



NEWSLETTER



December, 2008



Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

*You are Formally Invited
to attend a special reception
in Trinity's Atrium from 9:20 to 10:30 a.m.
on Sunday, December 28th
as we celebrate with and congratulate, our
College-Aged Young Adults
at our
Birthday Party for Jesus*

We hope all Trinity members will want to attend and meet our college-aged youth who are both attending a post-secondary school or who are already in the working world. Meet these young folks and find out what they are currently doing, and what their hopes are.

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

Commissioned for Mission

Christmas is a time for stories in many families. When I was a child, we would decorate shoe boxes on Christmas Eve. On Christmas day, the shoe box would be filled with small boxes of cereal, Tang, walnuts, coins wrapped in foil, and a small cream pie. My brothers and I still talk about those boxes as part of our Christmas story.

The Christmas story of God is similar. God used a very common and simple vessel in which to place his only Son. The Prophet Isaiah wrote,

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
(Isaiah 7:14)

Through the simple and plain vessel of a woman, God has given us a great gift, the gift of his Son. His name was to be called "Immanuel," which means God with us. God has determined that the way to save people is to be "with them." We call this the incarnation- God "in the flesh."

We have a story to tell as a church, too. We are called as a congregation to be a **missional church**. God has sent us "in the flesh" to go out into the world with the story of Jesus. We don't need to share deep theological insights with people. We can simply share the story that has changed the final destiny of man forever.

Mission isn't intended to be hard. God has set the plan. He has shown us the importance of community, the importance of awareness, the importance of giving as elements of being missional. Now he gives us a simple story, the story of Jesus who has come down to be with us.

How can you best use this gift this December? You can invite a neighbor, friend, or family member who is not active in church life to join you in a church worship service. Many people who do not regularly attend worship know that Christmas is a time to go to church. They will not be surprised when (not if!!) you invite them. But to truly make this an incarnational event, I would encourage you to even offer to pick them up and bring them to church, or at least to wait for them at the front door. Our building layout can be confusing to a visitor, and you can be an incarnational member by being with the visitor, by sitting with them, and by encouraging them, so that they may hear the story of Jesus Christ, born into our world that we might be forgiven and saved.

Enjoy your Christmas stories again this year. But remember the best story of all, the story of Immanuel, Jesus in the flesh as we focus on being a **missional church**

Pastor Easterday

From the Music Director ...

*Christmas Carol Festival
Trinity Lutheran Church Sanctuary
Sunday, December 7, 2008
6:30 p.m.
Stories, Music, and Fellowship*

*Come to sing your favorite carols
before the Christmas rush sets in*

The Principal Connection ...

The Benefit of "Small"

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2

Having fewer students per school is one of only three inputs found to have a positive impact on educational achievement, according to a statistical analysis reported in the latest issue of the American Legislative Exchange Council's *Report Card on American Education*.

According to another article I read recently, small schools are safer than large comprehensive schools. In small schools, everyone knows each other. Students are less likely to feel like outsiders. There are dramatic reductions in the incidents of fighting, vandalism, theft, and substance abuse. The safer, caring environment created by small schools promotes academic and personal development of all students.

Research has shown that the academic achievement of students is no different for students in a small classroom than it is for students in a larger classroom. When you look at the success of our students at our high schools you begin to see the merits of our Trinity Lutheran School education. I invoke the names of Brittany Komaskinski, Gretchen Hensley, and Kate Gardiner as examples of outstanding Trinity students who excelled in high school after attending Trinity through 8th grade.

We believe that at Trinity, the smallness of our school enables us to maintain a "family" atmosphere, where students get opportunities to help one another learn. Many opportunities arise where older students get to assist with a younger child's learning. With experienced, caring teachers and supportive parents, we feel Trinity Lutheran School offers a superior education for its students in a very safe environment.

Our 2nd Quarter Midterms will come home on Friday December 5. We will engage in a Geography Bee December 18 at 1:00 PM in the gym. Our 2nd grade will build their Gingerbread houses December 12 at 1:30 PM. Christmas parties will abound December 18 and 19. Our Christmas Convocation will be December 19 at 2:00 PM in the church. All are welcome. We will conclude our December with Christmas vacation from December 22 until January 4, 2009. God bless your new year! Serving our Savior in prayer,

John E. Schultz

1 Thessalonians 5:18 ~ "In everything give thanks!"

From the Executive Director ...

Fail to plan, plan to fail. Cute saying with a lot of truth behind it.

