



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL**
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

March, 2011

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

Stephen Ministry Update: Would you or someone you love benefit from a Christian, caring relationship with a Stephen Minister? Having someone to talk to, pray with; having someone who isn't emotionally involved but who cares for you simply because you are a brother or sister in Christ? That is what Stephen Ministry is all about. Women have women for Stephen Ministers and men have men for Stephen Ministers. The care giving relationship is always confidential and trustworthy. Would you benefit from a care giving relationship with a Stephen Minister? Please keep this question in your prayers and allow the Lord to guide you to the right answer. Please speak with one of the Pastors or Kathy O'Day and continue the road to healing with a supporting brother or sister in Christ.

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

It was a quiet day here at the church because of President's Day. I had the opportunity to do some planning for the upcoming Lenten services. As I was working on the services, I began to realize how much I am looking forward to these times of reflecting on what Jesus did for us on the cross.

The theme for the midweek services is "His Wounded Body." We'll consider His wounded head on Ash Wednesday, a discussion appropriate for the day of the imposition of ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of sorrow for sin. Then we'll speak of His holy hands, hands that touched and healed the sick and raised the dead. His battered back, His faithful feet, His side, and His unbroken bones will conclude the weeks of reflection during Lent. On Maundy Thursday, the service will focus on His blood as we receive the Lord's Supper prior to the stripping of the Altar.

I suspect that I cherish this time of Lent because it is a time of symbolism. People have always been visual. The effectiveness of the parables of Jesus in His day was because the parable presented word pictures of divine truths. In a similar way, our worship services in Lent involve some recurring symbolism, beginning with ashes and ending with the Lord's Supper.

For me, the time of Lent is also a time to slow down and to spiritually look at who I am and to realize what God has done to save sinners like me (and you)! Of course, there is also the fellowship before the service, with the soup and bread meal.

I do pray that you will take the time to join us during this time of reflection on our Lord and His wounded body. It is a wonderful time to step away from the challenges and frustrations of life and to focus on what God has so lovingly done for us in sending Jesus!

Pastor Easterday

Communion Questions

Over the years, the methods for distributing and receiving communion have changed. Many years ago, people would come to one side of the Altar to receive the body of Christ, and then walk behind the Altar to the other side to receive the blood of Christ. I've been told that some churches put a cup behind the Altar so people could give an offering to help offset the cost of the bread and wine. Today it is customary to kneel or stand in one place and receive both body and blood. For shut-in members who have been accustomed to kneeling or standing at the communion rail, there is a change for them. When they receive the Lord's Supper, they may be in their bed, at their kitchen table, or in the living room.

At the Contemporary Service, we use continuous communion. The people walk to the Elder, Communion Assistant, or Pastor distributing the body of Christ to receive it, and then walk to the Elder, Communion Assistant, or Pastor distributing the blood of Christ to receive it. There is no "table" as we know it from the other services where they can kneel at the Altar. This has led to some spirited debate about the proper way to receive the Lord's Supper.

This becomes a theological issue when the way we receive the Lord's Supper becomes a rule that overshadows the purpose of the Supper. If we celebrated the Lord's Supper the way Jesus did, we would all be sitting on the floor around a table. The Scriptures only tell us to take the body and blood in remembrance of Jesus, and do not specify the particular method by which we are to receive this gift.

Ultimately, the validity of the Lord's Supper is not found in the method of distribution or our posture. It is found in the words of Christ spoken over the meal,

This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me. ... This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)

To make the method of distribution an issue can easily lead to a sense that the validity of the Sacrament is based on what we do or how we stand or kneel. Our Church body understands that it is not what we do but what Christ has done that makes the Sacrament valid and gives us the blessing of forgiveness.

Is there anything wrong with preferring to kneel, stand, or to have continuous communion? Most certainly not! The important thing to remember is that the means of distribution and receiving this Holy Meal do not make the meal valid, but that only the Words of Christ spoken over the bread and wine make this truly the gift of Christ's body and blood. The same applies to the prayer that many of us offer after receiving the Lord's Supper. The prayer appropriately is one of thankfulness, but is not needed to make the Sacrament valid. Christ has done all that is needed.

Hopefully this will be helpful for you in the future. If you have any other questions about this, please talk to Pastor Easterday or Pastor Kipp!

