



NEWSLETTER



January 2009



Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,
Roberta and I would like to thank you for all your time and help after my accident on August 18th. Your thoughts and prayers were heart felt and a comfort to our family. We would also like to thank those that helped us on our farm, made our home accessible to me, took me to doctor visits, and cooked us meals. Christ called us to be servants to one another as he washed the feet of His disciples. You were all servants to Roberta and me in our time of need and wonderful examples of Christian service. Roberta and I will always be grateful and are thankful to be members of Trinity.*

*Thank you,
Derrill Kregel*

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

Commissioned for Mission

Today was an interesting day for us in worship. There was a power outage at 7:30 a.m. Rather than lose the opportunity to worship, those who were there united as a team and assembled a worship area in the Atrium. We delayed the start of the service until 8:15 to allow those who are accustomed to worshipping in the gym to be with us. Amazingly, we somehow found a way for nearly 200 people to gather in worship for that first service. It wasn't what we expected, but perhaps it was a good reminder that worship is not focused on a building and a location, but on a person, Jesus Christ, and His gifts to us of His Word and the blessing of His sacrament extended to us. I want to thank all who quickly worked to make our time of worship possible on a very cold day. I am also grateful for the utility workers who were braving sub-zero weather to make necessary repairs to our power source. They all are to be commended for their dedication and service.

On this cold day, we quickly become aware of simple things like time. A walk that seemed to be short in the summer became a walk that seemed forever in walking back to our cars. (By the way, I park my car in the far corner of the lot to let visitors and members park closer to the building.) Along with time, the missional church is also aware of events and their importance. Today, the worship event was more important than the location, and even more important than starting on time.

In our work as a missional congregation, it is important to be aware of the differences between focusing on time and focusing on the event. There were times when Jesus interrupted His plans for the sake of an event. There were encounters with a person who needed a word of comfort, or perhaps a healing hand offered to them. These events remind us of the importance of His incarnation, of taking on earthly flesh so He could be present with people. And, in these events, we see some of the other characteristics I have mentioned in previous months. Jesus displayed those times when community was important, and displayed awareness of surroundings. He also displayed the wonderful act of giving, especially in giving time by stepping out of a schedule for the sake of a person.

But there were other situations where time was important. Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem so He could be present for the greatest event in time. He needed to be present for a day of judgment for those times when we misuse time and overlook important events. Time and event intersected at the cross, as those six hours on the cross were given so that we could have eternity with God. That event, the death of Jesus, now gives us a new perspective on what God has called us to do as a missional church.

As we begin a new year, we have a great opportunity to think about both time and events in the life of the congregation. May we resolve to be obedient to the loving Savior, that in the time we have been given we may be engaged in significant work for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Pastor Easterday

Worship Services- January

Jan. 3-5 Epiphany Weekend

The Magi followed the star and found Jesus. They came with anticipation as they brought gifts for the Savior. We bring our gifts of service to our Savior. In doing so, we will be installing all who serve on Parish Planning Council, Elders, Boards, and task forces as they begin a new year of service.

Readings Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 10-12 The Baptism Of Jesus

We will begin a series of weeks focusing on life and its importance. Jesus embraced baptism and gave it to us as a gift of rebirth and new life. We will remember our baptisms at each of the worship services this weekend.

We will also be extending Godspeed to Mary Nemeth as she prepares for the blessing of motherhood.

Readings Genesis 1:1-5, Romans 6:1-11, Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 17-19 2nd Weekend After The Epiphany

The life God gives is one to be used to serve Him. Samuel was called to serve God. The disciples were also called to serve God. As we focus on this, we will be distributing marked Bibles to our second grade children (8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services).

Readings I Samuel 3:1-10, I Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

Jan. 24-26 3rd Weekend After The Epiphany

The focus this weekend is on a change of life brought about by repentance. Jonah's change of heart led to renewed ministry for God.

