



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

May, 2009

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

It is with praise and excitement that Trinity Lutheran Church and School announces that Mrs. Brenda Dean has accepted our Divine Call to teach fifth grade for the 2009-2010 school year. After a published application period and interviews with a number of applicants, the congregation unanimously selected Mrs. Dean for the position of fifth grade teacher on Monday March 16, 2009. Brenda is a 1986 graduate of Concordia University River Forest, IL, having obtained a degree in Elementary Education, with a major in Early Childhood, and a minor in Psychology. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran church. She is married to Michael. They have a daughter Megan who is a freshman at Crown Point High School. Brenda will finish the current school year under contract and will begin her official duties in her called position on June 15, 2009. Please join us in welcoming Brenda to our faculty. Thanks be to God for His guidance and blessing of Trinity Lutheran School!

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

As we prepare for the month of May, several significant events will take place. First of all, we will make our offering commitments and pledges to the Lord on May 9-11, Consecration Weekend. This will be the fourth worship service focused on the consecrated stewardship of treasures, time, and talents for the Lord.

Then, on May 17, the 8th grade confirmands will make their promises and commitments before God and the congregation. The promises are significant. They will promise to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ even if facing death for their faith. There is no greater commitment any person can make for their faith in Jesus.

The Psalmist speaks of God's blessings given to us in commitment.

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.
(Psalm 37:3-6)

For a congregation to understand commitment, it must first understand God's commitment to us. God offered up his Only Son as the acceptable sacrifice for our sins. This is the greatest commitment, the giving of one's life for someone else. For Jesus to do this for sinners is an amazing gift from Him to us. This is true commitment!

As a congregation, we have focused this year on the statement,

Commissioned for Mission!

We are reminded that the call to faith involves a commitment to Jesus Christ based on knowing His commitment to us. We are reminded that the call to faith involves a call to mission, to reach into the lives of those who have no commitment in life and who live without the promise of forgiveness, of eternity, and of resurrection. The work with the teenagers preparing for their Confirmation Day is the work of the missional church! It is the work of commitment on our part because of the commitment of Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to join with the Confirmands on May 17 at 9:25 a.m. as they share their faith stories and Bible verses. I also encourage you to give prayerful consideration to the commitments of Consecrated Stewards on the weekend of May 9-11. God has given us his commitment, so that we might commit our lives to Him!

Pastor Easterday

Worship Services- May

May 2-4 Consecrated Stewards- Week 3

We are reminded to use our talents for the Lord as we love in actions and truth!

May 9-11 Consecration Weekend

We will make our commitments to the Lord and celebrate God's blessings in this process! There will be a celebration brunch during the Sunday School hour (9:25-10:25).

May 16-18 Confirmation Weekend

The 8th Grade teens will share their faith stories and Bible verses at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Confirmation will be at the 10:45 service.

May 23-25 Ascension Weekend

The 40 days Jesus spent on earth have come to an end. Our worship time will be spent in rejoicing that He has ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

May 30-June 1 Pentecost Weekend

We encourage everyone to wear red this weekend as we give thanks for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on God's people.

The Principal Connection ...

The Case for Christian Education

Objection #1 –Isn't a public high school a neutral environment for my son or daughter? (Isn't it good enough?)

First, a disclaimer is needed. The following paragraphs are not intended to be a slam of our public school system. We have many outstanding students, parents, and teachers that are Christian who exist within the public school systems. Many parents are emotionally attached to their own public educational background, or our local public schools. This article is **not** meant to disparage those feelings. The intent of this article is to give Christian parents one simple message: **Examine what your children are really getting in their education.**

Scripturally speaking, the message or worldview espoused by any school **CANNOT** be neutral. A worldview is either Christian or non-Christian. Christ himself put it this way:

He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.”(Matthew 12:30)

Do we honestly believe that when Christianity is removed from a school that it leaves...“nothing?” More to the point, in the words of a philosopher: *In the absence of religion, one is inevitably left with...religion.* If the worldview of a school isn't centered in Christ, then it doesn't take a genius to figure out what (or whom) it is centered in. If God is not the reference point for truth and learning (and He is not in the public school), then something else must assume that role. That something is **most definitely religion-the religion of secular humanism.**

