

# Trinity Trumpet November/December 2020

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Vol. 26, No.9

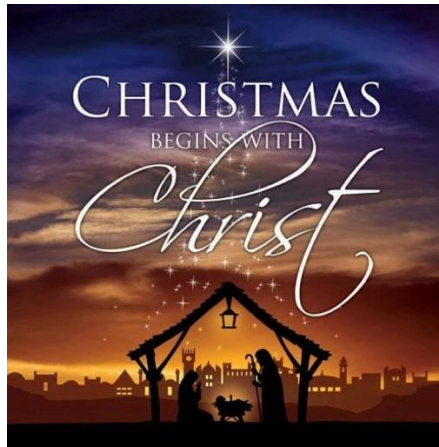
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There is not a day that goes by that we should forget to take  
count of all our blessings.  
Happy Thanksgiving to You All!



Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the eternal life we can find in Him. In prayer, give thanks to God for so loving the world that He gave His only Son this Christmas! May these Christmas prayers help you express gratitude for Jesus and rejoice in the blessing of His salvation.

## **Pastor's Ponderings. . .**

I have been thinking about Thanksgiving that will soon be upon us. Many of us will be downsizing our gatherings this year due to COVID-19. For others, they will truly be alone on Thanksgiving because of not being able to gather with family because of distance. I found a story told by the late Dr. David Seamands who shared a story about Thanksgiving during the Depression of the 1930's.

Back in the very early thirties, William Stidger was seated one day with a group of friends in a restaurant. Everyone was talking about the depression: how terrible it was, the suffering people, rich people committing suicide, the jobless, the whole thing. The conversation got more and more miserable as it went on. There was a minister in the group, and he suddenly broke in and said, "I don't know what I'm going to do, because in two or three weeks I have to preach a sermon on Thanksgiving Day. I want to say something affirmative. What can I say that's affirmative in a period of world depression like this?" And as the minister spoke, Stidger said it was like the Spirit of God spoke to him: "Why don't you give thanks to those people who have been a blessing in your life and affirm them during this terrible time?"

He began to think about that. The thought came to his mind of a schoolteacher very dear to him, a wonderful teacher of poetry and English literature from years ago who had gone out of her way to put a great love of literature and verse in him. It affected all his writings and his preaching. So he sat down and wrote a letter to this woman, now up in years. It was only a matter of days until he got a reply in the feeble scrawl of the aged. "My Dear Willy"--Stidger says at that time he was about 50 years of age and was bald, and no one had called him Willy for a long time, so just the opening sentence warmed his heart. Here's the letter:

"My Dear Willy: I can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely, and like the last leaf of autumn lingering behind." Listen to this sentence, will you? "You'll be interested to know that I taught in school for more than fifty years, and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning, and it cheered me as nothing has done in many years."

Stidger says, "I'm not sentimental, but I found myself weeping over that note." Then he thought of a kindly bishop, now retired, an old man who had recently faced the death of his wife and was all alone. This bishop had taken a lot of time, given him advice and counsel and love when he first began his ministry. So he sat down and wrote the old bishop. In two days a reply came back.

"My Dear Will: Your letter was so beautiful, so real, that as I sat reading it in my study, tears fell from my eyes, tears of gratitude. Before I realized what I was doing, I rose from my chair and I called her name to share it with her, forgetting she was gone. You'll never know how much your letter has warmed my spirit. I have been walking around in the glow of your letter all day long."

This Thanksgiving may we find ways to share a word of blessing with those who suffer quietly alone this season.

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## **Christmas Decorating at Trinity**

The Christmas Decorating Team has decided to have a "Less Is More" year as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas. The "big tree" will stay in storage for this year ONLY! This is in part driven by the fact that many who help to decorate the church are sheltering at home.

There will be the Nativity Scene, three smaller trees in the chancel, the Advent Wreath, and a few other surprises. If you would like to help with the decorating of the church please speak with Ann Slifco and/or Nancy Bittner our Christmas Decorating Team Leaders!

# New Allen Organ

Several weeks ago, pictures appeared in the newsletter of the console shell of the new Allen Organ. Here are several new pictures of the organ console construction. The organ is now in the finishing department. We are looking forward to the arrival of the new instrument around December 17<sup>th</sup>.



