



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

May, 2010

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

I'm sure most of you are aware of our new granddaughter, Evie. As a proud first-time grandparent, I have been putting pictures up on the window by my door. You can check out her growth and progress by the dates that I have started placing on the pictures.

The Bible reflects the joy of parenting and of grandparenting.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! (Psalm 127:4-5a ESV)

The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel! (Psalm 128:5-6 ESV)

There truly is great joy in being both a parent and a grandparent.

What about the church? Do we have the same great joy in parenting a new congregation that we had with our first child or grandchild? Trinity is the oldest Lutheran church in Lake County. We are parents to a number of congregations including Trinity Memorial (Merrillville), Hope (Cedar Lake), and St. Michael (Hebron). I just found out that Trinity is also the proud parent of Trinity (Hobart) in 1873. We have been blessed as parents. We have also seen sadness as parents, especially with the death of a child, Hope in Cedar Lake. The question that was posed to me was whether Trinity is a grandparent. Did any of the children of Trinity become parents of a congregation, making us a grandparent? I can't answer the question, but it is an intriguing one!

So are we too old to give birth again? I hope not! Although the congregation is old based on the date it was organized, the members continue to remain youthful as new children are born into the kingdom and grow up at Trinity. Some of you may have helped somewhat with the birth of previous churches, specifically St. Michael (Hebron) in 1974. But I would guess that most of the congregation has not had the

blessing of being involved in giving birth to a new congregation. The Lord seems to be nudging us to give birth to a daughter congregation so that there may be rebirth in the kingdom of heaven.

What is happening at this point? The Mission Outreach Task Force is currently studying Rick Warren's book, *Purpose Driven Church*. Some of you may remember reading his book, *Purpose Driven Life* and the 40 Days of Purpose event at Trinity a few years ago. Warren planted a church in the mid 1980's and shares his experiences and the things he learned in his book. His book does an excellent job of emphasizing the purpose of the church, which then will guide us in planning for kingdom growth through church planting.

We are also working on an updated map of where our congregation members live. We have a membership location map that was done more than 10 years ago. The new map will show us where the current members live as compared to where they lived when the other map was done.

Finally, we are praying. Each week we include prayers in church for this work. Please note that we are not praying for the church plant or daughter congregation. We are praying for kingdom growth by means of a church plant or daughter. This wording is important. The purpose of what we do is to lead people to Jesus. The way that we do this work is by planting churches or giving birth to new congregations. We would hope that the new churches would also focus on kingdom growth and that they would then start new congregations so Trinity can be a grandparent!

There isn't a proven guide for kingdom growth through church planting, so we have much learning to do. We truly do appreciate your prayers as we go about God's work of making disciples of all nations!

Pastor Easterday

Worship Services- May

May 1-3 Fifth Weekend Of Easter

This will be the concluding week for the stewardship series. God, who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, gives us our time to use for his purposes and plans. (Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-7, John 16:12-22)

May 8-10 Sixth Weekend of Easter
Rev. Tom Going will be the mission speaker for this weekend. Rev. Going has been working with Japanese ministry beginning in Columbus and now in Carmel and has served as a missionary to Japan. He will share how God is bringing the message of Jesus to the Japanese. This will also be the first communion for our 6th grade confirmands (10:45 a.m. service). (Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27, John 16:23-33)

May 15-17 The Ascension of Our Lord
This is confirmation weekend for our 8th grade confirmands. They will be sharing their faith stories at 9:30 a.m. and will confirm the faith of their baptism at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday service. This year we have asked several parents to also give their testimony during church as a reminder that we are all called to be witnesses of Jesus. (Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53)

May 22-24 Pentecost Weekend
The Holy Spirit descended upon the people on the day of Pentecost. We also receive the Holy Spirit at our baptism. (Genesis 11:1-9, Acts 2:1-21, John 14:23-31)

May 29-31 Trinity Sunday Weekend
God comes to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We worship God as the holy three in one, the unity in the Trinity! (Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Acts 2:14a, 22-36, John 8:48-59)

June 5-7 Second Weekend After Pentecost
We will be doing "The Talking Pew" at each of the weekend services. It has been a few years since we did this. Spread the word that this is coming!