Readings Jonah 3:1-5, 10, I Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Sterling Stewards

The Contemporary Worship Task Force rejoices to report on your generous support for the matching grant gift challenge. You donated more than \$7000 above and beyond your normal contributions for this ministry. We give thanks to the challenge grant donor who has contributed another \$10,000 to this ministry. We also extend a special thank you to the Trinity League for making a significant donation, too! (Thank you, ladies!!!)

As we begin this new year, we rejoice that God has provided the resources we need for equipment and supplies for contemporary worship. Sterling Stewards know that it is wonderful to give to particular needs. But Sterling Stewards ultimately give, not to needs, but out of our need to give our gifts of thanks for all that God has given us.

We now ask that you refocus on gifts given out of our need to return gifts to God. We also ask that gifts now be given to the unified budget and not to a particular project. We have budgeted for all of the ministries at Trinity, and want all to be blessed equally by your loving gifts.

So thanks for your generosity that stems from God's wonderful generosity to us in giving us something much more precious than silver and gold- the gift of Jesus Christ!

The Principal Connection ...
Snowed Under?

"My grace is sufficient for you..." 2 Corinthians 12:9

As I write this, I am contemplating the wonderful joy of shoveling what the forecasters say may be 6-8 inches of snow. I love snow and will gladly do my driveway and sidewalk as well as that of my neighbors on either side of me and across the street, when I have the time. But some days when I have to get to work in the morning I feel a little "snowed under", and can't get to all that snow.

Perhaps your children's days are feeling "snowed under" as well - not just from the precipitation, but from the circumstances they face. When those times come our way, we remember the One who promises to shower His grace as abundantly as the snows. Coping with our situations through God's Word is one of the things we teach our children at Trinity.

As we search His Word, we turn our situations over to Him in prayer, and let His grace carry our load. There will always be abundant grace to help us cope with the times we feel "snowed under."

We give thanks for the 7 years of service provided by Mary Nemeth to Trinity. January 11 we will celebrate Mary's ministry during the 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM services. There will be a reception between the services to honor Mary and give each of you a chance to say, "Thank you!" in your own way!

We welcome Brenda Dean as our teacher who will take over for Mary in the 5th grade. Brenda was contracted by the congregation in a special meeting December 1, 2008. She will begin her teaching ministry with us January 16, 2009. We pray God's special blessings for both ladies!

School resumes after Christmas break on January 5. Our 2nd Quarter ends on January 16. We will be off for Martin Luther King Junior Day January 19. We will have ½ day of school on January 27 for Teacher's In-Service. Kindergarten and Pre-K parents and teachers will have their conferences on January 29-30. We will conduct our NWEA testing on January 27-30. It shapes up to be a busy month for us! God bless your new year as you serve Him in His kingdom!

Serving our Savior in prayer,

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

January is the time we look ahead. At Trinity, I would ask us to look ahead in 2 important ways.

1) Recognize with me the great gifts that God has given Trinity, namely the Called Servants (our Pastors, Principal, Director of Christian Education, Music Director and Teachers) who lead and serve us. Trinity has been blessed with an experienced and dedicated staff, and I ask you to remember to pray for them, to acknowledge their work and encourage them.

2) Our January Congregational meeting on January 19 and other activities on that 3rd weekend in January will be devoted to discussing the year ahead at Trinity.

2009 will be an exciting and productive year at Trinity if we all align our gifts and resources with the vision of ministry we continue to understand and embrace.

Blessings,

Rob Gardiner

Board of Church Properties

The exterior double doors into the Elevator Lobby are now mechanized to assist handicapped entry. There is a push button on the outside and inside that will activate the door. The door will open mechanically to allow people in wheel chairs or with walkers to make an easy entry. The doors have to be unlocked electronically before the handicap opener will work. This will be available on Sunday mornings.

A huge thank you to the PTL for sponsoring the new carpet in the school library. Also, many thanks to all who helped move the books and furniture out and back in to make the carpet work possible.

