



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

February, 2012

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

"A Night of Abundant Blessings"

Tickets for "A Night of Abundant Blessings" 2012 can be purchased today in the Atrium between services, until **Sunday, February 27th**. You can also fill out the Ticket Reservation Sheet in the Auction Brochure and deposit it with a check in the black mailbox in the Atrium. Sponsorship and advertising are available, and donations are welcome. Please join us for this night of fun and fellowship. Questions? Please see Christine Miller or Brenda Dean.

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

When I was growing up, I loved to play with magnets. Even as a high school student I found magnets to be fascinating. I once did a project for my Physics class where I held a piece of paper over a strong horseshoe shaped magnet and sprinkled metal filings on the paper. I could see the magnetic field as the shavings were pulled into place and it was interesting to see the pattern of the magnet's pull.

We live in a world intrigued by magnets. We have them on our refrigerators and on our file cabinets. Churches and businesses give them out. The intent is to draw people to that business or church.

Have you ever considered that we are in the business of being a magnet? The life of the church at Trinity and the lives of the members are to be attractive to other people. This is the magnet principle which says,

When God plants a church, there should be wide spread community awareness and interest.

This applies to the life of the church at its inception and as the congregation continues in ministry even after nearly 144 years. Jesus said this.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Just as Trinity is still called to be a place that is more attractive than the powers of a strong magnet, so each new church that is planted it to be attractive, to be known in the community as a place where God dwells and where people are truly disciples, not just in name, but in their lives.

The ultimate magnet is the cross of Christ where the sacrifice for our sins of being something less than attractive, has been made. Jesus again said,

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." (John 12:32)

This is the magnet that attracts people to a congregation and this is the light that continues to shine in the darkness for our salvation.

Our challenge is to continue to remain relevant to the community around us, and for each new church plant to also be relevant, making the community aware of Jesus Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins. As we do this, God is glorified and the kingdom continues to grow! Praise God!

Pastor Easterday

Worship Services- February

Feb. 4-6 5th Weekend after the Epiphany

Just as the Apostle Paul became all things to all men that they might be saved, Jesus has become all things for us, especially the one sacrifice for our sins. (Isaiah 40:21-31, I Corinthians 9:16-27, Mark 1:29-39)

Feb. 11-13 6th Weekend after the Epiphany

We live with great expectations for what God will do for us, but often find that God works in unusual and unexpected ways to accomplish his purposes. The 6th grade confirmands will receive their first communion at the 10:45 service. (II Kings 5:1-14, I Corinthians 10:19-11:1, Mark 1:40-45)

Feb. 18-20 The Transfiguration of our Lord

Transfiguration ends our time of Epiphany. Jesus provided the disciples a glimpse of heaven as they saw Him shining brightly before them. We receive that same glimpse of heaven at the Lord's Supper in our worship. We will burn last year's Palm Sunday palms between services to prepare the ashes for use on Ash Wednesday. (Exodus 34:29-35, II Corinthians 3:12-4:6, Mark 9:2-9)

Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday (2:00 & 7:00 p.m.)

"Father, forgive them..." The midweek Lent focus is that which we need forgiveness. This service theme is "Forgive Our Fearful Lack Of Trust (The disciples in the Garden). For those who desire, we will have ashes of repentance to place on their foreheads. (Joel 2:12-19, II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

Feb. 25-27 1st Weekend in Lent

Testing or temptation? Which was it? Abraham was asked to sacrifice his only Son. God would offer a greater gift, his only Son, the one acceptable sacrifice. (Genesis 22:1-18, James 1:12-18, Mark 1:9-15)

Feb. 29 Lent Midweek Service (Wed. 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.)

Father, Forgive Them! Forgive Our Desire To Defy Your Divine Authority! (The Sanhedrin)

The Principal Connection ...

"More Love to Thee, O Christ!"

"This is my Son, who I love; with Him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

I recall a conversation I had with a friend about parenting when I was younger. He could not understand why I thought Lutheran education was important. He was not questioning my belonging to the church, but why the school?

I explained there are 5 reasons why I believed it was important. First is an issue of faith. I want my children to have a strong faith, which I know will be taught providing comfort, solace, and inspiration to carry them through the joys and tribulations of life. They will learn about the 10 Commandments, the Golden Rule, while being taught Christian morals and values that are important to me. Academically I know they will succeed with smaller classes and individual attention that let them know they are God's loved and cherished child.

Second, belonging to a Lutheran school is about community. We have history and connections that bring us together for fun and fellowship as well as to share troubles and celebrate joys. My children still have friends from their grade school days that share the same bond of faith and experience they do.

