place. From its earliest days, the community of Christians was described as people who gathered "on the first day of the week." This gathering on the first day of the week was not a matter of convenience; this was a workday in the ancient world.*

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## HOLY COMMUNION (CONTINUED)

*Rather, it was a witness to the community itself and its surrounding culture to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead on the first day of the week. This celebration involved doing what Christ had asked of his disciples at the Last supper: "do this in memory of me." In the second century Justin Martyr described the weekly liturgy of Christians:*

*On the day named after the sun, all who live in the city or countryside assemble in the same place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read for as long as time allows. When the lector has finished, the president addresses us, admonishing us and exhorting us to imitate the splendid things we have heard. Then we all stand and pray and, as we said earlier, when we have finished praying, bread, wine and water are brought up. The president offers prayers of thanksgiving, according to his ability, and the people give their assent with an "Amen."*

*Next, the gifts over which the thanksgiving has been spoken are distributed, and each one shares in them, while they are also sent via the deacons to the absent brethren. —Apology of Justin Martyr (ca. 150)*

In the month of October, I spent time preaching on the reasons that weekly Holy Communion should be our norm of liturgical practice here at Trinity Lutheran Church. The pastors who preceded me had spent time slowly increasing the frequency of communion to the point where the final step to be taken was moving to celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday and every Festival. In my sermon from the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, October 2, 2011, I wrote these words:

*Martin Luther wrote in "The Small Catechism" that the blessing we receive from eating and drinking Holy Communion is nothing less than "the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation". It is forgiveness that we not only hear, it is forgiveness that we can hold, touch, and take into our bodies. Think of how many people today would eagerly line up to touch the actual cross on which Jesus died. As incredible as that sounds, we have something even better in Holy Communion. In Holy Communion God touches our lips with forgiveness. He does this, not with a section of the cross, but with the sacrifice from the cross: Jesus Christ. In Holy Communion, we aren't "more forgiven" but it should make you "more certain" of forgiveness, for Jesus comes to you personally and touches you in bread and wine.*

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## **HOLY COMMUNION (CONTINUED)**

You and I have been given a special promise of Christ's presence in Word and Sacrament. The times in which you and I live pose a pastor with certain questions, questions like "What else will come along to take Christ out of the center of our communities and our existence?" As your pastor, I am building on a foundation that has been laid by those who came before me, and seeking to secure that foundation for those that will follow me. The societal supports we could once take for granted are rapidly passing away in favor of a non-Christian or post-Christian context for daily life and work. What better foundation can we build upon each week, to reorganize our personal lives of faith and our assemblies together for worship, than upon the foundation of Christ – truly present with us – in Word AND Sacrament!

Scripture does not dictate that a church must observe communion at any frequency, every week, or once a month, or four times a year. It is a matter left to the prayerful discretion of each local church. However, since participation to receive Holy Communion is by invitation (and not demand) ... and since participation in worship services is by the call of the Holy Spirit (and not done so by fulfilling a requirement) ... then how can we not offer Holy Communion every Sunday? How does this reflect on our call to hospitality and welcoming new members? Are we putting up a barrier by not offering Holy Communion every Sunday? That is, when we don't offer weekly Holy Communion, will visitors (who are used to receiving weekly Holy Communion) attend elsewhere? Are we to dictate when visitors are to come and celebrate at the table with us? With these questions in mind, and with the consultation of the church council and the Worship and Music Committee, we will be celebrating Holy Communion weekly.

I want you to know that I am always aware of the length of our service and I am doing all that I can to assure that our service is not significantly longer because of celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday. Also, moving to every Sunday Communion does not mean that you have been doing it wrong for all these years. It is, as I said, a practice that was lost over time for a variety of reasons. If you have any questions, please, please, please call me or send me a note online. I am always available for discussion, prayer, and fellowship.

Pastor Dave

# PRAYER LIST



**Please remember in your prayers**

Isabelle Varner – friend of Trinity  
Sandra Ashford – Bev Saurman’s cousin  
Jack Zobel – Member  
Christine Wells – Jerry & Sandy Wells’ granddaughter  
Barbara Squire – Oscar & Shirley Squire’s daughter  
Willie Williams – Ellen Verbos’s friend  
Nancy Read – Ellen Verbos’s friend  
Mary Louise Dreisbach – member  
Virginia Mull – member  
Linda Delbridge – Sue Seiler’s niece  
Kim Dobson – Barbara Beam’s friend  
Dirk Klinger – Barbara Beam’s friend  
Mike & Judy Barner – Barb Carney’s neighbors  
John, Angelia, and Rick Pierson – relatives of Sandy & Jerry Wells  
Rosie Cook – Ellen Verbos’ niece  
Herbie Linderer, Jr. – resident of Manor Care  
Sandy Wells – member  
Allison Speck – friend of Steph Threnhauser  
Julie Hart – friend of the Houcks  
Nick Pantalone – junior at Cedar Cliff  
Peter Danella – Laurie Ellis’s father  
Debbie Kirsch – member  
Paula Kirsch – member  
Denny Stark – member  
Helen Dietrick – member

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## **FAMILY PROMISE**

Two parking spaces in the lower lot have been designated for use by Family Promise, please leave these spaces open.