At this time, we have received cash and pledges of \$77,500 towards the purchase price of \$100,000 towards the cost of the new organ. Thank you for your generous giving towards this project.



### **Consistory Corner**

The Consistory met on their regularly scheduled dates in September and October. The following items were acted upon:

1. Approved the revised Job Descriptions for Music Director and Organist/Pianist as prepared by the Music Committee.
2. Received the draft budget for the General, Benevolence and Maintenance Funds for 2021.
3. Learned that the Property Committee continues the work for the restoration of the Reformed Cemetery. It is still hoped to complete this before winter weather sets in.
4. Learned that the parking lot between the church and parsonage needs to be replaced due to cracking and heaving of the asphalt. Property to get bids for future consideration.
5. Call for the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 6 at 9 a.m. to act upon the following items:
  - a. Nominating Report
  - b. The General, Benevolence, and Maintenance Budgets for 2021
  - c. Receive a recommendation from the property committee to restore the parking lot area between the church and parsonage.
6. Those members of the Consistory who are “retiring” met together and are asking persons to accept the office of Deacon or Elder.

## Christmas Eve at Trinity 2020

We will have Christmas Eve worship at 5 and 11 p.m. again this Christmas Eve.

The Family Service at 5 p.m. will be 40 minutes of carols, Christmas story, and candlelight. Pastor Dave will invite the children to join him in the chancel for a special Christmas story.

The Festival Christmas Eve Service at 11 p.m. will actually begin at 10:40 p.m. with a Christmas Carol Organ Concert on the new Allen Organ. Come early to “hum along” to favorite carols. The service on Christmas Eve will be one of Lessons and Carols with special music by the Trinity Handbells. The service will conclude with the lighting of candles and the singing of “Silent Night.”

If the early or late service schedule doesn't fit but a 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve would better enable you to enjoy Christmas – you are invited to Zion Lutheran, Meyersdale. Pastor Dave will be presiding at Christmas Eve Choral Communion.

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### **Proposed 2021 Budgets**

The budget committee has established the proposed budget for 2021. Please refer to the insert of this bulletin for that information.

**2021 Offering Envelopes** will be available & distributed on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Envelope boxes not picked up will be mailed by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Our Website** [berlinucc.org](http://berlinucc.org) and **Facebook** page is now current. Thank you to Rus and Jenna Ogburn for teaching our church secretary how to update our information.

The following reports have been received by our Financial Secretary, Renee Gindlesperger and Treasurer, Carrie Croner.

**August and September**

	CURRENT	MAINTENANCE	BENEVOLENCE
<b>Beg. Balance</b>	\$33,884.85	\$2,741.10	\$769.00
<b>Receipts</b>	31,678.32	\$1,340.00	\$1,918.00
<b>Distributions</b>	23,41.017	\$395.00	\$2,597.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$42,153.00	\$3.686.10	\$90.00

Benevolence disbursements as follows: Berlin Food Pantry (Individual Donations) – \$145; Food Pantry (Budget) - \$124.12; Trinity Outreach (Budget) - \$413.74; Knotty Knotters - \$195; OCWM (Budget) - \$1,599.14; Global Missions – (Child Sponsorship) - \$120

Memorials (as of 10/4/20):

A gift was given to the Berlin Food Pantry in Memory of **Wayne Potter**.

A gift was given to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund in Memory of **Wayne Potter**.

A gift was given to the Knotty Knotter in Memory of **Edith Hoffman**.

A gift was given to the Chemo Care Kits in Memory of **Dorothy Robb**.

A gift was given to the Chemo Care Kits in Memory of **Chester Shaulis**.



## **Holy Communion to be Celebrated at Trinity:**

**November 1 – All Saints Day**

**December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent**

You are invited to prepare your heart for the celebration of the Lord's Table at Trinity Church as we celebrate the grace given to us through Jesus Christ made known to us in the Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup. The Bread and Cup will be available as you enter the sanctuary and then receive as directed by the pastor.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting – December 6**

The Annual Meeting of the Trinity United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 9 a.m. [between the two services] in the sanctuary to transact the following business:

1. Adoption of the 2021 Proposed Budget
2. To give permission to continue the Shared Ministry with Zion Lutheran
3. To Elect one Elder and three Deacons to serve on Consistory for a 3 year term commencing on January 1, 2021.
4. Proposal from the Property Committee for the replacement of the parking lot.
5. Any other business to come before the Congregation.