Third, I believe every child needs a variety of positive role models to help decide what person they will become. I can't think of any better role models than our teachers. They are fabulous! My children still talk about their teachers who have become friends and advocates.

Fourth, our school life coincides with our worship life. As a family we participated in the larger church community. My children learned from watching others and seeing their parents giving of their time, talents, and money to something bigger than themselves, namely their Lord.

Finally, I see the Lutheran school teaching my children about social relationships. They had a group of peers who had a common belief, background, focus and purpose. Was it perfect? No! But every situation was handled in light of the Law and Gospel. Those situations made my children who they are today. I can say without question, God's love was always present!

These were powerful motivators for raising my children in a Lutheran school. I had to make sacrifices to send my 3. We were able to share their education as a family at a Lutheran school. I am thankful to my Lord for the positive effect it has had on all 3 of my children.

I wanted to share with you the **Students of the Month** for January 2012 are Nina Tadic and Abigail Pflughoeft. **Congratulations** go out to **these two students who have been selected by their teachers to receive this award!** They get a certificate, a letter, and their picture posted outside the Principal's Office. Stop by and see their smiling faces!

A Night of Abundant Blessings is coming on **March 23, Friday at the Avalon with the doors opening at 6:00 p.m.** We are soliciting for things to be sold at the auction which will go to benefit our church and school! A **great big thank you goes out to Laura Sauerma**n, for chairing this wonderful event. If you missed it last year I would encourage you to be a part of one of the best times Trinity has to offer! I hope to see you there.

We would again like to **thank all those who have participated in our first ever Principal's Coffee.** We will do this one Tuesday each month from 7:30-8:30 AM in the Library. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless our school through this communication.

Harmony is now opened for parents to view their children's graded assignments, attendance, discipline, calendar, and methods of payment. For questions please see Mr. Schultz or Mrs. Cizmar.

Congratulations to **Noah Wilkes, our Geography Bee winner for 2011-12.**

We are so very proud of all our graduates. If you have any news to share about our graduates accomplishments please call Mr. Schultz to let him know! We don't want to miss anyone!

We ask God's richest blessings on you as you support our school. **Thanks for your prayers and your generous gifts of prayer to help support the school!** We are so blessed to have you with us! We give thanks for our parents who value their child's spiritual development and share in partnership with us!

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

In the spirit of mutual understanding, I'd like to address a communication issue that has been simmering. Let's start with some hypotheticals. Say a friend or family member asked you for some advice or help. Do you believe that person would expect you to respond? If you decided to respond, would you expect anything back in return? Notice that I asked these questions in terms of expectations. Often it's not what actually happens that triggers a person's reaction; it's what happens relative to his/her expectations.

About a year ago, the Mission Outreach Task Force distributed a survey during worship services looking for input into some important ministry decisions. The survey was trying to understand the congregation's preferences and priorities around strategic alternatives such as planting a new church, calling a third pastor, adding staff, constructing some type of building addition, putting greater emphasis on youth ministry, or focusing more on our Day School. Some people have wondered why the survey results were never shared.

During our recent Bearing Fruit stewardship emphasis, congregation members were asked to indicate on a checklist where they might be willing to serve in areas such as administration, office help, craftsmanship, hospitality, social services, music, teaching, and so forth. Some people have wondered why they haven't been called to serve in an area they indicated willingness.

Do either of these situations sound like a problem? I think the answer depends on people's expectations. For example, I have heard Trinity's ministry leaders express frustration that only 20-30% of the congregation responded to these requests for input and help. But those who didn't respond might defend their inaction by saying that it's their choice or that no one said a response was required. Of those that did respond, some have expressed frustration that they never heard the survey results or haven't been contacted about serving. But those who conducted the survey and the service checklists might counter by saying they never promised to share the survey results or to immediately contact everyone who is willing to serve.

Not to make excuses, but Trinity doesn't have the people or systems to process lots of data collected from members. Pastor Easterday and his wife, Joyce, spent hours of their "spare time" over a couple of months attempting to compile the Mission Outreach Task Force survey data. The survey feedback wasn't shared because it was so inconclusive – responses were all over the place and sometimes even inconsistent from question to question. As for the service checklists, Trinity no longer has a Stewardship Board, so checklists haven't yet been compiled, but the task is on my "to-do list".

I think we can do better in situations like this. If Trinity asks for congregation input, we should be prepared to summarize and/or follow-up in some way. If that follow-up can't be done for some reason, then that should be clearly stated up front. In the mean time, please be patient and don't grumble. If you have the ability to help us compile this type of information, please don't hesitate to volunteer. We always value your input and involvement in God's work here at Trinity!

