

PASTOR'S EPISTLE – 2006

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people, once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (I Peter 2:9,10)

Here St. Peter gives Christians their identity: chosen, royal priesthood, God’s own people. Martin Luther used this passage when he said that the church is the priesthood of all believers.

Israel’s main responsibility was to proclaim God’s Word and be a light to the nations. When that did not happen, God made the church, the New Israel. That’s us! That’s Trinity.

I experienced your holy priesthood which St. Peter later defines as “unity of spirit, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” (I Peter 3:8)

I deeply appreciate the way you manifested this Christ priesthood to me and my family this year. When I pursued and was awarded the Lilly Endowment Grant for clergy renewal, you supported us as we walked in the footsteps of Martin Luther, St. Peter, and St. Paul. You supported my family in a once in a life-time experience. In the future I will share more of that experience with you. And I will always be grateful to you for that.

And when I was stricken with cancer and was hospitalized, again, your love and mercy filled me and my family with prayer, love, cards, food, and kindnesses beyond counting. And I will never forget that.

When our financial stewardship looked bleak and some estimated that we would end the year \$30,000 behind budget our stewardship ministers told you the situation. And you responded with an amazing flow of financial support for our ministry in the month of December to where we now have a budget surplus. And your commitment to Christ, I will never forget.

This year has been quite an adventure for us!

We were blessed by having Paul Guesu as our first Lay Minister, and were sad to lose him when he began his internship with Hope, Cranberry as he proceeded in the process of becoming an ordained Lutheran pastor. And we have been blessed again by the addition of Janet Montelaro as our new Lay Minister. Since starting in August Janet has not only carried forward the ministries Paul began, but has added even more. These include a new Adult Sunday School class, a Bereavement group, visiting our home-bound members, teaching (solo) 9th Grade Confirmation, she has taught a New Member’s class, has done Baptismal counseling, preached, works with Glade Run, helps coordinate Community Ministry, helped with this Fall’s Stewardship campaign, developed a worship questionnaire which was distributed for congregational input and formed a Worship Renewal Task Force as part of that process, helped with Time and Talent sheet revisions, is starting a 2nd Women’s Group, she is helping coordinate the Stephen Ministers program, and

helping to develop lay liturgists. Janet is awesome and a welcome new member to our staff. But more important than all of this, she is Christ-centered and has enormous spiritual depth. We are so blessed to have her as a spiritual leader at Trinity.

The rest of the staff continues to serve Trinity with the same high level of excellence and devotion that has been their hallmark. Dave Vondracek came on board as Treasurer in January of this year and has done an excellent job at keeping us informed of our financial situation. Charlotte Luedke's timely financial reports help keep us in tune with what our resources for ministry are. Melinda Zorn and Joyce Lydick, have been staff members for more than 10 years, and we continue to be blessed with their expertise in education and youth work. Dave Fagan and Dianne Barbin have been with us for more than 20 years, Dave as Church Sexton and Dianne as Secretary. Dave and Dianne are trusted, competent colleagues and spiritual companions. Our Parish Hall Sexton Brett Fagan continues to serve well. Our Minister of Music Dr. Krista Shinew continues to be outstanding in her ministry here at Trinity. I celebrate the stability of our Church Staff. I also want to give a special word of thanks to Pastor Bill Hower who served as Interim Pastor last summer while I was on retreat. Pastor Hower shared eloquence, maturity and a great sense of humor during his time with us.

In February our Bible Bowl Team won the Super Bible Bowl for our Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod.

Our praise band, Revelation, played at the Synod Assembly at Thiel College in June and at the North Hills Counseling Center's 40th Anniversary celebration in October. We are getting quite a reputation.

26 of our youth and four adult advisors went to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in San Antonio in July.

Our Vacation Bible School ministry once again reached out to our sister congregation, Trinity Northside and received an "Opening Doors" Synod Grant for our cooperative partnership in the Gospel of Jesus.

I am thankful for our generosity as we donated almost 2,000 pounds of food to Northside Common Ministries in 2006.

Thanks for our Christian Education ministry and their support of Heifer International which uses donations to provide livestock to impoverished areas world wide. The ministry also spear-headed Trinity involvement in the Abitibi Paper Retriever program which is a paper recycling project.

The following Bulletin of Reports, celebrates these as well as our standard ministries including cantatas, the Live Nativity, youth retreats, and many more.

Like St. Paul writes, a person can do all kinds of ministries, but if they are done without love, they are nothing. What I love about our congregation, is that we seek God in all things, and seek to do our ministries in the love of Christ.

As we enter 2007, I believe God has put some burdens on our hearts that we need to pray about.

- We have continue to need more parking space. When people come to church and can't find a space to park, they will leave.
- We need more space for worship. When a facility is 70-80% full, people tend to go elsewhere. Also, for cantatas, our praise band, dramas, our chancel space is inadequate.
- We need a better sound system. Often when we have temple talks, children's sermons, or other addresses to the congregation, words and phrases many times are not heard.
- We need to evaluate our whole approach to worship and see what we need to keep and what needs to be added.
- In our multimedia age, we need to evaluate how we communicate.

These are some areas I want you to pray about and share where you discern God's Spirit is leading us.

I believe we are making excellent beginnings in our year-round stewardship emphases. We need to continue and develop this ministry.

Our Evangelism ministry is congregation wide, with the warmest, most loving group of Christians I have ever met. At the same time, we need to grow ways to get the Good News of Jesus out into our community.

I am proud and thankful to be your Pastor. I serve a great, talented, and Christ-centered staff. I appreciate and love you so very much. I am blessed with the best church family in the world. I am also proud and thankful to be husband and father to my family- Joan, Mark and Luke. I appreciate and love them very much as well. I believe that 2007 will be a year where God will help us all grow in love, intentionality, and direction in our discipleship in Jesus.

St. Peter reminds us why we do this ministry “. . . so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.”

(I Peter 4:116)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE submitted by Scott Peterson

My second year as Council president has drawn to a close, and I want to thank you all for being a part of the Trinity family. We had a challenging and joyful year, full of highs and lows. As a congregation, we won the Lilly grant, but had to be without our Pastor for the summer. However he came back rejuvenated and full of stories. Then the specter of cancer cast a foreboding shadow over Pastor Fred and the congregation. But then we prayed and we prayed, and the cancer went away. We also found that we weren't doing well in terms of our budget. So we prayed some more

and ended up close to even by year's end. We opened the sanctuary for a day of prayer, which was a very peaceful time to talk to God. I think that 2006 showed us that we are all in this together, and that if you are involved you will make a difference. It has been my pleasure to serve on Council for the past three years, and I look forward to the next challenge.

In Christ,
Scott Peterson

CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY

PASTOR	The Rev. Dr. Frederick P. Schenker 8051 Broadlawn Dr. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237	(412)364-3250
SECRETARY	Mrs. Dianne Barbin 912 Amaryllis Dr. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237	(412)364-3045
LAY MINISTER	Dr. Janet Montelaro 127 Greenbriar Dr. Wexford, Pa. 15090	(724)935-2675
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR	Mrs. Melinda Zorn 194 Ridgeview Dr. Wexford, Pa. 15090	(724)935-8694
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Mrs. Joyce Lydick 1559 W. Ingomar Rd. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237	(412)364-6273
MINISTER OF MUSIC	Dr. Krista Shinew 1382 Indiantown Rd. Somerset, Pa. 15501	(814)442-2329
TREASURER	Mr. David Vondracek 825 Arbordale Ln. Wexford, Pa. 15090	(724)934-1481
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Mrs. Charlotte Luede 2469 Citation Ct. Wexford, Pa. 15090	(724)935-6572
SEXTON PARISH HALL	Mr. Brett Fagan 200 Marzolf Rd. Ext. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15223	(412)487-2640

SEXTON CHURCH	Mr. David Fagan 2358 Lin Point Ct. Sewickley, Pa. 15143	(412)741-3878
<u>CONGREGATION COUNCIL - 2007</u>		
Tim Abbott	2538 Countryside Ln.; Wexford	(724)934-0604
Deb Adamczyk	1617 Valley Brooke Ct.; Wexford	(724)933-0062
Bobby Charland	150 Washington St.; Wexford	(724)934-3176
Bill Grom	9377 Highmeadow Dr.; Allison Park	(412)318-2973
Wendy Hall	389 Pine Valley Ct.; Wexford	(724)934-3015
Jenny Janke	9834 Presidential Dr.; Allison Park	(412)364-9356
Ruth Kirk	1576 Lenora Rd.; Pittsburgh	(412)366-7824
Pete Luedke	2469 Citation Ct.; Wexford	(724)935-6572
Janet Montelaro	127 Greenbriar Dr.; Wexford	(724)935-2675
Gordon Peterson	5718 King of Arms Dr.; Gibsonia	(724)449-6398
Clara Pearle Soergel	757 Wexford Bayne Rd.; Wexford	(724)935-3111

CHURCH ORGANIZATION CONTACT PERSON

Altar Guild	Nancy Smith Sue Abbott	(412)741-9619 (724)934-0604
Card Ministry	Brenda Hauser	(724)935-3088
Christian Education	Melinda Zorn	(724)935-2746
Community Ministry/ Evangelism	Ruth Kirk	(412)366-7824
Computer Task Force	Jim Fister	(724)772-3381
Counting Committee	Larry DePaolis	(724)449-9709
Cub Scout Pack #36	Al Hartman	(412)364-5269
Faith Chests	Bill Kirk	(412)366-7824
Finance	Larry DePaolis Rick Hurt	(724)449-9709 (724)779-1180
Head Ushers	Mike Rupert	(724)935-0767
Live Nativity	Jenny Janke	(412)364-9356
Men's Study	Pete Luedke	(724)935-6572
Minister's of Communion	Diane Setzenfand	(724)538-9218
Newsletter	Church Office	(724)935-2746
Nursery	Melissa Campbell	(412)741-1842
Personnel	Jane Hein	(724)935-9163
Pleasant Valley Shelter	Wendy Hall Ruth Kirk	(724)934-3015 (412)366-7824
Property	Dave Fagan	(412)741-3878
Small Groups	Janet Montelaro	(724)935-2746
Stephen Ministers	Janet Montelaro	(724)935-2746
Stewardship	Bill Kirk	(412)366-7824

