

## From the Pastor's Desk...



As I sit to write this, I am still overwhelmed by the “October Surprise Storm” and its aftermath. We were reminded- forcefully- that human beings do not control the forces of nature. The storm provided an opportunity to see the best, and worst, of human nature on display. On the whole, it was the better side of humanity that showed forth in response to the challenges of the storm. Neighbors cared for each other, and many people went out of their way to help others...

**THANK YOU** to everyone who came out to help clean up the church property... muscles, chainsaws, rakes, saws, and more muscles were all put to use, and what looked like an overwhelming job was done in just a couple of hours!  
**THANKS!!!**

We have been left with a powerful sense of being caught in events beyond our control. This upsets the illusion we carefully nurture of being in charge of our own lives, and reveals the fragility of all we take for granted. As things get back to normal, this feeling will recede. We will be able to regain our feelings of self-sufficiency and control, leaving little room for God in our lives. This is the way it often is, even with Christians... and if it is this way with us, it is even more so with our unchurched neighbors and co-workers and friends. So what can we do?

View pictures of the storm on our website at  
[www.trinity-lutheran-church.org](http://www.trinity-lutheran-church.org)

Our Natural Church Development area of focus is “need-based evangelism.” This area deals with the question above. How do we reach out to the majority of people in our town that are not actively involved in any worshipping community? What is our “goal” once we “reach” them? These are questions we will be looking at as we develop our congregation’s plans for need-based evangelism in the coming weeks and months. On the next page is some more information on Natural Church Development (or NCD) from the ELCA’s website.

Pastor Terry



## **More on Natural Church Development...**

*Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world.”--- ELCA Mission Statement.*

The Lord’s Prayer reminds us that God’s dream (and therefore ours in faith as well) starts and ends with “Your Kingdom come, your will be done...” Followers of Jesus are not simply to rejoice in the gift that is theirs but also to pray for and work for the Reign of God.

God is a missionary God. God is not watching to see what will happen here in our midst. God is engaging our world in order to insure the outcome. God interacts in order to reconcile a fallen world in a way that transforms creation more fully into the Reign of God. This call comes to the world, not as a form of coercion but as a gracious and freely offered invitation, offered in love to a world broken and needing to be healed.

God comes to be the missionary. In this way God chooses not simply to do mission in this world from afar but to come as a participant. This is what the incarnation is all about. It is a reminder that God is so deeply committed to seeing the Reign of God come to fruition and completion that God is willing to get involved. As God comes to the world in Jesus Christ, the Reign of God is not only an idea to be conceived but it is embodied in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

God invites us to participate. Through the gift of faith in Jesus Christ and trusting in his work, the Holy Spirit claims people to be disciples and gathers them into communities of faith. These faith communities, the body of Christ for the world, are gathered and empowered by the Holy Spirit both to support the ministry of the participants and to be an apostolic community, committed to continuing the work of the Reign of God.

### ***How Natural Church Development Helps:***

The gathering of congregational members in order to support and equip them for discipleship is therefore a priority for a healthy and missional church. How the various aspects of congregational life work together to provide a system within which healthy ministry can take place is essential.

Natural Church Development (NCD) assesses eight (8) quality characteristics of congregational life that have been determined to be essential in the life of a faith community.

These eight quality characteristics are:

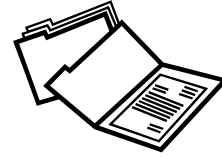
1. *Empowering leadership*
2. *Gifts Oriented Ministry*
3. *Passionate spirituality*
4. *Effective (functional) Structures*
5. *Inspiring Worship*
6. *Need-oriented (contextual) Evangelism*
7. *Holistic small groups*
8. *Loving relationships*

In understanding these areas of congregational life the research shows that all eight areas are important and that it is the adjective that is important. To assess this, NCD looks at how the gathered community functions and helps correlate that to the ability of a congregation to grow. The results give direction as to which of the eight areas would most strengthen the character of the church’s life together. The NCD research shows that working on the quality characteristic which most limits the capacity (referred to in NCD literature as the “Minimum Factor” or in some ELCA generated materials as the “Maximum Leverage Point”) is most likely to strengthen the ministry.

