

THE LAMPLIGHTER

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1600 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25311

Our Mission is to live and share God's Word in Jesus Christ

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PASTOR'S CORNER



February 2012

"A problem not worth praying about, is a problem not worth worrying about."

How many times have you ever lost sleep over some matter or another? Maybe it was something that, at the time, seemed huge or profound. Maybe it was something that, at the time, just seemed nettling or bothersome. Either way, how many times has your peace and rest been sacrificed in the face of some sort of trouble?

If you are "typical, at least occasionally some sort of trouble has intruded upon your sleep. It happens. Our minds sometimes have trouble "letting go" of the day's labors and cares. In fact, if modern sociologists are to be believed, we may be having a harder time (literally) "unplugging" ourselves since we are ever-more connected to news and events through our text-messaging, social-network sites, and 24 hour news-cycles. It may be that we are, quite literally, worrying ourselves to death.

Believe it or not, the point of this article is not to dabble in the science of sleep or sleep disorders. Those things belong to other, more skilled disciplines. Rather, the point of my observations is to highlight the increasing amount of stress that we put ourselves under and to ponder why there is not a corresponding level of prayer. Because I suspect that, had I phrased the question like this: "How many times, when confronted with a problem, do you first PRAY" the answer would be substantially less than asking how many times you have ever lost sleep over some problem or another.

It may seem somewhat simplistic or naïve to say, "A problem not worth praying about, is a problem not worth worrying about." but stop and consider it for a moment. Nowhere in the Ten Commandments are we commanded by God "to worry," but we are commanded by God **to pray**. The Second Commandment is "**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord, your God.**" The unspoken question hangs in the air: what then is the right use of the name of the Lord, our God?" Luther explains the Second Commandment like this: We are to fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using Gods' name, but instead use that name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God." Or in other words, the rightful use of the name of the Lord, our God is in prayer. We are commanded, in the Second Commandment, to pray. So why is it, that we feel our worry (which is not commanded of us) is somehow worthier of our time, but our prayer (which is commanded of us) is not?

The first and primary **Christian** response to any problem is prayer; to stop everything and call upon God's holy name and seek God's guidance and help. *Worrying* takes no special faith. *Praying*, on the other hand, requires faith. Many good and fine people with no faith may identify a problem and be concerned with it, but it takes a Christian to identify a problem and pray about it. If our rule of prayer is that "We won't bother God" with our worries, then what will be our rule of belief or faith be? Or in other words, just how strongly can you believe in God's help if your first response is not to ask for it?

On the other hand, we are often driven into God's mercy by the winds and storms that buffet our small boats. When the Apostles woke Jesus, who was sleeping in the stern of the boat, he calmed the winds and the waves. When we dare to call out to Jesus because we are being overwhelmed by the storms and waves of our troubles, we find out that we have not been driven upon the rocks, but into the arms of his mercy. Prayer is heard, prayer is answered, even where we sometimes fail to see it right away.

CONTACT US!

The church office is open:
Monday—Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 Noon

Pastor Ron's Office Hours:
Tuesday—Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Office Phone 304-342-5212
Pastor Ron Home:
304-342-3235

www.trinitywv.org
Email us at
office@trinitywv.org

To include your news item in your Church publications, please observe the following deadlines. Submission by email is appreciated!

Bulletin	9:00 am Tuesdays
Midweek	9:00 am Mondays
Newsletter	The 20th of the month

*God's Work ...
Our Hands*

Sunday School News

WOWS for a great 2011 Christmas Youth Program! Looking forward to our one in 2012!

Sunday School/Youth Dates for 2012

January 8, 2012 - Classes resume

February 21, 2012 - Shrove Tuesday

April 1, 2012 - Palm Sunday

April 8, 2012 - Easter Sunday/Egg Hunt

May 20, 2012 - Graduation Sunday & Last day of Sunday School

June 17 – 23, 2012 - Camp Luther

July, 2012 - Youth Gathering in New Orleans

September 9, 2012 - Rally Day

December 2 & 9, 2012 - Christmas Program Practices

December 16, 2012 - Youth Christmas Program



Lutheran Lines The latest issue (November, 2011) of **Lutheran Lines** is available at www.Lutheranonline.com/mtnwelca A copy is also on the board in the Social Hall. **Learn more about WELCA on the national website: www.womenoftheelca.org** We are now on Facebook. **Check us out!** **Learn more about WELCA on national website: www.womenoftheelca.org**

Trinity WELCA Dates for 2012

January 21, 2012 - Saturday Brunch

March ?, 2012 - Spring Cluster Meeting

April 1, 2012 - Palm Sunday Reception

April 14, 2012 - Saturday Brunch

May 20, 2012 - Graduation Reception

August 3-4, 2012 - Convention in Charleston

September 8, 2012 - Saturday Brunch

September 9, 2012 - Rally Day Reception

October ?, 2012 - Hot Dog/Bake Sale

October ?, 2012 - Fall Retreat at Tygart Lake

October/November ?, 2012 – Bean Soup Mix Sale

December 16, 2012 – Christmas Reception

Suzanna Circle

Suzanna Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 3**, at 9:30 am.

