



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

March, 2010

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

A Night of Abundant Blessings

Don't miss the dinner auction at Avalon Manor on **April 9, 2010**. Tickets may be purchased on Sundays between and after services through March 21 or during school hours. Contact Christine Miller for further information. Keep checking the Trinity website to view an updated list of items for the auction.

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

There is a well-known statement that says, "Go with the flow!" When preparing our farm fields for planting, I much preferred driving down the rows of corn stubble rather than across them. I think my body is still scrambled from some of those bumpy rides. Those who ski know that it is much better to stay in the wake rather than to try to cross the wake of another boat.

What does all of this have to do with us? A fellow pastor friend said it well. We should begin to do what God is blessing rather than ask God to bless what we are doing. In other words, when God provides direction, we are to do his will.

Biblically, we know the consequences of those who try to do their own thing. Jonah didn't like the direction of God, and he ended up swallowed by a big fish. A man named Saul persecuted the Christians until God changed his life and gave him a new start as the great Apostle Paul. It is good to do what God has called us to do.

But we struggle with this. God gives us his commandments, and we want to change the rules. He gives us talents and gifts to use for him and we use them for ourselves or simply fail to use them at all. He gives us great opportunities to go out into the harvest field, and we at times neglect to bring in the sheaves!

We have a loving and compassionate God who is slow to anger and abounding in love. (Joel 2:13) God invites us to return to him and to be saved. To make this possible, his only Son, Jesus, came down from heaven. It may have seemed that He was going against the grain as he encountered the religious leaders and other sinners. Yet, His direction was clear. "As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51) He would follow His father's plan for the final sacrifice to be made for our sins. His journey to the cross seemed so contrary to the ways of the world. The Apostle Paul described this plan as the "foolishness to those who are perishing." (I Corinthians 1:18) But for us, this unusual plan is a plan that saves us.

We are beginning work on Mission Outreach and kingdom growth by means of a church plant. Most of the people on the Mission Outreach Task Force have never been involved in kingdom growth through church planting. Yet, we see how God has once again guided Trinity to this point of outreach. To fail to do God's will is to go across the corn stubbles and across the boat's wake rather than to follow God's plan. We will work and learn together as a task force and as a congregation. We solicit your prayers, your support, and your encouragement, as we seek to go out into the world with the powerful but foolish message of a Savior who gave His life to save us for all eternity.

My prayer is that this time we spend during the forty days of Lent will be a time for the message of Christ to burn in our hearts so much that we cannot help but reach out into the harvest field with the message of our crucified, buried, and risen Lord!

Pastor Easterday

The Principal Connection ...

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it (thorn in the flesh) away from me, But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:8-9

How are you feeling? How are things going for you today? Are you feeling kind of down and discouraged? Are you wondering how you are going to make it to the next emergency in your life?

Some days we simply can not stay on top of things. Some days the harder we try to do something right the worse things get. Some times those days seem to go on and on endlessly.

You talk to people and no matter what you say you have offended them. You look at your children wrong and they get upset. You make decisions that are never correct. You attempt to rectify the wrongs you have done and it is interpreted different than what you had hoped to accomplish. You begin to wonder is it really all worth it.

When you pray you pray that the Lord will take care of the situation by divine intervention. When you beseech Him you pray that He will take you out of the situation and make it all better. When you think about the circumstances you want it all to just pass.

Can you imagine how our Lord Jesus felt when He prayed in the garden? Can you fathom the pain and pressure He was under knowing the task he had to bear? Do you wonder what the pain and suffering the apostle Paul was undergoing to pray 3 times for the Lord to remove his thorn?