Greg Forsythe

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders is pleased to welcome two new members. Mark Magruder and Les Nack have agreed to join the Elder Ministry. We welcome them and look forward to the ideas and service support that they bring to the table. We would like to thank departing board members Guy Ramey, Randy Kingston, and Marvin Hecht who have served us well for several years.

As we get into 2012 we have some new ideas to consider for roll out but much of the work we have already started still needs our focus. Two primary objectives from last year carry through to 2012. These are growing worship here at Trinity by support and nurturing of the 11:00 worship service started last fall and further development and then implementation of a plan to plant a new church congregation in the Cedar Lake community.

On the church plant work we know we need to have a solid plan and do some communication work to help the entire congregation understand what the Outreach Task Force has learned and why they feel God's pull to plant a new church in Cedar Lake. So that you can learn more about this please look for opportunities to get into one of the presentations that will be provided during the bible study hour as current classes conclude and prior to new classes starting.

As always if you would like to talk to an Elder about anything in your life or with concerns for our church, please feel free to flag us down on after worship (look for guys with name tags) or phone your Elder. If you don't know who your Elder is, you can give me a call at 661-0547

Dave Maxwell

Board of Church Properties

So, you might ask, what happened to the door replacement project? It is still alive. We are having trouble finding the right combination of product, type and style. We want the doors and frames to be low or no maintenance. We are also looking at glass details. We want it to be right when we do it.

We are very close to the purchase of two new flood lights to light the north parking lot. We hope to buy two induction fixtures and mount them on the gym wall. This is a relatively new lighting type. It is promised to provide 100,000 hours of light. It also is lower in energy demand.

The next item on our list is the replacement of the carpeting in the Atrium, the staff offices and the 2nd floor hallway. All of this carpet is 11 years old and gets a lot of traffic. We are looking at carpet squares instead of rolled sheet materials. The carpet squares allow us to replace small areas of carpeting ourselves. In high traffic areas or if there is a bad stain, we can remove some of the old and put down new.

The fountain in the courtyard is on saw horses and covered for the winter to keep moisture from soaking in. In the spring we will seal the large cracks and set it back in place.

A big thank you to Kim Merrill, Sue Board and Ryan Johnson for all of the hard work in keeping our buildings clean and in working order.

Gary Diekelmann

Board of Finance & Staff Management

As 2011 closes and 2012 begins. We find ourselves again playing catch up when it comes to finances, but that being said, 2011 did leave us with a number of accomplishments. A new employee handbook, a financial review process, a number of pending grant requests by our Director of Development with one received for school marketing, and funding for the new Harmony software program.

As we look forward to our work in 2012 we will endeavor to clarify some possible misunderstandings in job duties by developing an organizational chart, revising and or creating job descriptions, and staff evaluation. We will continue to work toward a budget that with God's help will reinstate some of the cuts that we have been forced to make in the past.

I pray that as this is the beginning of a new year it may also be a new beginning in our approach to how we return to God for the many blessing that he has bestowed on us.

Please prayerfully consider increasing what you return to God for his most generous and forgiving attitude to you.

God's Blessings,

Jud Salmon

You Are Invited
Trinity Lutheran School Presents...
"A Day in the Life"

The 411: Date: February 15th

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Begins in the gym

What is It? Parents & students will visit the classroom they'll be in for the 2012-13 school year. Meet the teacher and find out what's special about next year's classroom. The schedule will allow you to visit each of your children's fall, 2012 classrooms & childcare will be provided for siblings as well. Wind down the evening with snacks provided by PTL and a slideshow in the cafeteria of the annual 5th grade class trip to Lutherhaven and the 8th grade trip to Washington DC.

Get Details... about how you can LOCK-IN this year's tuition for the 2012-13 school year!

Have you considered enrolling your children but haven't done so yet? This is a great opportunity for you and your children to see...

There's A Lot to Be Excited About at Trinity Lutheran School!

Market Day

Market Day orders are due online by **Friday, February 10th!** Check out the catalogs for two free with minimum purchase offers and specials on cookie dough. Please help support our school with this monthly grocery fundraiser and keep an eye out for information on the Spring Pie fundraiser happening later this month! If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Wielert at 663-4396.

Parent/Teen Workshop

Once again, from an office to a classroom or auditorium, Pastor Dave Kipp has prepared to offer, FREE to the public, two hour workshops for teens and parents on the topics of:

“Teening Parents and Parenting Teens”

Saturday, February 25 at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, February 28 at 7 p.m.

