

December 2011

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Below is an excerpt of a letter we received last month. I hope you will realize that small acts of kindness and mercy are what the Christmas season is all about.

I am writing to you as a tribute to my father in honor of Veteran's Day, 2011 and to tell you a short story about my dad in the Korean War. My father's name is John S. Techman, he and my mother are members of St. Jude's Church in New Lenox and my father is a life-long resident of New Lenox. He is 84 this year and, thanks be to God, my parents are both in good health.

I am blessed to be able to visit them often and I drive past your church every week on my way into town. Now is the time for me to thank you and "pay it forward."

My story begins in 1952 with my father in Korea, having been drafted into the 7th infantry of the Army. He arrived there in December of 1951 and was sent to the Mung Dun valley area where the Korean war was in full swing. His division pulled out and were sent to the "punch bowl" where Corporal Techman served as a forward observer for 4.2 mortars.

My father described the area as a circle of mountains in a huge valley, one mile across filled with military supplies. In January or February of '52, his troop was on a mountaintop, 4 to 5,000 feet elevation in the middle of winter in a bunker. They were very cold and ate c-rations and received one "hot" meal a day brought up from rear areas of the valley. By the time their food arrived, it was no longer hot and the beverage was instant coffee that they had to heat with their own water with their mess kit. The coffee would freeze and many of the soldiers wrote to their families at home to send candles so they could heat their coffee.

I am not sure what Mayberry, aka New Lenox was like in 1952, but the family story is that there were no candles available at St. Jude's to send to my father. Having grown up myself in New Lenox in the later 50's and 60's, I know that it was a small town where we didn't lock our doors and neighbors helped each other. My Grandmother and Grandfather, Stanley and Caroline, had lived on Pine Street in New Lenox since the 20's when they were married. Somehow, they were able to gather up used candles from the Lutheran church, perhaps one of their neighbors belonged to the Lutheran church.

I am happy to report that my father survived the war, went on to become a small-town home builder in New Lenox, and raise 4 children and he and my mother are now blessed with 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grand-children.

And the kindness extended to him during this difficult time of war, away from home, has never been forgotten by either him or our family. So with thanksgiving to God for this small favor, I am sending a token of my gratitude in the form of a small check as a tribute to my father and in thanks to the kind people who attended your church in 1952.

May you find some creative way to "pay it forward."

(Carol Surowiec)

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag

December 2011

The newsletter is no longer in columnar format for the ease of those reading it on the web. There are further changes coming as we attempt to “go green” for the new year. Look for more information further on in the newsletter.

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3

5:00 PM Expressions w/ Communion

DECEMBER 4

8:00 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study

10:30 am Worship with communion

DECEMBER 10

5:00 pm Expressions

DECEMBER 11

8:00 am Worship with communion

9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study

10:30 am Worship

DECEMBER 17

5:00 pm Expressions w/ Communion

DECEMBER 18

8:00 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study

10:30 am Sunday School Program

DECEMBER 24

5:00 Expressions Christmas Service

7:00 pm Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 25

10:00 am Worship

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Morning Star Mission

Thanks to the many caring people who have taken “stars” to shop for Morning Star’s patrons’ Christmas gifts. Please remember... if you wish to be reimbursed for your purchases of \$40-45 (1/2 of list) or \$80-90 (whole list), you must submit all purchase receipts for our records. Thanks again for your help. Donations will be accepted through 12/4.

Christmas Party

There's still time to sign up for the annual Christmas celebration on December 4th. Pizza, salads, desserts and drinks are on the menu, with Dino Jump, games with prizes for the kids, caroling for adults to follow. Be certain to sign up if you plan to attend. Pizza will be served promptly at 5:45, so please arrive on time.

St. Matthew

Thanks to all who have made food that was delivered this week to St. Matthew's. St Paul's Lutheran in Matteson transported the food along with a \$100 check. Many, many needy persons will enjoy a happier holiday because of your generosity.

The Social Ministry Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 pm. Don't forget your "lovely" white elephant.

Virgil Switzer: Please read the latest letters from Virgil at the office door bulletin board; they express how much he appreciates our cards, prayers, and love. Virgil's trial is now set for mid-January, so your pledges should be honored as quickly as possible. We will continue to forward three pictorial publications monthly. Please continue to sign his monthly cards on the coffee table in the seating area, and to deposit all reading materials in the designated gym box.

From all of Social Ministry to Trinity Congregation: Thanks for your prayers, donations, encouragement and lasting support for our many outreach endeavors this past year. Our best wishes and prayers for a most blessed holiday season.