I am convinced that sometimes the Lord does not give us the miracle we ask for because it is producing in us the character necessary for His will to be accomplished. I am further convicted to know that the pain and suffering we have to endure in our "situations" helps to develop in us the perseverance we need to carry out our Father's work. **Thanks be to God with whom all things are possible.**

March is a very busy month for us! We have 3 big weeks coming up. First we will conduct our ISTEP testing March 1-5. Our children have scored above the state average when we have taken this test. Second, we celebrate **National Lutheran Schools Week March 7-12.** Finally, we will have our **Spring break March 28-April 2.** We will make up our snow days on April 5, which is Easter Monday and June 4, the last day of school.

We have made our plans for **National Lutheran Schools Week.** We will be celebrating as our faculty and children will sing during our church services.

We will have **Pre-Registration information going home this month.** We are looking forward to a steady enrollment. The Lord continues to bless us! **Realizing that this is a commitment and a life-long investment we will once again partner with our parents to share the Gospel with our families. Tell all you know!**

Our **3rd quarter will end on March 19.** We will **not have school on March 29 through April 2** (Good Friday). **We will have make up snow days on April 5 and June 4.** **3rd quarter report cards will be issued Wednesday April 7.**

Our banquet/auction entitled, "A Night of Abundant Blessings," will take place April 9 at the Avalon. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$75 per couple. We look forward to a night of fun and fellowship as we raise money for our school. For questions contact Mrs. Laura Sauerman.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter will make for a full month of worship also. **Thanks be to God with who all things are possible.**

May the warm love of our heavenly Father flow over your heart as you reach out in love to our families knowing that with God all things are possible!

John E. Schultz

From the Contemporary Worship and Youth Director. . .

Here is the words to a song I wrote a couple years back. Reflect upon what we do, what Christ did regardless, and what we get to do because He has the power and love to do through us.

In The Upper Room

Words by **Brandon Grelle**

Wrapped around His waist was a towel from the table
Water poured in a basin nearby
Off came the dirt that was gathered from the downstairs
As He humbly knelt to the ground
In the upper room, before he suffered and died
Were the best of friends, who lied and denied,
"All this for you", He looked at them and said
Washed their feet and gave them the bread

Sandals on His feet He walked to the garden
An innocent man had to pray
Friends fell asleep as the sweat from His forehead
Were like falling drops of blood to the ground
In the garden, after a promise he'll keep
Were the best of friends, again they sleep
In anguish, He cried, "Your will be done",
As Judas comes for the forsaken Son

Spit from the mouths of the thousands who praised His name
Made the blood shine a little brighter that day
Nailed to the cross were the hands of the Saving Grace
Where have you gone, dear friends
On a rugged cross, hung the Savior of man
While the best of friends, they got up and ran
"Lord, Lord" and forsake that day
And the sins of the world were taken away

Spices in her left hand and a smile on her face
Stood Mary near her sons old stomping grounds
Boarded up windows and locks on the doors
Jesus appears, He's alive!
Near an empty tomb, a stone is rolled away
While the best of friends, in His presence amazed
"See My hands and My feet, it's a sign
To clean your hands off, I put holes in mine."

Wrapped around our waist is a towel from the table,
there's water poured in a basin nearby.

We get to be the hands and feet of the most powerful love imaginable. Here are some opportunities:

First Steps Saturday

March 6, 2010 9am-12pm

Be the Church together as we go out into the community, meeting our neighbors, and sharing Christ's love through offering them a movie night with their family. Can't make it but want to support it? Donate movies, pop, and popcorn to this project by March 1st by placing all donations at the Reception Desk in the Atrium. Contact Brandon for more information.

Cafe Agape

March 21, 2010 5:30-9:00 pm

Bring your family and friends, church or unchurched to Trinity for some acoustic music, euchre, family games, etc., for a night of fun and coffee at Trinity!

Quake and NYG Lent Soup Suppers

Every Wednesday in March 5:30-6:45pm

Why not invite your next door neighbor over to Trinity for some Soup and Sandwiches. Afterwards, invite them to the Lent Service! The little conversations could make a big difference!

