



*Trinity Lutheran Church*  
*508 Center Street*  
*Ashland, Ohio 44805*  
*Phone 419-289-2126*

January, 2012

To Trinity Congregation:

As you know, each year we do not have a Newsletter in January. We let this letter serve as your update.

How are things at Trinity? In a nutshell...we are weathering the "storm" Lutheranism is now in, amazingly well....and I am grateful!

Attendance was down 1.8% from a year ago. Many of my friends in the 100 largest Lutheran congregations are reporting attendance down 10, or 18 or 22%! We are blessed! July attendance was the worst ever. Where did you all go to worship in July? Christmas Eve was the second best ever. Welcome back!

General Fund income was up \$10,200 over a year ago. Expenses were down \$10,100 over a year ago. So we did better by over \$20,000. As you know, we have lots of "other funds" that are contributed to by our members. It can get confusing so let's put it this way: Ashland County did a magnificent job with United Way again this year. With an excellent executive director, with two office staff, with over 100 volunteers, they took in \$1,043,000. Way to go! With only Pastor Mitchell putting a little note by the numbers each month in the newsletter, we received a total of \$1,039,002.52.

Do you now see why I tell you that you are such a wonderful congregation? The 1900 of you (including babies, children and college kids) did as well as the 52,000 members of Ashland County. Thanks be to God!

On the back of this sheet is the way your votes worked out for our Outreach gifts. A Committee person's name is by each project. If you'd like to go along for the gift giving, call that person. They'd be glad to have you join them.

Where do we go from here?

Let us be faithful at worship, for God, our Father, is our source of strength for congregation, family and one by one.

Let us be looking constantly for ways we can strengthen the fabric of our community. We are to be God's blessing to this area....that's why God put us here.

Let us have grateful hearts for the blessings God gives us in a congregation filled with generous, faithful folks.

One final note: a Lutheran congregation is to be worshipping community. Because January 1 was a Sunday, our communion schedule is different this month.

Communion this month will be:

January 8- Praise Worship (second Sunday)

January 14- 6:30 p.m. (second Saturday)

January 15- 10:45 Sanctuary (third Sunday)

January 22- Praise Worship (fourth Sunday)

January 28- 6:30 p.m. (fourth Saturday)

January 29- 10:45 Sanctuary (fifth Sunday)

I know...it confuses me too!

Together, let us serve our Lord faithfully,  
In Christ,

*Pastor Mitchell*

## Trinity 2012 Outreach Results

The following is a list of the recipients of our Outreach voting and the distribution of funds. If you would like to deliver one of the checks please contact the listed contact person.

Special Project: Jordan Messner Seminary Tuition \$13,500.00

<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Faith Lutheran Church, Toledo OH	\$2,826.79	
Faith Lutheran Church, Lakewood, OH	\$4,139.78	Jeff Scott
Park Street Brethren Church, Ashland, OH	\$4,634.08	Pam Thiel
Three Crosses United Methodist, Butler, OH	\$3,104.83	Ed Duffey
St. Edward Parish, Ashland, OH	\$9,206.37	Susan Denbow
First United Methodist, Ashland, OH	\$6,889.33	Julie Guenther
Housing Partners of Ashland, OH	\$7,000.00	Tim Krisko
Ninth Street Dental Center, Ashland, OH	\$2,500.00	Jeff Scott & Tim Krisko
Hillsdale CARES, Jeromesville, OH	\$9,958.33	Jeff Scott & Julie Guenther
Lutheran Social Services of Northern Ohio	\$7,040.00	Jeff Scott & Pam Thiel
Ashland, Christian Health Center, Ashland, OH	\$6,603.41	Sharon Sample
Ashland Chinese Evangelical Church, Ashland	\$1,500.00	Ed Duffey

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Attendance</u>		<u>OPERATING FUND</u>		
			<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>	
December 4	\$10,417.17					
December 11	\$16,929.75	December 4	301	699	Income	\$930,591.39
December 18	\$11,455.35	December 11	248	1241	Disbursements	\$985,673.85
December 24/25	\$11,222.28	December 18	295	804	Deficit-12-31-11	(\$55,082.46)
		December 24/25		1923		

At Council's instructions we transferred funds from "Rybolt Property" to end the year with a zero balance.



