



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

January, 2010

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

On behalf of the pastors, principal, teachers and staff, we wish to thank you deeply for your outpouring of love during the Christmas season. Your prayers, gifts, treats and cards are greatly treasured in our hearts and appreciated. As we all serve and wait together for the coming of the Savior and King, Jesus Christ, may you have a very blessed and happy New Year.

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

The Epiphany story is an interesting one in the Bible. The Magi followed a star to the place where they found Jesus. Many times we only consider that they were led but do not look at an even bigger picture in the story. For instance, they followed a star. If we begin there, we lose something very important. God was at work far before the star appeared. He created them with particular gifts and talents that would later prepare them to study stars and astronomy. He put them in the right situations where they could learn and study. He also gave them knowledge of the promise of God to send a "King of the Jews." (Matthew 2:2) Then he gave them the faith to believe, for as they came, their purpose was "to worship him." (Matthew 2:2)

What an amazing plan in all of this. The story of Epiphany is much more than some men following a star. It is God at work to accomplish his plan that all would be drawn to the Savior. The Magi were Gentiles, those outside the Jewish beliefs. Yet God led them to the Savior. This was a promise given to Israel more than 400 years earlier, when God said,

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light to the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

Many Bible scholars call the Isaiah passage the Old Testament great commission, comparable to Matthew 28:19-20 where Jesus said,

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

God's divine act of leading his people to Jesus is not an isolated event. It is the very essence of God's being and plan.

Now consider the bigger picture of the work God has called us to do at Trinity. He has been working for a long time to bring together the right lay leaders in the congregation. He has also been working to bring together the right ministry team to provide some of the vision and leadership. He has provided the resources that we need for ministry, and has placed us in a prime location for outreach. God has been working hard to lead us to this point in time.

What has he called us to do? The Elders and I see God's call as that of planting a new congregation somewhere in Lake County. The county continues to grow, and the need for the Savior is greater than ever before. There are already a number of Lutheran churches in our area, but with the increase in growth, there is room for more. The newspaper noted that Winfield is the fastest growing area in the state of Indiana. St. John and Cedar Lake also continue to grow.

Why should we plant a congregation? Many people want to live close to their church so they can be involved in weekday activities. Many who drive long distances to work do not want to drive those same distances to church activities after a long day of work. Others want to be in a place where everyone knows their name. The ultimate goal is that the kingdom of Jesus Christ would continue to grow and that new believers would then share the message with their families, bringing about a dramatic growth in the kingdom of God.

What does God have in store for us this year? I take to heart the fact that we are a large congregation with many blessings. We have great lay leaders. We have a mission focused ministry team with many years of experience. We also have been blessed with continued sacrificial giving on the part of the congregation. With all of this in place, God's plan might be, "Is it too small a thing for you (Trinity) to be my servant to restore Crown Point? I will also make you a light to the Gentiles in Winfield, Cedar Lake, and Lake County that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

As we begin this journey in the year 2010, may we be led to Jesus Christ, and then seek God's will in leading others to the Savior. God has been working a long time to prepare us for this!

Pastor Easterday

Worship Services- January

Jan. 2-4 The Epiphany of the Lord Celebrated

This weekend we will install those elected to PPC, Boards, as well as those serving on any task forces. We will do this at each of the Sunday services. As we install these faithful servants, we praise God for faithful leaders who like the Magi are led to the Savior so that they may lead others! (Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12)

Jan. 6 Epiphany (School Chapel- 2:00 p.m.)
For those who wish to celebrate Epiphany on January 6, you are invited to join us at the Day School Chapel on Wednesday.

Jan. 9-11 The Baptism of the Lord (Right To Life Weekend)
We remember the precious gift of life God has given us as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. We will also be doing Faith Stepping Stones Bible presentations. (Isaiah 43:1-7, Romans 6:1-11, Luke 3:15-22)

Jan. 16-18 2nd Weekend After The Epiphany
It was a wedding disaster when the host ran out of wine. Jesus performed His first miracle at this event as He began ministry to the children of God. (Isaiah 62:1-5, I Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11)

Jan. 23-25 3rd Weekend After The Epiphany
The Altar Guild women faithfully serve the congregation as they prepare the Lord's Supper and keep the chancel area prepared for worship. We will be installing them this weekend as they begin this new year of service. (Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, I Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:16-30)

Jan. 30-Feb. 1 4th Weekend After The Epiphany
The Apostle Paul describes love as that which is patient and kind, that does not envy or boast, that is not proud or rude or self-seeking. This week's worship will focus on this Christian love. (Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19, I Corinthians 12:31b-13:13, Luke 4:31-44)

Outreach Prayer Team Task Force First Meeting

The first meeting of the outreach prayer team will be held Sunday afternoon, **January 10, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.** The goal is to get started with regular prayer times for the proposed work of outreach by means of church planting. Those who have a heart and passion for mission are invited to attend this initial meeting. We will determine when we will regularly meet, and discuss the specific work of this very important task force. This is an open invitation for all who might wish to participate in this work for the kingdom of God. Please contact Pastor Easterday, Paul Feder, or Marv Hecht if you are interested in serving or if you have any questions.