“Addressing Divided Family Relationships”

Saturday, March 3 at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, March 6 at 7 p.m.

“Letting Go of a Hurtful Past.”

Saturday, March 10 at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

Make reservations by Wednesday, February 22, 2012 - calling 219-663-1578 or send an email to ‘kipp@trinitycp.org’. The location of the workshops will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church and School on 250 S. Indiana Avenue in Crown Point, Indiana.

“Dave is motivating, creative and entertaining...He is ‘wack-tastic’...He reaches kids and adults in a humorous yet serious tone that makes them comfortable, keeps their attention, and gives them a lot to think about...”

Teen and Adult participants

“I have known Dave for more than 30 years...What he has to offer is very comprehensive. There sources he quotes from and makes available are practical, informative and applicable for people to use and practice.”

***Dr. LeRoy Hass, Clinical Psychologist
Milwaukee, WI***

Dave Kipp has worked with children, teens, parents, and youth professionals for 35 years. He has spoken in eleven States and Canada at both public and parochial schools, colleges, conference and retreat centers. He had the privilege to speak in front of 14,000 teenagers and youth leaders at a Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas.

He is a 1978/87 college graduate of Concordia University - Mequon, Wisconsin; and a 1992 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Since 1997, Dave has been associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Crown Point, Indiana with his main areas in pastoral care (counseling), preaching and teaching, and visitation. Dave has been married to his wife, Susan, for 38 years. They have two boys, who are both married, and they have two teenage grandsons.

Child Protection Training – February

All volunteers and staff **working with children** (anyone under 18) must be Child Protection Policy certified. Certification for those over 18 includes: 1) filling out a Volunteer Application, 2) permitting a Limited Criminal History background check, and 3) attending a 45 min. to 1 hour training session. [**Note: sensitive issues concerning child abuse and it’s prevention are presented in this training session.**] Youth, age 16-17 may attend this training. Not recommended for younger youth. Certification is normally good for 3 years.

Adult training sessions are scheduled for:

Monday, February 6th – 6:00 p.m. – Cafeteria A

Sunday, February 26th – 2:00 p.m. – Cafeteria A

Thursday, March 8th – 1:45 p.m. – Cafeteria A

Certification for those under 18 includes; 1) filling out a Teen Volunteer Application, and 2) attending a 30 min. – 45 min. training session for youth assisting with ministry programs. [**Note: this session is different from the adult version. It does not include the same explicit information about child abuse prevention.**] Youth training sessions are scheduled for: [Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.]

Sunday, February 26th – 3:15 p.m. – Cafeteria A

30 – Hour Famine – Adults and Needed Too!

What is it like to be hungry? ...all the time? For many in our world this is a daily reality. In World Vision’s 30 – Hour Famine, participants go without food for 30 hours [noon Friday to 6:00 p.m. Saturday] to experience hunger firsthand. We will be doing the Famine Friday, February 24th through Saturday, February 25th. Participants who can join us at the church will take part in educational activities, service work connected to feeding the hungry and fun! All participants seek sponsorship to raise money to feed hungry children. In many parts of the world, \$1/day will feed, educate and provide access to medical care for a child. Registration forms will be available at the Reception Desk **now**. Speak to DCE Wendt for further details.

Getting to Know You!

God has gathered us together...all part of the Body of Christ in this place. Altogether, there are several hundred households. In addition to so many children of God, God has blessed six weekend worship services.

It is **hard** to know everyone. The Board of Discipleship would like to invite members who are willing, to be part of a new effort in which we get to know each other a bit better.

How?

1) By filling out a simple questionnaire that will run periodically in the Weekly Announcements and 2) allowing us to take a picture. We would like to feature 4 to 6 different households on display boards each month placed in the Atrium, Narthex and outside the gym where people travel coming and going to worship. Please help us by filling out the survey. Thanks!

Confirmand Retreat

REMINDER – The deposit for the Confirmand Retreat is due from the 8th grade Confirmands, Sunday, February 5th. All Confirmands received the forms at the Confirmand Orientation or by mail. Questions? See Pastor Easterday or DCE Wendt.

Attention Graduating High School Seniors & Parents

All graduating High School Seniors should have received a letter inviting them to attend a special Sunday Morning Bible study just for them and their parents (if parents wish to attend), that will help prepare for the what's after High School. If you have not received yours, contact DCE Wendt immediately! Thanks!

Parents of graduating High School seniors should have received a separate mailing detailing opportunities to celebrate this milestone. Haven't seen yours? Contact DCE Wendt right away! Thanks!