We welcome **Wendy Shreffler** as our new Coordinator of New Member and Spiritual Gifts Ministries. Wendy, a long time member and volunteer in a number of areas of our life together, started January 1.

## **THANK YOU NOTES**

Thank you notes have been received from: **Greg & Peppy Crosby, Carol Rogers, Mattie Harter, Bonnie Krause, Helen Loyd.**

## **From Pastor Mitchell**

I heard at a group meeting here in Ashland that some folks had been to the battered women's shelter and done a lot of work repairing, and putting in new gathering rooms for teens.

I wondered....and sure enough it was **Ron Bilger, Larry Franks, Phil Vermillion, Hillard Clark, and Doug Scott** of our congregation.

It is an absolute delight to me when I discover that, once again, members of Trinity are out there in the name of the Lord, helping others.

Thanks guys!



## **YOUTH Choir Upcoming Rehearsals!**

1. No rehearsal on January 15<sup>th</sup>

2. Beginning January 22 Rehearsals will be every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room.

◆◆ **EXCEPT...**

3. The **second Sunday** of each month, we will **meet at 3:00 PM.**

Blessings,

Dee Pinkley (419-685-4112)

## **TST ROCKWALL CLIMBING**



Last year we had a big crowd of young families from Trinity that caravanned down to **Round Lake Church Camp** outside of Loudonville for a fun afternoon of **Indoor Rockwall Climbing**. Come - strap on the harness, safe and secure, and up you go! This year's event will take place on Sunday afternoon, **January 29<sup>th</sup>**. We will leave the church parking

lot at 1:30 p.m. so as to arrive around 2:00 pm. We have the Rockwall reserved from 2-4 p.m. and the gym from 2-5 p.m. Questions? Call **Heath Garrison**—419-606-1147.

Trinity Lutheran Church Women's Ministry Presents

# “Awake your SOUL”

An inspiring encounter for women  
featuring bestselling author, performer and  
motivational speaker **Nicole Johnson**



**Saturday, March 3**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Registration fee: \$25, includes lunch

**Special Early Registration Opportunities:**

(Registration deadline is February 24, 2012)

- Register by December 31 for the chance to win a Kindle
- Register by January 31 for the chance to win a Keurig Coffee Maker
- Register by February 17 for the chance to win a selection of Nicole Johnson books

For more information, contact Dawn Forbes  
at Trinity Lutheran Church at **419-289-2126**  
or e-mail Dawn at **dawn@trinityashland.org**

# Let's Scrap!

The Women's Ministries Planning Board invites you for an evening of scrapping & fellowship--

## Scrapbooking Fundraiser

Friday, January 20, 2012

Trinity Lutheran Church, 508 Center St.

4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. in Jack's Place

Cost: \$15.00 (6:00 to midnight) Add \$3 for 4:00 start time, add \$3 for staying until 2:00 a.m.  
You choose whatever option works best for you!

Ladies: We've changed our format again to suit your needs even better! Join us for table time at an earlier time this session! No door prizes or food until 6:00 p.m. but lots of time to get set and ready for a great night of scrapbooking!!

Door Prizes  
Every  
30  
Minutes

Proceeds to benefit  
Trinity Women's  
Ministry Fund

Soup, Sandwiches,  
Snacks, and Soda  
will be provided

Bring your supplies and join us for a time of creativity, fun, and fellowship. We will have opportunities to try different methods and ideas, and 'Make & Take' projects will be available.

Pre-registration is recommended. Reservations and payment are due by Thursday, January 19.

### Scrapbooking Fundraiser Registration

Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and send with completed registration form to  
Attention Dawn Forbes, Trinity Lutheran Church, 508 Center St. Ashland, OH 44805

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$15 for 6:00p.m.-12:00 a.m. \_\_\_ Add \$3 to start at 4:00 p.m. \_\_\_ Add \$3 to stay till 2:00 a.m. \_\_\_

(If space permits, we will take registrations at the door. Cost will be \$25.)