Trinity Cooks	Phyllis Jenny	(412)366-0443
Trinity Ten Pins	Kenn & Susie Neuhart	(412)366-8490
Women's Group	Diane Sittig	(724)935-5915
Worship and Music	Church Office	(724)935-2746
Young Married Christian Adults	Janet Montelaro	(724)935-2746
Youth	Joyce Lydick	(724)935-2746

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS - 2006

Child Members Recvd 1	Funerals 6
Adult Members Recvd 13	Baptisms 9
Adult Members Trnsd 5	Weddings 4
Adult Members Removed 6	
Number of Child Members 423	
Number of Communing Members 930	
Number of Confirmed Members 779	
Number of Baptized Members 1,204	
Average Sunday Worship Attendance 248	

CHILD BAPTISMS

Luke Nathaniel Kohler	Graham Richard Foreman
Kylie Elizabeth Staudt	Isabella Grace Williamson
Anna Renee McKeown	Claire Grace Cignetti
Andrew Michael Nazak	Klayton Raymond Wilkinson Bossong
Quincey K Soergel-Harris	

OTHER CHILD MEMBERS RECEIVED

Jordyn Durgan

ADULT MEMBERS RECEIVED

Keith Nazak	David Zielinski
Janeen Nazak	Sandy Zielinski
Kathy Russo	Kelly Hartman
Liz Russo	Kurt Hartman
Brent Williamson	Linda Grant
Nicole Williamson	Susan Orleman
Windy Wilkinson	

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED

Lance, Catherine & Emma Mitchell
Lloyd, Kathy, Seth & Nathaniel White
Erin Goncz

WEDDINGS

Gina Berola to Jeff Wilkes	Kelly Durgan to Kurt Hartman
Katie Fagan to Bruce Rinaman	Shannon Griffith to Michael Corcoran

FUNERALS

William F. Rothenbach Jr.	Ina Mai Scott
Harold Kivlan Jr.	Lucille Broerman
Ruth Slanina	William G. Fenske

REPORT OF THE LAY MINISTER - submitted by Janet Montelaro

I began serving Trinity as Lay Minister on August 14, 2006. Over the past four and a half months, I have been developing a deep awareness and appreciation of a gift we all share and that continues to grow in richness right in our midst—**this is the gift of the living community of faith we all share at Trinity**. As we become more engaged in the life of the cross—the mission Jesus gives to each of us—we become more aware of how this life of intense love and service depends on each other within the faith community. Without others, there is no love and service, and without the continued proclamation and witness of our new life in Christ Jesus, our faith withers and becomes remote. I rejoice that we are all part of an active Christian community of faith in the risen Jesus, and that we strive to serve each other—within and beyond our immediate community—and to recognize Jesus Christ in each other in the breaking of the bread as we worship together every week.

One of the most exciting developments at Trinity over the last few years has been the ongoing **conversion of committees into ministries**. I say “conversion” because this is the most accurate term I can find to describe the transformation of our “work” into “intentional and loving service in Christ’s name.” This is the work of grace we all participate in as members of Trinity. As we all learn to be better ministers of the gospel and of Christ’s love, let us continue to learn from and support each other in the work of the Lord! Following are the areas of service that I am called to do at Trinity, along with a tremendous amount of guidance and support from Pastor Fred, our lay staff, and of course, all the priesthood of believers (that is YOU) who teach me so much about love and service:

I. Provide Spiritual Support to our Members in Need: One of the most joyful responsibilities I fulfill is visiting the sick, the hospitalized, the home-bound, and senior members of our community. I am deeply appreciative when I receive a phone call from someone in the community who informs me that a pastoral visit is needed by a member of our church. Part of my calling is to encourage other lay individuals to hear their call to visit the sick and those who are too weak to come to worship. Members of our **Community and Evangelism Ministry** do a wonderful work of God when they send greeting cards and take members who cannot drive here alone to weekly worship! Trinity’s **Home Communion Ministers** share in this loving work of home-visitation, prayer, and communion to those who cannot attend worship with us. Our **Stephen Ministry**, recently regrouping, is trained and ready to assist individuals who need personal, emotional and spiritual support. In September, Trinity offered a six-week **Bereavement Group** featuring prayer and caring conversation for those who are experiencing loss of a loved one.

II. Encourage the Faith Life of Trinity: In September, Trinity participated as one of the area churches who opened their doors for the **International Day of Peace**. On September 21, our sanctuary was open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for individuals to stop by and pray for peace. Early in the fall, our **Liturgy Survey** results were presented which gave us much valuable information on helping make worship at Trinity a more personal and meaningful experience for our families and individual

members. In September, we also sponsored a **Worship and Music Training Event**, where we addressed the survey results, the direction of the **Liturgy Renewal Task Force**, and trained individuals in bell ringing, acolyte service, communion service, lectoring, greeting, and all of the important components of our weekly worship together. In addition, I am interested in calling forth more lay leaders in the areas of **Preaching** and **Worship Assistance**. Our Synod is moving in the direction of empowering more lay leadership in these areas as well as in working with Youth, Education, Community Service, and Visiting and Ministry to the Sick. When we all participate in Christ's ministry, our recognition of the Body of Christ as alive and active in our church becomes more apparent and transforms us to be more Christ-like!

III. Evangelism, Service, and Witness: I work closely with **Evangelism and Community Ministry** to develop our community consciousness of how to witness to and welcome old and new members to Trinity. For example, our **Property Ministry** recently designated more accessible parking for worshippers who are disabled or who need to park closer to the church. Our youth at Trinity are working toward a **Valet Parking** service for those who request it. We are always trying to devise new ways to identify and greet new members and make them feel welcome at Trinity. Our **New Members Class** enrolled and installed six new members to Trinity this fall and another class will be offered in the spring! Our **Live Nativity** drew sizable crowds on both nights this December and was a beautiful testimony to how the many parts of the body of Christ come together to make Christ visible to the community in our area! Our **Trinity Cooks** and our **Funeral Lunch** team continue to show the love of Christ in their respective ministries. Community Ministry supports **Glade Run Lutheran Services**, where I continue to serve on their Foundation Board and meet weekly with the Glade Run Journal Club which is in its fourth year. Members of our church attended the **Annual 1854 Dinner** for Glade Run that helps raise awareness and funds for the mission of this institution. It is also an amazing witness to Christ's love and compassion to see Trinity's continued support of the **Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter and Northside Common Ministry**.

IV. Education: Trinity participated in the ELCA effort--**Our Calling in Education--** which is formulating a statement about the church's mission in and involvement in life-long learning. Many members of our community shared their knowledge and insights in helping to form this position paper. The Education ministry at Trinity presented professional storyteller **Tim Hartman** at Rally Day this year, an event that was not only entertaining but edifying. I mention this event because it is a part of one of the many opportunities Trinity has enjoyed through the **Lilly Grant** funds that we will continue to utilize into 2007. Curtis Thompson from Thiel College will conduct a **Workshop on Martin Luther** this January 2007 as part of our Lilly endowed programs. Other ongoing education events at Trinity that I love to be a part of are **Confirmation classes, Bible Bowl study, and Adult Bible Study**. One of my goals for 2007 will be to promote adult Bible study at Trinity as we look for new ways to make our adult Bible studies more conversant with the faith and worship life of our community.

V. Small Group and Lay Leadership Formation: Our small groups at Trinity continue to flourish: The **Young Married Christian Adults** (YMCA) has many active and dynamic couples and meets monthly. The **Women's Group (3D's)** that meets during the daytime once a month is a spiritually focused group. In December this group organized a larger group of women from Trinity to go to dinner

together and then attend the B.C. Taylor Christmas Concert at Orchard Hill. A **Christian Yoga Group** is in its nascent stages at Trinity. During the fall, women expressed a need for a **Women's Group** that meets in the evenings, and this will begin in January of 2007. It is heartening to see the continuation and thriving of groups that form the core of the **Annual Women's Event**, Christian Education's **Contemporary Literature and Faith** group, the **Trinity Ten Pins** and others. Members have stepped up to reorganize Trinity's library, and this **Library Ministry** has developed a vision of ongoing education and service for our church.

I invite you to join me in thanking God for the gift of this faith community we enjoy at Trinity and the amazing ways Trinity continues its traditions and at the same time creates new opportunities for experiencing God's love in service and in worship!

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Montelaro
Lay Minister

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF MUSIC - submitted by Krista Shinew

The music ministry of Trinity has seen a number of new growths and successful ministries for 2006. The Sanctuary Choir has seen a growth both in numbers and variety of anthems that have been presented over the past year. The choir has had two new members join and has presented anthems ranging from Classical, to Contemporary Christian and Gospel. The choir has been challenged to achieve new levels of artistry and musicianship as well as spirituality and has definitely succeeded. Along similar lines, the Festival Choir has achieved phenomenal growth in their ministry. The Festival Choir, which is made up of not only members but also people from the community and communities outside of Pittsburgh, reached numbers of up to 30 for this year's presentations of the John Rutter *Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah*.

During the past year Trinity has experienced a variety of special music. The summer months were blessed with the music of vocal soloists, cellists, oboists, flautists, and keyboardists. The music of the summer was also marked by small groups such as both instrumental and vocal duets as well as a men's quartet. Both Christmas and Easter Festivals were celebrated with instrumental music as well.