CHANCEL GUILD

4 – Kay Purnell & Doris Bay

5 - Clean the Church

11 – Doris Bay & Ann Romadka

18 – Ann Romadka & Jan Prospero

24 - 7:00 pm – Wendy Kaun & Allene Bachmann

24 - 11:00 pm – Doris Klemm & Christine Stark

25 – Lois Dobbs & Sharon MacFarlane

Our next meeting is Monday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Kay Purnell, and Ann Romadka. We will be cleaning and decorating the church for the Christmas season. The more the merrier!! All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

The ladies from Women's League made and donated all the desserts for our fall luncheon. Now it is our turn to help them. If at all possible, please bake some cookies for their cookie sale to be held on Saturday, December 3rd.

If you have any questions please call Doris Klemm at (815) 485-3739.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR

What a sight with the altar covered in poinsettias! Would you like to place a poinsettia or two on the altar for Christmas? Each plant is only \$11.50 and can be picked up after the Christmas Day Service. You can order by completing the PINK forms on the table by the gym, calling the church office or Denise Buchanan at (815)485-2729.

ORNAMENTS NEEDED!

It's almost time to set up the Trinity Christmas Tree! However, the tree is in dire need of new ornaments. It would be wonderful to have an ornament donated by each of our church families to beautify the tree. If you'd like, please put your family name on the ornament and the year. It would be very nice in years to come to find your family ornament on the tree! The bigger ones stand out better. Please try to keep them faith oriented. Please no Disney, Winnie the Pooh, Looney Toons, etc. character ornaments. Orbs, snowflakes, crosses, mini wreaths, biblical theme ornaments are just a few suggestions. Please place your donations in the box that will be provided in the gym. Thank you!"

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK is Saturday Dec. 3rd at 8:30 a.m. Cookies will be \$8.00/pound. We will be setting up Friday, Dec 2nd at 8:30 am. We welcome any donations of Christmas cookies, homemade candy and other bakery goods from members of our congregation. Bakery can be dropped off Friday until 6:00 pm or Saturday am. There are trays available in the gym for you to use in transporting your cookies to the sale.

We also have a table for crafts and gently used items. They may be dropped off any time in the gym or brought in Friday, Dec.2nd.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Where has the year gone? It's time to let you know about our annual Christmas luncheon! The date is Tuesday, December 13th at 12:30 in the church basement. Inglenook will cater the meal. The price will be \$10. If you have any questions, please call Judy at 815 462 1374. Please join us! Reservations are due by 12/11.

MORNING STAR SERVINGS

If you have some extra time, we need volunteers. The dates are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month usually, (12/5 & 12/19). If you can't make it by 3:45, you can come between 4-4:30. If you have any questions, please call Judy at 815 462 1374. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the hall. 4-5 people are needed each night.

COME ONE CALL ALL!!

YOUTH OF THE CONGREGATION (4th Grade thru High School)

Come help us decorate and set up the church's Christmas tree and set up the outdoor manger on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to come and help too! Stay for

the church Christmas supper and party afterward. Sign up on the youth bulletin board to let us know if you are coming.

High School and Junior High Youth: Help us lead games and crafts at the church Christmas party on Sunday, 12/4. Stay after the tree decorating, or come at 5 pm to help set up. We should be done and cleaned up by 8 pm. Pizza will be served to all workers, and community service hours are available. Sign up on the youth bulletin board.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Members who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2012, please, write a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Kim, Church Secretary, or place in Janice Prospero's church mailbox. If you would like to stop receiving envelopes, please also fill out a form and indicate as such. Request sheets are on the table in the hallway. You may, also, contact Janice at (815) 485-3558. There are BLUE forms on the hallway table to request envelopes.

Members using offering envelopes may pick up their 2012 envelope boxes in the hallway outside the office starting 12/10. Envelopes not picked up by 12/31 will be mailed in January. We really appreciate it when you pick up your envelopes and save us the expense of mailing them!

SALEM STOCKING STUFFERS

When you entered the building from the parking lot, you may have noticed the beautifully decorated box near the gym. Women's League has once again stepped up to coordinate this collection. Listed below are some of the items that would benefit residents of Salem's Assisted Living.

Crossword books	Hats	Socks
Alarm clocks	Markers	Perfumes
Blankets	Tissues	Powder
Calendars	Wallets	Checkers
Pen/pencil sets	Watches	Movies
Electronic Games	Tags	Bibles
Note Cards	Frames	Ribbons
Slippers w/soles	Walkman	Bows
Scarves/mittens	Hosiery	Lap Desk

(Portable-Paper) CRAFTING GROUP:

We will resume meeting in January. Next meeting is Friday 1/13 from 5-11. We will be making birthday cards. Suggested donation is \$2. Call or email Kim Alfano with questions. (708) 478-5627 or KimHuntingtonAlfano@comcast.net We also are on Facebook where you can see examples of the cards and pages we have completed.

TRINITY PRESCHOOL

Preschool registration for the 2011/2012 school year for congregational members will be during the month of December. **Members only have priority registration during December.** There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$50. Cost for Preschool will be \$95/month for 2 days a week and \$120/month for 3 days a week.