Brandon Grelle

Board of Elders

The privilege is mine to write the first monthly news article from the Board of Elders. The Elders will have someone different writing an article each month on many different topics. Our hope in doing this is to share with the congregation our focus and some encouragement for our walk with Jesus.

I would like to share with you a focus on Peter's failure and how closely it is related to our failures in our spiritual life. First – Denial. Somehow "I can pull it off." You can't live the Christian life on the basis of self confidence. My confirmation teacher wrote in my Bible, "When I try, I fail; when I trust, God succeeds." Second – Praying too little. When things are going well, why pray? Whenever you boast too much, you will always pray too little. How could God care about your lingo when all he wants is your heart? John 15:5 says "Without me you can do nothing." Third – Being unprepared for worship. Worship means understanding that we are here to worship our Lord, not asking "What am I going to get out of it?" When we understand our need is not practical, it is total, then, we will realize who God is. Finally – Thinking too little. Luke 12:15 says "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." We are not thinking with a Biblical perspective.

We can take great comfort in knowing that, whatever is happening in life, God is in control. He is not worrying or pacing back and forth, not plotting his next move. God is the ruler of everything, as shown in Isaiah 6:1-6. "When I saw the Lord seated on the throne, high and exalted, the train of his robe filled the temple... Then I said 'Woe is me' ". That is the picture that I hope we keep in mind when things are not going the way we want.

I have often thought, "If I could live under the impact of the Word of God, the impact could be transferred to everyone I touch. When that happens, I pray that everyone would say 'Lord, what can I do? Send me.' "

Learning as God leads,
Marv Hecht, elder

Board of Mission & Outreach

Northwest Indiana Hispanic Ministry:

The visit by the Hispanic Ministry went as planned and without any problems. Our visitors found our church to be very friendly and they felt right at home.

When they first arrived the President of their ministry, Mrs. Maria Escot, asked me where the Contemporary service was located. The teenage visitors were very interested in attending that service and were to report back to their friends that did not make the trip. From that point on, the situation began to "un-ravel". The young people loved the music presented and were impressed how all the non-Hispanics sang the Spanish verses.

Mrs. Escot told me that the young people were very interested in our youth group and their activities. They noticed the youth singing and playing in the Contemporary band and wondered if Trinity had a youth choir. There was interest shown in mixing with our youth group.

I was pleased to see members of Trinity approach Pastor Angon and Mrs. Sarah Fields, the Executive Director of the Ministry, and ask how they could help. Some of the questions that were asked of me are as follows:

1. Are we planning on organizing a pre-school for Hispanic children in our area?
2. Will we teach English and introduce our culture to adults & teens?
3. Where will Trinity acquire all these instructors?
4. Can we offer the U.S. citizenship classes to individuals wanting this training?

Basically, the answers to Questions #1, 2 and 4 are all yes and very attainable. The response to Question #3 is the instructors will come from Valparaiso U., private individuals and possibly from our own congregation. The Northwest Indiana Hispanic Ministry is very excited about working with Trinity to achieve the programs that we have elected to pursue. I'll up-date you as plans evolve.

Jim Radford

Easter Breakfast

Easter Morning – Sunday, April 4th

Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall –
8:00 a.m. to 8:35 a.m. &
Trinity Lutheran School Cafeteria (south end) –
8:35 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.

Menu

Scrambled Eggs with Ham
Scrambled Eggs
Baked Goods
Coffee
Juice
Milk

Great Fellowship!

The Faith Defenders
(youth group Gr.6 to 8)
will be serving you!

A Free Will Donation is
requested.

Funds raised will help junior high youth attend YouthQuake – a Jr. High Youth Gathering and other ministry programs as we seek to grow in our discipleship, following Jesus as Lord and Savior. Funds are used to help offset spiritual growth opportunities for our youth.

A food donation list will be at the Reception Desk in mid-March.