As we look forward to expanding our ministry the eight Administrative Boards (Elders, Children and Youth, Day School, Missions and Outreach, Properties, Discipleship, Finance and Staff Management and Communication Services) met recently to begin separate plans. Separate but integrated and all in support of "Servants of Jesus: Learning, Caring and Sharing," with a special focus on expanding our Ministry. Special thanks for the tremendous effort so far. I ask for your prayers for this process and anticipate further explaining some of the exciting things ahead in January. Enjoy the celebration of Christ coming to us to bring us Hope and Life.

Rob Gardiner

Special Congregational Meeting: Monday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The purpose of the meeting is to take action on a recommendation from the Day School Board to offer a contract for a 5th grade teacher for the remainder of the school year.

Board of Mission & Outreach

Biloxi Trip #3: We are tentatively scheduled for either the week of **February 15th or the 22nd**. I have notified Camp Gospel in Pass Christian, Mississippi that we may have between ten (10) and fourteen (14) travelers. We already have five (5) confirmed and all of them were on the last trip. Four (4) will be making their third trip to Mississippi. Returning workers are lovingly referred to as "boomerangs". So far I have talked with eight other people who seem interested in a mission trip. On December 1st I have to officially schedule the week and **the commitment of worker deadline is December 19th**. This time of year is very popular with the work groups, so if we happen to have low volunteer numbers, Biloxi will incorporate our muscle with another Church on that same date. Trinity will be going even if we only have one volunteer. One hundred and sixty two families will be spending their fifth Christmas in a FEMA trailer. So needless to say, there is still work to be done in Biloxi. February is also a great time of the year to visit the Gulf coast.

Jim Radford 663-7509

Purdue Christmas Concert

For those who have purchased tickets through Trinity for the concert on **December 13th**, the bus will be in the Trinity parking lot and ready for **boarding at 8:45 a.m.** **We will depart at 9:00 a.m.** Tickets will be distributed at time of boarding. If you would like your tickets earlier please call Helen Melcher 663-0705.

Trinity League Annual Cookie Sale

This year's cookie sale at the Courthouse on the square will be held on **Saturday, December 6, at 10:00 a.m.** Any cookie donations will be greatly appreciated. Donated cookies may be brought to the church Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 5th, or to the Courthouse on the December 6th at 9:30 a.m. For more information, contact Margaret Stanley at 663-3293 or Helen Melcher at 663-0705.

December 21st Kindness Sunday

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, December 21st, during Sunday school time (9:20 – 10:30am) we are asking all who are able, to STAY and help us with a Kindness – Encouragement project. During this time we will be writing notes, creating cards, drawing pictures, etc. for Trinity's shut-ins, members in nursing homes, AND Valentine cards for those we know who are presently in the military.

Please leave at the Atrium desk the names and addresses of members of your own families who are elderly and live alone or are shut-in, AND those who are in the military – they can be friends or family members.

Then, plan to attend church on Sunday, December 21st and stay to help us take care of writing and creating these encouraging cards and letters.

ROUND 2 for TRIANGLE DINNERS

Time... It's one thing on which we place great value, especially at this time of year. However, if we'd stop a moment and consider our relationships with each other here at Trinity, we may find that time is one commodity that might help improve and deepen these relationships. **Triangle Dinners** were started as a way to get to know one another a little better in an activity necessary to all of us – eating. By sharing one meal a month (during January, February, and March) with two other couples each month you have the opportunity to meet six other couples in the church. You may already know them by sight and will be able to get to know them better, or you may have never met them before. Either way, relationships will be deepened.

Please sign up at the Atrium reception desk and join us in Round 2 of our Triangle Dinners. Deadline for sign-ups is Sunday, December 28th. Don't put it off – sign up whenever you are at church! You will receive a letter of instruction that includes what is expected of you, with whom you will share your Triangle meals, and the month you will host. Can you join us without hosting, YES! We can work around that. Do the meals have to be dinners, NO! You may contact the other 2 couples for your month and, if it fits yours schedules better, you may choose a breakfast, brunch or lunch. Any questions? Speak with Rhonda Pape or Judy Duffala.

Youth News

Youth Ministry

Every youth in grades 6-12 should have received a mailing from the church with details about the following....

YouthQuake (for grades 6 – 9)

ONE: One Lord - One Body - One Hope. April 17-19, 2009. Registration open now! Materials were mailed to you and are also available Sunday mornings.

National Youth Gathering (for grades 8 – 11)

"We Believe" – 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering – New Orleans, Louisiana – July 17 - 21, 2010 – (plan July 14 – 24, 2010 to accommodate travel and any additional plans). Details in the mailing or see Paul!