**The Festival of Reformation Sunday**  
The Rite of Confirmation  
Sunday, October 25th



Wishing you all of God's blessings on this extraordinary day.  
Congratulations Carissa Croner and Samantha Jo Hayman!  
Thank God for this opportunity to celebrate you and your  
faith!"

## **Those Remembered in Prayer:**

God's guidance and protection for Armed Forces.

### **Shut Ins:**

Roy Bucher, Helen Diest, Mary Forespring, Evelyn Hillegass, Cynthia Kelly, Lois Krause, Deb Luteri, Lois Saylor, Dirkje Stellingwerf, Charlie Will.

### **Healing Concerns:**

Mark Amyot, Terry Coslic, Pam Crooks, Shellby Custer, John Durst, Susan Durst, Wilma Durst, Tony Fertitta, Linda Gallick, Janet Gindlesperger, Lee LaBute, Brenda Leister, Larry McCullen, Bobbi Robertson, Tyler Seifert, Dwight Smith, John Wallace, Harry Watkins, Heather Weighley, Nancy Weighley, Karen Will, John Will, Eileen LaBute Zeplin.

**Please help us keep our prayer list up to date.** If you know someone who should be on this list, please notify the church office or Pastor Dave so that we may all lift them up in prayer. If you know if someone who should remain on the list or be taken off, please call the church office to update their status.

*Thank  
you!*

**Dear Church Family,** THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH for all of the cards, thoughts, prayers, calls and best wishes throughout my surgeries (on February 20 and 27.) Those lifted me up so much during that time of recovery! Timing was interesting -- the Covid-19 shut down happened right when I was healing at home. The fact that we really couldn't go anywhere, due to the pandemic, allowed more time to rest and recover. As of now, I am well, and will be in a study (of 2,000 patients worldwide) over the next 5 years. During that time, the technicians will periodically adjust the settings on my internal computer so that my symptoms will be

blocked, and I will be running at my best. As for Paul's sister (Teresa), we thank you for keeping her in prayer over the last months. She is now declared "cancer free" and only needs to see the doctor once a year! I count you all as blessings, and I thank God for my church family, my family and Pastor Dave for their prayers & support. I also pray for you all to stay safe and healthy! With much gratitude and love, Linda Gallick

**Thank You from J.B. Schrock Community Playground**

Dear Friends of the Trinity United Church of Christ, The J.B. Schrock Community Playground Board of Directors extends their appreciation to you for your most generous donation of \$200.00.

Your support will help us pay the directors salaries and maintain the grounds and equipment so that families that come to the park can enjoy a day of fun. The playground has been a part of our community for many years, and it is our hope that it will be here for many more years to come. Your support will enable us to continue this very rewarding endeavor.

**Worship Assistants November/December**

**November 1st**

Sound: Lori Gindlesperger, Russ Hillegas  
Flowers: Mark & Lori Gindlesperger

**November 8th**

Sound: Terry Luteri, David Saylor  
Flowers: Chris King  
Bulletin: Craig & Amanda Stiffler

**November 15th**

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, Alan Brick  
Flowers: Barry Landis

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Sound: Tom Croner, Jim Darr

Flowers: Alissa Wright

**November 29<sup>th</sup>**

Sound: Cindy Flamm, Lori Gindlesperger

Flowers: Michele Romesberg

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Sound: Russ Hillegas, Terry Luteri

Flowers: Judy McCullen

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Sound: David Saylor, Tyler Gindlesperger

Flowers: Dave & Missy Miller

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Sound: Alan Brick, Tom Croner

Flowers: Carl & Karol Saylor

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Sound 5:00 PM: Jim Darr, Lori Gindlesperger

Sound 11:00 PM: Terry Luteri, Russ Hillegas

Bulletin: Craig & Amanda Stiffler

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**

Sound: Tyler Gindlesperger, David Saylor

Flowers: Dale Gindlesperger

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary  
To Our Church Family Members!!!**

Did We Miss You? Let Us Know!