Simple research into the philosophy of those who “founded” the concept of the public schools in America will expose men like John Dewey and Horace Mann for what they were – secular humanists who were dedicated to removing God from educational philosophy. In humanistic public schools, our children will be told in some fashion that Biblical principles are irrelevant, absolute right or wrong do not exist, and that their ancestors were monkeys. Secular education officially and deliberately

excludes God from the classroom. By doing so, public schools will inevitably promote, consciously or subconsciously, non-Christian philosophy and worldview. At best, a Christian student in this environment will fight the constant battle of discernment – every day dissecting what is being presented and avoiding the influence of the humanistic worldview. At worst, a Christian student will entertain non-Christian thought, often mixing it with his/her Christianity, or worse yet – become influenced away from the truth of Jesus Christ altogether.

Granted, much of the life of a Christian is spent in environments that are very non-Christian in nature. Discernment of right and wrong while in the world is indeed an important spiritual discipline. Is your son or daughter ready for 35-50 hours a week of a message that says, “Your worldview is wrong, intolerant, and old-fashioned.”? Again, they deserve better: “A family can benefit from the help of a supportive community, especially when that community is grounded in the Christian faith – a faith that is genuine, unchanging, readily accessible, focused on what matters to God and based on love and truth.” (*George Barna: Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*) Christian parents have the opportunity to help shape the worldview of their children for Christ – that opportunity exists at Trinity Lutheran School.

Now go back and look at what you think is the most important characteristic of the school that you will choose. Is anything more important than developing with Christ? Remember we want the best for our children. If you would like more information about the Christian education at Trinity Lutheran School, please call our office at 663-2586. We are taking pre-registration for next school year. Classes are beginning to fill up! Kindergarten is completely full with a waiting list.

The month of May will find us conducting a Reading Night May 7, for Mrs. Masengarb who will be retiring at the end of this school year. The children of grades 6-8 will perform the musical “American Ideal”, Friday May 8, at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. in our gymnasium. All are welcome to attend! Confirmation retreat will be May 8-10. Mother's day is May 10.

Third grade will celebrate their Secret Angel Open House in the cafeteria May 15, from 2-3:30 p.m. Confirmation will be May 17, and the Fine Arts Festival will be Tuesday May 19, at 6:30 p.m.

We have NO SCHOOL Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day, our Kindergarten will have their Fun and Field Day at Sauerman's Woods on May 28. They will graduate on May 29, at 9:00 a.m. May God bless your spring season with His love and mercy as together we “trust in the Lord.”

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

A few days ago, our Parish Planning Council, Administrative Board Chairpersons, Mr. Wendt, Mr. Schultz, Pastor Kipp and Pastor Easterday met to assess progress on Trinity's 2009 work plan. I came away feeling I should share my personal impressions.

Trinity has a wide variety of really good things going on. We are laboring (Gym, Library, Handyman Ministry, Biloxi, Biblical Garden). We are fulfilling needs (Cancer supply bags, Door offerings, Making Lunches for the Homeless, Preparing food and drink for Christian fellowship). We are using our talents (Website, Brochures, Instruments and Vocal Music). We are growing spiritually (Youthquake, 40 hour famine, Bible Studies and Prayer ministries).

Trinity has a core of faithful givers. For our continued ministry growth we need to continue to develop more and greater Faithful, Sacrificial, Proportionate and Selfless givers.

Trinity has a strong and deep group of believers who function as leaders by encouraging and supporting others to become leader as well. They also lead by growing faith in others and often step up and provide vision and energy to do this work we have been blessed with.

I will admit that in recognizing some work, I may have missed other work that is just as important. In recognizing success, I may have created complacency about the work yet to do. In recognizing existing leaders, I may have made others feel that their own personal commitment is not important. It is important for us to pause and recognize the work God is doing among and through us at Trinity, then to redouble our efforts to do that work, together. Eph 2:8-10

Rob Gardiner

Board of Communications

The Board of Communication Services continues to spread the message of God's word by informing the greater community about activities at Trinity Church and School through available media resources, to members informed about select church and school activities

NEW CHURCH LOGO

Pastor Lothar Thoenke reports that the Celtic cross is a Latin cross with a circle that