Gary Diekelmann

Board of Finance & Staff Management

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church and School has been blessed with the growth of both students and members. The Board of Finance and Staff Management has witnessed and is aware of the financial and personnel impact this growth is bringing. As a result, last year the Board asked the Congregation for approval to explore the possibility of hiring a Business Manager. For numerous reasons, the Board chose not to pursue this exploration.

Another year has passed and the impact has continued. We have witnessed several situations for which a Business Manager would benefit both the church and school. In addition, we feel this position is necessary to continue and strengthen the long term outreach and growth of both the church and school. As a result, at the January Congregational Meeting, we will ask the Congregation for approval to begin the exploration of this position once again.

Lisa Anderson

2009 Focus on Small Groups

In a large congregation like ours it is important to help people find connections and to feel at home. An excellent way to do this is in a small group, whether it is in a committee, a Bible Class, a choir, or almost any kind of assemblage of people from our Biblical Garden group to our dart team.

In recent years we have started to call these assemblages **watch Groups** [we are the church], stressing the fact that everyone of our groups serves and represents Trinity and the Church as a whole in some way. We have divided our groups into four different kinds, depending on their main focus, though we hope that each one has at least an element of the Word and prayer, of fellowship, of service and of mission. There are four kinds of groups:

Watch Word groups – these have as their main emphasis the Word, or Bible Study

Watchman groups – these have a fellowship emphasis, watching out and caring for each other

Watchmaker groups – these are obviously active in doing things, service projects etc. they would include many of our committees

Watch & Pray groups – these are exactly what their name implies, concentrating on worship and prayer.

Ladies' Aid

This month we focus on one of the oldest small groups in our congregation – the Ladies' Aid.. They had their inception in 1891 and their stated purpose includes all four of the group aims mentioned above. Their focus has always been "to assist (the congregation) in charitable endeavors," but they have also had in mind "to promote and encourage Christian influence and fellowship among its members."

There was a time when the Ladies' Aid wasn't even a small group, but possibly the largest group in the congregation. They would serve huge dinners for the congregation or for important events (no paper plates!), have an annual bazaar, bake sales etc., and support the congregation and school generously with the proceeds. They would visit shut-ins and have monthly programs. They furnished the kitchen in the church basement and donated the money for the flooring when we built the new school.

Since the sixties, with more and more women having jobs and unable to meet during the day, the size of the Ladies' Aid has slowly diminished and in recent years the average age of the membership has naturally risen (we won't say just how much).

The few members who are left have recently cut their meetings down to six in 2009, but they are determined to continue serving funeral luncheons as long as their strength allows. In this they wouldn't mind having some help. Let the president, Jean McLean [663-3442] know if you can. The Ladies' Aid also puts up the Christmas tree in the atrium and provides 6 dozen cookies per month to Wittenberg Village. In spite of their small size, they still remember their mission. They enjoy each other's company and try to be useful, annually giving \$100 to Wittenberg and \$50 to our Sunday School, while their charity box money goes to Bethesda and to Lutheran Social Services. In the last couple of years \$1000 was donated for new hymnals and \$500 for the stained glass windows. The latest gift was \$200 towards the contemporary worship grant, even though the ladies tend to prefer the traditional services. And they have devotions every month, though last month they read the hymns. "We can't sing too well any more," I am told. The voices may have gone, but the spirit is certainly still there.

Pastor T

Trinity League

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all who donated cookies (and so many varieties) for the Trinity League annual Christmas Cookie Sale. The sale would not have been a success without you!

Trinity Cares Has New Parameters

You may have heard the name Trinity Cares. You might have even seen it in print on the financial reviews from our Finance Board at congregational meetings. But, what in the world is it?

Trinity Cares is the helping arm of this congregation, extended to assist **its members and those connected to them** – and to our community – through the potholes of life. It was originally intended to be used only for Trinity members, but evolved into giving financial aid to anyone who called the church. Over the years we learned that by giving to anyone, we had no assurance of personal contact or real relationship with the callers. Recently, the members of this missional service reconsidered its purpose and goals. As a result, we are happy to announce the changes that have been made, and hope you agree they are for the better.