Under the new directorship of Eunice McCarthy, the Wee Kids flourished. This year Eunice McCarthy and Gordon Peterson assembled and directed the first annual children's pageant.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH SECRETARY submitted by Dianne Barbin

Another busy year has flown by in the church office. We are continuing to work at providing accurate and up to date communication to all members of our congregation and our community about the ministries of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Many activities and groups use our facilities to carry out their ministries. This is part of our witness to our congregation and community that we are living out

the Gospel by supporting various outreach efforts through use of our buildings. The YMCA Preschool, Wexford Homemakers and Cub Scout Pack 36 as well as Girl Scout leaders meet at Trinity. We continue to be a polling place and host a number of congregation member sponsored activities, support groups and Synod sponsored activities.

Many thanks to all who provide articles to be included in our monthly newsletter, “The Trinity Trumpeter.” The “Trumpeter” is the main publication that our church uses to keep in contact with our church family and interested community members. Many thanks to our helpers- Charlotte Luedke, Heidi Zomnir, Janet Montelaro, Brenda Hauser, Agnes Kaelin, Lynnette Chughtai, Beth Ann Penrod, Susie & Ellen Neuhart, Bernice Fenske, Bill, Debbie, Christine and Sarah Grom who volunteer their time to fold and prepare the “Trumpeter” for mailing on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Additional helpers are always needed. The “Trumpeter” is now available on our home page (www.trinitywexford.org) and we have several congregational families who prefer to receive the “Trumpeter” online rather than by paper copy. If you’d like to be added to the list of online subscribers please call (724-935-2746) or email (trinity.lutheran@trinitywexford.org) the church office.

Another important communication tool the church office provides is the Sunday morning bulletin. The bulletin, as well as including the whole order of service on a pull-out pamphlet, includes timely news of the vision ministries of our church – Community Outreach, Family Focus and Prayer. Many thanks to all of our bulletin folders: Judy Swallow, Brigitte Nugent, Ed Ek, Diana Wagner, Michelle Markel, Tom & Lauren Carmen, Karen Byers, Agnes Kaelin, Deb Balaban, Pete & Charlotte Luedke, Ruth Kirk, Janet Demma, John Eshenbaugh, Mary Lynne Lockard, Jan & Andy Irlbacher, The Wozniak Family, Ruth Ann Davidson, Betsy Novosel, Beth Ann Penrod, The Mosier Family, Maria Hilyard, The Grom Family, Diane Setzenfand, Erma Delaney, Penny & Paul Kappel, Lynnette Chughtai, Lynn Bliss, Kim & Ryan Senka. Our bulletin folders ensure that all have an order of service on Sunday mornings including our readings and scripture references and announcements and news of our church family with our bulletins.

Our church office also schedules Greeters, Lectors, Fellowship Hosts, Communion Assistants, and Acolytes and Servers. A special thanks to Mike Rupert for scheduling the Head Ushers for both services and Melissa Campbell for scheduling Nursery help for both worship services. Special recognition also goes to Larry DePaolis for coordinating the Offering Counting Schedule as well as counting the offering on a regular basis. And of course much appreciation to all of the other volunteers who help out whenever and wherever needed.

A few unique opportunities were presented to us this year. Pastor Fred and his family were the beneficiaries of a gracious “clergy renewal grant” from the Eli Lilly Co. While Pastor and his family were able to be refreshed and renewed through their travels and time together, Pastor Bill Hower served as our interim Pastor this past summer. Pastor Hower brought a fresh perspective and new ideas to Trinity Evangelical. We were able to benefit from the wisdom of his years in the ministry. Thank you, Pastor Hower. Another unique opportunity was presented in the fall when Pastor Fred was unexpectedly diagnosed with kidney cancer. Many in our congregation and leadership jumped into the

void left by pastor's absence during his surgery and convalescence. Special thanks to Council President Scott Peterson; Stewardship chairperson Bill Kirk; our new Lay Minister Janet Montelaro, and the other members of our staff, Melinda Zorn, Joyce Lydick and Krista Shinew who all took on added responsibility during that time. Thanks to Joe Veres, and Pastor Martha Clementson and Pastor Don Green for taking over worship leadership on very short notice. Thank you to Pastor Bill Diehm of St. John's Highland for his help. And a big "thank you" to Pastor Charles Lane of the ELCA's Key Stewardship Leaders program who jumped into the breach and led our stewardship campaign this fall. In addition, our Lay Minister Paul Gruesu left us in August to serve an internship at Hope Lutheran Cranberry in preparation for entering Lutheran Theological Seminary next year. Paul's ministry during his time with us was refreshing and he was truly a blessing to Trinity Evangelical. We also have experienced a change in preschool programs at Trinity. The McCandless Preschool, who had occupied our Parish Hall for 10 years, were unable to continue with their program this year. It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to their staff and the children attending the program. We were immediately contacted by the YMCA Preschool program asking if they would be able to use the space for a preschool. We have consistently received calls throughout the years inquiring whether we provided a preschool at our church and because of McCandless and now the Y we have been able to witness to our community that we do care and want to provide support in that manner to the families in our community.

Thank you to our Congregation Council for their leadership and direction. As always Melinda, Pastor Fred, Paul and Janet, Joyce, Dave, Brett, Krista, Charlotte and our Treasurer Dave Vondracek all continue to be great to work with. Special acknowledgement should go to the work of our standing ministry teams. Each of these groups works hard at their area of ministry and unselfishly shares of time and talent in making sure that those ministries are carried out in our church and our community.

May God continue to bless all at Trinity Evangelical in 2007.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY MINISTRY AND EVANGELISM MINISTRY- submitted by Janet Montelaro

Our Mission: Community Ministry takes seriously the Gospel mandate in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those imprisoned. We follow the larger Gospel mandates to comfort the afflicted, to side with the poor and the oppressed, and to minister to the orphans, widows, and all those who find themselves estranged or alone in the world. We believe that it is within these ministries that we meet Jesus Christ face to face.

Community Ministry at Trinity has four aims:

1. to reach out to those in the larger community who are less fortunate and find themselves in difficult circumstances;
2. to support Trinity members in times of need with gifts of food, clothing, utilities, and other services;
3. to increase church member involvement in our work while prayerfully examining the roots of social injustice in our world;
4. to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our members and those of the larger community through our varied Evangelism ministries.

I. Serving the Larger Community

Our outreach mission supports four established community organizations and a sister church with volunteer time and funding. Our philosophy is to fund organizations and institutions where we invest time and talent, thus making a greater impact locally. These groups include:

- (a) **North Side Common Ministries**, specifically the **Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter**—our congregation sponsors and staffs a monthly breakfast and a Christmas Day breakfast along with providing gifts at the Men's Shelter; our breakfast ministry is run by two of our committee members, **Ruth Kirk** and **Wendy Hall**, who organize this monthly effort. We are grateful for all the groups and individuals who participated in the breakfasts this year and are helping us meet our commitment to the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter.

North Side Common Ministries is also asking Trinity to help stock their Food Pantry twice a year. We are focusing our food collection drives at Trinity more intensely to help keep their pantry well supplied! Our fall food collection was over 1,000 pounds of collected groceries!

We are grateful for **Wendy Hall** and **Ruth Kirk** who are organizing this, in addition to the monthly breakfasts at Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter.

(b) **Glade Run Lutheran Services**—Glade Run's residential treatment facility serves over 1,000 youth each year who are either from broken or dysfunctional homes, or children who have psychiatric disorders. We have adopted Meeder Cottage, a group home housing 10 girls, by supporting a weekly **Journal Club** that meets each week for the entire year. Over 25 teenage girls who passed through Meeder Cottage were served this year! In addition to the weekly journal club, coordinated by **Janet Montelaro**, other projects included:

- Supplying bed linens, comforters, towels, and washcloths for the residents.
- Celebrating birthdays for each resident, including a cake, punch, decorations, and a small gift.
- Working with ongoing Journal Club projects including arts and crafts, weekly journal entries, holiday greeting cards, movie day, and cooking dinner once a month in the cottage. We are also teaching food shopping and food preparation skills, table prayers, and social skills. We also talk about careers and provide information and encouragement to girls who are seeking professional training. **Lynnette Chughtai** has recruited her book club and bridge club to provide Christmas presents for residence of Meeder Cottage. This year they provided stockings with cosmetic and bath stocking stuffers, candy, and store gift cards for each resident.

The Glade Run Foundation Board held its annual 1854 Dinner this fall and members of Community Ministry and Evangelism attended and supported this fundraiser: Donna and Larry Edmonds, Steve and Angela Kohler, Arshad and Lynnette Chughtai, Bill and Ruth Kirk, Janet and Ron Montelaro.

(c) **East Liberty Family Health Care Center**—This religious-focused Christian ministry supplies medical care and prescription services to local individuals and families who are indigent. Community Ministry and other Trinity members support their fundraising efforts. We are proud that one of our own Trinity members, **Karen Willmarth Geisler**, works as a pharmacist on site. Due to the rising cost of prescription drugs, Community Ministry contributed \$3,000 this year, designated for the reduced-cost prescription drug program for the poor and homeless! We thank Karen for the tremendous job she is doing at ELFHC, and for raising our consciousness about the plight of health care for the poor in our own community.

(d) **Habitat for Humanity** (in conjunction with Thrivent)—Thrivent Financial has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build housing in our area for the homeless. Steve Kohler and Lou McKibben organized a successful campaign to raise awareness and funds for Habitat here at Trinity. They sold Habitat wristbands and donated the proceeds (over \$500) to the ongoing construction project.

- (e) In addition to these four organizations, Community Ministry began establishing ties to our sister church, **Trinity Northside Lutheran Church** during the summer of 2004, when we began supporting their summer day camp program by providing over 50 children with one week of snack food. We have also sponsored camp scholarships for Trinity Northside, enabling these children to attend Lutherlyn for one week. More importantly, this was our second year of co-sponsoring (with Christian Education) children from Trinity Northside to attend our Vacation Bible School! For this ministry, Trinity was awarded an “Opening Doors Grant” for \$500 from our SW PA Synod. We also donated to Trinity Northside’s Christmas Gift Project again this year.