A key assumption within NCD is that the church is organic in its nature, that the “body of Christ” language is more than a literary device but is a real description of what it means to be the church. Improving a quality characteristic in the congregation’s life is not about adding or doing a program. It involves the development of contextually appropriate ministry grounded in these principles. The idea is to release the natural potential of a healthy body to do the work to which God has called it. Data collected ecumenically shows that about 85% of those congregations who do an assessment, spend a year working on their area of concern, and reassess their congregation one year later have both experienced qualitative growth in the assessment scores and numerical growth in worship attendance. Initial results within the ELCA point to similar outcomes!!----- *from ELCA website.*

# ***Council President's message for November 2006***

by Erik Polkowski



## **“A change in perspective”**

I get up in the morning to a dark sky. I drive to work in the twilight of the dawn. I work a full day. I get in my car, drive home as the sun sets. The sky once again, returns to black. I go to bed only to get up again the next morning and repeat the cycle. Somewhere in the day, I have to eat, bathe with the kids, take out the garbage and so much more. Our lives are busy, with never enough time in the day.

**“Each man will be a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.” – Isaiah 32:2**

On occasion, we get, or make, the opportunity to take a vacation. The whole idea is to change our surroundings, explore our world, or visit with family. We just plan to get away from the world we know. Over the course of the last two weeks, we have all been forced to experience an alternative life. For a moment, time stood still. Our world stopped. It changed. Like Noah, held in the refuge of our homes, the morning greeted us with two feet of snow and the resulting damage as an opportunity.

**“The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city departed... till the Spirit is poured upon us from high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest.”**

**– Isaiah 32:14-15**

After the storm, I looked to my neighbors and they looked to me, strengthening the bonds of community through cooperation, compassion and well-being. During the power outages, my brother in law and his wife stayed with us for four nights. The kids enjoyed every game they played and every minute of the time that they shared. With an absence of distractions and a now a seemingly endless amount of time, I could reflect as the peaceful surroundings of snow, covered the routine day and cleansed my world. Do I curse the storm and fight it? Or pause, reflect and learn from it? I can acknowledge that in this time of trial, while losing some items, I still retained the greatest gifts in my life, God, my wife and my children. I was strengthened with the feeling that tomorrow would be a brighter day, full of endless possibilities.

**“Thought hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely, how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream...” – Isaiah 32:19-20**

We don't know what tomorrow holds. We have witnessed first hand, that what you close your eyes on in the evening, may not be what you awake to in the morning. You have been given a gift. You have been blessed with an awareness that may not have been there before. You have been given an alternative view, a vacation from the busy self-involved lives we lead. You have been shown the gifts to which you have been given, the gifts that we have taken for granted. You have been awakened that as an individual, we are all small and fragile. But together, with and though God, greater things are possible. That God will never give you more than you can bear and that God will always provide. Share the peace of understanding, the peace that you have been given by God.

**“Then the eyes of those who see will no longer be closed, and the ears of those who hear will listen. The mind of the rash will know and understand, and the stammering tongue will be fluent and clear.” – Isaiah 32:3-4**



# FYI. . just thought you'd want to know!

**\*\*Deadline for the December issue of the *Beacon* is November 19, 2006!**



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

If you or your committee would like to place something on the calendar, please fill out the **Calendar Request Form**, which is attached to the filing cabinet in the church office. Likewise, if your event is cancelled, please contact the office as soon as possible, in order to remove it from the calendar, as well as put a notice in the bulletin or the *Beacon*. Thank you!

### *HSBC Holiday Pops – Lutheran Night at the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra*

*Sponsored by Lutheran Charities*

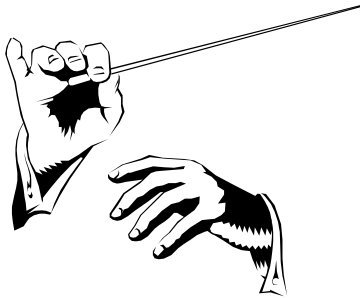
*Friday, December 15, 2006 at Kleinhans Music Hall, 3 Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY*

*Cocktail Party at 6:00 pm and Concert at 8:00 pm*

*Pops Conductor Marvin Hamlisch will address the group with highlights of the performance*

*Tickets are \$65.00 and \$55.00, call now at 716-632-2623 to reserve your seat*

*Additional information is on the church bulletin board in the coatroom*



## Leisuretimers Apartments Accepting Applications

Leisuretimes Residential Services is accepting applications for their apartment complex. These are for elderly – 62 or older – or disabled individual regardless of age. The complex is subsidized through USDA Rural Development and HUD. Rent is calculated at 30% of the tenant's annual income. Applicants must qualify with a very low or extremely low income. There are one and two bedroom apartments, as well as two handicap accessible units. The complex is two stories and has an elevator.

