



# NEWSLETTER



February, 2009



Newsletter Email: [newsletter@trinitycp.org](mailto:newsletter@trinitycp.org)

Web Page: [www.trinitycp.org](http://www.trinitycp.org)

## Trinity Worship Service now on the web

The Board of Communication Services is pleased to announce that the 10:45 Sunday Worship Service is being recorded for on-line listening. Log on to [www.trinitycp.org](http://www.trinitycp.org) and click the "Blue Button." The Trinity Lutheran Church worship services can be now heard by hundreds of thousands of people around the world.

## From Your Pastor ...

Dear friends in Christ,

### Commissioned for Mission!

Since September, I have provided some thoughts about what it means to be a missional congregation. I continue to include the past month's thoughts as an ongoing reminder of how God molds and shapes us, just as the potter shapes the clay.

1. Missional is community focused, as we look to the needs of people in our neighborhood.
2. Missional is based on awareness of the things happening around us.
3. Missional is giving! (I might add, that it is sacrificial giving for the work of the kingdom.)
4. Missional is incarnational, as we become the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in a troubled world.
5. Missional is time-sensitive. Time is limited but yet is exactly sufficient for God's purpose when used according to his plan.

This month we add the new thought to the list.

6. Missional is heart-felt.

February is the month for Valentine's Day, a month when love between husbands and wives, as well as between boyfriends and girlfriends is very important. The love between couples cannot be faked. In a similar way, love for others around us in our community cannot be faked, even when we understand things like awareness, giving, incarnation, and time. A truly loving congregation will respond missionally without faking it.

But by our nature, this is very difficult. The sinful self only wants to love those who will love us in return or who will provide something for our use. That source of heart-felt love has only one source, and that source is God alone. From the very early days of God's people, God has exhorted us to this kind of love for him.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** (Deuteronomy 6:5)

In our sinful weakness, our love is for self and not for others. So God sent the self sacrificing One, Jesus Christ, to show us a truly heart-felt love. It is the love of One willing to stoop and wash the feet of the disciples. It is the love of One willing to endure judgment for our sins of faking our love for others. It is the One who endured the cross and the grave to change us into people who have a heart-felt desire to reach out to others. John reminds us of that change in our lives as he writes, "**We love because He first loved us.**" (I John 4:19)

With this understanding of heart-felt love, we can better appreciate the words of the Apostle Paul as he gives us a missional direction.

**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.** (Colossians 3:23-24)

May God give us a truly heart-felt desire in our work as a missional congregation serving Jesus!

*Pastor Easterday*

## Worship Services-

Jan. 31-Feb. 2 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend After The Epiphany

God's strong and powerful Word overcomes the power of evil in our life!

**Readings** Deuteronomy 18:15-20, I Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28.

Feb. 7-9 5<sup>th</sup> Weekend After The Epiphany

Healing and renewed strength come through Christ Jesus!

**Readings** Isaiah 40:21-31, I Corinthians 9:16-27, Mark 1:29-39.

Feb. 14-16 6<sup>th</sup> Weekend After The Epiphany

Our lives, like those of the lepers, are made clean and prepared for service. This weekend will also be Concordia Seminary weekend as we recognize all that God has done in preparing men for preaching. We will have a seminarian preaching and leading a Bible class on Sunday.

**Readings** II Kings 5:1-14, I Corinthians 10:19-11:1, Mark 1:40-45

Feb. 21-23 The Transfiguration of our Lord  
The radiance of God shone on the face of Moses when he met God on the mountain. We see that true radiance of Christ as we gather with the disciples at that time of the transfiguration of Jesus. In preparation for Ash Wednesday, we will go to the parking lot for a few minutes at the start of the Sunday School hour and burn last year's palms for use for disposition of ashes.

