

TO KNOW CHRIST  
AND TO MAKE  
HIM KNOWN...



## Trissels Mennonite Church

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[www.trisselsmc.org](http://www.trisselsmc.org)

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**9:30am** – Sunday School

**10:30am** – Worship



**January 20**

John & Melody G. (A)

**January 21**

Les S.

**January 27**

Loretta E.

Don L.

Duane S.

**January 28**

Emily G.

**January 31**

Madyson E.

**February 1**

Margaret R.

Jared G.

**February 2**

Lexi G.

**February 3**

Jane F.

Arlene R.

**February 4**

Lawrence R. Y.

**February 6**

Michael S.

# Trissels Mennonite Church Newsletter

January 17, 2012

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## From the Pastor's Desk . . .

In this short column I'll solve the "once saved, always saved" or eternal security controversy!

In the last decade a very good thing has re-fueled this dispute across America: a resurgence of young adults committed to believing whatever the Bible teaches, even hard doctrines. Scripture declares that God works all things after the counsel of his will (Eph. 1:11), that salvation does not depend on man's desire or effort (Rom. 9:16), and that those who are given eternal life will never perish for no one can snatch them out of Christ's hand (John 10:28). Since our salvation rests on God, not on us, surely it is eternally secure. *Scripture uses that language; you and I can also use those words.*

Yet those words by themselves cannot fully capture God's dealings with humanity. For instance, God was not the author of Adam's sin -- Adam made the choice. Even Judas who did what God decided beforehand should happen (Acts 2:23, 4:28) was still held responsible for his actions (Lk. 22:22). God is sovereign -- yet we humans authentically choose.

And so, Scripture also uses language saying that people's actions affect their salvation and that one who has received salvation can be lost. The "brother for whom Christ died" may perish (1 Cor. 8:11, Rom. 14:15). Persons can bring "swift destruction on themselves" by "denying the sovereign Lord who bought them" (2 Pet. 2:1, 20-21). We are urged to make our calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10), to remain in Jesus and not be "like a branch that is thrown away" (Jn. 15:6), to not turn away from God (Heb. 3:12-19) or shipwreck our faith (1Tim. 1:19-20).

*Scripture uses that language and we can use it.* Those who refuse are, I fear, taking a theological understanding that they gained from Scripture and raising it high above Scripture.

How both sides can be true is a mystery, like the mystery of God being both one and three. We believe them because we believe the Bible. And we declare the one side to persons who claim to be believers but practice sin, and the other to those who are fearful for their salvation.

. . . Harold

## ~ At Trissels ~

*Thank you so much for the food, visits, cards, flowers and especially the prayers as well as all the kindness while I was recuperating. We appreciate you all!* ~ Dorothy S.

**Young adults**—Monday evening Bible study/games at Yutzy's at 7:00pm.

**Attention MYF:** Saturday, Jan. 21 we will be going to an EMU men's basketball game beginning at 7:00pm. Meet at John/Mel's at 6:30pm to carpool.

**MYF:** We have now switched our meeting dates to every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (and 5<sup>th</sup>) Tuesdays, at 6:30pm at Trissels for our regular youth meetings. The first one will be held next Tuesday, Jan. 24.

A group gathers 9:00 to 9:15 on Sunday mornings to **pray for our morning services**, those involved, and the work of the church. All are welcome. We currently gather in the pastor's study.

## ~ In the Community ~

**Join the Shenandoah Valley Hymn Sing** on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 7 pm at Park View Mennonite. The leader will be Les Helmuth and the hymn sing will be in partnership with Shekinah, the *a cappella* women's singing group.

**Plan to attend the Annual Dinner & Meeting** of the CrossRoads Heritage Center on Friday, Feb. 3, 6:30 pm, at Shady Oak, Weavers Mennonite. In addition to a tasty meal prepared by the Rhodes Sisters, you'll enjoy a preview of the play, Jordan's Stormy Banks, set to run in the EMU Main Stage Theater in early June 2012. To register for the Dinner Meeting, call 438-1275.

**Winter Fest** will be Feb. 4 at Park Gables Main Street & Hartman Dining Room. There will be a Ground Hog Breakfast (7:30-9:30am), a Silent Auction (8am to 1pm) a Bake Sale, starting at 8am, and barbeque sandwich plate lunch (11am-1pm)

The **Shenandoah Valley Men's Chorus**, under the direction of Ruel Burkholder, will begin its 2012 season with our first chorus practice on Feb., 5, 2:30 pm at Harrisonburg Mennonite. Men from ages 13 to 99, who enjoy singing a cappella music, are invited to join the group. Subsequent practices are scheduled for Sunday afternoons in Feb. and March, ending with two concerts, including benefit offerings for missions and service, planned for 7:00 pm March 23, at Springdale Mennonite and 3:30 pm March 25, at Dayton Mennonite. For more information contact Roman Miller (867-0854; [roman.miller@northriver.coop](mailto:roman.miller@northriver.coop))

**Highland Retreat** is seeking items to auction that are of value for its Annual Benefit Auction including new merchandise, collectibles, wood working, baked goods, gift certificates, or services. The auction will be held Saturday, February 25, 2012, and benefits the summer youth program. If you have something to contribute contact the camp office at 852-3226 or [info@highlandretreat.org](mailto:info@highlandretreat.org) by the first week in February.

## ~ In Missions ~

### **Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Requests:**

- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Service Adventure unit leaders will gather in San Antonio for a four-day meeting. Pray that these leaders will have a renewing time of fellowship as they reflect on the past year and plan for the months ahead. Service Adventure is a Mennonite Mission Network program.
- Until a few months ago, Korea Anabaptist Center, a Mennonite Mission Network partner, operated Connexus, an English language institute, as part of its ministry. As these organizations become independent entities, pray that each may continue to share the message of Jesus in South Korea.