Trinity School News

Congratulations to our 5th and 6th grade classes! They have completed another "challenging" mission at the Challenger Learning Center. This was by no means a routine mission, in fact, it was a mission that captured the attention of our Indiana's representative, Congressman Pete Visclosky. Congressman Visclosky made a special trip to meet with the Trinity team and encourage them as they made last minute preparations for the Challenger's 5,000th mission. We are pleased to announce that the mission was a success. Thanks 5th and 6th grade for a job well done.

Wow- what a weekend in Lafayette for the Trinity Boys Basketball team and the girls Cheerleaders. The boys took 4th place out of 10 teams. They ended a fantastic season with a 20-2 record. We are proud of all the players and their coaches. Check out their trophy on the desk in the Atrium. The cheerleaders did an awesome job. They placed 2nd. Congratulations to the girls and Coach Tammy. Their trophy is also in the Atrium. A special thanks to everyone who supported our teams at home and in Lafayette.

Trinity PTL: Anyone interested in running for the following PTL board positions, please submit your name into the PTL mailbox by **March 15, 2010**. Positions open are Secretary, Vice President and Publicity.

Happy Anniversary!

3/1	Ron & Barb Atkinson, Todd & Melanie Sapper
3/3	Les & June Luebcke, Sandy & Larry Smith
3/8	Dan & Lynn Matalin
3/9	Jim & Eloise Bloede
3/14	Brad & Kerri Wilkes
3/15	Bryan & Julie Boettger
3/17	Bob & Suzette Pryde
3/20	Chuck & Mary Lou Thompson, John & Susan Lynk
3/25	Kevin & Amanda Rosenthal
3/26	Ray & Valerie Giacomini

Happy Birthday!

3/1	Ron Atkinson, Rick Fitzsimons, Aubrey Nelson, Karlee Reagan
3/2	Dee Pocock, Gary Waters, Emily Carlin, Oszkar Kasch, Lauren Schwimmer,
3/3	Noel Cross, Karl Dahlman, Carl Wendt, Sydney Dennis,
3/4	Lorraine Steuer
3/5	Theresa Vandersteeg, Ursula Andrews, Jenny Rashin

3/6	Laurel Weichert, Dawn Kalember, Chris Wendt, Marv Hecht, Catherine Speichert, Rachel McCord
3/7	Edna Luebcke, Bethany Smith, Roger Marvel, Bud Hughes, Susan Lynk, Laura Newhouser
3/8	Chuck O'Connor, Lindsay Botha
3/9	Lillie Rust
3/10	Helmut Baum, Sharon De St. Jean, Lynn Kirby, Loretta Garrett, Jennifer Johnstone
3/11	Jim Cizmar, Amanda Pavot, Frank Edmonds
3/12	Ed Fraikin, Beverly Neff, Julia Thunberg, Alexia Weglewski
3/13	Pam Stadnik, Bruno Hnatusko II, Ashley Gora
3/14	Kay Moor, Tom Parry
3/15	Jim Radford, Robyn Froman, Jennifer Suslowicz, Melissa Mangrum
3/16	Cheryl Trump, Robert Pryde, Wendy Erickson, Brett Miller, Becky Guenther, Johnny Lynk Jr
3/17	Sue Campbell, Nate Reynolds
3/18	Joyce Easterday, Mark Reiners, Nicole Hrapek, Angela Mora, Michelle Mora
3/19	Susan Magruder, Bryce Klingberg
3/21	Harriet Blimm, Jody Szaller, Olivia DeHaan, Amanda Guritz, Sydney Dyba
3/22	Richard Anderson, Chris Pavot, Diane Werner, Tim Knopf, Clare Knipper, Ann Marie Bissell, Justin Pavot
3/23	Kevin Topp
3/24	Hans Enderlin, Jacquelyn Smith, Joshua Neff, Kara Egnatz
3/25	Lois Lottes, Susan Buse
3/26	Elizabeth Schnick, Kendra Rather
3/27	Linda Watland, Missy Luebcke, Christine Dixon, Rebecca Crum, Rachel Hammond, Alyssa Guritz, Andrew Fieldhouse
3/28	Judy Thomas, Dan Torkelson, Shirley Esboldt, Gary Diekelmann, Allyson Ketcher
3/30	Janet Ellis, Jennifer Knopp
3/31	Jack Ronning, Devon Dubbert