From the Contemporary Worship and Youth Director. . .

"Joseph sat in silence watched the baby sleeping
wondered what the future held in store
Angel voiced whispered in his ear,
reaching down he drew the baby near
little one, in the morning when you awaken
the world will find that God has taken form
there'll be joy and the earth will have new life
because you are here, you are love, little one"

I took my mother to an Oak Ridge Boys Christmas show. Before you start judging me for loving the Oak Ridge Boys, give them a whirl. You will love what you here. In their song, "Little One", the Boys do a great job of depicting Joseph's thoughts the night Jesus was born. Let me repeat that: Jesus was born! The atoning sacrifice has come and has brought us joy. It is time, as it has been time, to discover that joy, to feel that joy, to know that joy that only Jesus can give in all of life's situations. We count on this joy to bring us to wonder what this boy child has in store for our lives. The miracle that took place Christmas day is not dead, nor does he sleep. He comes to bring life...today. Hallelujah! Glorious Impossible!

Contemporary Service

The church is built as a family. Be a part of the family by joining in on great service opportunities such as physically supporting our Worship Services at Trinity. As far as the contemporary service goes, we are looking for people to help with audio equipment (we will train you, learn something new!), MediaShout (basically a click of a button), reading, or making music. Please pray about this as we hope to add to our services! Contact a pastor or a music director if interested.

First Step Saturdays

Our fourth "First Step Saturday" will be **January 2nd at 9 a.m.** here at Trinity. This is not a youth experience, this is a church experience, as all can get involved in sharing the love of Christ in our community. Whether you have a gift for making breakfast (one of my favorite gifts which I don't possess) or doing service projects, we encourage you to join us for three hours to start our month off with support and service to our community. Contact Brandon Grelle at grellebtrinity@gmail.com. Come hungry!

Youth News

We would love all youth from 6th to 12th to know about our youth experiences we offer at Trinity. In the pastor's hallway near the atrium hangs the youth board. Information on all events are displayed on this board. For information on our upcoming ice skating trip, servant opportunities, or youth nights (including our Six:Ten Jr High Worship Service which starts in January for all public and Trinity school youth), please check the youth board. All parents, please guide your attention to the youth board to see where you can be of service and get involved in your childrens lives here at Trinity Church.

Young Adults

Beginning in 2010 we will be having H2O Young Adult Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.! Every week is a great time as even I learn something new about God's will in my life. Come, bring friends, food, and a desire to be impacted. For location, please check the bulletin, call the church office, or e-mail Brandon Grelle at grellebtrinity@gmail.com.

Brandon Grelle

From the Executive Director ...

As Trinity's newly elected Executive Director, I will sincerely try to live up to your vote of confidence. Fortunately for you and me, Trinity has a great team of volunteers and staff that bear much of the congregation's leadership workload.

So what does the Executive Director's do? Primary responsibilities include presiding over congregation meetings, carrying out the congregation's will as embodied in its resolutions, enforcing Trinity's constitution and by-laws, and leading Parish Planning Council meetings. The Executive Director works closely with Trinity's Pastors, school Principal, other called staff, and elected lay leaders and boards to develop consensus as to where Trinity's ministries should be focused (unfortunately, we can't do everything) and how we run our operations. Simply stated, the Executive Director helps Trinity plan ahead and secure resources needed for the work God has called this congregation to do now and in the future.

For 2010, the Parish Planning Council has defined three focus areas for Trinity's ministry:

1. **Outreach** – sharing the Gospel with those who don't have saving faith in Christ. Just in Lake County alone, the challenges up north and the growth in the south provide ample opportunities for Trinity to "Go and make disciples" (Matt 28:19).
2. **Loving Relationships** – developing visible, caring bonds between people that help us support one another and become more sensitive to those in need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. A recent Natural Church Development survey indicated that "loving relationships" is a critical area in which Trinity should improve to continue growing.
3. **Financial Stability** – developing a sound financial foundation so that Trinity's mission and ministry can execute and grow. While congregation financial support at Trinity has always been strong, many ministry opportunities must be postponed for lack of funding.