Soup & Bread Suppers

Trinity's Youth Ministry has the opportunity to provide Soup and Bread Dinners for Advent and Lent this year. What does this mean? We ask volunteers to supply what is needed for 9 Soup & Bread Dinners (December 3, 10, 17 & February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1)

New Monthly Gatherings for Youth

Kick-Off is Sunday, December 7th

For Senior High youth, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month: **Only One Thing.**

This event joins Knowing Him, Knowing Others (KHKO) occurring on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Kick-Off is Sunday, January 11th

For Junior High youth, 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday of the month: **I Was Glad!**

This event joins Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC) occurring on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month, (when school is in session), from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Happy Anniversary!

12/4	Donald & Diane Obert
12/5	Gerald & Wendy Hoefling
12/8	Scott & Sandra Wilson
12/9	Mark & Michelle Rydberg
12/10	Chris & Deanna Nowakowski
12/11	Mitre & Marilou Jovanoski
12/12	Adam & Kelly Miller
12/14	Jim & Rosemary Nelson
12/17	Scott & Kristy Kalember, Todd & Sandra Johnson
12/18	Thomas Jr. & Sandra Taylor, Greg & Nancy Forsythe
12/22	John & Marilyn McConnell
12/28	Paul & Linda Watland, Dave & Ginny Masengarb, Paul & Christine Wendt
12/29	Steve & Jeanette Dixon
12/31	Ralph & Marilyn Einspahr, Dan & Kim Torkelson, Wayne & Julia Thunberg

Happy Birthday!

12/1	Mike Murphy, Mike DeVries, Bryan Bodamer
12/2	Todd Taylor, Joyce Carnahan, Sophie Reiners
12/3	Pat Garrett, Hanna Tokoly
12/4	Mark Speichert, Bob Duffala, Jacob Coy
12/5	Bill Borsits, Jean Banta, Kim Torkelson, Jenn Wright, Carlie Hult, Jacob Ronning
12/6	David Schwimmer, Peter Dyba, Kristen Koszyk, Jordan Olson
12/7	Letty Kasch, Donna Witham, Larry Berda, Adam Smith, Brittany O'Connor
12/8	Mabel Molden, Patrick Croak, Ginny Masengarb, Logan Dixon, Danyel Ebert, Jacqueline Woldt
12/9	Thalia Bobor, Kyle Hart, Bobby Wise Jr.
12/10	Chelsea Kingston, Hailey Franklin
12/11	Gerard Petrick
12/12	Bonnie Ralph, Debby March, Shannon Belmonte, Amy Fraikin
12/13	Ruth Waite, Mary LaDuke, Tim Loeber, Allison Herkey
12/14	Gordon Minas, Karen Kaemerer, Rodney Kasch, Kathy Phariss, Brittany Komaskinski, Mitchell Gromek, Tyler Fanno
12/15	Hermine Enderline, Pamela Shea
12/16	Geneva Summerhill, Nancy Speichert, Sheri Tokoly
12/18	Richard Stiener, Robert Stiener, Karen Ritsema, Carol McClanahan, Laura Magaldi, Dave Maxwell, Timothy Malott, Donavan Swalby, Justin Jacob, Stefanie Jovanoski, Danielle Johnson
12/19	Chuck Thompson II, DeeDee Waters, Kristin Campbell, Laura Eich, Sophia Foster
12/20	Emery Manley, Tina Gardiner, Erica Stephen
12/21	Mark Jackson, Samantha Sangkaratana
12/22	Doris Rentner, Patricia Hamilton
12/23	Marge Haley, Randy Kingston, Brenda Spar, Jeff Alliss, Andrew Sangkaratana
12/24	Sandra Sapper, Christine Good, Victoria Gromek, Alex Knipper
12/25	Jake Thunberg
12/26	Florence Sergent, Amanda Maynerd
12/27	Alexander Long, Makensi Morris
12/28	Ruth Champion, Joyce Mills, Matt Franklin, Kristen Pavlovick, Matthew Brauer, Charlie Garrett Jr.
12/29	Joyce McCann, Kenneth Board, Ryan Claus, Isabelle Boettger
12/30	Robert Pigg, Navin Pace
12/31	Susanne Heinzman, Gerry Luebcke, Daniel Schuster, David Herkey

New Members

Trinity welcomed several new members into the congregation on November 9th. They are: Eric & Sheri Deedrick and daughter Avery, Dan Feller, Tom & Vicky Fanno and children Catherine & Tyler, Angie Jensen and daughter Kaylee, Kris & Kate Keller, Mark & Susan Magruder and children Andrew & Megan, Greg & Denise Puent and children Samuel & Zachary.

Baptisms

Landon Scott Whitlock received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 2nd. His parents are Melissa Koedyker and Scott Whitlock. Sponsors for Landon are Aubrey and Jim Nelson.

Funerals

Wilma Gose was called home to be with the Lord on November 7th. Her funeral was November 12th.