The Principal Connection ... **"More Love to Thee, O Christ!"**

"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." Matthew 28:19-20

Trinity Lutheran School's Evangelism Plan directly points our families to our Lord. IN addition to our outreach to our school families we also reach out to our Crown Point community.

Once a month the children of Trinity visit with the residents of **Wittenberg**. Activities are done one on one with the residents to engage in a cross generational way. What a blessing for our children to share their faith with many of these warriors of faith. What a way to expose our children to relationships which will be lifelong remembrances.

Our children are engaged in service projects which are planned and implemented by our students. This year we made prayer cards and donated candy to **St. Anthony Hospital**. We also packed lunches for a **congregation in East Chicago**. Our National Junior Honor Society students packed boxes to **Fight Against Hunger** in the Valparaiso area. We also have sent items to our **soldiers overseas** who served with another congregational member in the military.

We regularly participate in the **National Day of Prayer** sponsored by the City of Crown Point at the Courthouse Square. Choir sing and students attend to observe the ceremony.

We have sent cards to those in the **military** and also to the men who live at the **Bakery House in Gary**. This is a special mission of Trinity Lutheran Church which we get involved with when we can.

This past year we packaged Christmas bags for those in need through **First Steps**. We also take the opportunity to work with our Crown Point City administration through our **DARE program**. Many community leaders and residents are invited and attend our celebration **A Night of Abundant Blessings**.

All in all we intentionally work hard at connecting our children and family of believers at Trinity Lutheran Church and School to our community at large. We intentionally evangelize for the purpose of eternal implications!

I wanted to report some really good news. **We have had 117 children sent to the Principal's office for being good this year!** What a joy to see the smiling faces as they leave my office.

Students of the Month for February 2011 are **Allison Herkey and Carlie Hult**. **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 4, Friday at the Avalon with the doors opening at 6PM. Have you bought your tickets yet from Mrs. Miller? Our goal was to have 500 people in attendance. I hope to see you there.

Congratulations to our children in grades 3-5 who performed the musical **"It's Cool in the Furnace!"** This performance highlighted the acting talents of **Faith Bergner** as the king and **Noah Wilkes** as Daniel. **Bridget Rayonec, Zachary Martin, and Josh Suslowicz** were the three men in the fiery furnace. What a great message of the Gospel!

Our National Lutheran School Accreditation Steering Committee has finished with our Self Study and our School Improvement Plan. Both documents have been approved by our Faculty and Day School Board. We have submitted them to our consultant Fred Weiss for approval. Once that happens we will have a date in which we must defend our work. The **NLSA Visitation Team will come to visit our school April 19-20, 2011** to examine and validate what we have done. Please pray that the Lord will bless our school through this process.

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 money 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 ...

You probably have heard mention of Trinity's Parish Planning Council at some point, but perhaps you've wondered what the "PPC" actually is.

The PPC consists of ten members: the Senior Pastor and the Day School Principal from our called staff, and eight lay members elected by the congregation for two-year terms. Elected roles include the congregation's four officers - Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Secretary, and Treasurer - and four additional At-Large members. The PPC meets at least once per month.

The Parish Planning Council focuses primarily on developing long range ministry plans for the congregation. Together with Trinity's called leaders, staff, and administrative board volunteers, the PPC develops programs to execute its plans and operations in a coordinated manner. Each January, the PPC presents to the congregation an annual plan and long-term ministry goals that are consistent with God's directives for His church (Matthew 28) and Trinity's own mission statement. Hopefully, you can recall Trinity's three ministry focus areas for 2011: Outreach, Loving Relationships, and Financial Stability.

Other PPC responsibilities include leading all Congregational Meetings, appointing the committee that nominates candidates for elected officers and board members, designating the Congregation's representative in all legal actions, and overseeing Stewardship activities in the congregation. It's a common perception that the PPC "runs the church", but that's neither true nor realistic. PPC's role is that of planning and oversight, whereas Trinity's day-to-day operations are executed by our staff and volunteers. With all that goes on around Trinity, I'm very thankful we all share the common, unifying goal of wanting to serve our Lord.

The greatest challenge for Trinity's PPC is setting priorities. We always seem to have many more good ideas for growing our church, improving our school, enhancing our operations than we have people and finances to implement these ideas. We are constantly reminded of Jesus' statement in Matthew 9:37, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." So if you've ever asked, "why don't we do this or why don't we fix that?", it's not that we think they are bad ideas! Please keep those ideas coming and we'll do our best to focus our limited resources where they'll have the greatest impact.