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represents the world. It is also a missionary cross. The Celtic monks were famous for their missionary outreach. We use the Dove on the cross as a reminder of the Baptism of Jesus Christ, and of Pentecost, which comes seven Sundays or 50 days after Easter, and which is a celebration of the Holy Spirit descending on the Christ's disciples. Combined together, the Celtic Cross and Dove was adopted as the new logo or symbol of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

CHURCH SERVICES ON THE WEB

For the convenience of shut-ins and for members who wish to listen to a repeat, the Sunday Morning worship service is available for listening on the home page of the Trinity Church website: www.trinitycp.org. The worship service folder is also available for members to follow the service

CHURCH ARCHIVES

There is a real need to sort through and file the historic church archives. The board needs some volunteers to take on this very important task. Should you be interested in helping us, please call Dennis Hodges at 887-1351.

NEWSLETTER

Do you read the Trinity Lutheran Church & School newsletter? What do you like or do not like about it? The board wants to know. The board will publish a survey next month that asks these questions. Your input is very important to the way the church communicates its message and ministry through the newsletter. Thank you!

Dennis Hodges

Board of Mission & Outreach

Katrina Re-Hab News: Our contact, Mr. Bart Tucker, called me with some sad news. As of May 1st, all federal funding for Katrina has come to an end. This funding is now being applied to the Northeast Texas coast where over 2,800 homes received wind and water damage via hurricane Ike. Over 2,200 homes had water reach their ceilings. Bart has cancelled all church volunteer trips after the first of May and the 83 families still in FEMA trailers will begin to look for other housing accommodations. Our next trip is still scheduled for Nov. 7th and our destination will be Bridge City, Texas. It will add two and half hours to a seventeen hour trip. Two alternatives to eliminate a long ride are being researched. One is a possible over-night stay and breakfast at a church in northern Mississippi and the other is incredibly low airfares available for mission volunteers, from Delta and Northwest. In the interim keep the 83 families leaving the FEMA trailers in your prayers. They have been patiently waiting since October 2005 for their new homes. Thank you for your continuing interest, support and prayers for our mission field.

Jim Radford

Sharing of the Faith

All adults and youth in grades 5-12 are invited and encouraged to attend the annual Sharing of the Faith by our 8th graders on **Sunday, May 17th at 9:25 a.m.** in the Sanctuary.

Altar Guild

Trinity's Altar Guild will meet on **Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m.** in the conference room. Ladies who would like to learn about or join the Altar Guild are invited to attend. Questions? Call Bobbi Kujawski 663-4643.

Annual watch Groups, Triangle Dinners, New Member potluck

Member of a **watch Group**? Participant in Triangles Dinners (fall or spring)? New member in the past 12 months? Interested in a **watch Group** or Triangle Dinners? Plan now to attend from **noon to 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 7th**, for the Annual Small Groups Friendship Potluck Dinner. New Members are encouraged to come as guests! Triangle Dinner participants and **watch Group** members are asked to bring a main dish and a salad or dessert. All are asked to bring your sense of humor. Please feel free to invite a friend! Sign-up is appreciated. Sign up in the Atrium at the Reception Desk.

Bible Study



Five Love Languages

A small group led by Jeanne Strunk will be forming. Topic: Five Love Languages book by Gary Chapman. Learn skills that will enhance any relationship – especially the marriage relationship.

Handyman Ministry

In 2008, Trinity started a Handyman Ministry. This ministry's mission is to provide smaller size home repair and maintenance services to members of Trinity. During 2008, this ministry helped members by installing handicap ramps and handy cap railings, trimmed shrubbery, rehung gutters, assembled furniture, and installed a ceiling fan. This mission focuses on assisting:

- widows/widowers
- seniors
- single moms
- disabled
- those who cannot afford professional services
- military families who have a head of household member serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are currently twelve (12) members of Trinity who have volunteered to perform small repairs and fix ups in and around qualifying member's homes. These volunteers will provide the labor with the homeowner picking up the cost for the materials.

To request assistance or for further information, contact Dennis Mills at 613-5034. Dennis is the contact person for Trinity's Handyman Ministry.

National Day of Prayer

The community of Crown Point, Indiana will celebrate the National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 7th, at noon** at the Old Courthouse. Trinity Lutheran School's music groups have been asked to lead the music for this event this year. Join us at the Old Courthouse to pray and sing with our fellow Christians in Crown Point.