**Readings** Exodus 34:29-35, II Corinthians 3:12-4:6, Mark 9:2-9

\*\*Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday

**2:00 p.m. School Chapel**  
**7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

The midweek services will focus on "King of Kings." Lent begins with a focus on David, the King who laid bare his soul. Each week's services will consider another king and how it relates to our Lenten journey. We will offer the mark of repentance through the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those who wish.

**Readings** Psalms 32 & 51

Feb. 28-Mar. 2 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in Lent

Our Lenten journey begins with a focus on the 40 days of temptation that Jesus faced for us. This is the beginning of National Lutheran Schools Week. The school children will be involved in the Sunday 8:00 and 10:45 services.

**Readings** Genesis 22:1-18, James 1:12-18, Mark 1:9-15

## Lent Services

Our Lenten journey to Easter begins February 25 with the Ash Wednesday services. Service times for Lent will be:

**2:00 p.m. School Chapel**  
**7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

**5:30-6:45 Soup/ Bread Suppers**

The theme this year is "King of Kings." The focus for each week will be as follows:

Feb. 25 (Ash Wednesday)

David: The King who laid bare his soul

Mar. 4 (Midweek 2)

Saul: The King who fell from grace

Mar. 11 (Midweek 3)

Solomon: The King who had everything

Mar. 18 (Midweek 4)

Ahab: The King whose repentance was too little, too late

Mar. 25 (Midweek 5)

Zedekiah: The King who turned out the lights

Apr. 1 (Midweek 6)

Herod: The King who couldn't kill Jesus

Apr. 4-6 (Palm Sunday Weekend)

King of Kings: A humble coronation

Apr. 9 (Maundy Thursday)

King of Kings: Condemned to die

Apr. 10 (Good Friday)

King of Kings: Life through death

Apr. 11 (Easter Vigil)

Israel: Chased by a king (Pharaoh)

Apr. 12 (Easter Sunday)

King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

This is a great time to invite your unchurched friends to join with us in worship.

## The Principal Connection ...

### Four Reasons to Face the New Year Without Fear "The Lord is my helper." Hebrews 12:5

God's Word brings us a comforting promise, along with an insightful command as we face a new year: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have: for He has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man can do to me." (Hebrews 12:5-6) We can live this coming school year without fear if we apply these four incredibly wonderful truths to our lives and root them deep into our hearts.

### The Contentment of His Provision

Contentment is not getting what we want, but it is wanting what we already have. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 says, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing let us be content." If we know Jesus Christ, we have contentment. If we've got clothes on your back, something to eat, and Jesus Christ in our heart, our family is rich. Do you know why we have fear? Because we think our needs or the needs of those we love are not going to be met. Or we fear that the things we think are meeting our needs are going to be taken away from us. The deepest need of our heart can only be met in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### The Companionship of His Presence

I don't know what I'm going to face next year. But there's one thing I do know, He will never leave me. Are you a child of God? He will never leave you either. Isn't that wonderful! What's another reason we may fear in the coming year? Because we're afraid we're going to have to face something we don't understand, and we're going to have to face it alone. When God's Word promises that God will never forsake us, it literally means that He will never abandon us. He will not give up on us or our children. We need to practice acknowledging the presence of the Lord this coming year. When the devil comes and knocks at our heart's door, we can simply say, "Jesus, please go answer the door."

### Confidence of His Promise

We're going to zero in on a little phrase in our verses in Hebrews, "He has said." A promise is not better than the one who makes it. Who is it that says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you"? It is the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God. This is the confidence of His promise. In the coming year, when we say, "God, I just don't have the strength." The omnipotent God will answer, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." When we say, God, I'm afraid of what is going to happen." The omnipresent God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." And when we say, "God, I don't know what to do." The omniscient God will respond, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." He himself has said it.

### The Comfort of His Protection

Hebrews 13:6 promises, "So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man can do to me." Now, put that with verse five which says, "He has said." Like it was stated earlier, I don't know what we are going to go through this coming year. But I know we can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, so I will not fear what man can do to me." When we find our contentment, companionship, and confidence in Jesus, then we'll find our comfort and courage in Jesus.