Rebekah Circle

Our next Rebekah Circle meeting will be Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 7:00 pm. in the church social hall. Pat Schillings will present our Bible study *To Follow and To Serve: The Gospel of Mark* Session 1—Jesus of Nazareth .*Mark introduces us to the good news of Jesus, the Messiah, and suggests that his identity is rooted in promises made to people of Israel.* Karen Stouch will provide us with our tasty treat during fellowship. Hope you can come and join in our study and fellowship.

A Devotion for Epiphany/January

Opening Hymn: Arise your light has come (vs. 1-2)

ELW 314

Reading: Philippians 3: 12-16

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Reflection

As we move through the light-filled season of Epiphany and into another calendar year, we must continue forward in our passion for ministry and the community that can grow from our work as a women's organization. We honor the work of our foremothers and their forward-looking beliefs that women of this church are change-makers in our communities and the world. And so it is time now, in our present relationships with one another, to continue forward towards the goal of our mission and purpose using our time, our resources and our abilities. Together we will support one another and bring healing and wholeness to our world.

Closing prayer:

Good and gracious God, draw us together in the light of faith, so we may be guided by your grace and empowered to do your work. Inspire our words and deeds, that we may continue to move forward in gratefully serving you. Amen.

Closing hymn

Arise your light has come (vs. 3-4)

ELW 314



Coffee Fellowship News

Beginning in the year 2012 the Women of the ELCA of Trinity will host 4 coffee fellowships during the year: Palm Sunday, Graduation Sunday, Rally Day Sunday, and the Christmas Program Sunday. If you would like to bring treats to share with your friends on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the social hall (January, February, March, October, & November) please feel free to do so. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. responsibilities would include napkins, checking the coffee items, and of course clean up. We also have a sign-up sheet for the coffee supply items for the year. Thanks for all your support.



Pastor's Corner continued

from Page 1

Calling out to God "in every time of need" is not only a commandment, but it is how God reveals his love for us, by calming the winds and the waves.

Pope John Paul II was asked, in the midst of the sexual abuse scandal in the Roman Catholic Church, how he was sleeping. "Fine, fine," he answered the reporter. "How can you find rest in such a troubled time?" the stunned reporter asked. "I have a crucifix above my bed," the pope explained. "I say my prayers every night, I look up at Jesus and I tell him, 'It is your Church, you take care of it now.' And I sleep soundly." Prayer is part of our admission that "God is God and we are not." It is allowing God to do what only God can do; still the wind and the waves and to save us. And having done so, we may rest in peace.

Peace,
Pastor Ron

Wednesday Evening Bible Class

We will resume our Wednesday evening Pot Luck / Bible Classes on Wednesday, **January 11**. We will continue until Wednesday, February 15. The plan is to talk about the liturgical calendar. We will come to know the meaning of words like "Pentecost", "Advent", and "Epiphany". As we do so we will reacquaint ourselves with some words that have dropped out of our vocabulary. Words like "Jubilate", "Cantate", and "Rogate". If you didn't know it – those words, and the whole liturgical calendar the church follows, were all meant to signify a deep level of spiritual strength and depth in our souls. So – if you have ever found yourself sitting in the pew, looking at your bulletin, wondering what "The First Sunday in Advent" could possibly mean – you just might do yourself a favor by coming to these classes.

Young Parents Support Group

Charlie and Rachel Hall, Adam and Jennifer Knauff, and Sara Stiltner invite all parents of little kids to join them starting Sunday, January 8, to talk about the challenges and joys of raising children in the Christian faith today. Sky Kirshner, director of Kanawha Pastoral Counseling, will be on hand to get the discussion going. Sky is an authority on "Non Violent Communication", a very technical sounding phrase that simply means "respect". Discussion will focus on respect for spouse and children, and how this helps the children respect and care for others. We meet up the stairs, in the last room on the left, in the educational wing. We start at 10:00. Child care is provided by Katie Mallory and Samantha Riggs, who will be in the room waiting for you when you arrive.

TYG information for 2012

TYG Recycles! Remember to bring your aluminum cans to the church for recycling!