Many thanks to all the generous volunteers who helped prepare lunches and breakfasts for our Trinity North Side children who took part in 2005 VBS!

II. Serving Trinity Members

Community Ministry supports our own congregation and its members in a number of ways: (1) Upon request, we organize **Transportation Services** for church members who have been ill or who have been hospitalized;

(2) We also sponsor **Trinity Cooks** which delivers meals to those families who have had new babies, to the elderly, or those who are sick or recovering from an illness. Superbly organized by **Phyllis Jenny**, Trinity Cooks prepared **over 62 meals** for individuals or families in need this year! Trinity Cooks also prepared bag lunches for the children from Trinity North Side for an entire week. This continues a wonderful ministry at Trinity!

(3) Community Ministry also assists individuals in our church congregation in the form of **Emergency Relief** for needs such as rent, heating, electricity, food, prescription drugs, and other unexpected costs for individuals or families with financial stress.

(4) We also send greetings to our members’ college students. The **College Connection list** was organized this fall by **Pete Luedke**.

For 2006, College Connection and Treats for Troops will be operating under the newly expanding Evangelism wing of our Ministry.

III. Increasing Church Member Involvement in Peace and Justice through Education and Prayer

We continue to direct interest in the **ELCA Social Mission Statements** on issues that relate to peace and justice. This year we distributed information on the ELCA Middle East statements in relation to Israel and Palestine. This summer, we provided information through the bulletin on the Middle East to all of our congregation. We also discussed the ELCA’s stance on immigration at our meeting. We strive to follow the published guidelines for relief organizations from **Lutheran World Relief**. Most importantly, our ministry meetings begin and end with prayer. We are a servant community of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Finally, a most important emerging ministry, **Prison Ministry**, is evolving in our congregation. Thanks to **Lou McKibben** who is teaching us about the needs of those incarcerated and the various ways we can get involved!

IV. Evangelism

The purpose of the Evangelism team is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our members and those of the larger community through our varied Evangelism ministries:

(1) Hug Mug Ministry—We make “Hug Mugs” available in the narthex for new members and visitors. These candy-filled mugs are tangible reminders to visitors that we are a welcoming community and inclusive community. Thanks to **Brenda Hauser, Wendy Hauser**, and all the team members who keep the Hug Mug Ministry going!

(2) Card Caring Ministry—Scores of Trinity members dedicate time, on a rotating basis, to send cards to those on each Sunday’s prayer list. Also, cards of sympathy, get well, and “thinking of you” sentiments are frequently mailed to our members. We listen for events in our community where individuals and families may need a card. Our pastor, lay minister, and church staff often bring to our attention the need for sending a caring message to members. . This ministry is a wonderful way to comfort, to share joy, and to knit together the members of our community!

(3) Clothing Ministry--We have a permanent coat rack in the Parish Hall where church members can drop off clean clothing for all ages, sizes, and genders. The Pleasant Valley Clothing Shelter and Glade Run need clothes for appropriate seasons all year long for entire families, and we thank our Men’s Shelter breakfast crews for bringing trunk loads of clothing down to the North Side all year long. **Melissa Campbell** has a clothing ministry she runs out of her home for infants through junior sizes, and she coordinates this with both Pleasant Valley and Glade Run. We thank Melissa for this ministry and for her work with the annual coat drive for **North Hills Community Outreach!** We are grateful for Melissa’s vision and commitment.

(4) Live Nativity—This year’s Live Nativity was an outstanding success. Thanks to **Jenny Janke** who coordinates this annual event for two consecutive evenings in December and thanks to all the cookie bakers, actors, singers, and narrators who make it such a celebratory event!

(5) Evangelism also sponsors our **New Members Reception** and **Confirmation Reception** annually. Thanks to **Cheryl Henderson** and **Erma Delaney** who organize and host these events each year!

Community Ministry and Evangelism Team 2006

Janet Barczak
Melissa Campbell
Lynnette Chughtai

Kathy Hemke
Cheryl Henderson
Jenny Janke

Erma Delaney
Donna Edmonds
Bernice Fenske
Karen Willmarth Geisler
Wendy Hall
Brenda Hauser

Phyllis Jenny
Ruth Kirk
Steve Kohler
Lou McKibben
Janet Montelaro
Karen Young

(This list represents the standing committee and does not reflect the many generous givers of time, energy and resources in our community who contribute to our ongoing programs).



Steve Rowe
Cubmaster
(412) 369-8849
steve.rowe@lanxess.com

Dave Down
Pack Committee Chairman
(412) 364-9889
djdown@comcast.net

Mark Conaway
Assistant Cubmaster
(412) 364-0547
markconaway@comcast.net

Dan Littlefield
Treasurer
(412) 364-0979
DanLittlefield@comcast.net

REPORT OF CUB SCOUT PACK 36 – submitted by David Down & Al Hartman

PACK 36 – 56 YEARS OLD

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church became the charter organization for Pack 36 in 1994. The Pack is one of the oldest Cub Scout Packs in the greater Pittsburgh area. The Pack has always been located in the Franklin Park area. Cub Scout Pack 36 turned “50” in May of 2000, one of few Packs that have that long of a tenure with the Greater Pittsburgh Counsel. The Scouts, Leaders and parents wish to thank Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church for allowing us to meet in the Parish Hall. It is a perfect facility for our meetings.

Pack 36 has continued to grow. We have been bringing in 10 to 15 new cub scouts each year, and 2006 saw an increase of 12 new scouts. We will lose 10 of our Webelos II when they cross over to Boy Scouts in February. Pack leadership has continued to grow, and with another year comes more training and more parent volunteers. We have plenty of support and great interaction with parents. We have had the Pittsburgh Zoo and the American Red Cross present at some of our pack meetings. We made Christmas decorations for the common areas and for each room in the Child ICU at Allegheny General Hospital. We sent over 75% of our scouts to resident camp at Camp Independence this past summer – and had over 80% participation for a camping trip with Boy Scout Troop 36 at Camp BuCoCo this fall. Each of these camping trips had both cub scouts and a parent.

100 PERCENT TRAINED LEADERSHIP

Trinity Lutheran Church’s Cub Scout Pack 36 has the continued to have trained leadership, and once again we will have 100% of our leaders trained. Boy Scout training gives the leaders new ideas and resources for support. Training also insures that the Scouts in Pack 36 are getting the best quality

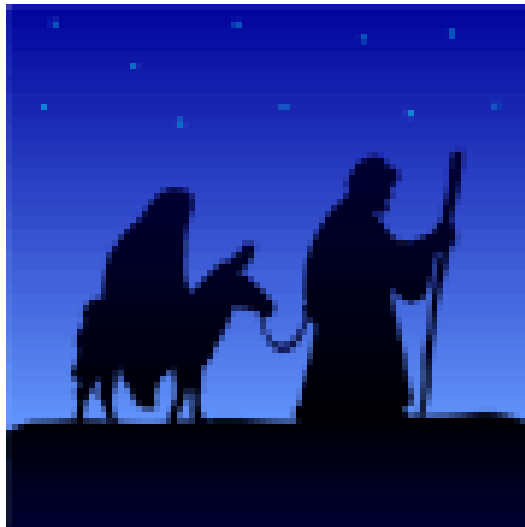
program possible. Additionally, both the Cubmaster and Committee Chairperson completed BALOO training for camping and outdoor activities.

PACK 36 CONSERVATION PROJECT

Pack 36 Scouts, Leaders and parents continued to support the conservation project in North Park. In 2006 the Cub Scouts' conservation project consisted of replacing, fixing and cleaning the 24 Blue Bird Boxes in North Park.

REPORT ON THE LIVE NATIVITY - submitted by Jennifer Janke

Live Nativity



December 16th and 17th, 2006

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wexford, Pennsylvania

Presented by:
Jenny Janke
Live Nativity 2006

This year's Live Nativity was so successful! The Lord blessed us with the some of the warmest Christmas weather on record which added to the blessing of the large crowds that came to see it! Recently, several people (*who do not belong to our congregation*) have expressed their joy at seeing this re-creation of the birth of our Savior. Gratitude is owed to all in our church family for, once again, displaying the true reason for the season!

So many people came together to make the Live Nativity such a special event. It is a blessing to have this support! On September 20, 2006, an organizational meeting was held in the Library by the Nativity "committees" to brainstorm and discuss the upcoming preparations. They took the reins, and off we went!



Dianne Barbin crafted the fliers that were distributed throughout the congregation and ensured that the solicitations for help and cookies were included in the bulletins and the Trinity Trumpeter. She has been the go-to communication hub! Thank you for your patience with the errant formatting!



The stable and scenery were set up by Jim Block, Steve Downing, Larry Edmonds, Pete Luedke, and Ray Ojerholm. Jim Block, Scott Peterson, and Joe Pegher disassembled the set after the holidays. Thank you for your dedication! This is a HUGE job, and it could not be done without you!

The costumes were handled by Lisa Groff. She has organized the many, MANY beautiful outfits worn by our actors. Her crew in the dressing room included Judy Downing, Barb Dudek, Betty Frohnert, Dan Groff, and Katie Humes. Lisa's organization of the costumes and props ensures a smooth process every year!



The kitchen activities were handled superbly (as always) by the Evangelism Ministry. Thanks go to Janet Barczak, Erma Delaney, Brenda Hauser, Cheryl Henderson, Tina Kaczmarek, and Janet Montelaro. They kept our visitors warm with refreshments! This committee organized the construction of the "Jesus is the reason for the season" pins with Don Eshenbaugh's Adult Sunday School Class. Thanks also to the congregation for the

donation of all the delicious cookies!!

Brian & Sean Guzek and Deanna Winner braved the weather after school the Friday before to help with final preparations—including adding twinkle lights to the bushes, setting the roped stakes, gathering the scenery props, and setting the spots. Thank you so much for your help!

Jim Block set up and ran the sound system with all those speakers and wires that amplified the voices of our readers, singers, and musicians! Great job, as always!