Congratulations to Mary and Pete Nemeth. Their little bundle of joy Ellie Karen arrived on January 11 at 3:11 PM. She weighed 8lbs 10 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. We continue to give thanks for this new little life in Christ. We wish this new family all the best!

We will celebrate Spirit Week prior to the Lafayette Tournament. Our Pep Rally will be at 2:00 p.m. February 6, with the tournament taking place February 6-8. We will be collecting Pennies for Patients after the rally February 6, at 10:00 a.m. until February 27.

We will have our Valentine's Day parties on February 13 and our PTL Sock Hop February 20 for all grades and parents from 6:30-8:30 PM. February 20 also happens to be our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Midterm day.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 25 with our service at 2:00 PM. We will again worship with our Trinity congregation members. Our Pre-Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will participate in the Pajama Party February 27 at 6:00 PM. February 16 we will have NO SCHOOL due to President's day. Wow what a busy month. May God bless and keep you during this month of love.

Serving our Savior in prayer,

*John E. Schultz*

## From the Executive Director ...

Recently I reported 3 things that I hope will distinguish our ministry in 2009.

- 1) Evangelizing with relevance to the community around us. In other words, Sharing God's word. You will see this frequently in the year ahead, often, as Pastor Easterday likes to say in a Missional way. Isn't that what our life is about? Telling the Good News in a way that addresses all of life's problems. Isn't that something that we should, that we need to do better?
- 2) Teaching in a way that has value: the focus on learning. At Trinity we value the precious opportunities to learn and teach the word. From our Christian day school to home based small group Bible studies. They are priceless. But everything today cost money or time and from there priorities change and crowd out what is really important from what seems important. We need to wrestle with this tension that those in Trinity's family, now and in the future, face and by our continuous improvement, make it easy to set Christian based learning as a lifelong priority. Don't think this is a new concept, this continuous improvement. It is something we have done for 140 years. It is one that we need to continually be aware of, and hold out as a priority.
- 3) The final thing that will distinguish our ministry is the way we function as a family of believers. A healthy family is a place of support and encouragement. There are similarities between a strong and dynamic family and a strong, healthy and vibrant church family. We need to meet together, learn together, solve problems and achieve goals. That is what healthy families do. This is very important to us individually and as a church and we want to be intentional about building a strong, growing church family.

I invite all who are members of our church family to join in this challenging, yet joyful, journey.

*Rob Gardiner*

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## Board of Communications

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**Church Directory** - In the spirit of being a Christian family here at Trinity, the Board of Communication Services is scheduling photographs of all new members and those members who would like to update their photo and other information for the Church Directory. These photos will be taken during the four Sundays in February. Please sign up at the desk in the Atrium.

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## Board of Church Properties

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It's been an interesting month. We have had some very good news and some not-so-good news. Some of you may already know about the new carpeting and paint job in the school library.

We also have a newly painted and decorated gym thanks to a group of folks who spent two long evenings to get the job done. These are both excellent examples of how a group of volunteers can identify a project, work with the Board of Properties and get good things done.

We also had a group of volunteers react to the mess found in Mrs. Miller's classroom when the heating coil cracked open and sprayed hot water into the room. These volunteers were called to emergency duty just after the 10:45 worship service on the Sunday that we had the 4 hour power outage. It's been an interesting winter, so far.

We are looking forward to a controller replacement on the Atrium air handler. This is because the existing controller is no longer working.

Our part in the mission of the church is a support role. We are here to provide a facility that is conducive to all of the ministries. We the board members are not always familiar with the daily details of how the buildings are being used. We also cannot always tell when things are not working properly. We ask for your assistance in letting us know if there are problems with how the building is being used or how it is functioning.

We are always looking for ways to improve what we have. Keep in mind we also have to work within the budget or special funds we have access to. We look forward to coordinating the many needs that our buildings and grounds provide for us.

