



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

December, 2011

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

2011 Community Thanksgiving Dinner Report

We would like to thank everyone who made this year's Community Thanksgiving Dinner a success. Over 48 church member participated by providing the food, setting up for the dinner, preparing and serving the meal, and hall clean up. Several people and groups from outside our church volunteered to help out through out the meal. Again year, this cash donations and gift certificates were used to purchase our turkeys and hams and some of the fixings. Strack and Van Til, PayLow, Meijers and Gordon Food Services provide us with some financial support, a local Cub Scout group helped with set up and takes down and five Olive Garden employees volunteered their time through out the dinner. We served 69 meals plus 3 meals to shut-ins. Over twenty eight non members of Trinity attended, some from as far as Hammond.

Even though the number attending was down this year, this ministry is only able to be accomplished through your generous support and work. 5 turkeys and 3 hams were prepared plus all the fixing. The extra prepared food was donated to the Crown Point Fire and Police.

With your continued support, this ministry will continue to provide the community with a holiday meal and a time of fellowship in the coming years.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Dennis and Joyce Mills

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

There are many preparations taking place this month. People are buying gifts for their family and friends. They are preparing their Christmas decorations, and making plans for family gatherings. Proper preparations enhance the celebrations.

For the church, proper preparation begins with Advent. Advent is that annual time we spend getting ready for the coming of Christ. We remember his first coming at Christmas. But even more importantly, we prepare for His second coming. The work of the church is to proclaim this message of the second coming of Christ to the world.

If we are going to do this, we need a plan. The plan for a mission congregation involves the Leadership Principle:

Leadership development lies at the heart of the new church's mission, and the most important leadership quality to develop is spiritual maturity.

It is based on Paul's advice to Timothy,

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (II Timothy 2:2)

God entrusted the message to prophets in the Old Testament. Isaiah proclaimed,

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

God then placed the message in the hands of Jesus' disciples, and then in the hands of the church. We are that church today and have a great calling to share this message of preparation for the return of Jesus with all who are around us.

Most of us will be blessed to receive various gifts at Christmas. Each gift given in love will be a great blessing. But the most important gift we can give anyone is the gift of the Christ child. As God has given us this message, may we be reliable men and women who share this gift with others!

The ministry team extends to each of you a prayer for a blessed Christmas and for a new and gracious new year.

In His service,
Pastor Easterday

The Principal Connection ...

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." **2 Corinthians 9:7**

The story is told of **a commander who informed his unit that he needed volunteers** for a dangerous mission. After he turned his back to keep from intimidating them, he asked each volunteer to take one step forward. When he turned back to the group, the line was perfectly straight. "Not one of you stepped forward for this mission?" he roared. **One of the men said, "No sir, the whole company stepped forward -**

we're all volunteers." That same spirit is what our Lord seeks from us, His people. **We are so blessed at Trinity to have all of you who volunteer help us to offer the myriad of things we offer.** God bless you in your volunteering your gifts of time and talents.

Students of the Month

Congratulations to **Vincenzo Caccavale and Paul Powell** who were selected as students of the month for October. Their teachers **Mr. Lehman, and Mrs. Ketcher** recommended them for their positive attitudes, exemplary behavior, sincere willingness to help others and overall beneficial deportment. Teachers also considered student attitude and work ethic. The children receive a certificate of merit for this award. They have their pictures posted on a bulletin board outside the Principal's Office. We pray prayers of thanks to the Lord for His blessing our school with these wonderful children.

Thanks!

We would like to thank **Larry Nimetz** for being our guest **speaker for Veteran's Day**. It was a marvelous multimedia presentation!

Thanks to all who purchased **Cheeseballs!** We made **1180** and to date have **made \$3679.25**. The money from this will go toward additional playground equipment. Thanks for all those who purchased **Butter Braid Breads!** They will be **delivered in December**.

The money for this will go toward technology upgrades at our school.

Thanks to all those dads who came to **Donuts for Dads**. A special thanks to our **PTL Board** for their help.