Trinity Lutheran School News

Family Reading Night to Celebrate Mrs. Masengarb's Teaching Ministry: Trinity families who have had Mrs. Masengarb as a teacher know how much she enjoys helping young students learn to read and treasure books. As she prepares to retire at the end of this school year, join us **on Thursday, May 7, from 6:30 – 8:00p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**, for a special evening to celebrate her love of teaching reading. Students – young and old (Grades 1-5) – will spend some time reading books to each other and will also hear Mrs. Masengarb read from one of her favorite stories. A small reception will follow. Each student is encouraged to bring along a copy of their favorite book which will be collected and donated to an inner-city Lutheran school in Chicago, where Mrs. Masengarb began her teaching ministry nearly 40 years ago.



Trinity Day School Musical: Trinity Lutheran School invites you to "*American Ideal*", a musical showcasing the God-given gifts of our middle school students. Please join us on **Friday, May 8, at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.** in the school gymnasium. A freewill offering will be taken.

Trinity Lutheran School Fine Arts Festival

Trinity Lutheran School's annual Fine Arts Festival will be held this year on **Tuesday, May 19th**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. There will be art work on display from every child and beautiful music from the Gloria Choir, Hosanna Choir, Alleluia Choir, Jubilate Choir, Handchime Choir, Junior Handbell Choir, Beginning Orchestra, Advanced Orchestra, and 2nd and 3rd Grade Percussion Band. A joint song by all the groups and children of the school will culminate the evening. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria following the festival. There is no charge for this joyful event and you will certainly be blessed by the children's music ministry. Everyone is invited from church and school! You won't want to miss it!

High School News

Congratulations to our Trinity members who have been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Crown Point High School. 2009 inductees are *Ryan Farrell, Brittany Hecht, Joshua Long, Kevin Topp, Chelsea Viers, Bethany Wendt.*

LOOKING AHEAD:



It's that time of year; Vacation Bible School is on the way. Join our staff, **June 15th**, for **Gadget's Garage**. God's Always Doing Great, Exciting Things (**G.A.D.G.E.T.**). We are looking for leaders, aides,

nursery staff, craft leaders, snack leaders, outdoor activities, decorations, plus many more. Please consider joining our staff this year and help us teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our children. Look for registration forms arriving soon. If you are able to volunteer for **Gadget's Garage**, please contact Kerri Wilkes at 219- 690-1415 or at bwwilkes98@sbcglobal.net .

Trinity Youth News

Confirmand Retreat – “Who do people say....”

The Confirmand Retreat with a theme of “*Who do people say....*” will take place **May 8th - 10th** at Camp Lutherhaven. Info has been distributed on Sunday mornings and is available at the Reception Desk. **If you do not have the info, contact DCE Wendt immediately, please.** Many are needed to help with this event. We are past the registration deadline...we still have space – we especially need High School students! Check with DCE Wendt or the Reception Desk for details.

High School Graduate Recognition

Saturday June 6th, Sunday June 7th (all services) and Monday June 8th, we are planning to recognize our graduates – all graduates (8th grade, High School, college). Special recognition for High School graduates. If that is you....plan to attend! High School graduates, please remember to bring a couple of pictures and a brief bio into the church office in the next couple of weeks. *Brandon is coming.....woo hoo!*

Summer.....

Camping Trip

A late summer camping trip is in the planning stages. Dates: **Friday, July 31 – Sunday, August 2nd**. Who: Youth in grades 6-12. Registration materials will be out in early May....so we can reserve needed spots. Watch for materials.

P.I.E.R.R.E. at the Lake Co. Fair

Puppets at the Fair! Watch for registration materials. Great for Confirmation Service hours & High School service hours. A bit of work and a lot of fun as we share the Good News of Jesus!

Camp Lutherhaven: Spring has sprung, and you're invited to experience the uniqueness of Camp Lutherhaven this summer! Come for the week or make plans to attend the celebration of Camp's 60th year in ministry. The summer theme is “Seasons of Life” based on John 10:10. Camp Lutherhaven is registering campers of all ages for all sorts of exciting camping experiences lasting from 1 through 6 days. Register on line today at www.lutherhaven.org or give us a call at 260-636-7101.