*Gary Diekelmann*

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## Board of Children and Youth

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The Board of Children and Youth is off to an exciting start. We are working on a Jr. and Sr. High link to our current website for updates and pictures of youth events. The link would be managed by a youth technical task force. We are thrilled to hear about new worship opportunities for both Sr. High and Jr. High youth. It comes in the form of monthly events called "**Only One Thing**" and "**I Was Glad.**" Paul Wendt and our Trinity youth leaders have worked hand in hand with our youth to organize this unique format. We are also looking at programs that would include interaction and spiritual growth opportunities for parents and their toddlers

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## Board of Mission & Outreach

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Every minute, 148 children are born who need to be touched with the Good News of Jesus as our Savior. Every minute, 83 people die without knowing Jesus as their Savior. The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and its 29 church partners worldwide have initiated *Ablaze*. This is the biggest and possibly the most important project the Church has ever undertaken. With the assistance of the entire church family, we have an opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus in our own community and throughout the world. *Ablaze* is the mission movement that will reach 100 million people by the year 2017.

*Ablaze* is the movement to deliver hope and spiritual renewal by sharing the message of the Gospel and igniting the flame of faith in the hearts of people everywhere. *Fan into Flame* of the *Ablaze* is the financial campaign that will provide the funding to accomplish our goal of sharing the Gospel with 100 million people. Financial support and gifts would be applied to the following:

- Renewing the mission passion in existing congregations and schools.
- Planting new schools and churches.
- Providing worker scholarships.
- Planting ethnic ministries.
- Re-kindling Native American ministries

Our total proposed congregational goal for the next five years to support *Ablaze* will be \$10,000 dollars. While that may seem like a large sum, when broken down over five years and throughout our membership, it is very reachable. In the next six to eight weeks you will receive more information from the Mission and Communication boards and Elders on how the congregation might get involved as we *Fan into Flame* the gift, message and mission of God.

*Jim Radford & Paul Feder*

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## Board of Discipleship

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Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Christmas caroling in December! We had a great turn out and a lot of fun at Wittenberg and Trinity member homes. Our next event will be an ice skating outing at Deep River Waterpark. Join us **February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.** for fun and fellowship ... for skaters and non-skaters alike. Watch the church bulletin for additional details or contact Amy Dyba at 226-3054. Please feel free to contact any Discipleship Board member with ideas for fellowship or Bible study ideas and opportunities.

**Ladies' Aid ...** Because of the small membership our first meeting in 2009 will be **April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 12:30 p.m.** The cookie committee for March will be notified as will the April meeting committee.

Concerning the Bingo prize donations for Wittenberg, a big Thank You! for your donations. (Please note: candles, electrical items and stuffed animals cannot be used as prizes for the residents.) Please continue with your donations of other items. Donations can be left in the box in the Narthex and they are very much appreciated.

*Jean McLean*

**Golden Group**

Event: Pot Roast Dinner prepared by Pastor and Sue Kipp  
 Date: **February 26, 2009** Time: **12:30 p.m.**  
 Place: South end of the school cafeteria  
 Cost: \$9.00 Includes: meat, potatoes, carrots, onions, salad, rolls, coffee, milk Dessert: grasshopper pie or chocolate cream pie  
 R.S.V.P. by Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Be sure to say how many people and which kind of dessert. Call Helen Melcher at 663-0705.

**School News**

**Scrip News!** Are you purchasing groceries, gasoline for your car, or even a night on the town? If so, why not purchase SCRIP cards beforehand? SCRIP cards are available for Cub Foods, Gordon's Food Service, Jewel-Osco, Peapod, Sam's Club, Strack & Van Til, Wal-mart, Speedway, Family Express, BP, Applebee's, Arby's, Rainforest Café, and many, many more. In fact, we have over 300 national and local retailers to choose from. SCRIP is an excellent way of being a good steward towards families that attend Trinity School. Proceeds of SCRIP go towards the scholarship program or an individual tuition account – you pick what family you want the proceeds to go to. Are you on a budget? If so, SCRIP cards keep you in budget for the month. If you purchase a \$25 SCRIP card for Strack & Van Til, you will stay within that amount. You think twice before purchasing that "have to have" cake. If you require a SCRIP form, please check the front desk in the Atrium.