On behalf of the entire Parish Planning Council, I thank you for your ongoing support!

Greg Forsythe

From the Contemporary Worship and Youth Director. . .

Many will be involved in the process of Spring cleaning here shortly. Granted I wrote that first sentence just to force my mind into thinking "warm weather" thoughts, but I also write because we are doing the same in the Youth Room. Pictures of a much, much, much younger Paul Wendt were found (and can be purchased at a price), amongst many others things. I will not describe the wear and tear on many things we came across, the stories are dreadful. On many items, we completely bypassed the question of "should we keep this or keep that?" and went straight to, "can this material be recycled?" Our youth are important, just like every age group in this congregation. I would like to encourage the congregation this Winter/Spring to consider donating some items to our youth room. A helpful reminder when donating: the items one donates should show that person's feelings about the youth one is sharing his or her donations with. You wouldn't bring

leftovers to a family reunions (tried it, don't recommend it). To further help you, here is a list of items we desire:

- New Pool Table Cues (3)
- New Book Shelf
- Art Supplies
- Gift Card to Home Depot
- White Board Calendar
- Dodgeballs

Our youth (as well as any congregation member who would like to be a part of the process) will be involved in a First Step Saturday project of deep Spring cleaning for our neighbors and those in need on **April 2**. Please be thinking about participating on this day! We would like to be able to put in 5 hours of work on many houses around our community to show the love of Christ and the importance of service to others. Take a Step, First Step Saturdays!

Brandon Grelle

Board of Church Properties

In case you had not noticed, the snow from the church roof seems to have fallen on the fountain in the courtyard and knocked it over. It may be fatal. The top was pushed off of the base and parts were chipped. We will look into a possible replacement.

The warmer weather is taking the large amount of snow away. Another great job has been done this winter by our volunteer snow shovelers. A big thanks to Jonathan Kozlowski for organizing the crew and keeping our snow blowers working.

We recently had to make a repair to the school boiler system. It was going off for no apparent reason. We found the drain valve on the expansion tank was the problem. Since then, it has been heating as expected.

The new fluorescent light fixtures in the gym are already saving us energy and dollars. We are also updating the fixtures in the school as they need work. This will convert them from a 2-ballast fixture to a 1-ballast fixture with newer technology tubes. This will also save us energy dollars.

The Board is working on getting cost estimates on some larger property repairs. We would request Building Funds to cover these repairs. More details to follow.

Gary Diekelmann

Board of Communications

Church Directory ready for distribution via Email

The Board of Communication Services wants to distribute the new Trinity Church Pictorial Directory by way of email. Should you want to take advantage of this service, [please send your email address to Dennis at the.writer@comcast.net](mailto:the.writer@comcast.net). Distribution begins March 6.

Dennis Hodges

World Vision 30 Hour Famine

A group of Youth and Adults is doing something about this **March 11th & 12th**. We are participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. In many parts of the world \$1 keeps a child alive for a day. You can help in these ways:

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

Thanks!

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a way to serve Trinity? How about changing the message on the Trinity marquee signs on Indiana Avenue and Route 231 weekly (weather permitting)? Please call Susan in the church office for details, 663-1578 ext. 337

LOOKING AHEAD:



Confirmand Retreat

The annual Confirmand Retreat takes place **May 6-8, 2011** at Camp Lutherhaven.

DCE Wendt is looking for:

- High School students to serve for this event.
- Caring Adults to help staff this event.

Is this you? Registration materials at the Reception desk or see DCE Wendt.



Its Vacation Bible School time again, mark your calendars for **June 13-17, 2011**. Volunteers are needed for teachers, aides, snacks, crafts, and much more. Please contact Kerri Wilkes 690-1415 or bwwilkes98@sbcglobal.net

for more details. Look for registration forms in the coming months and **"Come and Go Wild on a Faith Journey with Jesus."**

Blessings,
Kerri Wilkes, Vacation Bible School Director

Happy Anniversary!