If you are interested, contact the church office at 542-9828 or email us at [trinlc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:trinlc@rochester.rr.com).

## **Assistance Provided**

Assistance to the families affected by the shootings in the Amish schoolhouse, which is on the territory of Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. Two funds have been established--one for the shooter's children and one for the Nickel Mines Children's Fund. Donations may be sent to these funds set up by the Old Order Amish at: Nickel Mines Children's Fund, c/o Coatesville Savings Bank 1082 Georgetown Road, Paradise, PA 17562 or Roberts Family Fund, c/o Coatesville Savings Bank, 1082 Georgetown Road, Paradise, PA 17562. The girls' families have asked that memorial contributions be sent to: Nickel Mines School Victims Fund, c/o Hometown Heritage Bank, P.O. Box 337, Strasburg, PA 17579. As for written condolences, St. Michael Lutheran Church, 40 E. Main Street, Strasburg, PA 17579-1426, has agreed to receive cards/letters for the Amish community. The church is located in the area of the schoolhouse and will see that cards and letters are delivered. Please address condolences to "The Amish Community," c/o St. Michael Lutheran Church. Please continue to keep everyone affected by this tragedy in your prayers.

## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>- John Bruning  
Heather Coleman  
Alisha Skorupski
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Tony Cinotti  
Shirley Domon
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Sandra Schoenthal  
Ryan Yaeger
- 7<sup>th</sup>- Margaret Baker
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Adam Skorupski
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Madison Kaczmarek
- 14<sup>th</sup>- Katie Sweeney
- 15<sup>th</sup>- Helen Bluman
- 17<sup>th</sup>- William Drier
- 20<sup>th</sup>- Ruth Knerr
- 22<sup>nd</sup>- David McMullen  
Whitey Kumpf
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- Jim Goeseke
- 26<sup>th</sup>- Bill Lawrie
- 27<sup>th</sup>- Timothy Kropelin



## **NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Dale & Nina Freas
- 8<sup>th</sup>- John & Kathy Aylsworth
- 25<sup>th</sup>- Barry & Laura Pingitore

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** Robert Bollinger, Michelle Brown, Diane Rappold, Vicki Van Detter, Craig Buchan, Joyce Nixon, John Stoter, Sharon Szczepanski, Stephanie Bainbridge, Joanne Heating, Mike Murphy

**AND THE FAMILIES OF:** Joan Diver, Ray Perkins

## **Historian's Notebook**

*by Betty Sugg*

I have heard many favorable comments on our 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration here at Trinity. They were all very kind, positive and very encouraging. The Saturday night gathering for fellowship and sharing memories of the past was great. The Sunday morning worship service with special music by the Buffalo Silver Band. The inspiring message by our former pastor Robert Kelley and a very good attendance made for a very memorable day. I would like to thank the anniversary committee, the worship committee and those who provided our beautiful music, as well as Pastor Terry and those who had a part in our celebration.



## **Sunday School**

As we watch our young people grow in height and advance to the next level in school, we also watch them grow in stature and knowledge of their Christian life. We are happy to welcome the following youngsters to the Lord's Table to receive their First Holy Communion: Shelby Adamczak, Alexandra Eckerson, Gina Henley, Brianna Jurewicz and Andrew Seguin. Pastor Terry instructed these young people on Communion October 22<sup>nd</sup> and they receive their First Holy Communion on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Many of our young people have shown an interest in acolyting, a way they can serve their church family. An instructional time had been scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> (the Sunday after the storm). Another time will be scheduled soon. You are asked to watch the *Beacon* for more details. Remember, Trinity offers Christian education for all ages – 3 through adult. Sunday School gathering for the young people begins at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall, and coffee time for the adults begins at 9:15 am in the large Meeting Room. All classes begin at 9:30.