**Youth Ministry ...**

**Key for Youth Ministry Group Names**

***Christ's Crusaders (Sr. High Youth – Gr. 9-12)***

**KHKO -- Knowing Him, Knowing Others**

Sr. High Bible study (grades 9-12)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evenings @ 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Done by 8:30 p.m.

**Youth Band**

Sr. High (grades 9-12) musicians & singers in training....having a good time.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evenings @ 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. (Stay for KHKO).

**Only 1 Thing**

Sr. High event (grades 9-12)  
 Worship with singing and devotion prepared and led by a youth.  
 Relational time (gym, games, etc.)  
 Coffee house type atmosphere  
 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month in the Atrium @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Done by 8:30 p.m.

***Faith Defender's (Jr. High Youth – Gr. 6-8)***

**B.A.S.I.C. – Brothers And Sisters In Christ**

Jr. High Bible study (grades 6-8)

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 3:45 p.m. in the Youth Room. Done @ 5:15 p.m.  
*When School is in session. (Crown Point schools schedule.)*

**I Was Glad!**

Jr. High event (grades 6-8)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month in the Cafeteria & Gym @ 4:15 p.m. Done by 5:45 p.m.  
 Worship with singing and devotion.  
 Relational time (gym, games, etc.)

Note: If the Sunday falls on Easter or Christmas or in the middle of a school break, event may not occur. Check Newsletter or Bulletin calendars for the most accurate information.

*Paul Wendt*

**LOOKING AHEAD:**



**30 Hour Famine**

Hunger Facts.....

**Global Hunger & Poverty**

- \* Each day, over 29,000 children die from preventable diseases such as malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections. Malnutrition is associated with over half of those deaths.
- \* More than 852 million people in the world are malnourished - 799 million of them are from the developing world. More than 153 million of them are under the age of 5.
- \* In developing countries, one child in 10 dies before his fifth birthday. By comparison, in the U.S. one child in 165 will die before turning five years old.
- \* In the last 50 years, 400 million people worldwide have died from hunger and poor sanitation. That's three times the number of people killed in all wars fought in the entire 20th century.
- \* The wealthiest fifth of the world's people consume an astonishing 86 percent of all goods and services, while the poorest fifth consume 1 percent.
- \* Of the 6.39 billion people in today's world, 1.2 billion live on less than \$1 per day.



- \* Malnutrition can severely affect a child's intellectual development. Children who have stunted growth due to malnutrition score significantly lower on math and language achievement tests than do well-nourished children.

Domestic Hunger & Poverty

- \* 36.3 million people - including 13 million children - live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This represents approximately one in ten households in the United States.
- \* 3.5 percent of U.S. households experience hunger. Some people in these households frequently skip meals or eat too little, sometimes going without food for a whole day. 9.6 million people, including 3 million children, live in these homes.
- \* 7.7 percent of U.S. households are at risk of hunger. Members of these households have lower quality diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. 26.6 million people - including 10.3 million children - live in these homes.
- \* Preschool and school-aged children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression, and behavior problems than children with no hunger, according to a recent study.