Trinity Cares offers financial aid and some limited counseling. All dealings with those who come to us are kept confidential. And, in hopes that we can establish and deepen our relationship (and our collective relationship to Christ Jesus) with those who come to us for assistance, our area of ministry service has been designated as **all TLC&S members** (both congregational members and those families enrolled in our school) **and** those referred by them, plus folks in the geographic areas of Crown Point city limits, Cedar Lake, LOFS (both Lake and Porter County sides), and Winfield Township.

How does it work?

1. --**Call** (219-663-1578) and either ask to be connected to or dial extension 501. That extension's instructions ask for some basic information: A phone number at which you can be reached, the best time of day (and/or day of the week) for us to call you back, how many are in the household, and the nature of your need. [Remember, all information is confidential.]
2. --**You will receive a call back** within 3-7 days by someone who will gather as much required information as possible over the phone.
3. --One of our 2-member teams will call you to **set up a face-to-face meeting** where all your needs can be discussed (in your home or at church in the Trinity Care Office).
4. --**A decision** can be made either at that meeting or after collaborating with the entire committee as to how to serve you best and work in partnership with you to overcome the obstacles of your situation.

Again, Who do we help?

- Trinity Lutheran Church members and those families connected to our school.
- Anyone referred to us by our members and school families.
- Community members who live within Crown Point city limits, Cedar Lake, Lakes of Four Seasons (both Porter and Lake County sides), and Winfield Township.

Simply put, Trinity cannot begin to help those in need if they don't come forward and make themselves known. We hope that by knowing the services we offer, those in need will come to us sooner than later – at the first signs of trouble rather than when a disconnect or other final notice for services has been sent. Be aware that even with our help, there are some situations that are just too big. However, we are pleased to **help** anyone in our ministry service area no matter what their situation.

Happy Anniversary!

1/1	Michael & Star Lugar
1/3	Ron & Geneva Summerhill
1/4	Walter & Delores Pocock
1/5	Jack & Carole Esala, Albert Jr. & Elizabeth Noak
1/8	Dean & Jamie Ricci
1/12	Eugene & Brenda Fiegle
1/17	Jeff & Apryl Bielawski
1/19	Andre VanDongen & Beckie Heineman
1/20	John & Ursula Andrews
1/22	Carl & Robyn Froman
1/23	Woody & Letty Kasch
1/30	Jud Jr. & Linda Salmon
1/31	Frank & Sharon Voyak

Happy Birthday!