New Members

The weekend of February 14th we welcomed several new members into our Trinity family. They are: Jennell Brzinski and daughter Delaney, Mike Evanyo, Kirk & Kristi Kremiski, son Stoshua, and sister Anna Coffman, Christina Davis, Greg Madouros Jr, Sandy Madouros and son Adam, Julie Miller and daughter Taegen Wendel, Dan & Tiffany O'Day, Zechariah Rhoads, Jacilyn Shepard and daughter Alexis, Betty Jane Spanier, and Brian Thomas.

Baptisms

Six children and one adult were welcomed into the family of God through holy baptism during the months of January and February. God's blessings to Roland Lothar Leland Brauer IV, son of Roland and Danielle Brauer III, Journey Layne Havard, daughter of Joel Havard & Amanda Valois, Delaney Rae Brzinski, daughter of Brian & Jennell Brzinski, Stoshua Leland Kremski and Anna Elizabeth Coffman, son and sister of Kirk & Kristi Kremski, Taegen Wendel, daughter of Ronald Wendel & Julie Miller, Kirk Kremski.

Funerals

A memorial service for Norma Hack Meyers was held at Trinity on January 30th. Norma was called to be with the Lord on December 25, 2009.

Trinity's oldest member, Ruth Whited was called to her eternal rest on February 10th. Her funeral was held at Trinity on February 13th. Ruth was 97 years old.



Wednesday, March 24th, for article submission to the April newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.



Our study continues...

Bible Study

Saturday, March 13th 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Faith Stepping Stone – Stone 6: Surviving Adolescence

DCE Wendt Room 103

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. Single session!

Thrivent News

Thrivent Financial members invited to join in \$3 million Helping Haiti effort: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will add \$1 to every \$2, up to a total Thrivent Financial contribution of \$1 million, that our members donate to one of four Lutheran relief agencies. To participate, visit www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti and make a contribution to one of the following: Lutheran World Relief ELCA Disaster Response LCMS World Relief/Human Care WELS Committee on Relief.

Donations will be accepted through March 31, 2010, although the matching funds may be consumed before that date. Thrivent Financial will add a maximum of \$250 per member donation. All donations will go toward the cause, regardless of whether or not the donation is matched. For questions or alternative ways to donate through this program, please call 800-236-3736. When prompted, say "directory" and enter ext. 83003 or contact Carsten Falkenberg, Senior Financial Consultant at 219-663-8699. carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com.

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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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March 7, 2010 – Luke 13:1-9 **"It's Not Fair!"**

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

Life is filled with tragedies. We are tempted to say to God, "That is not fair!" The truth is that we are deserving of none of the good we experience. The ultimate in lack of fairness is Jesus on Calvary's cross. It was not fair, but it was merciful.

March 14, 2010 – Luke 15:11-32 **"You Can Always Go Home!"**

by Rev. Phil Quardokus, Christ Lutheran Church, Stevensville, MI

It is because of our heavenly Father's rescue mission in Christ that you can always go home to be with Him at His side now in time through faith and for all eternity.

March 21, 2010 – Luke 20:9-15 **"Looking to Easter"**

by Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace, Hudson, IN
Looking forward to Easter? Maybe it's the promise of nicer weather or new life. But those who follow Christ look forward to Easter through the cross of Christ.

March 28, 2010 – John 12:32 **"Wonderful Drawing Power"**

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

We see this is the most wonderful drawing power. when we consider who does the drawing; how this drawing power is put forth; whom this power draws with what results.

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