(Source: Bread for the World, Hunger Basics, 2005)

A group of Youth and Adults is doing something about this **March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**. We are participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. In many parts of the world \$1 keeps a child alive for a day. You can help in these ways:

- + **Join us.** Registration materials are available at the Reception Desk.
- + **Pray for us – and the hungry.**
- + **Donate Food.** Support Community Care Cupboard with canned goods, dry goods or paper goods.
- + **Donate Juice or Water for Famine participants.** Donation sheet at the Reception Desk or speak to DCE Wendt for details.
- + **Donate Money to Sponsor a Famine participant.**

*Happy Anniversary!*

2/3	Ray & Sue Nierman, Mark & Susan Magruder, Steve & Gwen Pearson
2/4	Joe & Betty Perry
2/5	Mark & Beth Reiners
2/6	Tom & Vicky Fanno
2/11	Roger & Darlene Marvel, Robert & Jennifer Pollitt
2/14	Tim & Judi Fair
2/15	Norman & Shirley Lotz, James & Nancy Orgon
2/16	Greg & Melissa Jevert
2/18	Bill & Sandy Heiser
2/19	Mark & Betty Lutzow
2/26	Cyril & Nicole Duffala
2/29	Ryan & Vicki Stojkovich

*Happy Birthday!*

2/1	Tom Taylor, Deb Komaskinski, Kelly McGraw
2/2	Monty McNab, Sharon Tillery, Aimee Heinzman, Quinn Witham, Amanda Manley, Patrick Claus
2/3	Lorene Fuehrmeyer, Lisa Gapen, Tim Maxwell, Leann Tustison
2/4	Shirley Patz, Kyle Erickson
2/5	Judi Fair, Terri Martin, Michael Gella, Kim Hart, Trey Tustison
2/6	Mark Rydberg, Amber Hart, Kaleigh Mueller, Megan Magruder
2/7	Brittany Dunlap
2/8	Audrey Wieler, Doug Luebcke, Melissa Jevert, Hope Stinson
2/9	Linda Swanson, Dan Forsythe, Matt Dallman, Sara Tokoly, Erik Dahlman
2/10	Norbert Luebcke, Albert Noak Jr., Judy McNab, Chuck Alliss, Tom Fanno, Dennis Reynolds
2/11	Ilse Lunkes, Joyce Rather, Gregory Papernik, Adam Goeringer, Joshua Long
2/12	Jean Black, Tom Pavlovick, Linda Fehil, Ed Dixon
2/13	Julie Burkhardt
2/14	Tom Whitaker, Kathryn Birmingham
2/15	Sharon Butler, Star Lugar, Bob Stinson, Alexis Aardsma, Christy Aardsma
2/16	Ruth Coe, John Andrews, Don Stieve, Diane Jackson, Brian Malone, Kelsey Surma
2/17	Jim Hensley, Laura Gella, Emma Kulak
2/18	Suzanne Murphy, Jill Woldt, Amy Steinberg, Stacy Jovanoski, Olivia Pillar, Karli Swanson
2/19	John Matuska, Bonnie Surma, Rollie Brauer, Matt McCann, Carolyn Dienes, Skylar Cebra
2/20	Ralph Einspahr, Becky DeVries, Rebecca Guess, Joseph Wolter, Chase Rinkovsky
2/21	Tina Matuska, Sarah Steinke, Drew Gardiner, Ariel Jansma, Robert Pollitt III
2/22	Ed Hamilton, Bob Pryde, Brad Wilkes, Alex Maxwell, Matthew Bunde, Colten Mowery
2/23	Eleanor Groet, Ron Morris
2/24	Brian Knipper, Brayden Shea
2/25	Karla Stiener, Ed Klingberg Sr., Ryan Stojkovich, Joe Stadnik
2/26	Carol Croak, Lily Koelikamp
2/27	Fred Kujawski, Robert McCann, Vickie Loeber, Hannah Arroyo
2/28	Marilyn Gudenschwager, Ryan Whitaker

*Baptisms*

Ezekiel Rye Lehman, son of Karla & Arron Lehman, was welcomed into the family of God through Holy Baptism on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Quinn Michael Shea, son of Pamela & Matthew Shea received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Funerals*

Margaret Camp was received into the kingdom of heaven on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral service was held on December 20<sup>th</sup>.



**Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>** for article submission to the March newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church or sent to [newsletter@trinitycp.org](mailto:newsletter@trinitycp.org).

## Bible Study

Classes beginning this month...