How are we going to focus on these three areas? Trinity's administrative boards and two special task forces have been developing goals and objectives for 2010 that are linked to these focus areas in some way. Next month, I will share some of these 2010 initiatives with you. Your ideas for improvement and growth are always welcome (662-0797, gjforsythe@comcast.net). In the mean time, may God continue to bless you in the New Year!

Greg Forsythe

Board of Church Properties

We were fortunate to have enough warm and dry weather in November to allow Rashin Painting to complete the painting/staining of the exterior surfaces of our church and school building. We had the stucco surfaces on the school building repaired. It is best to get a good coat of paint on these surfaces so that they do not crack. While the painting was being done we found some trim and decorative wood that should be replaced. There are some missing tile edge pieces on the church roof that need to be replaced. We will look into this in the Spring.

To help you in any communication you might have with the Board of Properties we have created a new email address: properties@trinitycp.org. If you have comments, questions, or want us to know about a property issue, you may use this address. Of course, you can still speak directly to any member of our Board, but for those who do not know who we are, the email link might be easier.

We are working with our webmaster in hope to be able to post our address along with a list of capital improvement projects that we have on our list of things to do. If this is on the website anyone can refer to it.

Thanks again to our snow shoveling volunteers. You may never see them working and you might not know who they are, but when you arrive and the sidewalks are clear of snow, you know they are doing their service to us all.

Gary Diekelmann

Board of Discipleship

The Board of Discipleship has adopted 3 goals for the next 12 months. First, to support the beginnings of a growing Cell Group movement at Trinity. Stay tuned for more information. Second, to improve new member assimilation. Third, to design and carry out a Prayer and Praise vigil, seeking to model this type of event in the anticipation of such an event regularly occurring at Trinity.

DCE Wendt, acting chair

Board of Children and Youth

The Board of Children and Youth is off to a good start. We are happy to have several returning board members and thankful for the new addition of Steve DeHaan. We are currently working on compiling all of the youth events onto one single calendar for the 2010 year. Communicating those events to the congregation is another goal. Look for an addition to our Church/School website in the near future for a link to upcoming youth activities. We are also looking for ways to include more adult involvement as chaperones, any takers? We are blessed with the hard work and dedication of our new youth director, Brandon Grelle, and look forward to assisting him in his ministry to our youth.

Board of Mission & Outreach

During the coming year the Missions & Outreach board will be presenting the missions supported by Trinity. The Chinese and Japanese ministries will be presented to the church in February and May with guest speakers, as well as a picture display in the Atrium. Other ministries will be identified in future newsletters. Keep in mind that Trip #5 to Biloxi, Mississippi will be leaving on Saturday, March 13th, returning a week later on the 20th. Many of the travelers have expressed to other members what an emotional experience it is to spend a week working for the Katrina survivors. Personally, after my first trip & then returning to Crown Point, I truly missed the other seven travelers. It is a wonderful way to form a bond with other Trinity members, some that previously you have only shaken hands with on Sunday morning. Take a mission trip, and if isn't Katrina – Biloxi, or the Ojibwa Indian Reservation, maybe it will be to Tornado stricken Kansas.

Jim Radford

“25 Years of God’s Grace through Organ Music” is a CD of Christmas music played on Trinity’s own Berghaus organ. It is available at the front desk in the Atrium, for a donation of \$10. Proceeds will go toward the establishment of a concert series that will bring musicians, choirs, and wind symphonies for performances at Trinity.

Altar Guild

We are looking for some new faces and helping hands. If you would care to serve by setting the Lord’s Table, or help with maintenance of the candles, we will be meeting in the Conference Room on January 20th, at 6:30 p.m. Any questions, please call Bobbi Kujawski at 663-4643.

Child Protection Training Opportunities

3 more opportunities!

Sunday, January 3rd, 2010 – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria

Sunday, February 7th, 2010 – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria

Sunday, March 7th, 2010 – 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria

All those who work with children (people under 18 years old) need to be trained to be certified under our Child Protection Policy.

Save the Date –

SuperBowl Chili Supper & Dessert Auction

Support our youth! Come for the fun on Saturday, February 6th. Enjoy a chili dinner and dessert auction. This is a great way to get all the sweet things needed for your SuperBowl event!