Pastor Easterday

The Principal Connection ...

**"Everything is possible for him who believes."
Mark 9:23**

Top 10 Reasons to Enroll in a Lutheran School

It is that time of year when we have sent out our Pre-Registration forms for next year. Many people are discussing and debating as to what is important to them as they look at the education of their children. Many of our congregation members who are in different stages of their parental lives are making this decision right now.

Months ago I shared the case for Christian education. As I addressed this the most important thing to realize is that our education is an investment in the lives of our children. Academics is vital, but what about their spiritual lives?

In the next two months I will share with you the Top Ten Reasons for Enrolling in a Lutheran School.

10. Academic Results – On standardized tests, our students consistently score at and above the State of Indiana average. This year's 8th Graders scored at the 94%-ile on the ISTEP tests in Math and English and at the 72%-ile in Science. Our graduates are easily accepted into all local high schools, public and parochial, often moving right into advanced math as well as various Honors and AP classes. The academic foundation received at Trinity has propelled many students through such high school success that they have eventually been accepted at a variety of top tier universities for continuing their education.

9. The Kids Love Our School! – Any visit to our campus quickly shows how much our students love their school. The joy on their faces, the excitement in their activities, the energy in their classroom discussions all point to how much they value Trinity Lutheran. They love their teachers, their classmates, the field trips, music, computers, art, athletics, and on and on. They come in each day eager and ready for another opportunity to participate, eager to share the experience with each other and tell their parents all about it when they return home.

8. Parents Appreciate Trinity, and Choose to Be Involved. – At all grade levels and many activities parents are vitally involved in our school. They help in the classroom, work concessions at basketball games, chaperone field trips, and participate in fundraising support for the school. Parents are in high percentage attendance at our performance events. They remain our number one source for publicizing the school to the community, sharing their Trinity experience with friends, family, and co-workers.

7. We Have an Excellent Preschool. – Preschool education sets an excellent foundation for the years of elementary schooling to come. Under the guidance of Preschool Director Sandy Rosenwinkel, our Preschool has established and maintained a reputation for excellence in program, nurture, value, and service that is second to none in our community. Five day, Three day, and Two day preschool programs are available, meeting the needs of preschoolers three on up. Our Christ-centered preschool program helps children fall in love with learning while being surrounded by the love of our Savior.

6. Tuition Assistance is Available. – If a family qualifies for need-based tuition assistance, up to 75% of tuition may be covered by an assistance grant. We strive to ensure that money never interferes with parents' desire to give their children the gift of a lifetime, an excellent Christ-centered education, preparing children for life in the world today as well as life eternal. Our congregation is so dedicated to this that they support 67% of the school's budget.

May is an incredibly busy month for us! We will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week hosted by our PTL. **Our 4th Quarter Midterms will go home on May 4.** We will celebrate the **Rite of Confirmation** with our 8th graders on **May 16.** Our prayers for them are for God's Holy Spirit to grant them the conviction of faith in the renewal of their baptismal vows.

Our Trinity **Kindergarten will graduate on May 28 at 9:00 AM.** The last days of our Preschool for the 3 and 5 day classes will be on May 21 at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM respectively. Junior Pre-School will celebrate their last Day on May 20 at 9:30 AM. There will be NO SCHOOL on Memorial Day May 31.

We pray that you will let the love of our Lord flow over you. We are here to provide you and your children with the best Christian education possible. We know with God all things are possible!

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

Teamwork is defined as “cooperative effort by the members of a group to achieve a common goal”. A great example of the value of teamwork was Trinity’s “Night of Abundant Blessings” dinner held on April 9. Over 300 people attended the event and over \$60,000 was raised via ticket and auction item sales. Amazing!