1/1	Bob Becker, Pamela Zona, Edward Carlson, Fred Rosenwinkel II, Dimia Foster, Jackson Spanburg
1/2	Linda Nudi, Michael Ventura, Pat Schuster
1/3	Edith Griesse, Linda Kruger, Bill Campbell, Heather Hughes, Nicole Sapper, Olivia Watland
1/4	Clarette Johnson, Sarah, Luebcke
1/5	Margaret Becker, Kyle Morrow, Clayton Marshall
1/6	William Kiel, James Greiner, John Mauman, Brad Campbell, Nathan Press
1/7	Ron Leighty, Dean Davis, Zachary Martin
1/8	Marie Dienes, Joanne Stephen, Bailey Whitehead, Donavan Brown
1/9	Jennifer Dienes, Jesse Foster, Rachel Ivanyo, Isabel Spanburg, Cayson Knopp
1/10	Ken Homeier, Helen Homeier, Ray Nierman, Marlo Dunlap
1/12	Lucille White, Dan Matalin, Heidi Waters, Cindy Thurn
1/13	Lois Meyer, Lawrence Gault, Amanda Riggs, Adam Stephen, Gracelyn Nack
1/14	Mary Ann Greiner, Kenneth Murdoch, Shawn Ebert, Traci Goldstine, Lindsay Ventura, Heather Holzhauser
1/15	Michael Coy, David Constable, Joseph Constable
1/16	Charles Saager, Greg Forsythe, Eric Ivasiecko, Emily Best
1/17	Norman Lotz, Mary Thompson, Anita Krizman, Christopher Spar, Kendra Tustison, Kevin Cole, Bryson Cebra
1/18	Kandis Pigg, Alyss Mueller, Nina Albin, Samuel Puente, Peyton Argullin
1/19	Karen Topp, Tina Yakimow, Kelly Miller
1/20	Bianca Holtzinger, William Rashin, Jon Parry, Jacob Miller
1/21	Mildred Bosel, Jeanene Keiser, Shirley Lotz, Daniel Feller, Alexandra Surma
1/22	Patricia Schuster, Alec Pearson
1/23	Leah Steeb, Jeff Bielawski, Anthony Wilson, Heidi Hammond, Allison DeVries, Stevie Pearson
1/24	Janice Fronek, Madilyn Johnson
1/25	Kimberly Sacha
1/26	Eric Engel
1/27	Bobbi Kujawski, Wayne Thunberg, Ryan Forsythe, Jessica Benge, Elizabeth Gardiner
1/28	Glenn Hecht
1/29	Robert Cannon, Fred Rosenwinkel, Garry Vajda, Tyler Leslie
1/30	Valerie Giacomini, Derrill Kregel, James Mangrum, Hannah Luebcke, Claire Rager
1/31	Phyliss Ruebel, Rosemary Nelson, Tabitha Argullin, Caiden Mowery

New Members

Trinity welcomed several new members into our church family on December 14th. They are: Richard Anderson, Jennifer Knopp and children Cayson, Sebastian & Ryan, Tim & Kristine Koelikamp and daughters Lily & Grace, Fred Oosterhoff, Andrew Rinkovsky and son Chase, Steve & Cindy Thurn and sons Zachary & Tyler

Baptisms

We received eight children into the family of God through Holy Baptism in November and December. They are:

Ashton Glen Rager, son of Jason and Kristy Rager. Sponsors for Ashton are Trevor and Nichole Miller.

Miles Jeffrey Kasper, son of Matthew and Jorie Kasper. Sponsors for Miles are Carl Michaelson and Lauren Wiebe.

Alyssa Amelia Brown, daughter of Donald and Elizabeth Brown. Sponsors for Alyssa are Glenna Eldringhoff and Mary Taylor.

Cayson Ray Gyatso Knopp, Sebastian Harold Karl Knopp, and Ryan Adele Mae Knopp, children of Martin and Jennifer Knopp. Sponsor for these children are Cris Genovese.

Lily and Grace Koelikamp, daughters of Tim and Krissy Koelikamp.

Two adults also received the sacrament of Holy Baptism in December. They are Jennifer Knopp and Kristine Koelikamp.

Funerals

Harold Lorenz was called home to be with the Lord on November 23rd. His funeral was November 26th.

Edna Saager was called to her eternal rest on December 7th. Her funeral was December 10th.

Lois Meyer was received into the kingdom of heaven in December. Her memorial service was held on December 20th.



January 21st for article submission to the February newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

Bible Study

Christian Education



Our study continues...

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Opportunities

All Classes meet 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Beginning Sunday, January 4th

Acts 2:12b (What Does This Mean?)

Led by Pastor K

An opportunity to explore questions that class members have.

The Lutheran Difference: End Times Conference Room

What do Lutherans believe and teach about the end times. 6 weeks.

Led by Jeannine Furakawa

For a full listing of watch Group opportunities, Confirmation classes and Sunday School, pick up a Growth in Faith booklet in the Atrium.

God's Word for a New Generation

This study of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus explores a variety of daily activities of faith. 14 weeks.

Room 101

Led by Paulette Urban

1 on 2 Discipleship Bible study is entering its 3rd season...The concept is simple. One person, who is working 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, willing to share his/her 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: Are you interested? See DCE Wendt.