With the warm weather, we were able to have ACTORS play Baby Jesus each night! They included Andrew Nazak, Graham Foreman, Clayton Wilkinson, and Caden Williams. It is so special to have a new member of Trinity's family play our Savior!



Karen Rasmussen and Ed Ek so eloquently read Scripture for our narration, while Pastor Fred led the “service.” Thank you!!

Gordon Peterson, Skip Fortnam, and Caroline Nugent aided our singers with live music!! That was fabulous! Thanks for coming through on short notice. It made everything so magical!



David Olivieri handled traffic direction. You kept everyone “in line”! Thanks for keeping everyone organized!

The spotlights were run by Phil Melodia—a guest to our congregation. You did not miss a cue!! Thank you for donating your time!

Thanks to the Voll family for the “loan” of the animals! They and the animals are faithful every year in adding that special touch to our Nativity!

Amber & Brittany Hemke and Lauren Downing entertained the younger children inside. That was a great help!

This outreach event was recorded on film by Scott Peterson and Dean Winner. You both do such a great job every year! Joanne Scherer, Sue Phillips, and Diane Setzenfand took fabulous photos!! The scrapbook and videos will be made available in February.



Many families came to help and/or act in the Nativity: Balaban family; Campbell family; Downing family; Dudek family; Ek family; Fagan family; Fortnam family; Frohnert family; Graner family; Groff family; Guzek family; Hemke family; Henderson families; Humes family; Kelly family; Kohl family; Kramer family; Knox



family; Leone family; Luedke family; Lukus family; Lydick family; McCarthy family; Morrison family; Nugent family; Pegher family; Penrod family; Peterson families; Phillips family; Rasmussen family; Rullan family; Russell family; Schenker family; Scherer family; Schinagl family; Senka family; Setzenfand family; Sittig family; Wagner family; Winner family; Williams families; and many more.

Brainstorming is already underway for next year's event! If anyone has any comments, suggestions, or ideas, please do not hesitate to call!

The Nativity was a wonderful demonstration of Trinity's fellowship! Thanks are not enough for your time and dedication! Warm wishes for 2007 and beyond.

In Christ's Love,
Jenny Janke

REPORT OF THE MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – submitted by Pete Luedke

Lives are changed when men come together to pray, to share, to study the Bible, and to make the mission of the church their own. The Men's Bible Study affords men opportunities for spiritual growth and development of an evangelical attitude through fellowship, prayer, service to our churches and community, and study of the scriptures. In addition to study of the scriptures, the Men's Bible Study provides support to men who are experiencing stress and depression due to difficulties in family relationships, their relationship with God, or with career and job related changes.

When Jesus called his first disciples he told them he would make them fishers of people. To expand the outreach to men of Trinity Lutheran Church and to the community, we will be starting a "Get Hooked" campaign. We are proud that one of our two "resident fishermen" has accepted the call to be a fisher of people and to serve as Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in New Stanton and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Hunker, PA

Now in its twenty-first year, the Men's Bible Study continues to meet every Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m., with Bible study from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. None of our members are Biblical scholars, coming from various churches and representing many walks of life. The Men's Bible Study is open to all men regardless of their church affiliation.

FAMILY FOCUS

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY- Submitted by Melinda Zorn

He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

In the Christian Education Ministry, we try to sow bountifully, planting seeds of our history as Christians and Lutherans, seeds of knowledge about God's plan for us and His love for us, seeds of prayer, study and service as His children and as faithful followers of Christ. Here at Trinity, we are blessed with SCS staff members who feel led by Christ to shepherd their students in this challenging process. SCS leaders give approximately 2-3 hours a week of time, energy and love to their students, their church and their God. Without their dedication, we would have no SCS program; I cannot say enough in praise of these individuals that are such a vital part of Trinity's ministry. Our volunteer leaders in **all** Christian Ed. ministries, Sunday Church School, VBS and Little Church, give generously of their time and faith, sharing their experience and knowledge to help our students build a closer relationship with God through Christ. Please thank them when you see them, and consider whether God is calling you to be one of their number.

2006/2007 Sunday Church School Staff

Leaders

Melinda A. Zorn
Beth Ann Penrod
Gordon Peterson
Eunice McCarthy
Diana Wagner
Ruth Ann Davidson
Anne Vondracek
Janet Barczak
Gail Peterson
Kathy Reseland

Judy DePaolis
Pam Block
Charlotte Luedke
Julia Sittig
Shannon Griffith
Jenny Janke
Barb Dudek
Susie Neuhart
Bonnie Kriberney
Judy Swallow

Sue Phillips	Lisa Groff
Dan Groff	Lou McKibben
Barry Markel	Kathy Dunlop
Diane Setzenfand	Scott Dunlop
Debbie Grom	Bill Grom
Joyce Lydick	John Reseland
Janet Montelaro	Jim Block
Don Eshenbaugh	Jane Hein

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes many dedicated individuals to make our Sunday Church School program a success. One of the most dedicated is our tireless SCS Superintendent, **Judy DePaolis**. Judy is in her fourth complete year as SCS Superintendent, and has handled the combined role of mentor, comforter, leader and occasional dispenser of discipline, with grace, good humor and a sense of God's purpose. She is a blessing to me, to our families and to Trinity.

For a variety of reasons affecting the entire congregation, our Sunday Church School program attendance slightly decreased through the first term of the 2006/2007 year. High attendance has been 170, while low attendance was 122. We were again sorry to lose some of our most faithful families to job transfers this past year, but wish them God's grace in their new locations and new church homes. We have welcomed visitors 23 times during the fall term of 2006, mostly to our senior high class, whose graduates still consider Trinity their spiritual home, and who came in December to help Joyce Lydick and John Reseland celebrate 10 years of teaching together!

Our Sunday Church School theme this year is "**Random Acts of Witness,**" designed to help us all focus on ways of sharing our faith with others. We were blessed to have the back-by-popular-demand **Tim Hartman** with us on Rally Day to inspire us by his own method of sharing faith through song and story. Good weather favored us for the day, an inspired outdoor worship including liturgical dance enriched us, great food from Smokey Bones and our own congregation cooks was enjoyed. And we welcomed Pastor Fred and his family back from sabbatical sponsored by the Lilly foundation.

Sunday Church School has continued sharing its many blessings through a monthly offering to **Heifer International**. Through December, our students have donated approx. \$600 to be earmarked for this important outreach. Whereas last year each class chose a specific animal that it would like to purchase, this year we are expanding our horizons and hope to be able to purchase an entire Ark of animals for areas in need. To augment our outreach, we are now home to an Abitibi Paper Retriever, a large dumpster located behind the Parish Hall in which you may deposit all types of recyclable paper. This dumpster is then weighed, emptied and replaced, and we receive a check for the total tonnage collected each month. Proceeds from this will also go to Heifer International. We continued to participate in the national program, **Souper Bowl of Caring**, held amazingly enough on Super Bowl Sunday, by which students and their families donated cash and canned goods to North Hills Community Outreach's food bank. Additionally, SCS students have decided to dedicate their offering from the first Sunday of each month to the ELCA Disaster Fund. And, with the rest of the congregation, SCS students and families

are sponsoring food donations to Northside Common Ministries' food bank in the months of July and November. Nearly 2000 lbs. of food was collected during those 2 months in 2006.

Friendship House continues to be a huge boon to the education ministries at Trinity, housing SCS classes for grades 7, 8 and Senior High, the Contemporary Literature and Faith group, confirmation class and a variety of other meetings and retreats. Music opening for the preschoolers – kindergartners continues as the happiest place in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings. Students in grades 1 – 5 dedicate one of every 4 weeks to group-building rather than music, hold class for a full hour another week and raise their voices in song the remaining 2 weeks. During group-building we celebrate one another's birthdays, discuss special times of the church year, pray together and do icebreakers designed to help us reach out to one another in Christ's love.

Our **Excellent Attendance Awards** program, begun in 1994/95, completed its 12th year this spring, with 2 students and staff recognized for their 12 straight years of faithful participation. We also awarded 5 first-year, 3 second-year, 2 third-year, 8 fourth-year, 2 fifth-year, 4 sixth-year, 5 seventh-year, 5 eighth-year, 2 ninth-year, 8 tenth-year pins and 2 twelfth-year pins to those who missed four or fewer Sundays during the year.

We continue to make good use of our Faith Enrichments materials. Used in conjunction with our current curriculum, these enable our students to incorporate facets particular to the Lutheran faith. A better understanding of the Ten Commandments, the Sacraments, Martin Luther, Lutheran history and, naturally, the Bible is reached through the addition of these materials.

We have begun our second year of the second four-year cycle of Cokesbury's, *Exploring Faith* curriculum, materials which allow our students in preschool through grade 6 to do just that. After reviewing last year, staff and students agreed to continue this curriculum, as they find it relevant and easy to teach and understand. Grade 7 continues to strike out into new curriculum territory, currently using materials from a variety of sources and developing some of their own. With some revamping of the Catechism program this year, Catechism I (grade 8) students are sung Augsburg's ***Here We Stand*** to study the Commandments, the Creeds and the Lord's Prayer, which more thoroughly grounds them in confirmation basics. This will then be reinforced and strengthened during their time with Pastor Fred and their mentors in 9th grade. Senior High and the adult Bible study classes use a variety of materials in crafting their studies, emphasizing their personal commitment to Christ and the ways that commitment has an impact on daily life.

Our Ninth grade confirmands, led by Pastor Fred and Janet Montelaro meet Monday evenings, October through April, to prepare to reaffirm their baptismal promises through study and prayer. The program fuses information from a number of sources and experiences outside the formal classroom, such as trips to a synagogue or Buddhist study center. Confirmation of the 2005/2006 class took place on May 21st.