2009 Focus on WATCH Groups

The Biblical Garden Group

There are some people who just like to dig around in the dirt – even church people. This spring and summer you may find them on the east side of our gymnasium in their Biblical Garden. This group started a few years ago but many got discouraged because they didn't find much real dirt, just clay and stones, and that wasn't the dirt they were interested in. But the persistent stuck around (most probably have back problems now), and now you will actually find some real dirt, some actual plants and trees, a pathway... Well, find out for yourself this next month. These enterprising folks have a threefold mission, so you know they're down to earth people:

- to grow closer to Christ through prayer and study of His Word especially as it relates to God's gift of beauty in His creation,
- to invite, encourage, and teach others to do the same, and
- to make the property of Trinity Lutheran Church and School a more welcoming, inviting, and missional place through God's gift of beauty in His creation.

They hold regular meetings for Bible Study, prayer, garden planning, and garden working on every third Monday at 7:30 p.m. (after worship). So digging is the word, whether into the Bible or into the hallowed ground of the Biblical Garden. They will be setting up a work schedule for watering, weeding, pruning, etc. soon, so if you're interested, give Karol Ketcher or the church a call.

Pastor T.

Community Care Cupboard: The Crown Point Community Care Cupboard is in need of volunteers on **Saturday, May 9th**, to help with the food donations that come in from the annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive. Last year the Care Cupboard received more than 14,000 pounds of food! It takes many willing hands and hearts to sort and store all of this food, which is used throughout the year to feed those in need. If you would like to help, please contact First Christian Church, 495 S. Indiana Ave., 663-1853. We need workers beginning at 12:30 p.m.; however, any amount of time you can contribute that afternoon will be of great help. You'll find a blessing as you bless others with your service.

Happy Birthday!

| | |
|------|---|
| 5/1 | James Chubbs, Robin Luebcke, Josh Jacob, Alec Kalember |
| 5/2 | Bill Ralph, Jane Long |
| 5/3 | Debbie Hammond, Gregory Johnson, Casey Taylor, Jennifer Fenstermaker |
| 5/4 | Zachary Lambert |
| 5/5 | Paul Marshall, Jennifer McCord, Zachary Puent |
| 5/6 | James Gagan, Carl Froman, Kevin McCord, Faith Oosterhoff |
| 5/7 | Gary Hammond, James Frasure II, Benjamin Malott, Michael Kulak |
| 5/8 | Marianne Manning, Ingrid Monix, Jeremy Cozart, Michael Strunk Jr, Landin Rosenthal |
| 5/9 | Roberta Kregel, Amanda Rosenthal, Adam Kozlowski |
| 5/10 | Anna Mae Kerr, Heather Stefanovich, Liz Maxwell |
| 5/11 | Shirley Fraikin, Mike Strunk Sr, Dawn Stephen, Jake Borner |
| 5/12 | Gary Dienes, Tim Fair, Daniel Fair, Stephan Hintz |
| 5/13 | Joseph Parry, Elizabeth Brown, Hope Zimmerman |
| 5/15 | David O'Day, Ashton Sacha |
| 5/16 | Nancy Forsythe, Lynn Matalin |
| 5/18 | Paul Watland, Sandy Henderlong, Betty Lutzow, Jill Klingberg, Dayna Foster, Les Nack, Nicholas Martin, Brooke Hoefling, Kaylee Jensen |
| 5/19 | Angela Vicari |
| 5/20 | Claire Gagan, Carla Misner, Andy Manning, Daniel Smith, Brittany Hecht, Alexis Rayonec, Phoenix Bergner |
| 5/21 | Lauretta Angerman, Bonnie Weglewski, Deborah Johnstone, Lindsey Pavlovick, Connor Anderson |
| 5/22 | Patrick Mundt, Casey Yakimow |
| 5/23 | Margaret Murray, Terry Claus, Eloise Bloede, Cory Wielert, Brian Giacomini, Owen Crum |
| 5/24 | Darlene Reda |
| 5/25 | Jill Duffala, Joshua Goeringer, DJ Utley |
| 5/26 | Carol Hubacek, Lydia Hughes, Amanda Alliss, Nathan Brown, Charles Hoefling |
| 5/27 | Amanda Wilson, Paul Rowland |
| 5/28 | Hertha Chubbs |
| 5/29 | Eugene Fiegle, Dennis Mills, Sandra Hnatusko, Vicki Stojkovich |
| 5/30 | Clark Wise |
| 5/31 | Doug Bergner, Payton Matuska |