Date: Sunday, February 6th, 2010

Time: Chili service begins at 4:00 p.m.

Dessert Auction begins about 5:15 p.m.

Want to donate a dessert or two? Speak to DCE Brandon Grelle, Les & Brooke Nack, or DCE Paul Wendt. Watch the weekly news for chili cook-off entrance forms. Leftover chili will also be available for purchase at the end of the event.

TLS School News

The TLS Athletic Department invites you to our Girl’s basketball tournament at Trinity on Friday and Saturday, January 8 & 9. Our first game is against Hobart at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. Two additional games will follow that evening. The placement games will be on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

The boys tournament will take place January 15 & 16 at Valparaiso. Please support our teams. Set aside some time on these weekends and join us. We would love to see you there!

LOOKING AHEAD:



TRIANGLE DINNERS

The second round of Trinity’s Triangle Dinners will take place during February, March, and April of 2010. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Atrium for those ‘couples’ interested in participating. We encourage our newest members to participate as this is a great way to meet more people from the church.

Food and fellowship go hand-in-hand, both in the Bible and in our present culture. It just seems like good times are shared better when food is involved. And, that’s what Triangle Dinners are all about – getting to know each other a little better, thus building stronger relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

A triangle has three sides. Each of our dinners has three couples. (A couple can either be a married/engaged pair OR two individuals who get together for the purpose of these dinners to form a 'couple'.) The host couple determines the date, the time, and the location of the meal, with input from the other two couples, and whether it will be breakfast, lunch or dinner. The other two couples bring a vegetable and dessert, or other appropriate contributions to the meal. Meeting at a restaurant *is* allowed if all couples involved agree to do so.

What do you do at one of these meals? Some of our triangles agree to play games, watch a movie, or share some music. But, for the most part, our triangles have said that conversation gets so interesting that no one really knows how the time disappears so quickly (we suggest that you allow two hours for the meal and conversation).

Each participating couple will receive a letter telling them with whom they will be participating each of the three months. There are more instructions and suggestions in that letter. We all have to eat. Why not sign up to eat one meal a month with folks you just might get to like so well you'll become great friends!?

Happy Anniversary!

1/1	Michael & Star Lugar
1/3	Ron & Geneva Summerhill
1/4	Walter & Dee Pocock
1/5	Jack & Carole Esala, Albert & 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 & Linda Salmon
1/31	Frank & Sharon Voyak

Happy Birthday!

1/1	Bob Becker, Pam Zona, Fred Rosenwinkel II, Jackson Spanburg
1/2	Linda Nudi, Pat Schuster
1/3	Edith Griesse, Linda Kruger, Bill Campbell, Heather Hughes, Nikki Sapper, Olivia Watland
1/4	Clarette Johnson, Sarah Luebcke
1/5	Margaret Becker, Kyle Morrow, Clayton Marshall
1/6	William Kiel, Jim Greiner, John Mauman, Brad Campbell, Nathan Press, Donald Stash
1/7	Ron Leighty, Dean Davis, Zachary Martin
1/8	Marie Dienes, Joanne Stephen, Bailey Whitehead, Donovan Brown

1/9	Rachel Ivanyo, Cayson Knopp, Isabel Spanburg
1/10	Ken Homeier, Helen Homeier, Marlo Dunlap
1/11	Donovan Pace
1/12	Lucille White, Dan Matalin, Heidi Ghasi, Cynthia Thurn
1/13	Amanda Riggs, Adam Stephen, Gracie Nack
1/14	Mary Ann Greiner, Kenneth Murdoch, Shawn Ebert, Traci Goldstine, Heather Holzhauser
1/15	David Kish, Michael Coy, David & Joseph Constable
1/16	Greg Forsythe, Eric Ivasiecko, Emily Best
1/17	Norman Lotz, Mary Lou Thompson, Anita Krizman, Christopher Spar, Kendra Tustison, Kevin Cole, Bryson Cebra
1/18	Kandis Pigg, Alyss Bolkema, Nina Albin, Samuel Puent, Peyton Argullin
1/19	Karen Topp, Tina Yakimow, Jennifer Dienes
1/20	Will Rashin, Jon Parry, Jacob Miller
1/21	Mildred Bosel, Jeanene Keiser, Shirley Lotz, Daniel Feller, Alexandra Surma
1/22	Tricia Schuster, Alec Pearson
1/23	Leah Steeb, Jeff Bielawski, Anthony Wilson, Heidi Dulla, Allison DeVries, Stevie Pearson
1/24	Janice Fronek, Madilyn Johnson
1/25	Kimberly Sacha
1/26	Eric Engel, Luke Puent
1/27	Bobbi Kujawski, Wayne Thunberg, Ryan Forsythe, Jessica Benge, Elizabeth Gardiner
1/28	Glenn Hecht
1/29	Robert Cannon, Fred Rosenwinkel, Garry Vajda, Kristine Koelikamp, Tyler Leslie
1/30	Valerie Giacomini, Derrill Kregel, James Mangrum, Hannah Luebcke, Claire Rager
1/31	Phyllis Ruebel, Rosemary Nelson, Tabitha Argullin, Caiden Mowery