Additional programs traditionally offered through Christian Education include:

- ❖ **Little Church**, an alternate, age-appropriate ministry geared to our 3-5 year olds and offered during the 11:00 AM worship service. This gives our smaller congregants an opportunity to participate in a worship that is meaningful to them in a format they can understand. Volunteers for this important program are always welcomed.
- ❖ **Sheerluck Holmes and the Golden Ruler**, a Veggie adventure was shared by a group of our younger congregants and their families in May. We previewed this latest Veggie movie and enjoyed snacks and activities designed to reinforce the story of treating others with fairness and dignity.
- ❖ **Vacation Bible School**, a one-week program that generally occurs in July. This past summer, we enjoyed a blast of chill in the midst of summer, traveling to the *Arctic Edge*, where we learned the ways faith in Christ helps us face life with courage. Children from our congregation and the surrounding community enjoyed the week and especially the family picnic held on Thursday evening of that week. We were blessed this summer to again include children from our sister congregation, Trinity Northside, and plan for the same in 2007. Co-Directors **Susan Fox and Caitlin Davidson** organized a great week, and already are planning another excellent adventure for summer 2007.
- ❖ **SCS Staff Orientation** was held the evening of September 5th, where we showed our SCS teachers and helpers just how appreciated they are by serving them dessert and coffee, going over curriculum, classroom assignments, special projects, etc. There was also a time for questions and answers and for introducing our newest recruits. Our SCS staff is the best of the best, and we are so blessed by their participation – perhaps you are another such person willing to share Christ’s love with our students.
- ❖ **First Holy Communion** instruction was held in January for our 4th graders. This six-week course was offered during the SCS hour and prepared the students to receive their First Communion on April 23rd.
- ❖ **Rally Day**, held September 10th here on the spacious Trinity grounds, (see earlier description) was a joyous event celebrating the family connection we have, through Christ, with one another and with Trinity, and through that to the wider community. A **Children’s Ministry** workshop was held on April 8th in Murfreesboro. I was fortunate to be able to attend and get some new ideas on inspiring our students, meet with other Christian educators in the area to exchange thoughts and generally rededicate myself to this ministry.
- ❖ **Bibles** were presented to our 3rd grade students on Sunday, November 5th. This tradition encourages the students to use their Bibles not only for SCS but also at home. Study Bibles were also presented to the 7th grade students in order to help them during their Bible overview study and to prepare them for 9th grade confirmation. Additionally, we present Preschool Bibles to parents of children being baptized to enable them to build a lifelong study of God’s Word.
- ❖ **Shut-in Baskets** were again planned by Angie Moore, who did an outstanding job of choosing beautiful, age-appropriate Christmas crafts for our preschoolers through Senior High students. The completed baskets were delivered by a dedicated group of carolers from the congregation, coordinated by Amber Hemke and Mir Buresh Peterson.
- ❖ **The Angel Tree** project had another successful outing this year, coordinated by Susie Neuhart and Elaine Ek. Our SCS students and their families generously contributed a great many gifts to area families who may not otherwise have been able to provide such a happy Christmas.
- ❖ **The Men’s Bible Study** continues to meet on Saturday mornings from 7:30-9:00 AM for breakfast, fellowship and in-depth study, and encourages new members at any time.

- ❖ **The Contemporary Literature and Faith** group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:30 – 10:00 AM in Friendship House. This group looks at ways in which modern literature deals with questions of faith. This past fall and into the new year, we are reading Frederick Buechner’s *Secrets in the Dark, A Lifetime in Sermons*. We were moved to use one of these sermons, *The Birth*, as our Christmas Eve morning homily.
- ❖ Our seventh annual **Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day** took place on April 2nd. Students showed their teachers how much they are valued by bringing small tokens such as notes, poems, flowers, candy, etc. Staff were easily identifiable by the carnations they wore throughout the morning, thus making it possible for all members of the congregation to thank them for the work and love they show each week.

Other learning opportunities offered during the past year include:

- ❖ Continuing meetings with other Christian Ed. leaders in the area to brainstorm ideas and share concerns.
- ❖ **Invocation on Vacation**, a materials center available throughout the summer intended to foster family devotion time at the beach, in the mountains, at Grandma and Grandpa’s, etc. while on summer break

In 2007, Christian Ed. would like to:

- Offer devotion opportunities to our SCS teaching staff
- Continue to emphasize growth in prayer and service
- Use a greater variety of teaching tools to reach more students
- Encourage our students of all ages to share their faith by having a “Bring a Friend to SCS” day

Special thanks go, again, to Judy DePaolis, and to Joyce Lydick, SCS staff, Little Church volunteers, VBS staff, our students and parents, Pastor Fred, Dave and Brett Fagan and the entire Christian Ed. Committee.

Committee Members:

Jim Block	Pam Block
Judy DePaolis	Beth Ann Penrod
Susan Fox	Melinda Zorn
Lisa Groff	Pastor Fred
Wendy R. Hall	2006 Council Liaisons:
Jane Hein	Jim Hargis, Steve Kohler

REPORT OF THE COMPUTER TASK FORCE – Dianne Barbin

The task force concentrated on updating and maintaining the church’s web site this past year. Our home page address is www.trinitywexford.org and I will be maintaining it from the church office.

Adobe Acrobat and Ipswitch software programs were added to the computer in the office. Thank you to Jim Fister and Allison Chipps for their time and expertise in training me in how to load and manipulate the software and web page. The task force also continued to bring the computers in the Friendship House online. This is a project we hope to complete in 2007. Thanks to all of the task force members.

Task Force members:

Jim Fister	Dianne Barbin
Al Hartman	Scott Peterson
Allison Chipps	Mark Schenker
Pete Luedke	Jim Adamczyk

REPORT OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY– submitted by Rick Hurt

The Finance Ministry is responsible for planning, coordinating, and managing the financial aspects of the church. The Financial Secretary and Treasurer work closely with our committee to report the overall financial condition of the church. The Budget Ministry and Audit Ministry are sub-groups of the Finance Ministry.

2006 MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY:

Larry DePaolis, Co-Chairperson, Charlotte Luedke, Financial Secretary
Rick Hurt, Co-Chairperson, Dave Vondracek, Treasurer
Jerry Hurt

2006 MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET MINISTRY:

Rick Hurt, Jerry Hurt, Larry DePaolis

2006 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT MINISTRY:

Anne Vondracek, Dave Brauer, Jr., Lisa Groff

2006 MEMBERS OF THE COUNTING TEAM:

Andy Irlbacher, Pete Luedke, Rick and Betsy Novosel, Skip Fortnam, Stefan Johnston, David Williams, Joel Flayer, Larry DePaolis, Rich Baur, Allison Chipps, Dave & Karen Geisler.

We would like to thank Stefan and Allison for their service as they will be stepping down in 2007. ***We are actively seeking one or two new members for the 2007 counting team!***

The Finance Ministry is always looking for new members to help with any of our responsibilities. Anyone interested in information can contact Rick Hurt at (724) 779-1180.

2006 SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL CONDITION:

Budgeted Spending: \$451,954.00

Actual Spending: \$435,925.33

Deviation from Budget: \$16,028.67 Conclusion: Actual spending was less than % Deviation 3.5 % budgeted spending and was within an acceptable level.

Current Fund Giving: \$454,032.56

Giving Surplus \$2,078.56 Conclusion: Weekly offering giving was % Surplus 0.5% sufficient to cover the budgeted spending for 2006.

We have included the following reports which will illustrate our financial condition in 2006 as well as our outlook for 2007.

2006 Financial Secretary's Report

2006 Year End Treasurer's Report

2006 Actual vs Budget Expense Report

2007 Proposed Expense Budget

The Finance Ministry recommended the attached 2007 budget based on last year's actual results through November. This budget was approved by council in December 2006. If you take into consideration that Lay Minister Medical Expenses decreased \$8,000, we are basically presenting a "flat" budget for 2007.

NEW FOR 2007 – In early April, the Finance Ministry will review the actual giving figures through the 1st quarter. If we feel that an increase or decrease should be made to the expense budget for the remaining 9 months of the year, we will recommend those changes to council at their April meeting.

2006 REPORT OF THE MINISTERS OF COMMUNION - submitted by Diane Setzenfand

*"The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and His ears are open to their prayers."
I Peter 3:12*

We become closer to God by serving others and for the past 11 years, the Ministers of Communion have been glorifying God by providing the celebration of Holy Communion to those that are homebound, whether it be temporary or on a more permanent basis.

A dedicated group of Ministers visit our homebound the second Sunday of each month on a rotating schedule. Pastor Fred and Janet also visit the homebound, along with those that are in the hospital.

Ministers of Communion:

Jim Adelman

Pam Block

Debbie Evans

Brenda Hauser

Rob & Debbie Reppert

Diane Setzenfand

Karen Willmarth-Geisler

Communicants:

Isabelle Adelman

Lucille Broerman – entered the church Triumphant in November

Don Delaney

Elmer Kaelin

Anna McKinney

Barb & Bill Rothenbach – Bill entered the church Triumphant in August
Bessie Sarver
Ruth Slanina - entered the church Triumphant in June
Jean Voll
Ethel Watts
Martha Wiskeman

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL MINISTRY- submitted by Jerry Hurt

The ministry's major project for 2006 was to complete a "market survey comparison" of the Compensation we provide to our staff. We compared our total package to those of 6 other Lutheran churches of similar size in southwest Pa. and concluded our hard working staff's compensation is customary and reasonable with their peers in other churches. We also developed new "Performance Review" forms for 2006 and we are currently conducting annual reviews with the staff.

Thank you to our ministry members for their willingness to be available for the work of this ministry.

MEMBERS:

Jerry Hurt, Chair	Allison Chipps
Linda Baur	Jane Hein
Brenda Hauser	Rob Reppert

2006 Council Liaison: Clara Pearle Soergel

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY MINISTRY- submitted by Dave Fagan

The following items were completed in 2006:

Church: Three stained glass windows were renovated thanks to the Soergel, Adelman and Hein families. This leaves 4 windows to be renovated, one of which will be taken care of by the Williams family. We still need to come up with the funds to finish this project. The church roof was repaired under an initial contract only to find that additional slates and repairs to the woodwork on the steeple were required. This work was completed at an additional cost of \$2,000. Repairs are still needed to areas affected by a break-in that occurred. Krista's office and the handicapped door frame are the areas affected. Lighting above the altar has presented a problem that will require replacing the two light fixtures directly above the altar area.