TYG Donation Envelopes You may have noticed several decorated envelopes posted on the bulletin boards in the social hall and near the church office. TYG is fundraising to help support the cost of travel to the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in **New Orleans July 2012**. This year the synod has offered to arrange the travel and has put together a 10 day trip, traveling as a group via bus. The youth will stay at local churches on the way to New Orleans and will perform community service projects as they travel. Trinity is sending 9 youth/parent(s) on this adventure. Anyone who wishes to submit a donation toward this trip may place donations in an envelope and place in the church offering or place in the church office. We appreciate your generosity and support!



CARE LIST



The dear ones below would love calls, cards, or prayers from their friends at Trinity. Won't you contact one of these folks today?

<p>Florence Heilman Marmet Center – D 36 #1 Sutphin Drive Marmet, WV 25315</p>	<p>Ruth DeBolt 2537 Kay Lane Charleston, WV 25302 304-343-2360 304-343-6934 304-925-2771</p>
<p>Laveda Winkler 220 Kelly Avenue Oak Hill, WV 25901 304-222-2387</p>	<p>E. P. & Betty Harrison 57 Buhl Morton Rd. Apt.604 Gallipolis, OH 45631</p>
<p>Dorothy Strohmer Charleston Gardens 800 Association Drive # B-233 Charleston, WV 25311 304-881-0356</p>	<p>Charlie Young, Sr. 699 South Park Road Charleston, WV 25304 304-346-4692</p>
<p>Jessie Hostler 4000 Outlook Drive Hurricane, WV 25526 304-757-1668</p>	<p>Shirley Schweizer 309 50th Street, S. E. Charleston, WV 25304 304-925-2771</p>
<p>Marian Zamiela 1737 Rolling Hills Road Charleston, WV 25314 304-346-3656</p>	<p>Willie Daugherty 4305 Virginia Ave., SE Charleston, WV 25304 304-925-0917</p>



If you or someone you know is in need of prayer on a Sunday morning, please fill out a prayer card and hand it to the usher (as we have done for some time). The usher will give the cards to Pastor Ron, who will mention those names in the prayer of the church that morning. If you or the person whose name you present is in need of prayer over a long period of time, please call the church office so we can put the name on Trinity's prayer list.

Please let us know if a name needs to be added or removed.

Please pray for:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Bob Busse | Penny Meadows and |
| 2nd Lt. Jonathan Chapman | Alan Meadows |
| Kitty DeBolt | Cynthia Pratt |
| Ruth DeBolt | Ray Prudnick |
| Dewey Dixon | Shirley Schweizer |
| Jonathan Lee England | Dorothy Strohmer |
| Nancy Entley | Raelyn Strader |
| Heather Harper | Abby Swann |
| Florence Heilman | Amy Swann |
| Barron Helgoe | Ron Taylor |
| Sharon Henson | Kathy Walker |
| Vera Howe | Laveda Winkler |
| Judith Judy | Bill Wright |
| George McKinney, III | Charlie Young Sr. |
| Shawn McKinney | Marian Zamiela |



November Trinity's Table Report

During the month of November Trinity's Table served 1192 meals at a cost of \$699.18 or approximately 59 cents a meal. Year to date we have served 10758 meals at a cost of \$6900.43 or about 64 cents a meal. During the month of November we averaged serving 298 meals a week. The number of meals being served continues to rise each month. (See attached graph). On the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving we set a new record of 418 meals served.

We are continuing to receive numerous donations of food from members of Trinity and from the surrounding community. Sara Busse and her friends made and donated over 70 pies for Thanksgiving dinner as well as six turkeys. A friend of mine donated eighty pounds of sweet potatoes. We used half of the potatoes for Thanksgiving dinner and the other half will be used for Christmas dinner. Donations of this order are helping keep our cost per meal low. We are continuing to see volunteers from outside of Trinity. Several of the young people from WVSU continue to volunteer outside of their school requirements. We have had TYG youth volunteering once a month. Several kids from Capital High School who are in need of the community service hours are volunteering.

The problem of having enough volunteers to help prepare the meals has been solved. We have been fortunate to have numerous members of Trinity to stay after the service and help for an hour or so in preparing the meal. This has taken a real burden off of Eunice and me. We continue to have enough volunteers to serve the meal. We appreciate all of the volunteers and thank each and every one of them.

We are deep in our planning for Christmas Dinner. We are having a fairly good response from people who are willing to give up part of the Christmas Day to come and help at Trinity's Table.

Peace

Ed & Eunice

Merry Christmas from Trinity's Table. (12/25/11) We just completed a fantastic and special night. Being able to feed those in need on Christmas Day is indeed a very special. We had a tremendous meal today and so many volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal that it was absolutely amazing. It is truly amazing that this many people would give up part of their Christmas day to come and help at Trinity's Table. We had volunteers from Trinity, St Paul, B'nai Jacob Synagogue and from the community. We want to take this opportunity to thank all who came and helped.