Weddings

God's blessings to Chip Thompson and Megan Coulter who were joined in holy matrimony on December 19th.

Baptisms

Madelyn Grace Hrapek, daughter of Joshua & Nicole Hrapek was baptized into the family of God on December 6th.

Funerals

Walter Matusak, grandfather of Apryl Bielawski was called home to be with the Lord on November 28th. His funeral was December 1st.

New Members

We welcomed several new members into our church family in November and December. They are : Mike Babiarez, Stephanie Velzke, Michelle Birmingham, Aimee Kozlowski, Tom & Gloria Thirion, Greg & Sadie Puent, Mary Morantz, Larry & Ruth Mickow, James & Clare Knipper and daughters Isabella & Sophia, Karen Burcham, Emil & Angie Carlin and children Cody, Emily & Haley, Michael & Janice Doherty and daughters Madison & Jenna, Charlie Lintz, Rich Nester, and Anthony & Florence Spelde



Wednesday, January 20, for article submission to the February newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church or sent to

newsletter@trinitycp.org.

Campus News

Congratulations to our December Graduates

Fred Rosenwinkel III graduated from IUN with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice.

David Rosenwinkel graduated from IU with a Bachelors Degree in Public Affairs. He also earned a Business Foundations Certificate from the Kelly School of Business.

Bible Study



Women's Bible Studies

Have you ever been at a loss as to what God's plan is for you as your role as wife, mother and a woman of God? The world today sends so many conflicting messages, so where do you turn? **Starting January 5th** we will be studying a book "Creative Counterpart" by Linda Dillow that will address this question and find out what it means to be a creative counterpart and how to live it out each day of our lives. This book gives you the many tools necessary to accomplish this joyful calling, a "blueprint" so to speak, on how to become the woman, wife, and mother Christ meant you to be. Please join us in the library on **Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30**. Childcare is provided. If you have any questions please call Leslie Gardiner at 662-9487. Hope to see you on the 5th!

Also starting January 5th we will be offering another women's bible study on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. We gather together first in the library and then move on to the conference room. **Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30**. Childcare will be provided. If you have any questions please call Paulette Urbanchock at 586-855-7780. We hope to see you on the 5th.

Adult Bible Study Opportunities Sunday Morning

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

Beginning January 3rd

Acts 2:12b [What Does this Mean?]

Led by Pastor Kipp Room 101

What about _____? [You fill in the blank with your questions.] An opportunity to explore whatever theological questions you may have with Pastor Kipp. Meets through April 11th, 2010

Romans

Led by Jeannine Furukawa & Mike Strunk
Conference Room

Using Martin Franzmann's commentary on Romans, explore this solid, point-by-point presentation of the Gospel. Discover the "power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes". Grow in your understanding of God's love for you! Getting inside Romans will change your life!

Ongoing until done...

Faith Lessons Life of the Messiah

Led by Paulette Urbanchock Library

This DVD-based survey course of the Scriptures is like an armchair tour of the Holy Land. Filmed on location in Israel, new insights on favorite Scriptures await at every turn. This session (#3) highlights the aspects of Jesus' life and work. Will be followed by session #4 Faith Lessons on the Death and Resurrection of the Messiah.

Ongoing until done...

Discovering God's Way of Handling Money

Led by Lisa Anderson Room 102

The Bible speaks about money and possessions in over 2,000 passages. Discover God's wisdom in managing what He has graciously given. Practical financial management tools along with Godly direction are packed into this 8 session, DVD-based course. In these uncertain times...come and see what God has to say!

8 sessions.

Beginning Sunday, January 10th

The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heart-Felt Commitment to Your Mate

Led By Jeanne Strunk Cafeteria B

Ever get the feeling you are talking past your spouse – especially when trying to express how much you love them? Ever been confused when your spouse does something for you and gets upset when you don't notice or react? Perhaps you're 'talking past' each other. Each of us has a primary love language – a way we receive love and show love. Rarely does a couple share the same love language. Learning to 'speak a new language' to your spouse could change your relationship in great ways!