Parish Hall: We are continuing to have problems with the windows. We have replaced 6 windows that have rotted out. Several more are in bad shape and we have tried to make contact with the manufacturer to have a site visit made to view the problem that is

occurring. We lost the McCandless Preschool as a tenant in June. The YMCA has come in as a new tenant and we are continuing to work out housekeeping problems with them. Painting was done in several areas that really needed it.

Friendship House: In July the ceiling in one of the rooms collapsed due to a problem with the HVAC unit which is located in the rafters above the ceiling. Repairs to the HVAC unit and the room were made under the church's insurance. At the request of the Youth Director the wall separating the living room and kitchen area was altered by removing a 4'X5' area to allow the overflow of students to sit in the kitchen area and be able to have visual ability into the living room area. Cracks are occurring in the building's foundation walls. Further investigation into this matter will be required to see what might be causing this to happen.

Outside: Spring and fall clean-up days were successful. Still lacking youth involvement, though. One of the biggest problems is the hillside between the Friendship House and the Parish Hall parking lot.

I would like to thank all of the people that helped in anyway with maintaining the church properties.

Members for 2006

Dave Fagan-Chairperson

Andy Irlbacher

Rob Campbell

Tom Nugent

Larry Edmonds

Mark Smedley- 2006 Council Liaison

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY– submitted by Bill Kirk

This year we decided to take a different approach to our Stewardship ministry. We wanted to take a much more prayerful approach and are leaning heavily on the direction of Pastor Charles Lane and his book "Ask, Thank, Tell." We are also moving towards a year-round stewardship ministry and want to emphasize relationships within our church family much more. To that end our ministry will be hosting three breakfasts for our congregation in 2007. We'll host a "thank you" breakfast in January to thank our congregation for financially pledging to the ministries of our church for 2007. We'll also host additional breakfasts at the end of the Sunday Church School year and in the fall. In the words of Pastor Lane "The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them." (*Ask, Thank, Tell, p. 11*)

Our fall stewardship campaign had very positive results this year. The prayer; the leadership of our campaign team; the direction of Pastor Charles Lane; the strong preaching of Joe Veres, Pastor Martha Clementson, and Pastor Don Green; the personal calls to our congregation members inviting them to

worship, and to be a part of our ministries; graced us with a positive response. Below is a comparison of the results of our stewardship campaigns over the past several years.

Item	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
# of Responses	87	161	104	90	105	116
Total Amount Est.	\$197,992	\$313,399	\$280,654	\$272,088	\$266,974	\$316,736

Please remember, if you have estimated your contributions of time, talent or treasure to Trinity and would like to revise your estimate at any time, you can do so by contacting the church office or the Stewardship Committee.

A special thank you to the individuals and families who participated in our annual Stewardship Campaign by committing their resources to growing our Mission in Christ.

Simply Giving Program by Pete Luedke

Simply Giving is a program which allows members to make contributions to the church through electronic fund transfers from their bank checking or savings accounts directly to the church’s account. While administration costs for any EFT program are quite high there is no administrative cost to either the member or the church. The Simply Giving program administrative costs are completely paid for by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Some prospective participants have stated they would feel uncomfortable not putting something into the offering plate each Sunday. “Simply Giving” cards will be made available for placement in the offering plate stating that financial support is provided for the Lord’s work at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through participation in the Simply Giving program.

Twenty five families currently make their contributions to the church on a weekly basis (each Monday), on a monthly basis (on the 1st or 15th of each month), or on a semi-monthly basis (on the 1st AND 15th of each month), contributing over \$75,000.00 annually in support of Trinity and the ELCA.

Authorization forms are available in the narthex, in the rack downstairs in the fellowship room, and in the church office. Contact Pete Luedke if you have any questions, chl2469@nauticom.net or call 724 935 6572.

Ministry Members:

Tim Abbott, Pete Luedke, Scott Peterson-2005 & 2006 Council Liaison
Bruce Swallow, Bill Kirk, Rob Campbell, Ron Montelaro

REPORT OF THE YOUTH MINISTRY– submitted by Joyce Lydick, Youth Director

OUR VISION: *To create an atmosphere through retreats and activities that encourages the enrichment and sharing of our youth's faith in Jesus Christ in the areas of **service, fellowship, worship and education.***

OUR MISSION: *To minister **with** our youth by combining the experience of our adults with the enthusiasm of our youth, thereby creating an interdependency between them that encourages the youth to become involved in the life and mission of our congregation today.*

Many of you will always remember 2006 as the year the Steelers finally won their fifth Super Bowl. It was a time to celebrate, that's for sure! As I look back on the year, I honestly can say that it was a **Super Bowl** year for youth ministry at Trinity as well! Here are some highlights:

Synod Bible Bowl

We finally did it! Trinity's Bible Bowl team studied the Gospel of John under the leadership of Janet Montelaro, and not only **won the regional competition**, but also **won the 2006 Super Bible Bowl!** The team consisted of Brian Guzek, Hannah Russell, Sean Guzek, Mark Schenker, Vincent Russell, Leigh Charland, Chris Rullan, and Shannon Knox. They did an awesome job of faithfully studying and then answering the questions with such authority—they made us proud! During synod assembly in June they received their trophy in front of the synod delegates. I also want to thank the adults who coached the team, Janine Nicolette-Fantin and Terry Charland, and those who helped write study questions for the team, Melinda Zorn, Jane Hein, and Georgi Shirley. *(Here's an interesting thought: 2006 was the first year I didn't lead the team and it was the first year they won!)*

Revelation (our youth praise band)

Speaking of **synod assembly**, Pastor Bish invited Revelation to perform as the entertainment on Friday night for the delegates. It was the band's first time to perform on such a huge stage in front of such a huge crowd! It took many hours of practice, including a weekend retreat at Lutherlyn in January, to put together a program of 14 songs. We rented additional audio equipment since neither Thiel's nor our own system was appropriate for our needs. To add some fun to the evening, Gordon Peterson wrote and sang a special song titled "Martin Luther Boy" to the tune of "I'm Henry the VIII, I Am" by Herman's Hermits. It was quite a hit with all those Lutherans! *(Well, almost all of them. Some still couldn't let their hair down and just enjoy a new way of looking at Martin Luther's life!)* It was so much fun to watch the audience sing along to our music and dance in the isles! We all agreed the time and effort put into this performance was well worth it. What an honor to not only serve our God in this way, but to also share our gifts with the synod.

Revelation was also invited to play at **North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center's 40th anniversary celebration**, Rockin' in the Spirit, in October. The band played 45 minutes of their best music and received rave reviews from members of the community who attended the event.

We also welcomed our old friend, Christian singer/songwriter **Shawn Smith**, back to Trinity to perform a concert in September. Since Revelation was leading worship the next day, Shawn practiced with the band and then joined them during worship. It was an awesome experience to have such a talented singer and guitarist blend his style of performing with Revelation's style of music. We learned so much from him that weekend that we invited him to come back for a day of consultation with the band in November. The grant that Pastor Fred received from the **Lilly Foundation** helped to pay for those seven hours of discussion, planning, and learning to apply new musical techniques. Shawn worked with each section of the band on their skills and offered some wonderful advice on performing our best. He reminded us that we should not be concerned with being perfect, but instead we should do our very best because God deserves our best. (*What other youth band can claim Shawn Smith as a member of their fan club!*)

Many thanks to the **youth band members** for all the time they put into practicing, performing and leading worship this year: **Julia Sittig, Sean Guzek, Eric Peterson, Caroline Nugent, Liz Russo, Rachel Baur, Caitlin Davidson, Chelsea Cameron, Luke Schenker, Rich Baur, Melanie Pegher, Leigh Charland, Vincent Russell, and Cameron Davidson**. I also give special thanks to the **adults, Gordon Peterson, Diane Sittig and Phyllis Hurt**, for their relentless work in preparing music, offering advice, giving encouragement, and making Revelation a priority in their own lives. (*Note to self: Remember that it's not all about ME and to give in to others once in a while!*) We were so grateful to have had so much opportunity for growth this year and look forward to continuing to make a joyful noise with our improved God-given musical gifts!

ELCA National Youth Gathering

Our big trip for the senior high youth was to **San Antonio** in July for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. I hope you enjoyed reading the special Gathering newsletters that were included with the Trumpeter from Nov. 2005 through June 2006. The theme this year was "Cruzando", a Spanish word which means crossing. Our 26 youth and 4 adult chaperones did a lot of group building in our preparation to spend a week together, learning what it meant to cross over our boundaries in the name of Christ. The cost of the trip averaged about \$925 per person and with this congregation's generous support, we were able to raise almost all of the funds needed! Thank you again for supporting our fundraisers, for being our prayer partners, and for encouraging our teenagers to continue their journeys of becoming Disciples of Christ. We are already thinking about the preparation for the 2009 Gathering. (*Don't know where it is yet...*)

Here are some other ways our youth were involved in the life of the church and community:

- ð In February, 12 youth and 2 adult chaperones attended the **Pittsburgh Youthquake** retreat at the Pittsburgh Marriott. The theme was "Stand on the Rock" from Matthew 7:24-27, where Jesus shares the parable about the wise and foolish builders.
- ð After the Youthquake retreat, **Captive Free**, the musical team that leads the

Youthquake event, spent a few days and nights at Friendship House before moving on to their next engagement. While here, they performed a few songs and a skit for McCandless Preschool.