Unfortunately, Nancy and I were on vacation and unable to attend the event. But everyone I’ve spoken to said that something special happened that night. What started out as a modest idea to raise funds for Trinity’s school grew into a collaborative effort involving dozens of people helping to organize and prepare for the event. That evening, a spirit of unity and purpose seemed to fill the air as those present made new friends, had a great time, and generously shared their financial blessings for the benefit of Trinity’s largest ministry – our Day School. Clearly, the Holy Spirit was also in attendance.

I can’t help but be pleased to reflect on how a single event contributed to all three of Trinity’s ministry focus areas for this year. Though the money raised will be used for special purposes rather go to our general budget, these funds can’t help but contribute positively toward our 2010 focus on improving financial stability. The teamwork involved in preparing for the event as well as the fellowship among the 300 who attended that evening surely has contributed toward our 2010 focus on developing stronger loving relationships within our congregation. Finally, given that numerous attendees were not Trinity members and that positive word of mouth about the evening should spread widely, I believe this event also contributes toward our 2010 focus on outreach.

My personal thanks to everyone who helped make this such a great event. April 9, 2010 truly was a Night of Abundant Blessings!

Greg Forsythe

Board of Church Properties

Building Maintenance Changes – The Board of Properties and Board of Finance have agreed to change the way we manage and schedule our maintenance and custodial employees. The goal of this change is to provide coverage in our buildings from 6:30 AM to 11 PM, Monday through Friday. We will have a Head Custodian and two part-time custodians.

The Head Custodian will be scheduled from 6:30 AM to 3 PM. This person will be responsible for scheduling the overall work, perform minor repairs during the day, clear snow from sidewalks, as needed, during school and perform custodian work in the church and Atrium area. This would be a full time position with benefits. This person would work all year.

The two part-time custodians will work 4 hours per day. One shift will be from 3 PM to 7 PM and the other from 7 PM to 11 PM. The primary work for the part-time employees will be the school classrooms and floor space. They will also give us a person in the building in the evening and someone to check to make sure all exterior doors are secure before leaving for the day. The part-time employees would work primarily during the school year, approximately 36 – 38 weeks.

Our current custodians have been encouraged to consider and apply for these new jobs. Others who would like to be considered for these jobs should contact Gary Diekelmann or Pastor Easterday. We would like to consider applicants during the month of May/June. **Applications should be submitted no later than Monday, May 31.** The changes would take effect July 1st.

Gary Diekelmann

Board of Communications

TRINITY CHURCH WEBSITE - TUNE IN!

Great new changes to the Trinity Lutheran Church website. Check it out on www.trinitycp.org Also on the website, Sunday sermon recordings. Miss church? Tune in on www.trinity.org. Tell you friends about this sight. IT is a great witness to our ministry here at Trinity Lutheran.

The Board of Communication Services has Email address

Should you or your board or committee have news that should be published. OR should you need a sign or banner, you can know email your requests to the BOCS at communications@trinitycp.org

BOCS HELPS LUTHERAN HISPANIC MISSIONS

The BOCS was helpful to the Northwest Indiana Lutheran Hispanic Missions by providing signs; thanks to board member Dan Matalin, for its annual Way of the Cross event in Valparaiso, and assistance with its website; thank to Dan Torkleson. We also wrote press releases for its Good Friday event and its Cinco de Mayo celebration coming up on Sunday, May 2.

Please let us know of your family and personal news, and news about your activity at Trinity Lutheran Church. We will work for you to get it publicized. With our best wishes,

Dennis Hodges

Board of Finance & Staff Management

On behalf of the Board of Finance and Staffing I would like to congratulate everyone that was involved in the planning and execution of the "Night of Abundant Blessings" fund raiser.

Observing and participating from the sidelines it seemed to be extremely well organized going off without a disruption or hitch. For those of you involved I'm certain that wasn't necessarily the case. It seems that no event no matter how well thought out ever goes entirely as planned. Should that be true there was no evidence of it during the evening's festivities.

Your success in gathering a diverse selection of items for the auctions, both silent and live, was apparent by the enthusiasm of the bidding that went on during the night.