Activities in November

We will have **NO SCHOOL December 19 to January 1 for Christmas Break. WE WILL HAVE SCHOOL ON JANUARY 2!**

Our **Day School Board** will host a **Town Hall Forum** for our parents to come and share about the school **November 29 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria.**

Mark your calendars for our **Christmas Convocation** **Friday December 16 at 1:45 PM in the Church.** Our children do such a wonderful job of praising the Lord with their talents! All are welcome!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following:

1. Middle Upper Grades **Spelling Bee** winner is **Daisey Smith**. Our runner up is **Noah Wilkes**.
2. Market Day Pie Sales – 1st Place **Ava Stojkovich** (\$25 Scrip Card winner)
3. Market Day Pie Sales – 2nd Place **Paige Wood** (\$10 Scrip Card winner)
4. Cheeseball Sales Winning Class – 2nd Grade (based on highest percentage of sales)

Congratulations to the following former Trinity students who made the Honor Roll in High School:

1. **Seniors** – Matt Board, Megan Dean*, Sarah Fraikin, Mark Lutzow, Devin Mueller, Rachel Torkelson, Rebecca Vajda
 2. **Juniors** – Courtney Recker, Andrea Tillery, Brittany Ronning
 3. **Sophomores** – Chiamara Anokwute*, Jason Best, Amy Fraikin*, Erik Gardin, Glenn Hecht, Zachary Lambert, Amanda Manley, Sophie Reiners, Ashlyn Stiener, AJ Stieve, Hope Stinson
 4. **Freshmen** - Owen Crum*, Carlie Hult, Alyssa Vajda*
- * = High Honors (4.0 or higher)

Our students attend Crown Point, Andrean, Luther East, Merrillville, Covenant Christian, Boone Grove, Lowell, Hanover Central, Hebron high schools. Of our 39 graduates 21 are on the honor roll. **54% of our former students have made Honor Roll in High School.** We are certainly proud of the accomplishments they have achieved! We are thankful to have had a small part in their development.

Of our 17 children in grades 7 and 8 we have 59% who are on the National Junior Honor Society Christus Chapter at Trinity. Mrs. Laura Sauerman is the adviser of our NJHS.

Congratulations:

1. **Sarah Fraikin** who made the Homecoming Court at Lowell. Way to go Sarah!
2. Crown Point Scholar Athletes – **Megan Dean** who won the Mental Toughness Award in Cross Country; **Zach Lambert** who won an award for playing in all 3 sport seasons and had a 3.5 GPA and above; **Alyssa Vajda** for her grades while playing soccer; **Sophie Reiners** who was the Assistant Stage Director for the play ***It's A Wonderful Life***.
3. **Sarah Fraikin** for making the Varsity Basketball team at Lowell; **Amy Fraikin** for making the JV and Varsity Basketball teams at Lowell; **Zack Lambert** for making the JV Basketball team at Crown Point; **Erik Gardin** for being selected to be the manager for the Basketball team at Crown Point.

If you know of **anyone who has attended and/or graduated from Trinity or is an alumni who is doing well and is successful at their school, please let our principal Mr. Schultz know.** We want to recognize them in the Principal's Pad of our Trinity Weekly Announcements (TWA)!

Thank you for all your prayers and support which help to make for a very special school year. We pray for God's blessings to all of you.

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

By the time you read this message, we'll be well into the Christmas season. For most people, Christmas is a wonderful time of year. Thoughts of family gatherings and gift exchanges bring smiles to our faces. Of course, sometimes the hustle and bustle of the season can feel like a hassle, and often our busyness can cause us to forget two important facts:

1. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ – it's not about Christmas trees, Santa Claus, buying gifts, and or even spending time with your family.
2. Christmas can be a sad season for some people – some can't afford to buy gifts and others have no one with whom to celebrate.

So I propose that every Trinity member make an intentional effort to do something to offset these two problems.

First, let's make the most of every opportunity to remind those we come in contact with that Christmas is about Christ's birth. For example, always be respectful, but let's make sure to use the greeting "Merry Christmas", not "Season's Greetings" or "Merry Xmas" (yuk!). Decorate your yard with a manger scene, not reindeer and snowmen. Look for opportunities to mention going to church for Advent and Christmas.