- ø In March, a small but mighty group of youth went to **World Vision Distribution Center** and sorted, marked, and packed clothing to be shipped to people in need. We did this again in December and took a large group of 21. This is always a popular service project for the youth and the adults.
- ø Thanks to the Young Married Christian Adults group, our annual **Easter Egg hunt** for preschool through second graders was a huge success. They enjoyed searching for filled eggs on the Parish Hall lawn, playing games and making crafts, and snacking on Easter goodies.
- ø The synod's annual senior high retreat at Lutherlyn, **Youthfest**, was held at the end of April. Our attendance was very small—just 2 girls and me. But we had a wonderful time, especially meeting some new friends and learning a few new dance steps! (*Yes, skanking is a DANCE step!*)
- ø In May, over 75 of our youth participated in **Youth Sunday** by leading both worship services through reading the lessons, serving communion, ushering and hosting fellowship hour. Along with Revelation, the youngest Sunday School students and the elementary-aged students sang the special music they had been practicing for weeks. And many of the youth performed a skit led by Joan Schenker called “Daniel and the Lion’s Den.”
- ø Our annual trip to **Cedar Point** was in June. Once again over 40 of our teens and their friends attended this summer popular event.
- ø Trinity supported seven of our young people who attended summer camp at **Lutherlyn** by giving each of them \$100 towards their registration fees. This is a ministry of the Lutheran Church that Trinity has financially supported for many years and we are always excited when our children take advantage of the programs that Lutherlyn offers. Thank you for continuing to include this vital ministry in our budget.
- ø Our **senior high mystery trip** this year was camping at Pymatuning State Park over the Labor Day weekend. Although it rained a good part of the time, we were able to cook outdoors, shop at a flea market, and enjoy great conversation sitting around the campfire. We also learned that searching for firewood where bees have a tendency to build nests is just not a very good idea!
- ø Traipsing through a **corn maze** in Edinboro was our October activity. Although the maze was supposed to take two hours to wind through, our smart youth and their friends were able to find the 16 game pieces hidden throughout the puzzle in an hour! At least no one was caught by the Corn Police (also known as the Corn-Cobs!)

- ø The annual **Halloween Party** for preschool through fifth graders was a huge success this year. About 29 children and at least 25 adults attended. Games, crafts, costume contests and snacks were a hit with all the kids. Thanks again to the Young Married Christian Adults group for all their hard work to make this event a success.
- ø The senior high youth started a new event this year—**Dinner and a Movie**. They made their own pizzas, but instead of watching a movie as we had planned, they got involved in a lively game of bumper pool and tried their hand at Guitar Revolution, a new Playstation 2 game.
- ø And, of course, there was the annual **senior high retreat at Lutherlyn** in December. This is one of their favorite activities and we were glad to have quite a few ninth-graders attend this year. It was a great weekend for tandem sled riding (*don't try that if you're not fully padded!*), an unexpected snowball attack from someone hiding in the woods (*thus the nickname " Creeper " was assigned*), another round of Guitar Revolution (*not mentioning any names, but one of the chaperones got a little too carried away*), the largest Junga tower ever made, quite a few rowdy games of Spoons (*"OK kids, it's alright to have some fun, but let's not destroy the cabin!"*) and as usual, some pretty good conversation.
- ø The 6th-8th graders enjoyed an afternoon of **Angel Tree gift shopping**. After choosing angels from Trinity's tree, they went to Target to buy the gifts and came back to the Parish Hall to wrap them, eat lunch, and play a few games.

On a personal note, 2006 was an extremely busy and heart-warming year for me, but also one of personal sadness. I continued to serve the synod on the youth committee and enjoyed my role as synod coordinator to the National Youth Gathering. I attended the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in Phoenix where I was able to make connections with Christian musicians who helped me learn more about praise band music and performing. Thanks in a big way to financial help from Trinity's outreach committee, I attended a weeklong mission trip to Biloxi, MS in July with other people from our synod. We helped minister to children traumatized by Hurricane Katrina. I also spent a wonderful week at the beach with my family in August.

My annual trip to Chicago for a conference as our synod's Christian Education Network leader was scheduled for Nov. 16-19. Normally I wouldn't think twice about registering to attend. However, something (*more correctly, "Someone"*) kept nudging at my thoughts to find someone else to take my place and stay home where, for some unknown reason, I felt compelled to be. Obviously I had no way of knowing that I would receive the terrible news on Nov. 17 that my nephew had been tragically killed in a construction crane accident in Seattle the night before. My presence at home with my sister and the rest of my family is where I needed to be and I thank God that He made that possible for me. I want to thank all of my church family for their prayers, words of comfort, and their continued concern for me, my family and especially for my sister.

John Reseland and I celebrated 10 years of teaching senior high Sunday School together with a gathering of past and present students during the Christmas holidays. It was wonderful to see so many of them again and to hear about their lives today. We had some great discussion about their journeys into adulthood and they shared some amazing and honest insight with the younger students. Parents, you've done a good job!

I also want to thank you for all the gifts you have given our youth this year: the Wozniaks donated a 50" TV to the Friendship House; Ginny Jones gave us the infamous bumper pool table; Jerry and Phyllis Hurt gave us a Walmart card to buy some much-needed camping equipment; many families have given monetary donations for the youth to be able to attend retreats and the National Youth Gathering. We've been given books, games, CD's and videos, food, camping equipment, and so many more things that I can't list them all. This support and generosity from all of you is what makes my ministry so exciting and worthwhile. I couldn't do it without you. A special thanks, too, for the wonderful Christmas basket of goodies again this year. Another surprise I might add!

Last but certainly not least, I add my heartfelt appreciation for the support, encouragement, and sometimes a good smack upside my face (*figuratively, or course*) to **Gordon Peterson, Karla Sartori, Judy Downing, Joan Schenker, Ruthann Davidson, Melinda Zorn and Pastor Fred** for reminding me that it's **NOT** about me, no matter how much I think it is! You have been my rock and my strongest support system. God bless you!

2006 Council Liaisons: Gordon Peterson and Bobby Charland

PRAYER

REPORT OF THE FAITH CHEST MINISTRY-submitted by Bill Kirk

In 2005, Congregation Council directed that a new baptismal, faith journey ministry be started. Faith Chests would be presented to each of our newly baptized members. This Faith Chest would hold the symbols and items of the owner's walk with faith throughout their Christian life. These Faith Chests would be crafted by members of our congregation. Initially 19 chest "kits" were prepared for assembly. Medallions of the Luther Rose to be placed on the top of the chests were forged at Wendell August Forge. To date we have distributed 13 of the chests. Thanks to our congregation members who have shared their carpentry skills to produce these symbols of our walk with Christ.

Faith Chest assemblers:

Bill Kirk

Ryan Kirk

Bruce Swallow

Tim Evans

Rob Reppert -2006 Council Liaison

REPORT OF THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY– submitted by Phyllis Hurt

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father

We worship you

We give you thanks

We praise you for your glory.

(a portion of the Hymn of Praise from our liturgy)

Herein lies the true purpose of our weekly services - - - worship, thanks, and praise. It is the duty and charge of the Worship and Music Ministry to assure that the members of this congregation are provided with corporate worship which is in accordance with our Lutheran faith and which includes word and sacrament.

It is taught among us that one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel preached in it purity and holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.

Augsburg Confession VII (1530)

Serving as disciples of this ministry during 2006:

Pastor Fred Schenker	Paul Gruesu, Lay Minister	Nancy Smith, Altar Guild
Krista Shinew, Minister of Music	Phyllis Hurt	
Jeff Rasmussen	Eunice McCarthy	
Rick Hurt, chair	Hans Fox	
Ruth Kirk, Council Liason	Janet Montelaro, Lay Minister	

The Worship and Music Ministry also bears responsibility for those disciples who provide support to this ministry including all who serve in specific worship roles (choirs, Altar Guild, lectors, ushers, communion servers, communion assistants, acolytes, greeters, etc.). While it is not possible to name all who served in all these ways let it be simply and enthusiastically said that the congregation of Trinity believes in the Priesthood of all Believers.

Serving on the Altar Guild during 2006:

Ulli Baumann, Co-Chairperson	Phyllis Hurt
Nancy Smith, Co-Chairperson	Michelle Markel
Sue Abbott, Co-Chairperson	Kitty Berkstresser
Donna Peffer	Mary Hritz
Cheryl Henderson	Debbie Grom
Sue Phillips	Deb Adamczyk

Baptismal Clothes: Angie Moore

Banners: Lynn Pane

Wedding Coordinator: Michelle Cukauskas

Some of the highlights of the year include:

- 11:00 AM midweek services offered during Lent, in addition to the regular Wednesday evening Lenten service
- Healing Service offered during Holy Week
- Breakfast served at Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter (with the assistance of the choir and Altar Guild)
- Festival Choir presented two cantatas – the Rutter *Requiem* in June and Handel's *Messiah* in December – with instrumental accompaniment.
- Formation of the Liturgy Renewal Task Force for the purpose of integrating all aspects of worship and music ministry to discipleship and liturgical renewal.

- Worship surveys taken to determine preference and individual response to all aspects of the worship experience
- Worship Training event offered in September to encourage and provide training for all those who serve in specific roles during the Sunday worship services.

The Worship and Music Ministry would like to express special thanks to:

- Ulli Baumann for her service to this ministry and to the Altar Guild
- The Kaelin and Soergel families for providing flowers and beautiful accents to the worship space at Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Sue Abbott for assuming the position of Altar Guild co-chair
- Michelle Cukauskas for continued service as wedding coordinator
- Dianne Barbin for the scheduling of all those who serve during worship
- Pastor Hower for his leadership in Pastor Fred’s absence and for his sermon series on the Marks of Discipleship
- Janet Montelaro for her leadership during Pastor Fred’s illness
- Rick Hurt for his service in 2006 as chair of this ministry
- Krista Shinew for her musical leadership and to the choirs for their inspiring and uplifting music
- Our Good and Gracious God for seeing Pastor Fred, and family, through a year that was both amazing and difficult.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2500 Brandt School Rd.

Wexford, Pa. 15090

(724) 935-2746

January 28, 2007

12: 15 PM

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