Your selection of venue at The Avalon and menu also added to making it an event to remember. For those of you reading this that were unable to attend the affair I would strongly recommend that you not miss it next year.

Again our thanks and congratulations for a job well done go out to all that were involved in making it a special night.

Gods Blessings,

Jud Salmon

Board of Children & Youth

The Board of Children and Youth is happy to report a very successful Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you to all who helped. We had over 100 children, from both our community and the Trinity family, participate. It was a good time for fellowship and we look to expand the outreach of this event even more next year. To see pictures of this event, see the bulletin board by the atrium desk. Pictures are also available on our website.

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 Ramey
5/4	Mike & Becky DeVries
5/5	Jim & Pat Warner
5/6	Mark & Kathy Rayonec
5/11	Steve & Mardi Kalember, Patrick & Carol Croak
5/13	Steven & Cynthia Thurn
5/14	Russ & Kathy Bunde
5/15	Stoe & Jill Duffala
5/16	Tom & Mary Parry, Richard & Angela Miller
5/17	Randy & Gina Kingston, Walter & Jill Woldt
5/18	Ed & Jill Klingberg
5/20	Mike & Jeanne Strunk, Rich & Michelle Nester

5/21	Roland & Marge Brauer
5/22	Terry & Cheryl Claus, Andrew & Karen Knapp
5/23	Mark & Nancy Speichert, Tom & Dawn Beamer
5/24	Tim & Jami Knopf, Craigory & Nancy Wise
5/25	Tim & Vickie Loeber, Joseph & Lisa Riffle
5/27	Brian & Roseann Dennis, Kris & Kate Keller
5/28	Fred & Adrienne Guenther, Bruno & Sandra Hnatusko
5/29	Chuck & Sharon Grelecki, Jonathan & Lisa Haas
5/31	Tim & Kristine Koelikamp

Happy Birthday!

5/1	Jamie Chubbs, Robin Luebcke, Josh Jacob, Alec Kalember
5/2	Bill Ralph, Jane Long
5/3	Debbie Hammond, Greg Johnson, Casey Taylor, Jennifer Fenstermaker, Ashley Nester, Jessica Nester
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, Michelle Nester, Brion Bissell, James Frasure, Michael Kulak
5/8	Marianne Manning, Jeremy Cozart, Michael Strunk Jr., Landin Rosenthal
5/9	Roberta Kregel, Amanda Rosenthal, Adam Kozlowski
5/10	Anna Mae Kerr, Pam Sanders, Heather Stefanovich, Liz Maxwell
5/11	Shirley Fraikin, Mike Strunk Sr., Dawn Stephen, Jake Borner
5/12	Gary Dienes, Tim Fair, Daniel Fair, Tyler Doyle
5/13	Joseph Perry, Elizabeth Brown, Hope Zimmerman
5/15	David O'Day
5/16	Nancy Forsythe, Lynn Matalin, Avery Maynard
5/18	Paul Watland, Sandy Henderlong, Jill Klingberg, Les Nack, Nicholas Martin, Brooke Hoefling, Kaylee Jensen
5/19	Edwin Beatty, Angela Vicari, Mary Morantz
5/20	Phoenix Bergner, Claire Gagan, Brittany Hecht, Andy Manning, Carla Misner, Alexis Rayonec Daniel Smith
5/21	Connor Anderson, Lauretta Angerman, Violet Boettger, Deborah Johnstone, Lindsey Pavlovick, Bonnie Weglewski
5/22	Casey Yakimow
5/23	Eloise Bloede, Terry Claus, Owen Crum, Brian Giacomini, Cory Wielert
5/24	Darlene Reda
5/25	Jill Duffala, Joshua Goeringer, DJ Utley
5/26	Amanda Alliss, Nathan Brown, Charles Hoefling, Carol Hubacek, Lydia Hughes
5/27	Paul Rowland, Amanda Wilson
5/28	Hertha Chubbs
5/29	Eugene Fiegle, Sandra Hnatusko, Dennis Mills, Vicki Stojkovich
5/31	Doug Bergner, Payton Matuska