7 sessions

Beginning Sunday, February 28th

Making Marriage Work

Instructor *tba* Cafeteria B

Hear from real married couples as they wrestle with the issues that can occur in marriage. Receive God's grace to grow through the joys and the struggles of marriage. This DVD-based course hosted by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott, (marriage and family therapists), will present sound biblical perspectives to make marriage work better and better.
6 sessions

In Heaven's Name, Why on Earth?

Instructor *tba* Room 102

What is the point of life? Is there a deeper purpose? What does God say about it all? Does the one with the most toys win, or is there something more fulfilling? Explore these issues in this brief course. Discover the joy of serving the Savior!
4 sessions.

Beginning Saturday, January 9th

Christian Essentials

Led by Pastor Easterday & Pastor Kipp

Library 9:00 a.m. to noon

A look at the essence of the Christian faith with special emphasis on what we believe as Lutherans and why we believe it. A great course to explore the Christian faith. A wonderful way to review what we believe as Lutheran Christians. This course is the one which leads to membership.
Meets 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30

Saturday, January 30th 8:00 – 12:30

Faith Stepping Stone – Stone 6: Surviving Adolescence

DCE Wendt Room 102

Explore effective ways to support your growing child, stay in a positive relationship with one another and put together the 'secret formula' for building a relationship that is stronger at the end of adolescence than it was at the beginning. Learn the *practice* of reflecting on the days Highs & Lows on the basis of the Bible verse for the day and bringing the days events to God in prayer. Daily forgiveness and blessing from earlier practices surround this practice.

2010 Focus on WATCH Groups

Sunday Night Women's Bible Study

If you want a cozy group into which you will fit easily, and quickly find yourself accepted, this is it, assuming that you are a woman, of course. Twice a month (1st and 3rd Sundays at 6:30 pm) this group meets in the conference room at church.

They are composed of relatively new Christians and more mature ones, though I'm not sure whether this refers to age or experience. And even if I knew, I'm not supposed to tell. They are very open to new people and consider their strength to be making other feel at home and encouraging each other while they study the Word and grow together in the faith.

At present they are studying the book of Esther, which includes a video, and are meeting in one of the homes. Why not do yourself a favor and call Joanne Stephen (663-8542) for more details. That would get your new year off to an excellent start.

Pastor Thaelke

Do you see God in the daily events of life?

If so — or if not, you may want to check out the website www.MyGodSightings.com. One can read the Bible online (a 1-year Bible is available), read God sightings posted by others or post one's own. Might be worth a look for the encouragement provided.

* * *

"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 3, 2010 – Isaiah 60:1-6

"Arise! Shine!"

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

Epiphany means to reveal and make known. What is made known in Epiphany is that Jesus is the Christ, Messiah, Savior, Redeemer who came not only for the Jews but for the Gentiles (the entire world).

January 10, 2010 – Luke 3:221, 22

"God Is Well Pleased"

by Rev. Karl Frincke, Concordia Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

Because of Jesus, God smiles on you; He is pleased, not angry. With this affirmation we can live confidently.

January 17, 2010 – I Corinthians 12:3

"How Can I Believe?"

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

No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. God creates faith in Jesus as the Holy Spirit comes to people through His Word. That Word of God is then all-important for creating and sustaining faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Single session!

January 24, 2010 – Luke 4:16-21

"Christ Proclaims Good News"

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

- I. Christ proclaims good news to the "poor".
- II. Christ proclaims "liberty to the captives".
- III. Christ proclaims "recovering of sight to the blind".

January 31, 2010 – Luke 4:31-37

"The One in Authority"

by Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace, Hudson, IN
Parents are people in authority. But Jesus is THE One in authority. He breaks the grip that Satan and sin have on your life.

Tis the season: Easy ways to give more.

Would you like to help sustain your congregation, your alma mater, or your favorite charity well into the future? Doing so may be easier than you think.

One way is to name your chosen organization as a beneficiary on an existing or new life insurance contract. Since life insurance is highly leveraged and passes without income tax obligations, using life insurance as a charitable gift may allow you to give more than you dreamed possible.

Organizations may also be named as beneficiaries in wills and trusts. In addition, a variety of other financial solutions exist for virtually every situation. To learn more about how you can use life insurance and other financial solutions to give more, contact Carsten Falkenberg, Senior Financial Consultant, at 219-663-8699 or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

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