## **Trinity Member Receives Award**

Mr. Jurgen Arndt, President/CEO of the Niagara Lutheran Health System in Buffalo, NY, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Business Leadership Buffalo Niagara 2006 awards celebration on October 19. Jurgen's lifetime of leadership has improved thousands of lives in Western New York. He emigrated to the US from West Berlin, Germany in 1963. One decade later he joined the staff of the Niagara Lutheran Home & Rehabilitation Center in Buffalo as a registered nurse. He continued his education and earned frequent promotions through the years, becoming the President/CEO of the Niagara Lutheran Health System in 1996. Jurgen's work has touched people from the Western New York suburbs to the City of Buffalo. He oversaw the development of Niagara Lutheran's GreenField continuing care campus in Lancaster, and is now spearheading the development of a similar campus in downtown Buffalo which is being made possible by the affiliation of the Niagara Lutheran Health System and the Lutheran Church Home of Buffalo. With this Lifetime Achievement Award, Jurgen continues to be a role model for business leaders in Western New York. Congratulations!

# Ladies of Trinity

The Women of Trinity invite everyone to join them in their Thankoffering Service to be shared with all worshippers on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at both worship services. This service is designated for all those gathered to make a special offering gift for the blessings received throughout the year. This women-led worship service gives you an opportunity to take note of your blessings through a service of devotion, prayers, and singing praises to our Lord and Provider. The special offerings received that day will be sent to the Women of the ELCA to continue its mission to proclaim God's good news and accomplish the tasks God calls us to do. As we reflect on our blessings received over the past year, we cannot help but give thanks for the survival from the October storm. Each of us suffered some inconvenience, some more than others, but we didn't lose our homes or lives. This storm saw the best and the worst in people, but it gives us all an opportunity to reflect on what we lost but also what we gained – an appreciation for electricity and heat, and a reminder to check our sump pumps and generators periodically. If you cannot think of anything positive about the storm, here is an excerpt from the Buffalo News dated Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>:

## **Ten Good Things About the Storm:**

1. *No school for a week.*
2. *No cable – didn't see the Bills lose in Detroit*
3. *Freezer was due for a cleaning anyway*
4. *Travel time on Main Street was reduced due to stop lights not working*
5. *Howdy, neighbor!*
6. *Finally, a good reason to have an ATV in Amherst*
7. *Next year the flower beds will get more sun*
8. *Talked to the out of town relatives on their money*
9. *A romantic evening in front of the fireplace*
10. *Water ban gave a good reason to drink wine with every meal*

Special envelopes will be available for your special offering.

## **November dates to remember:**

- November 5<sup>th</sup> – All Saints Sunday*
- November 12<sup>th</sup> – Thankoffering Sunday*
- November 19<sup>th</sup> – Community Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 pm – Clarence Center/Akron Mennonite Church*
- November 26<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King Sunday*



## Trinity's Anniversary

Trinity recently recognized its 135 years of ministry to the community. The anniversary is actually November 7<sup>th</sup>, but due to uncertain weather conditions, it was suggested to hold the special time of fellowship and reminiscing in October. This celebration will now be called 'Trinity's Homecoming' and celebrated each year about this time. The celebration began on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> with an evening of fellowship and welcoming back some of Trinity's former family members. An estimated 40-50 people attended this enjoyable time. There was an assortment of finger food and punch available while visiting. On Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> a special service was held with the Rev. Robert Kelley, Bishop Emeritus delivering the message and the Rev. Lauretta Dietrich assisting with the service. Both were former pastors at Trinity and it was great to re-acquaint ourselves and catch up on their news. Following Sunday's service, there were sandwiches and desserts for anyone who was able to stay and visit. Everyone attending worship that day was invited to stay for a bite to eat and a brief time of conversation. Before these two events could take place, a lot of planning and work had to be done. Thanks to Julie Baldo for her mailing letters to all former pastors, and thanks to all those who wrote letters of invitation to former members, inviting them to the gatherings. Many thanks to Jane Dorr and Lois Kruschke for their work on planning the menu and setting things up. Thanks to Betty Sugg and Lois Kruschke for their work on getting the photo albums in order. They are available in the Prayer Room for you to browse through. Thanks, Betty Sugg and Donna Kumpf for getting information together to make a small, brief booklet on Trinity's Anniversary. A heartfelt thanks to Julie Baldo and Mrs. Teri White for assembling the Anniversary calendars and booklets. The calendars and booklets are available for purchase for \$5 each. The money will benefit the anniversary/homecoming committee's continued celebrations. Many thanks to Pastor Terry White for planning the super service and thanks to the choir for their special music, and the Buffalo Silver Band for playing and enhancing our worship. Most of all, thanks to God for all his blessings on the people of Trinity, giving them the courage to persevere through difficult times, and to continue worshipping as a family for 135 years.