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will meet at **6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26th**, in the conference room. Ladies interested in joining are welcome. Bobbi Kujawski, 663.4643

Baptisms

Several children were received into the family of God through holy baptism during the month of April. They are: Tobias Robert Wielert, son of Rev. Cory & Kristen Wielert, Collin David Przybylo, son of David Przybylo & Barbara Reiter, Landon James Kozlowski, son of Peter & Amy Kozlowski, Lucas Christopher Brauer, son of Matt & Andrea Brauer, and Austin Wallace Kremski, son of Kirk & Kristi Kremski.

New Members

We welcomed several new members into our church family on April 11th. Our new members are: Richard & Elaine Barber, David & Lupe DeChene and daughter Angelina, Ka'tlyn Jensen, Max & Jackie Korte, Stephanie Korte, Elizabeth Levin, James & Sharon Nowoc, Pamela Sanders, Kevin & Pamela Vana

Funerals

Rudy Regelin was called to his eternal rest on March 25th. His funeral was April 3rd.

Marie Fasel went home to be with the Lord on April 13th. Her funeral was April 16th.



Friday, April 21st, for article submission to the June newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church or sent to

newsletter@trinitycp.org.

2010 Focus on WATCH Groups

Adult Choir and Bell Ringers

Any church worth its name has a choir. Trinity has several, and also a number of bell choirs. This month we focus on the adult versions because those who read this article are not likely to pass muster for a children's group. On the other hand, you can be a teenager and be welcome in both the adult and the bell choirs.

Unlike in most years, the choir is a little short of women right now. This confronts us with a little bit of a mystery as the men seem to be handsome and pleasant enough [Mrs. Ketcher's evaluation?]. It is, however, possible that their sense of humor may drive the altos and sopranos out of their normal range. I am told that "you don't have to be musically astute," to join either group, although it is preferable that you hit the right note at the right time. That's why there are practice sessions on Thursdays at 7:00 pm for the ringers and an hour later for the choir. You are practically guaranteed to have a good time. Of course, you never know with those men. Just don't let the fact that you have never sung in a choir or rung a bell before prevent you from coming

Karol Ketcher would like to start a *funeral choir*. As funerals are usually held around 10:00 am, there are not many members of the adult choir who can be present. She wonders whether there are any people who are retired or who don't work in the morning who would like to volunteer to help. It would be a wonderful way to back up the singing in the worship and provide an opportunity to add an anthem. You may contact Karol at the church [663-1578 ext. 309].

Pastor T.

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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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May 2, 2010 – Revelation 21:1-7

“All Things New”

by Rev. Daniel Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, IN

May 9, 2010 – Psalm 121

“Total Protection”

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

May 16, 2010 – Acts 1:9

“Gone, But . . .”

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

May 23, 2010 – Acts 2:1-11

“The Pentecost Harvest”

by Rev. Daniel Brege, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Decatur, IN

May 30, 2010 – John 8:48-59

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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

**IN GOD'S SERVICE:
Steward your debt**

It's important to steward your debt, just as you do the other resources God has entrusted to your care. Don't think of debt as a resource? The credit that created the debt is a valuable resource that should be used wisely.

Here's a checklist that can help:

● **Pay more than the minimum on credit cards.**

Paying just the minimum is like having a never ending mortgage. If you can pay off the entire balance, do. If not, pay as much as you can and pay off those with the smallest balances and/or highest interest rates first. It will boost your morale and resolve to knock down one or two credit cards quickly.

● **Make payments on time.** To avoid late fees, always make your payments on time. Doing so improves your credit rating, which can mean lower interest rates in the future.

● **Reduce spending.** Next time you're tempted to make a purchase, ask yourself if it's something you really need. Wait 24 hours – you may think differently. And pay with cash until you rid yourself of debt. Give up credit cards altogether if they're too great a temptation.

Information is provided by Carsten Falkenberg at carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com

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