### Beginning February 15<sup>th</sup>

#### The Lutheran Difference: Justification & Sanctification

Led by Jeannine Furakawa in the Conference Room. 6 weeks.

Everything is Spiritual in the Gym. 4-6 weeks.

### Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

#### New Member Orientation

Led by Pastor Easterday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the Library. For all people joining Trinity! Welcome!

New Small group – **watch Groups**

*This is the newest edition to **watch Groups**, our small group ministry. There is a group for you! (If there isn't, perhaps you would be willing to begin one! Contact DCE Wendt.)*

A Women's study has begun on Sunday evening. The group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Conference room and is studying Becoming a Woman of Prayer. Led by Joanne Stephen. All women welcome!

1 on 2 Discipleship Bible study is entering it's 3<sup>rd</sup> season... The concept is simple. One person meets weekly with 2 others, 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. 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.

## 2009 Focus on WATCH Groups

### The Book Club

Last month we took a look at the oldest small group at Trinity – the Ladies' Aid.. One of the more recent additions that has sprung up at Trinity is the Book Club. I call it that because its members haven't gotten around to giving it a name yet. What can you expect from people who just read, talk, and eat delicious desserts, but don't really do anything?

This group got its start last summer. Having seen *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and then *Prince Caspian* at the movies, they wondered what the original books by C. S. Lewis were like. Thus this admirable bit of curiosity led to six or seven ladies meeting together at Karol Ketcher's home on a regular basis at 6:30 pm on the second and fourth Sunday of every month. Since their bout with C. S. Lewis, they have digested such books as *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger*, *Whole Prayer* by Walter Wangerin, and *The Skeleton in God's Closet* by Paul Maier. On the list right now is *The Shack*. After that Corrie ten Boom's *Hiding Place* will be given a good look. The group obviously doesn't let any grass grow under its feet.

Apart from the discussion, there's usually some fellowship and prayer plus, of course, the dessert. I am told that they not only enjoy the books, but each other.

Pastor T.

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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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#### February 1, 2009 – Mark 1:21-28

##### “With Authority!”

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

Satan and his evil followers may seem to have the upper hand – but this is only for a little while. Ultimately all authority belongs to Jesus. Satan must submit to Jesus' authority.

#### February 8, 2009 – John 8:12

##### “The Healing Light of Jesus”

By Pres. Dr. Dean Wenthe, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN

When Jesus is in our home, there is peace and His presence lifts our burdens and frailty as He promises sure and full life forever.

#### February 15, 2009 – Mark 1:40, 41

##### “His Will”

By Dr. Daniel J. Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, IN

A leper came to Jesus and prayed, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Christ willed it, and the man was cleansed from his leprosy. No man---not even Jesus---wants to die. Before His death, our Savior prayed for the cup of torture and death to be removed, but He added, “Thy will be done.” Submitting to the Father's will, our compassionate Savior didn't just cure a specific disease but He earned our eternal salvation---ultimately curing all disease.

#### February 22, 2009 – Mark 9:2-9

##### “Are You Tuned In?”

By Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hudson, IN

Radio signals can be fuzzy and unclear. But God's signal – His Gospel message – is clear and strong in Jesus Christ!

## Ring in the New Year with financial resolutions

With the New Year comes the opportunity to improve your financial well-being. Here are five financial resolutions to get you started:

**Establish your 2009 financial goals**, including your retirement and overall savings goals. Post them where you'll see them often.

**Establish a budget** based on what you spent last year, taking rising gas, heating and food prices into account.

**Cut back on debt** by paying off a credit card balance, foregoing unnecessary purchases or adding \$50 a month to your mortgage payment.

**Prioritize major purchases** you want to make and figure out how to pay for them out of your current income.

**Review your will or estate plan** to ensure it reflects your current life situation.

For help achieving your 2009 financial plan, contact Carsten Falkenberg, Senior Financial Consultant, at 219-663-8699 or [carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com](mailto:carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com) today or visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).  
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