Second, let's be generous this Christmas season beyond family gift-giving. For example, pick up a star from Trinity's Christmas Blessing tree to help those in need. Regularly put your change in the Salvation Army bucket. Wrap a toy and place it in one of the gift boxes so many businesses and organizations have by their front doors during the season. Perhaps invite someone without nearby family to church or to your family dinner on Christmas Day.

I'm sure you can come up with many other ideas. But the point is for us as Christians to be shining lights as to the true meaning of Christmas and to show others the love we share as children of God.

Merry Christmas to you!

Greg Forsythe

A Quick Note from the Treasurer

The end of October through mid-November has been financially puzzling here at Trinity. Offerings have ranged from \$13,500 - \$30,000 on a given weekend. There will be a more complete picture in the December 4th bulletin.

Please recall that in June, the congregation authorized a Line of Credit to be available to cover shortfalls in cash to cover expenses such as payroll, benefits and current bills. We approved this Line of Credit at the time for three basic reasons:

1. We were unsure of where school enrollment would end up and if we fell below the budgeted tuition income, we would be short. Praise God that our enrollment stabilized overall even though PK and KG are smaller grades 1-8 all have larger classes. Billing is equal to the budget.
2. In order to balance the budget, there was still a projected 13% increase in offerings required. This is a true stretch goal and has not been lost on Council and the Board of Finance. Discussions at the January congregation meeting will include ways to address this challenge
3. There are times in the church year when expenses exceed income and bills get held for up to 60 days or purchases get pushed back. November and February are two such times routinely when this occurs to varying degrees. School Enrollment, Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter still have much larger portions of our income than other months.

Earlier this month, \$20,000 was moved into the checking account from the line of credit to cover benefits (\$21,500) and payroll (\$42,000 every 2 weeks). The first interest payment of \$68.53 was paid on November 27th. The plan is to pay back the entire \$20,000 in December. Thank you for your prayers and the daily bread of regular offerings and special gifts.

Jim Hensley

Board of Church Properties

Well, for those of you who seem surprised that the weather is getting cooler, the leaves are almost gone and snow has been mentioned in the new report. It happens every year. Don't be surprised.

As the season changes we shift from the lawn and yard care to the snow removal tasks. A huge thanks, again, to Bob Kerr, Jim Werner and Paul Watland for keeping our property mowed and looking good. Extra thanks to Paul for arranging the re-roof and eaves work on our storage barn.

As the weather heads for winter, Jonathan Kozlowski has stepped up again to coordinate the snow shovelers. These are the folks who show up hours before our church services to make sure the sidewalks are clear of snow. Jonathan has a small crew of reliable volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this labor of love, contact the church office.

As the start-up routines were being done on our many heating systems there were a few repairs needed. One system had a leaking hot water pump. Another has a balancing valve that needs to be replaced. The school boiler needed some new valves and some patchwork. The system for the pre-school area needed an economizer board and damper motor. Just some of the maintenance expenses we deal with in keeping our building comfortable. Of course, we always have the routine, minor, repairs and janitorial supplies. Thanks to our janitorial staff for keeping the buildings looking good.

We are still searching for the best product selection to replace the carport and chapel doors. We want to get it right. We are getting closer.

We are still working on repairs to the damaged fountain. We have been looking for the best material to seal the cracks before we set it back in place. The fountain is very heavy and is not easily moved.

Gary Diekelmann

Christmas Blessing Program

Trinity is sponsoring a Christmas Blessing Program in order to share the love of Christ by blessing children, military family members, men of the Bakery House and a few of our shut-ins with Christmas gifts, food baskets and their families with prayers. All of these names have come from within our congregation, school and/or Bakery House families. We thank all who selected a star representing one of God's children in need. This is a reminder that **all gifts need to be gift wrapped and returned under the tree with the name securely fastened to the gifts no later than Sunday, December 11.** The gifts to the soldiers will have the last mailing date, if going overseas, noted on the star. Deliveries to a home address should be completed by Sunday, December 18.

In addition, we would like to ask you to remember the family you choose in your prayers. If you would like to make a monetary donation rather than purchase gifts, please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran with a memo to Christmas Blessing Tree. Place in an envelope and label it Christmas Blessing Program and give to the front desk. All donations will be used for the families on our tree.