During January, families with children already in our preschool will be able to register, open registration begins in February. Children must be three or four years old on/before September 1, 2011 to be enrolled. If you have questions, please call Jeanine Welsh at (815)462-0942.

TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN

Trinity Lutheran has a Prayer Chain that is available to anyone for prayer support by fellow members. These prayers may be for personal, congregational, community, governmental, and all other needs. All requests are kept confidential. Please call Ginny DeCarlo (815) 485-2001 to request a prayer. The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16b.

If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or would like more information please give Ginny a call. You can also call the office at (815) 485-6973). We would be happy to provide you with all the information. Please consider being part of this worthwhile endeavor. You can make a difference.

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT – INS

EVELYN CLANCY

123 S. Cherry Hill Road
Joliet, IL 60433

LUCY HARTLEY

2011 E. Washington Street
Joliet, IL 60433-1531

RUTH JANNER

Lakewood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
1112 N. Eastern Ave.
Plainfield, IL 60544

LOIS MINGER

Paradise Park
1023 S. Cedar Road
New Lenox, IL 60451

BOBBIE JACKMAN

24015 s 80TH Ave
Frankfort, IL 60423

VIRGIL SWITZEK

ID #20110629010
PO Box 089002
Chicago, IL 60608

ELEANOR NELSON

1314 Rowell Ave.
Joliet, IL 60433

RUTH SCHACKOW

421 Doris Ave
Joliet, IL 60433

BILL WHITE

635 Davis Ave
Joliet, IL 60433

MARY MC ELROY

4 Kildare
Joliet, IL 60433

NEWSLETTER GOING GREEN

As part of our efforts to 'go green,' we are changing the way we distribute the monthly newsletter in 2012. You can get the monthly newsletters in 2012 by picking up a printed copy at church each month, by e-mail (please make sure we have your e-mail address), or by contacting the church office to continue to have your copy mailed to you. If you elect to pick up a printed copy at church, we ask that you take one copy per household to help us keep the number of printed copies to a minimum.

MUGS FOR MORNINGSTAR

Please join other members of Trinity in supporting a great cause this holiday season. Please help us to reach our goal of 100 coffee mugs and \$2,000 in donations from our congregation to this mission. We are asking members to donate their extra coffee mugs filled with change ("Mugs for Morningstar") as well as to consider donating money using one of the envelopes on the giving tree. We have from now until December 30 to collect these mugs, so start saving your loose change. Full mugs or envelopes can be turned in to the church office.

Website in transition

Please be on the lookout for our "new and improved" church website. Jeff McDonald is drafting the new site and you can get a sneak peek of the new site by visiting the temporary version at <http://trinitynewlenox.weebly.com> (if this doesn't work, that means we've gone live and made the changes to <http://www.trinitynewlenox.org> . We are open to input from Trinity members on other ways to promote this site and we are hoping to have a representative from each area learn how to update their respective page to keep us current. Please see Jeff with comments or questions.

Giving the gift of Life

In this holy season when we celebrate the wondrous gift that God gave us in the form of a baby; won't you take the time to give a gift – perhaps to save the life of a baby? Please donate blood and save 3 lives. Our final blood drive of the year will be Tuesday, 12/20 from 3-7. You will get a \$10 Target gift card for your efforts and the knowledge of a job well done. Questions or to schedule an appointment: contact Deb at 815 462 0687.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gavin Evans	1
Haleigh Ziebell	1
Emily Purnell	2
Raymond Koehler, Jr.	3
Sharon MacFarlane	4
Ali Wasowicz	4
Diane White	4
Wyatt Grady	5
Holly Hunley	6
William Jackson	6
Carol Oldendorf	7
Carrie Ann Welsh	7
Kenneth Oldendorf	10
Brett Carr	13
Debbie Fahey	14
Jake Cook	15
Natalie Briese	16
Robin Krol	16
Riley Fahey	17
Melissa Studer	17
Zachary Burke	18
Bill Walter	18
Jake Carrier	19
Caden O'Connor	19
Kelli Simon	19
Colleen Dampf	20
Brenden Kosel	20
Brock Krohe	20
Mick Lerner	20
Rebecca Johnson	21
Layla Johnson	22
Sheldon Klemm	23
Evelyn Clancy	24
Ronald Molenaar	25
Mark Lord	26
Raymond Miletich	26

Trent Berkey	27
Sharon Molenaar	27
Jeff Lorenz	28
Loretta Renwick	28
Hallie Remm	29
Mary Leahy	29
Elissa Delcorio	30
Matthew Minger	30
Ruth Schackow	30
Jacob Standard	30
Grace Minett	31
Robert Stark	31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Keith and Heather Kumlin	11
Bob and Debbi Hodo	24