Donna Marie Colwell was called to her eternal rest on November 7th. Her funeral was November 10th.



Friday, December 19th, for article submission to the January newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church

or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.



Our study continues...

Bible Study

New Classes beginning November 30th –December 21st

Christmas: The Real Story Room 103
led by Jim Hensley

Explore the biblical story of Christmas. Separate biblical fact from cultural fiction or religious tradition not based on the Bible. 4 weeks.

Abiding in Christ Room 102
led by Greg Forsythe

As we look forward to Jesus' coming, Jesus invites us to stay connected to Him in every way. Look at how we are connected to Christ and how we might stay connected to Him. 4 weeks.

Sounds of Advent: Prepare for the King Room 101
led by Karol Ketcher

Explore the stories behind some of the best loved hymns of the church for Advent and Christmas. Dig into the depths of the theology behind the words. Sing an old favorite or two. 4 weeks.

1 on 2 Discipleship Bible study is entering its 3rd season... The concept is simple. One person, who is willing, meets weekly with 2 others, who are willing, to work through a faith-growing Bible study for a year (18 sessions). The 'one' commits to being prepared, open to sharing their personal faith journey openly and honestly, and nurturing the 'two' in discipleship of Jesus. The 'two' commit to being prepared for the lesson, open to growth as the Spirit brings that growth and commit to becoming the 'one' for two others in the following year. Here's another way to understand this:

- I. Year 1, person 1 met with persons 2 & 3.
- II. Year 2, person 1 met with persons 4 & 5 and with persons 6 & 7. Those groups have concluded. Person 2 is still meeting with persons 8 & 9, and person 3 is still meeting with persons 10 & 11. Both groups are expected to finish soon.
- III. **Now**, in year 3, person 1 has a commitment from persons 12 & 13. Person 3 will soon begin with persons 14 & 15, while finishing with 10 & 11. Persons 4, 5, 6 & 7 are seeking 2 people each to begin their Intimate Journey Bible studies.
- IV. Soon, persons 2, 8, 9, 10 & 11 will be seeking 2 people each.

The goal: To grow closer to Jesus Christ in our walk of faith. It is an amazing journey full of God's amazing love. Are you interested? See DCE Wendt.

Mission Connections ...

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BAKERY HOUSE?

Some of you may be wondering about the progress of things at the Bakery House. We publish a periodic newsletter that keeps you abreast of the kind of things that are happening in Gary. Pick up a copy of our current newsletter at the Atrium desk or sign up to receive your own copy. Call Marianne Manning 663-3504 with your address for a copy by mail, send your e-mail address to manning@cyberz.net for an e-mail version

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"Worship for Shut-Ins"

This 30-minute Lutheran television program provides shut-ins and short-term hospitalized children, adults, and seniors, a weekly worship service that includes Hymns, Scripture, Creed, Sermon, Lord's Prayer, and Benediction, with opening and closing comments from our host, Don Luepke. "Worship for Shut-Ins" can be seen on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on **Cable TV TLN (Total Living Network)**.

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December 7, 2008 – II Peter 3:13-14

Keep Looking Forward

by Rev. Richard M. Koehneke, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN
Hope is when the power of a promised future gives you strength to face the problems of the present. The promise of eternity with God gives us strength for today.

December 14, 2008 – St. John 1:6-8, 23

Prepare to Greet the Savior

by Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace, Hudson, IN
The witness of John the Baptist is timeless: prepare to greet the Savior! It is the spiritual preparation of faith and humility.

December 21, 2008 – Luke 1:26-38

A Great Announcement

by Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN
We learn today from the story of the Annunciation as we consider the manner in which the announcement was given, its contents, and to whom it was given.

December 28, 2008 – Luke 2:22-40

A New Baby

By Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker, Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, IN

Simeon was promised by God to see the Messiah. The young Child he took up in his arms was the one through whom God would redeem the world.



The Lutheran Hour® which began in 1930, is the world's longest-running, Christian outreach radio program. It proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to more than 1.2 million people each week over 800 radio stations across North America.

It is also broadcast on the American Forces Network to reach military personnel and their families around the world, as well as on XM's Family Talk Radio 170 each Saturday or Sunday.

<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Freq.</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
WKKD	Aurora, IL	1580	AM	Sun	9:30 AM
WGN	Chicago, IL	720	AM	Sun	6:00 AM
WRMN	Elgin, IL	1410	AM	Sun	9:00 AM
WMCW	Harvard, IL	1600	AM	Sun	9:30 AM
WGVE	Gary, IN	88.7	FM	Sat	10:00 AM
WJOB	Hammond, IN	1230	AM	Sun	12:30 PM
WJOB	Hammond, IN	1230	AM	Sun	6:00 PM

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