LOOKING AHEAD:



Spring Into Action Volunteer Fair 2012

The Crown Point Community Foundation is sponsoring the 3rd Spring Into Action Volunteer Fair on **Saturday, March 20, 2012 from 10am to 3pm** at Crown Point High School cafeteria. Meet representatives from more than 50 nonprofit organizations and match your time and talent to their needs. Heartland Blood Centers will be available to take blood donations during the fair from 10am to 2pm. Disposal Alternatives Organization will be accepting donations of computers and other appliances in the northwest corner of the high school parking lot. For more information, visit www.spring-into-action.org or contact the Crown Point Community Foundation at 219-662-7252.

Happy Anniversary!

2/3	Mark & Susan Magruder
2/4	Joe & Betty Perry
2/5	Maverick & Karen Burcham
2/6	Willard & Ethel Schuffert, Tom & Vicky Fanno
2/14	David & Jacilyn Shepard
2/15	Norman & Shirley Lotz
2/18	Bill & Sandy Heiser
2/19	Kevin & Julie Bisping
2/25	Jeremy & Dawn Dalton

2/29	Ryan & Vicki Stojkovich
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Happy Birthday!

2/1	Karen Burcham, Deb Komasinski, Kelly Stephen, Dylan Dalton
2/2	Monty McNab, Sharon Nowoc, Sharon Tillery, Amanda Manley, Patrick Claus
2/3	Lorene Fuehrmeyer, Tim Maxwell, Leann Tustison
2/4	Shirley Patz, Jenna Doherty
2/5	Michael Gella, Kim Hart, Julie Miller, Trey Tustison
2/6	Mark Rydberg, Leonard Zastrow, Amber
2/7	Brittany Dunlap
2/8	Audrey Wieler, Doug Luebcke, Hope Stinson
2/9	Linda Swanson, Matt Dallman, Sara Tokoly
2/10	Norbert Luebcke, Al Noak Jr, Judy McNab, Chuck Alliss, Tom Fanno, Dennis Reynolds, Riley Knipper
2/11	Ilse Lunkes, Joyce Rather
2/12	Larry Mickow, Tom Pavlovick, Ed Dixon, Theresa Reinholtz, Kam Stash
2/13	Julie Burkhardt
2/14	Tom Whitaker, Kathryn Birmingham, Abigail Pflughoeft
2/15	Sharon Butler, Star Lugar, Bob Stinson, Stephanie Abels, Alexis Aardsma, Christy Aardsma
2/16	Ruth Coe, John Andrews, Don Stieve, Kelsey Surma
2/17	Jim Hensley, Laura Gella, Michael Doherty, Kim Smith, Emma Kulak
2/18	Suzanne Murphy, Sue Kipp, Jill Woldt, Olivia Pillar, Karli Swanson
2/19	John Matuska, Bonnie Surma, Julie Bisping, Matt McCann, Carolyn Dienes
2/20	Ralph Einspahr, Rich Nester, Becky DeVries, Rebecca Guess, Joseph Wolter, Chase Rinkovsky
2/21	Tina Matuska, Drew Gardiner
2/22	Edwin Hamilton, Brad Wilkes, Alex Maxwell, Matthew Bunde, Colten Mowery
2/23	Eleanor Groet, Ron Morris, Kenny Abels
2/24	Brian Knipper, Jessica Snyder, Brayden Shea
2/25	Karla Stiner, Ed Klingberg Sr, Ryan Stojkovich, Joe Stadnik
2/26	Irene Ringers, Lily Koelikamp
2/27	Mary Jane Cummings, Don Guske, Fred Kujawski, Robert McCann, Vickie Loeber, Hannah Arroyo
2/28	Marilyn Gudenschwager, Ryan Whitaker

Weddings

Congratulations to Ka'tlyn Jensen and Greg Nelson who were joined in holy matrimony on January 21st. May God bless this union.

Baptisms

Several children and 1 adult were received into the family of God through holy baptism during the month of January: Eli John Maxwell, son of Brian & Melissa Maxwell, Elias Daniel Totleben, son of Daniel & Carissa Totleben. Connor Kai Doherty, son of Mike & Janice Doherty. Gabriel Maximus Williams, son of Randall & Deborah Williams. Romi Kamal Jabarin. May the Lord bless each of them as they walk daily in his love, grow in their faith, and learn to serve.



Monday, February 20th
for article submission to the
March newsletter. Articles
may be dropped off at

church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

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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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IN GOD'S SERVICE:

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