

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Latrobe, PA 15650

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The GOLDEN NUGGET

Newsletter for the Senior Citizens of Trinity Lutheran Church, Latrobe, PA

December, 2018

Christmas Is a Time For Imagination

By Comtesse De Le Riviere

In 1944 my mother and I were two of the 64 women that the Nazis held prisoner in a small stable in Ludenburg, Germany. The other women were Jews and we were the only Christians; yet, as Christmas approached, Mother and I felt we had to do something to celebrate the holiday.

“We’re going to have a Christmas tree,” Mother announced to me suddenly on Advent Sunday. Then she outlined her plan, a plan that would have to be carried out in secret.

On Christmas Eve the other women watched with fascination as we produced a strange collection of treasures and began to “make” a Christmas tree. First there was a long pole that I had found in the barn and had kept hidden under my bed. To this we tied the small pine branches snipped from scraggly trees once destined for the wood pile. An empty tin can, laboriously cut apart and shaped, became our “Star of Bethlehem.”

For decorations we made bows out of oddments of colored yarn and festoons cut, kindergarten-style, from scraps of paper. Often, after air raids, we had found long silvery threads on the ground. These now served to wrap our tree in gossamer. At last, after each item had been tied on and in place, we felt that there was still something missing.

“Candles,” Mother said, “If only we had some candles.” And immediately it came to me where I could find some - the three lanterns in the pig sty. I

crept into the Pig’s Villa (we called it that because the accommodations were better than ours) and sliced off a good, but not too noticeable, chunk from each candle.

Now our tree came alive. It’s light danced in the eyes of all the women who crowded around it as Mother took out her precious New Testament and read aloud the message of good cheer. Then, softly we began to sing the old carols, ending with “*Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht.*”



Suddenly the door swung open and in strode Max Wagner, a prison officer.

“What’s this?” he demanded roughly.

“It is Christmas Eve,” said Mother mildly. “We are celebrating the Holy Evening.”

“You Jews?” he asked, incredulously.

“My daughter and I are Christians.”

“You’re no different. You have Jewish blood.”

“So did the first Christians,” Mother replied firmly. “Christianity is a matter of faith, not race.”

Furious, Wagner grabbed our tree, tore it apart and threw the remains in a corner. Then he stomped out, shutting off the lights.

Later in the darkness, I stretched out my hand to my Mother’s hand searching for the bunk below. “We had our Christmas,” she whispered.

That evening, we knew for a certainty that Christmas, no matter how or with what it is celebrated, is eternal. But that particular Christmas was made unforgettable by a tree created out of our imagination.

From “*The Guideposts Christmas Treasury*” 1972

The Prez says.....

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-112(NASB:

I wish all of you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas; enjoy being with friends and family.

JoAnn Bayer, “The “Prez”



The Senior's November 12th, 2018 Luncheon
MINUTES

JoAnn Bayer opened the meeting with a minute of silence to honor our military personnel and our Veterans. Nancy Busch welcomed new visitors and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She also asked that we pray for the victims of the wild fires in California. We then sang a hymn, recited Psalm 98 and the Pledge of Allegiance.

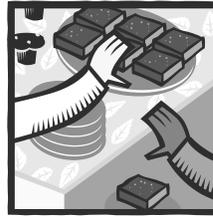
Margaret Conrad read the minutes and a card from Corinne Bollinger in which she expressed thanks for the bouquets of flowers we sent to her for her 100th birthday. Gayle Metz gave October's balance of \$735.36. She also announced that she sent out several cards. One each to Dora Bick's family, Dan Hough and Jane Fritz. We serenaded our birthday friends. Gayle's group will prepare "The Nugget" this month. Bill Busch had several good jokes for us.

Our Christmas lunch will be at "Christ Our Shepherd Center" (formerly Bishop Connare Center) on December 10th. Cindy needs to give a ten day notice to the center to make, cancel, or change reservations so please call her by FRIDAY, Nov. 30th. Also, our Christmas Caroling will be at Loyalhanna Care Center Monday the 17th of December. The Service begins at 2:30pm and we sing Carols at 3:00pm.

We extended our thanks to the cooking and the decorating crews. Nancy's invocation was taken from Psalm 100, and she then asked a blessing on our lunch and entertainment. Deborah Kazsimer played the guitar and had us singing along to many oldies yet goodies.

Margaret Conrad, Secretary,

*God is like Hallmark Cards:
He cares enough to send the very best.*



COFFEE & CHOCOLATE CHIP SHORTBREAD

2 1/2 cups butter, softened (5 sticks)
5 cups flour
1/4 cup instant coffee
2 cups powdered sugar
2 tablespoons vanilla
4 cups mini-chocolate chips

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place all ingredients except chocolate chips into a large bowl, work together until smooth. Add chocolate chips and stir just enough to incorporate. Press dough evenly into two greased pans, 13x9 inches. (Editor: or cut the recipe in half, and use one 13x9 inch pan.) Score lightly with knife into squares. Perforate with fork tines so bars will cut nicely when baked and cooled.

Bake in preheated oven for 35 minutes until set and just turning golden brown. Let cool a few minutes and retrace scored lines. Cool completely in pans before cutting. Serves a full boat (makes two brownie pans full). These freeze well.

Note: We used regular-size, milk chocolate chips.

Adapted from Kathy Pease of the Louis R. French company.

(Editor: Margaret makes these during the Christmas season. They are so sinful, you might consider going to confession. And, as for you Lutherans, you can "Sin Boldly!")

The Next Trinity Seniors' Meeting

December 10th, 2018

Where: Christ Our Shepherd Center

Fellowship: 11:30 am

Buffet Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

Cost: \$16.00 / Person

Program:

Pastors Schock, O'Bryan & Clement

Reservations Are Required:

Call Cindy Pilewski @ 724-539-0357

By **FRIDAY, NOV. 30th!!!**