Modern Parables

Enjoy 6 parables of Jesus set to modern scripts and circumstances. **Haven't tried Bible Study in a while? Try this one. This is not your grandmother's Bible study! (No disrespect to granny!)** 6 weeks.

Gym

Led by Mike Dean

Parenting: The Early Years

Explore the power a parent has in the life of a child. A DVD course based on Les & Leslie Parrot's work. 6 sessions spread over 12 weeks.

Leader *tba*

Youth News

Library

Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts

How has God gifted you? 8 sessions spread over 12-14 weeks.

Mrs. Karol Ketcher

Only One Thing – Luke 10:38-45

Sunday, January 4th – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Atrium (On your way no later than 9:00 p.m.)

Worship facilitated by High School Youth Brief Devotion High School Youth The Story – a brief story time from the story that contains all stories!

Conversation Relational Time

Bring snacks/pop to share. Invite your friends!

Beginning February 15th

The Lutheran Difference: Justification & Sanctification

All that we have comes from the love of God. 6 weeks.

Led by Jeannine Furakawa

"I Was Glad"– Psalm 122:1

Sunday, January 11th – 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. meet in the Cafeteria (On your way by 6:00 p.m.)

Sing a song or two Brief Devotion Time to Hang Out Relational Time Open Gym Time Games Opportunity to Talk in Small Groups The Story – a brief story time from the story that contains all stories!

Bring snacks/pop to share! Invite your friends!

Everything is Spiritual

Does the nature of the universe itself – large or small – point to a loving God who created us all? 6 weeks.

Instructor *tba*

YouthQuake Organizational Meeting

Sunday, January 11th @ noon in the Library!

Time to get organized! Done by 1:00 p.m. (or before)

YouthQuake is April 17-19

The theme for the 2008-09 Junior High Youth Quakes is **ONE.**

ALL ADULT CLASSES April 19th – May 10th

Consecrated Stewards

Embrace all God has for us in Christ as we explore how to live the abundant life Jesus so freely gives!

Pastor David Easterday & others

Saturday Mornings.

Beginning January 10th

Christian Essentials

A look at the essence of the Christian faith with special emphasis on what we believe as Lutherans and why we believe it. 4 sessions: 01/10, 01/17, 01/24, 01/31

Led by Pastor Easterday

For all youth in 6th to 8th grade (9th graders may attend as well). You may invite one friend if you wish!

Cost: Deposit is non-refundable once paid to Youth Encounter!

\$45 deposit by February 1st, 2009 – Total cost = \$130 (\$45 deposit + \$85)

\$60 deposit by March 8th, 2009 – Total cost = \$145 (\$60 deposit + \$85)

\$75 deposit by *after* March 8th, 2009 – If room – Total cost = \$160 (\$75 deposit + \$85)

Fundraising:

Determined by the group that registers. All who will work fundraisers will be credited with an equal portion of the

proceeds. Youth must work the fundraiser in order to benefit.

Saturday, February 7th

New Member Orientation

For all people joining Trinity! Welcome!

Led by Pastor Easterday

Full registration materials were mailed to homes in November 2008, available in classrooms and the Reception desk beginning January 4th.

National Youth Gathering Info Meeting

Who: Youth currently in grade 7-11 and 1 parent!

What: Get organized for the July 2010 LCMS National Youth Gathering

Why: Once in a lifetime experience!

When: Sunday, January 25, 2009 @ 4:30 p.m. Done no later than 5:45 p.m.

Talk to those who attended the 2007 Gathering....latest information on 2010 event!

watch Groups (Small Groups)

watch Groups Leader Support meetings

Two support opportunities for **watch Group** leaders have been scheduled for January. All **watch Group** leaders are encouraged to attend one of these sessions. Meeting times are Sunday, January 11th from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room or Wednesday, January 14th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Mission Connections ...

Excerpts from a newsletter received from **Servant's Heart**.