In addition, we will be collecting food, toiletry and laundry items Diapers & Baby Wipes, Baby Food & Baby Toiletries, Paper Goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues), Juice, Canned Fruits, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Coffee (ground and instant), Pasta & Pasta Sauces, and Pasta Meals (boxed and canned), in order

to give a food basket to each family. These items can be placed in the wooden box in the back of the narthex. Thank you for helping those less fortunate during this holiday season. May you and your family feel His love and blessings as you look forward to the coming celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas Day. Any questions, contact Kathy O'Day at 613-4124.

Alumni Steering Committee

The Alumni Steering Committee is growing but we still need you! It was really exciting to sit down with graduates of Trinity in November. There is a lot that needs to be done to expand our contact list. We also need help getting ready for a summer Alumni Weekend. **The next meeting is Thursday, January 12, at 3:30 p.m.** We will meet in the north annex of the sanctuary. Can't make that meeting but would like to offer your help? Please e-mail Susan Magruder at magruders@trinitycp.org. Mark your calendars for the weekend of July 28th for The First Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend

Trinity League's Annual Cookie Sale

We will hold our Annual Cookie Sale at the Old Court House on **Saturday, December 10, from 10:00 a.m. until the last cookie is sold.** Cookie donations are always welcome and needed. Donations can be dropped off in the fellowship hall kitchen on Friday, December 9, or taken to the old courthouse on Saturday December 10 between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m.

What's Next for Confirmation?

Sunday, December 4th

5th Grade

Luther and Lutheran History
Fellowship Hall DCE Wendt (12/4) &
Mrs. Joyce Easterday (12/11 & 12/18)
3 weeks *Parents please join your child!*

6th Grade

Walking Wet: Baptism
Cafeteria A Pastor David Easterday
3 weeks *Parents please join your child!*

7th Grade

Service Ministry – Serving Jesus
Cafeteria B Mrs. Judy Duffala
1 week (12/4)

8th Grade

Confirmation Day Orientation
Gym Pastor David Easterday
For all 8th grade Confirmands and parents
1 week (12/4)

Sunday, December 11th & 18th

5th & 6th Grade

See above....

7th & 8th Grade

Issues in Culture

Cafeteria B DCE Paul Wendt

Sunday, December 25th

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Sunday, January 1st

Enjoy a great start to a New Year!

Sunday, January 8th

5th Grade

10 Commandments

Fellowship Hall Mrs. Joyce Easterday

12 weeks *Parents please join your child!*

6th Grade

A Foretaste of the Feast to Come:

The Lord's Supper

Cafeteria A Pastor David Easterday

6 weeks *Parents please join your child!*

7th Grade

Living Wet: Baptism, part 2

Cafeteria B

6 weeks

Parents please join an Adult Bible Study!

8th Grade

Faith Stepping Stones, Stone 7:

Confirmation

Room 103 Mrs. Judy Duffala

6 weeks + 2 weeks for stoles

Parents please join your child!

Questions? – Please see Pastor Kipp

Happy Anniversary!

12/2	Scott & Jocelyn Eberly
12/4	Donald & Diane Obert
12/5	Gerald & Wendy Hoefling
12/8	Scott & Sandra Wilson
12/9	Mark & Michelle Rydberg, Kenneth & Tina Barnes
12/10	Chris & Deanna Nowakowski
12/17	Todd & Sandra Johnson
12/18	Greg & Nancy Forsythe
12/19	Chip & Megan Thompson
12/20	Mike & Barbara Evanyo
12/28	Paul & Linda Watland, Todd & Casey Pflughoeft, Paul & Chris Wendt