## MILITARY CORNER

Matthew Schott – Jack Zobel’s nephew  
Hillary Rivera III – Juan Rivera’s daughter in law  
John Souders – nephew of Joanne Souders  
Tracy Barrick – member  
Wade & Mike Wells – Jerry & Sandy Wells nephews  
Timothy Wells, Jr. – grandson of Jerry and Sandy Wells  
Marty Dempsey – friend of Barbara Beam  
Christopher Dempsey – Marty Dempsey’s son  
Robert Cross – Jerry & Sandy Wells niece’s husband  
Daniel Kiser - Jerry & Sandy Wells niece’s son  
Brody Witmer – Rhonda Harlacher’s nephew  
Shawn Gatten – Jerry & Sandy Wells’ friend  
Kirk Harbor – Shauna Threnhauser’s friend  
Steven Dale – Debbie Kirsch’s co-worker’s husband  
Steve Reyes – friend of Terry Yovicich  
Kevin Brothers – friend of the Threnhauser’s  
Patrick Brown – nephew of Sue Seiler & Barbara Beam  
Lauren Brown– niece of Sue Seiler & Barbara Beam  
Jason Itter – Art Itter’s grandson  
Peter Roden – friend of Emily White  
Ethan Schrock – member  
Jared Richter – member  
Ian Campbell – nephew of Sara Jane Briner  
Enjolina Campbell – niece of Sara Jane Briner

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### **From Madeline and Al Stewart:**

We want to say thanks for the delicious cookies and the Christmas tree made by our church circles. These articles were delivered by Mary Ann and Don Howe and we truly enjoyed their visit. Knowing that our Church family hasn’t forgotten us means so much to us.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 – Emily White
- 2 – Dorothy Long
- 3 – Brenda Gasswint
- 4 – Robert Williams, Sr.
- 5 – Olivia Moats
- 6 – Devon Lee Harner
- 7 – Jenna Ellis, Karli Gasswint, Lisa McKenney
- 10 – Alex Lytle, Gale Lytle
- 11 – Nettie Yovicich
- 12 – Alex Moffett, Sandra Weaver
- 13 – Adam Gentzel
- 14 – Susan Schubert
- 15 – Tracy Morgan, Brian Simokat
- 17 – Doug Bowers, James Karl
- 18 – Peggy Boldosser, Thomas Yovicich
- 19 – John Gentzel, Brandon Harlacher
- 21 – Mary Roberts
- 23 – Wendy Smith
- 24 – Steven Bilous, Allan Simokat

For additions or corrections, please contact Suzi Heiges 737-3800

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### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THERE IS SNOW?

Will we have church when it snows? Will the parking lot be plowed and sidewalks shoveled? How will I know? You can call the church office at 763-7555 and select option 5. The voice mail system will inform you. We don't want to cancel services, but we don't want people risking injury, when staying at home may be safer. **We will not be posting any service cancellation on Radio or TV.**

## 10:45 ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Feb 5 Andrew Klinger  
Feb 12 Brooke Webster  
Feb 19 Eli Siegl - Crucifer  
    Jake Yingling – Torch Bearer  
    Isaiah Siegl – Torch Bearer  
    Jonathan Sims – Acolyte  
Feb 26 Leah Cropper

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## FREY VILLAGE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

During the month of February, Frey Village will once again be holding their Auxiliary membership drive, which benefits the many projects that the Auxiliary maintains and funds. Please watch your mail for your annual membership, and consider continuing your support. If you are not a member and would like to become one or learn more about this worthwhile cause, simply contact Dana Sanchez at (717) 938-9957 or Sara Albright at (717) 763-4274 or see them during church on any Sunday. Many hands – one heart.

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## TRINITY'S WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

**Nursery** - Nursery is provided for children from birth thru kindergarten only.

**Large Print Bulletins** - For those who need the large print bulletin, please ask an Usher for a copy.

**Copy of Pastor's Sermon** - If you would like a copy of the Pastor's sermon to follow along or to take a copy home, please ask an Usher.

**Communion** - If you are not able to participate in Altar Communion, please advise an Usher as they come to your pew so they can advise the Pastor and, in that way, you will not be missed.

**Photos/Videos**- It is the custom at Trinity that no photos/videos be taken during a Worship Service.