Happy Anniversary!

| | |
|------|--|
| 5/1 | David & Sherry Carter |
| 5/2 | Jon & Marilyn Kozlowski, Bill & Bonnie Ralph, Robert & Lisa Gromek, Aaron & Tabitha Argullin |
| 5/3 | Guy & Linnette Rainey |
| 5/4 | Mike & Becky DeVries |
| 5/5 | Jim & Pat Warner |
| 5/6 | Mark & Kathy Rayonec |
| 5/11 | Steve & Mardi Kalember, Patrick & Carol Croak |
| 5/12 | Larry & Karen Sacha |
| 5/13 | Steve & Cynthia Thurn |
| 5/14 | Russ & Kathy Bunde |
| 5/15 | Stoe & Jill Duffala |
| 5/16 | Tom & Mary Parry |
| 5/17 | Randy & Gina Kingston, Walter & Jill Woldt |
| 5/18 | Ed & Jill Klingberg Sr. |
| 5/20 | Mike & Jeanne Strunk Sr. |
| 5/21 | Roland & Marge Brauer |
| 5/22 | Terry & Cheryl Claus, Christopher & Brenda Spar |
| 5/23 | Mark & Nancy Speichert, Tom & Dawn Beamer |
| 5/24 | Tim & Jami Knopf, Craigory & Nancy Wise |
| 5/25 | Tim & Vickie Loeber, Lisa & Joe Riffle |
| 5/26 | Roy & Pat Garrett, Kristopher & Kate Keller |
| 5/27 | Brian & Roseann Dennis |
| 5/28 | Fred & Adrienne Guenther, Bruno & Sandra Hnatusko |
| 5/29 | Chuck & Sharon Grelecki, Jonathan & Lisa Haas |
| 5/31 | Tim & Krissy Koelikamp |

Baptisms

We welcomed two children into the family of God through Holy Baptism on April 26th.

God's blessings to Donovan Daniel Pace, son of Dan & Gretchen Pace. Sponsors for Donovan are Paul & Stacy McHone. Donovan's grandfather, Rev. Randy McHone officiated.

God's blessings to Luke Riley Puent, son of Greg & Denise Puent. Sponsors for Luke are Kenneth Puent, Aimee Kozlowski and Heather Connaway.

Funerals

Jean Black was called to her eternal rest on March 24th. Her funeral was March 28th in Columbia City, Indiana. A memorial service was held at Wittenberg on March 29th.



Wednesday, May 20th for article submission to the June newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

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“Worship for Shut-Ins”

This 30-minute Lutheran television program provides shut-ins and short-term hospitalized children, adults, and seniors, a weekly worship service that includes Hymns, Scripture, Creed, Sermon, Lord's Prayer, and Benediction, with opening and closing comments from our host, Don Luepke. “Worship for Shut-Ins” can be seen on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on **Cable TV TLN (Total Living Network)**.

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Thrivent

**What makes us different is what makes us strong.
Put our strength to work for you.**

With so many well-known companies struggling or failing, you may wonder where Thrivent Financial for Lutherans stands. While we're not immune from recent economic turmoil, we are weathering the storm better than many other financial service providers. Today we're standing strong, even in these challenging times:

- Thrivent Financial continues to maintain a surplus to meet members' claims that is nearly five times greater than what is required by law.
- While some insurance companies have reduced dividends, Thrivent Financial increased total dividends in 2009 by 5 percent.
- Thrivent Financial is fulfilling its mission to give back, making more than \$126 million in direct contributions to communities, nonprofit groups, Lutheran institutions and individuals in need in 2008.
- Thrivent Financial has not applied for –and does not expect to receive –any government bailout money.

As a fraternal benefit society, we share a common bond with our members- Lutheranism- and we share our values. We're membership-owned, meaning we don't answer to Wall Street. We answer to you.

Submitted 04/2009 by Carsten Falkenberg, CFP[®], ChFC, CLU, FIC, Senior Financial Consultant, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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