12/29	Tom & Gloria Thirion, James & Clare Knipper, Steve & Jeanette Dixon
12/30	Charles & Theresa Reinholtz
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, Aimee Kozlowski, Ezekiel Lehman
12/3	Hanna Tokoly
12/4	Mark Speichert, Duff Duffala, Jacob Coy, Zackary Thurn
12/5	Bill Borsits, Jean Banta, Kim Torkelson, Carlie Hult, Jacob Ronning
12/6	Pete Dyba, Kristen Koszyk, Logan Knapp
12/7	Letty Kasch, Donna Witham, Larry Berda, Adam Smith, Elizabeth Ferry
12/8	Dawn Dalton, Mabel Molden, Logan Dixon, Noah Wilkes, Danyel Ebert, Jacqueline Woldt
12/9	Thalia Bobor, Kyle Hart, Cody Carlin, Cody Carlin
12/10	Steve DeHaan, Chelsea Kingston, Hailey Franklin
12/11	Gerard Petrick
12/12	Debby Martch, Shannon Belmonte, Amy Fraikin
12/13	Ruth Waite, Mary LaDuke, Tim Loeber, Allison Herkey, Elissa Roop
12/14	Gordon Minas, Karen Kaemerer, Rodney Kasch, Kathy Phariss, Brittany Komaskinski, Tyler Fanno
12/15	Hermine Enderlin, Pamela Shea
12/16	Geneva Summerhill, Nancy Speichert, Tim Doyle, Sheri Tokoly
12/18	Richard Stiener, Robert Stiener, Karen Ritsema, Carol McClanahan, Laura Magaldi, Dave Maxwell, Donovan Swalby, Danielle Johnson
12/19	Chuck Thompson, DeDe Waters, Kristin Campbell, Laura Eich
12/20	Gloria Thirion, Emery Manley, Tina Gardiner, Erica Stephen
12/21	Mark Jackson, Carla Jabarin
12/22	Doris Rentner, Pat Hamilton
12/23	Marge Haley, Randy Kingston, Michelle Robinson
12/24	Sandra Sapper, Christine Good, Alex Knipper
12/25	Jake Thunberg
12/26	Florence Sergent, Amanda Maynard, Ryan Doyle
12/27	Makenzi Morris, Alex Long, Jackson DeHaan
12/28	Joyce Mills, Matt Franklin, Kristen Pavlovick
12/29	Joyce McCann, Ken Board, Ryan Claus, Isabelle Boettger
12/30	Robert Pigg, David DeChene, Navin Pace
12/31	Alma West, Gerry Luebcke, Daniel Schuster, David Herkey, James Knipper

Baptisms

Brooklyn Olivia Janko, daughter of Tim & Katie Janko was received into the family of God through holy baptism on October 30th. Sponsors for Olivia are Heather & Adam Stark.

Logan Joseph Wilocki, son of Tim & Stephanie Wilocki was received into the family of God through holy baptism on November 20th. Sponsors for Logan are Ryan & Christie Dostal.

Funerals

Arnold Patz was called home to be with the Lord on November 15th. A memorial service in celebration of his eternal life in heaven was held on November 26th.



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

newsletter@trinitycp.org.

What's Your Trinity Lutheran Church Story?

Many gracious members of Trinity have willingly sat down with me and shared their story. Will you? I'm searching for answers to questions like: How long have you been a member? Is this the only church you've ever known? If not, what brought you to Trinity? What is your favorite memory at Trinity? If you were going to encourage someone to come to Trinity, what would you want to be sure they knew? Whether you've been a member for 50 years or less than one, these are a few of the questions I have for you. If you are willing to help me understand the hearts of Trinity just a wee bit more, please call me in the church office at extension 337. I am more than happy to come to you or we can meet at the church. I am truly looking forward to getting to know the members of Trinity better.

God's Blessings,
Susan Magruder

Charitable Giving – Planning with Purpose

To ensure you leave the legacy you envision, take purposeful steps now:

- Let your values be your guide. What do you really care about? How do you want to be remembered? Most people have causes they are passionate about, perhaps world hunger, housing, education, animals, medical research – virtually every cause has an organization behind it that welcomes volunteer and financial support.

- Plan ahead for tax savings later. Smart decisions now can ease the tax burden on your heirs and may even increase how much you're able to give.
- Make your intentions known. Effective communication about what you want to have happen – and what your loved ones can expect – will spare them the responsibility of shaping your legacy (or not) and may help avoid hard feelings.

Charitable gifts can be accomplished very simply, such as with a beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy, or in a variety of more complex ways that can accomplish your goals in a very specific manner. If you would like some assistance with your planning, contact Carsten Falkenberg, Thrivent Financial Wealth Advisor, at 219-663-8699 (local) or 800-663-8699 (toll-free), or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com.

IN GOD'S SERVICE:

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