We did not set any records. We served 284 meals tonight. The atmosphere at Trinity's Table was definitely special even though we did not have the great crowd. We had plenty of food but very little left over. We feed all of our guests as well as all the volunteers. We could not have asked for a better night. Our friend Sara Busse activated her army of

friends and made cookies to give to our guests as a special little treat. We had more cookies than we could have ever served, so what was left over one of our volunteers took to one of the local hospital's to give out to the nurses and patients who were spending their Christmas night at the hospital. I thought this was a fantastic way to deal with the cookies. Please give all your friends and big thank you from all of us.

It's been a long day and we will sign off by saying Merry Christmas to all and may God continue to bless all of you.

Peace,

Ed & Eunice

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Handbell News



We are starting to look forward to preparing our Spring (IF it ever gets here!) music. In the meantime, please look for us to be ringing in church and try to come to church that day a little early to hear us. I promise to give you ample notice of the times we will be planning to play the bells in church.

We do enjoy being able to ring for you and hope you enjoy it also. We have a new addition to the choir and when you see us next in church you will be able to tell who has joined our group. We welcome our new ringer with open arms and thank her very much for the commitment she has given us. If anyone else would like to join, there are plenty of bells to go around. Please feel free to ask me or any of the group about being a member.

We have started practicing for our Spring ring, but we are also going to Beckley to play for the dedication of St. Luke's new addition to their church on April 29th. A few years ago, we played for their church building dedication and they asked us to return for the dedication of their addition. By the time you get this we will have played for church. Hope you enjoyed it.

Friendly Lutheran News

FRIENDLY LUTHERANS



We will be meeting on February 15th for a regular carry-in meal. Our group has dwindled a little in numbers, but our "fun" level has stayed the same or risen. Wouldn't you like to come out on the third Wednesday of every month to join us for appetizers and then a meal? Remember that we meet and greet starting at 11 a.m. We hope to see you then. If you need a ride, I am sure that can be arranged. Stay warm and be well.



You are invited to join us in our nursing home ministry at Meadowbrook Acres Nursing Home on **Friday, February 24th at 2:00 pm**. We will celebrate birthdays as we sing songs, offer prayers, and eat cake. For more information, please call Jonalee Young at 304-346-1851 or Pat Schillings at 304-345-9003.



The Men's Breakfast will be held on **February 18th at 8:30 am**. Y'all come and bring your appetites. It is a great way to start your Saturday with fellowship and good food.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES, cont.



Looking for a new and different way to serve the church? Want to know more about why we do what we do during Communion or the services? Want to get involved with making new banners, paraments or liturgical art?

ALTAR GUILD

Then you need to be a member of the Altar Guild! Contact the office, Linda Cook or Eunice Burch if you are interested. We'd love to get you involved! This is a behind the scenes job and you would not have to be in front of anyone!! Please consider helping out. Thank you very much.

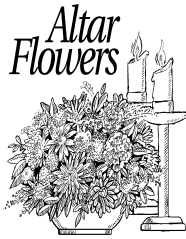


One of the ways you can serve your church is by being a reader on Sunday morning. There are open spots for both services and the sign-up sheet is opposite the church office on the bulletin board. You only need to read the First and Second lessons, and the Psalm. If you do not want to sing the Psalm, Pastor Ron will do this for you. It would be a help for those who have been doing this Sunday after Sunday. All information can be mail (hard copy) or e-mailed to you in advance. Thank you very much.

Do you enjoy the **Children's Sermon**? See Laura Knauff or any of the presenters listed to volunteer.



February 5	Linda Cook
February 12	George McKinney
February 19	Adam Knauff
February 26	Laura Knauff



To dedicate the altar flowers or sanctuary candle to someone, place their name and information on the sign-up sheets across from the church office. Flowers are \$46.00 and candles are \$2.00. You may place the money in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

Other Notes



Nick Mitchell has been recording the late service each Sunday and if you or anyone you know would like to have a copy of the service, please call the office or get in touch with him. He will make a copy of that CD for you. They can be taken to shut-in's or to those who may have missed a service.

Sound System

You have probably noticed the improvements to our sound system. It has been updated and expanded within the last two months. All of our services are now recorded on CD. We are working to put the recordings on our web page, which also is being developed and updated. It is our goal to get the CD's to all of our homebound every week, and by the time of the next newsletter, we hope to have a system developed. In the meantime, some people are already taking home CD's of the services to members of their families who are homebound. Please call or see Nick Mitchell (304-543-6406) to make arrangements.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

Food Pantry Needs:

Donations are welcome in the Food Pantry. The food pantry is in need of any type of grain items such as cereal, macaroni and cheese, plain macaroni, rice, noodles or any type of canned fruit. Anything you can spare is appreciated.