## Worship Assistants - November

### **November 5, 2006 – 8:00 am ALL SAINTS' DAY**

Worship Assistant – Helen Smith  
Scripture Reader – Martin Szinger  
Communion Assistant – Dawn Gonzales

### **November 5, 2006 – 10:45 am ALL SAINTS' DAY**

Worship Assistant – Tammy Johannes  
Scripture Reader – Heather Coleman  
Communion Assistant – Gretchen Bruning  
Greeter – Thelma Parker  
Acolyte – Shelby Adamczak

### **November 12, 2006 – 8:00 am-THANKOFFERING**

Worship Assistant – Donna Kumpf  
Scripture Reader – Ethel Kogut  
Communion Assistant – Paula Kropelin

### **November 12, 2006–10:45 am- THANKOFFERING**

Worship Assistant – Helen Smith  
Scripture Reader – Flo Goeseke  
Communion Assistant – Diane Vogt  
Greeter – Tammy Johannes  
Acolyte – Rachel Kitt

### **November 19, 2006 – 8:00 am**

Worship Assistant – Rev. Mary Ann Pula  
Scripture Reader – David Hofmeier  
Communion Assistant – Dawn Gonzales

### **November 19, 2006 – 10:45 am**

Worship Assistant – Rev. Mary Ann Pula  
Scripture Reader – Dottie Mekeel  
Communion Assistant – Shirley Schoenwetter  
Greeter – Betty Sugg  
Acolyte – Alexandra Eckerson

### **November 26, 2006 – 8:00 am CHRIST THE KING**

Worship Assistant – Donna Kumpf  
Scripture Reader – Sharon Waff  
Communion Assistant – Paula Kropelin

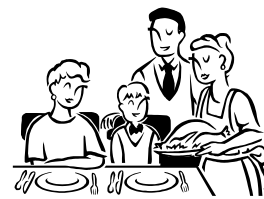
### **November 26, 2006–10:45 am CHRIST THE KING**

Worship Assistant – Diane McMullen  
Scripture Reader – Dale Kruschke  
Communion Assistant – Erik Polkowski  
Greeter – Bill and Linda Lawrie  
Acolyte – Brandon Fix

**NOTE:** *The signup sheet for nursery assistants is on the door of the nursery. **Please** consider signing up for a Sunday. Lisa Kaminski has been staying in the nursery on Sundays; hopefully others will volunteer to allow her a chance to attend worship.*

*If you are unable to serve on the assigned date, please trade with someone and notify the church office at 542-9828. Or, for worship assistants, contact Dottie Mekeel at 542-4122, acolytes and crucifers contact Tammy Johannes at 542-9685. If you are able to help out in the nursery, there is a sign up sheet on the nursery door.*

An old Thanksgiving custom is to feast on the many foods of the new world, the foods Native Americans introduced to settlers, which eventually became part of the diets of people around the world: squash, pumpkins, corn, potatoes, cranberries, tomatoes, beans and turkey. An even older Thanksgiving custom is to invite guests to your meal, for a guest in the home is Christ in the home. Happy Thanksgiving.



## A Thanksgiving Blessing

Gracious God, Lord of the harvest,  
In love you give us this meal to be our joy  
and delight.

We thank you for the goodness of the  
people of our country and for the spirit of  
justice that sometimes shakes our nation.

We thank you for the beauty and bounty  
of the land and the challenge of the cities.  
We thank you for our work and our rest,  
for one another, and for our homes.

For all we have spoken, and all that we  
keep in our hearts, accept our  
Thanksgiving Day. We make this  
prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

Amen.