3/1	Ron & Barb Atkinson, Todd & Melanie Sapper
3/3	Les & June Luebcke, Sandy & Larry Smith, Anthony & Florence Spelde
3/8	Dan & Lynn Matalin
3/9	Jim & Eloise Bloede
3/10	Richard & Elaine Barber

3/14	Brad & Kerri Wilkes
3/15	Bryan & Julie Boettger
3/17	Bob & Suzette Pryde
3/20	Chuck & Mary Lou Thompson, John & Susan Lynk, Lee & Kelly Stephen
3/25	Kevin & Amanda Rosenthal
3/26	Ray & Valerie Giacomini

Happy Birthday!

3/1	Ron Atkinson, Rick Fitzsimons, Aubrey Nelson, Karlee Reagan, Taegen Wendel
3/2	Dee Pocock, Gary Waters, Emily Carlin, Oszkar Kasch, Lauren Schwimmer, Austin Kremski
3/3	Noel Cross, Carl Wendt, Sydney Dennis, Laila Eberly
3/4	Lorraine Steuer, Szaller
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	Lindsay Botha
3/9	Lillie Rust
3/10	Helmut Baum, Sharon De St. Jean, Lynn Kirby, Jennifer Johnstone
3/11	Jim Cizmar, Amanda Pavot, Frank Edmonds, Brian Thomas
3/12	Ed Fraikin, Beverly Neff, Julia Thunberg
3/13	Pam Stadnik, Bruno Hnatusko II, Ashley Gora
3/14	Kay Moor, Tom Parry, Madeline Hrapek
3/15	Jim Radford, Robyn Froman, Jennifer Suslowicz, Melissa Mangrum
3/16	Cheryl Trump, Robert Pryde, Brett Miller, Becky Guenther, Johnny Lynk Jr
3/17	Sue Campbell, Nate Reynolds
3/18	Joyce Easterday, Nicole Hrapek
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, Clare Knipper, Ann Marie Bissell, Justin Pavot
3/23	Kevin Topp, Geri McClanahan
3/24	Hans Enderlin, Jacquelyn Smith, Joshua Neff, Kara Egnatz, Richard Barber
3/25	Lois Lottes, Susan Buse
3/26	Elizabeth Schnick, Kendra Rather, Ashley Steuer
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
3/29	Sandy Madouros, Crea Reinholtz
3/30	Janet Ellis, Jennifer Knopp, Tobias Wielert
3/31	Jack Ronning, Devon Dubbert

Weddings

Julie Jacob and Kevin Bisping were joined in marriage on February 19th. May God richly bless them in this union.

Baptisms

Gavin Carter Wynkoop, son of Brandy Egnatz and Dennis Wynkoop received the sacrament of holy baptism on January 23rd. Sponsors for Gavin are Tim & Vickie Loeber.

Jayla Amaya Hart, daughter of Brianne Hart was baptized into the family of God on February 5th. Sponsors for Jayla are Rachel Towne, Wallace Anderson and Anjelica Harris.

Patrick Ryder Coffey, son of Leah Rashin and Patrick Coffey was received into the family of God through holy baptism on February 20th. Sponsors for Patrick are Emily Damjanovic and Michael Serratore.

Funerals

Helen Homeier was called home to be with the Lord on January 25th. Her funeral was January 29th.

Lillian Feder was called to her eternal rest on January 28th. Her service of celebration of eternal life was January 31st.

The funeral service for Connie Swickard was on January 31st. Connie entered the kingdom of heaven on January 27th.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Anna Hulsey, step-mother of Jill Klingberg, was held on February 5th. Anna died on January 16th.

A funeral service was held for Kathryn Kainrath, mother of Gail McPheron, on February 14th. Kathryn was called home to be with the Lord on February 11.

New Members

We recently welcomed several new members into our Trinity family. They are: Nathan Bottorf, Jeremy & Dawn Dalton and children Ian, Darrian & Dylan, Scott & Jocelyn Eberly and children Ana & Laila, Barbara Evanyo, James Harrington, Ben Hickel, Emily Kerkhof, Geri McClanahan, Todd & Casey Pflughoeft and children Emma, Abigail & Beckett, Ashley Steuer, Melissa Steuer and Erma Tidwell.



Wednesday, March 23rd
for article submission to the
April newsletter. Articles
may be dropped off at

church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

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

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

Brandon Grelle, Director of Contemporary
Worship and Youth Director
219-742-7408

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

Susan Magruder, Development Director /
Business Manager
8790 W. 157th Pl.
Lowell, IN 46356
219-696-9049

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