Many mothers often go for days without eating so that their children can eat the few tortillas they are able to purchase. Each night, thousands of people go to sleep hungry in the squatter's area surrounding the dump of Guatemala City only to wake up the next day to continue a sometimes fruitless effort to find enough to eat.

Servant's Heart provides life-sustaining, nutritious food for the people through the mobile food kitchen, La Provision. Your support can make it possible for them to continue to provide meals to the poor of Guatemala. If you would like to support this ministry, please send your donation to

The Servant's Heart, P.O. Box 537,
Scherverville, IN. 46375

Excerpts from **The Groth Report**

It was interesting to see a contrast of attitude by a local Christian businessman here in Cambodia. When he saw my Christmas tee shirt he smiled the broadest smile. Was he thinking of increased Christmas sales or the ring of the cash register? No, as he explained, "Christmas is a great time here. Everyone wants to know what Christmas is all about. I'm going to show you my plan." He brought out a simple Christmas book with the story of Jesus the Savior and some activities to learn about the real meaning of Christmas. Then he told me that he had 28,000 of these booklets printed for sharing. I begged for one hundred for our church in Battambang. "No problem," he said; "these are for giving away."

I walked away from his business with one hundred copies. Half a block later I saw a carved nativity in a small craft shop. When I went in to ask the price there was confusion. I asked the young shop worker to call his baoo about the price of the Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. He didn't understand what I was talking about. I left him one of the booklets and said that I would check back in the morning. When I returned he told me he had read the booklet and then described to his boss what I wanted. Progress?? Sharing the real meaning??

Next day I wore my Christmas tee shirt. It says, "Jesus is the joy of Christmas." We stopped at our half way stop on the road between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville, and the young people there were interested in the tee shirt. Our Cambodian worker, Jesse, went to the car and got out some of the booklets for them. They were delighted to read and work on the activities. A reason to celebrate – you bet!!

We are so thankful that God has given us safe travels throughout our time of sharing in the US and also for our safe return to Cambodia. We are thankful for time with our family, which is another reason to celebrate. How are you going to celebrate His birth this year? What are you planning that will share with others the reason we celebrate?

Celebrating His birth and our salvation,

Chuck & Jeanette

(Copies of the complete letters are posted on the Missions board in the atrium.)

* * *

"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)**.

* * *

January 4, 2009 – Matthew 2:11

The Three Gifts

by Rev. Richard M. Koehneke, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

The wise men brought three gifts to the Christ Child: Gold, Incense, and Myrrh. We also bring the Lord our gifts to honor Him.

January 11, 2009 – Mark 1:4-11

Time to Wash Up!

by Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace, Hudson, IN
Time to wash up! That's what John was telling people when Jesus came to be baptized. Baptism cleans us of our sin. And, it gets us ready for life with God!

January 18, 2009 – Psalm 139:1-10

Omniscient and Omnipresent

by Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN

God's omniscience and omnipresence do not fill us with terror, but reverent awe and joy. For we are His children, through faith in Christ. Those attributes of God mean for us help and blessing.

January 25, 2009 – Mark 1:14, 15

"Jesus Preaches"

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

One of Christ's main purposes was preaching. When Christ preached the Gospel---the good news of our salvation---He was informing the people that they were to watch the Gospel unfold. It unfolded in Christ as He went to the cross and rose from the grave. Today's proclamation is still the Gospel, but it is a Gospel that has been finished in Christ Jesus. Repent and believe in the Gospel!



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

IN GOD'S SERVICE:

Rev. David A. Easterday, Senior Pastor
1615 W. 95th Ct.
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-8638

Rev. David P. Kipp, Associate Pastor
920 W. South Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-4108

Rev. H. Lothar Thielke, Pastor Emeritus
763 Trenton Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-663-6456

Paul R. Wendt, Director of Christian Education
931 E. Joliet Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-9317

Karol R. Ketcher, Music Director
316 S. Court Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-663-9105

John E. Schultz, Principal
6208 W. 135th Pl.
Cedar Lake, IN 46303
219-390-7095