



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

November, 2009

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner

Trinity Lutheran Church will again host a FREE Community Thanksgiving Dinner on **Thursday, November 26th**. Trinity is hosting the dinner for families in need of assistance, senior citizens, and those who are alone or unable to celebrate with family or friends. Dinner will be held in Trinity's Fellowship hall at 2 p.m. You do not have to be member of Trinity to attend. So if you know of anyone who is going to be alone, please invite them to this dinner. **Do not** spend this holiday alone.

We are again accepting Turkey Awards from Wiseway. The grocery store is having their annual FREE Butterball Turkey Giveaway. We are accepting these Turkey Awards so we can accumulate enough awards to obtain our turkeys. If you would like to donate your Turkey Awards, please place them in the Turkey Award box on the desk in the Atrium. We will also need volunteers to help prepare the food as well as to help set up, serve, and clean up after the meal.

Volunteers may also be needed to provide transportation for those who cannot drive themselves. Starting in early November, a volunteer list as well as a list of needs will be at the reception desk. More information will follow in the November newsletter. If you need further information, please contact Joyce or Dennis Mills at 661-8565.

From Your Pastor ...

Dear friends in Christ,

Now what happens? This is a significant question to address as we have completed the 40 Days of Prayer focus in worship. What do we do with the thoughts we discussed in each week's message?

1. Prayer originates with God.
2. Prayer is impacted by the condition of our hearts.
3. Prayer is a dialogue with God, and God speaks first.
4. God provides the means for prayer, such as the petitions of the Lord's Prayer.
5. God gives great benefits through prayer.
6. God shows us the diversity in prayer as Jesus prayed for Himself, the disciples, and all believers (including each of us!!!).
7. Prayer is a way of life, not just a specified time to focus on holy conversation with God.

What do we do with all of this? There are some things that have already been happening that you might like to know about.

1. The Elders have regularly concluded their meetings with a time of prayer in prayer pairs. We discuss particular needs within the congregation as well as personal needs, and then pray out loud in pairs. The sound of the prayers of the godly men who are Elders is a wonderful sound.
2. There is a six-week prayer focus for the 7th and 8th grade confirmation classes. This includes a time for prayer pairs to offer petitions for things that are important to each person. The class is focused on making prayer a real part of the lives of these young men and women.
3. I have a personal prayer team that meets with me monthly to pray for my specific family and personal needs. This is an essential part of my ministry here at Trinity.
4. Each week I meet with the ministry team members to talk about the ministry activities they are working on. The most important part of what we do isn't discussing and planning ministry. It is the prayer time we spend together after the discussions.
5. The church ministry team meets each Wednesday. Part of what we do as a team is spend time in prayer pairs. Now that Brandon Grelle is here, we have the right number of ministry team members for three pairs!!!
6. I know that many of you daily include Pastors and other ministry team workers in your prayers. I praise God for this!

There is much more that can be done. I would be thrilled to hear that when people arrive in church and talk to the person next to them, they ask if there are any prayer concerns. It would be great to see people praying for each other at the end of the service, showing a real care for others. It would be great that when decisions were being made, someone would always suggest that we stop to pray about the decision. I would feel that God had accomplished a great thing in us if we became known as the praying church. I can't imagine any greater joy for our Lord than for us to continually call upon him!

There is one other step for us to take. The Elders have been discussing possible outreach to adjacent communities. One of the means to accomplish this is to give birth to a daughter congregation. The discussions are early, and before we even begin discussions about this, we need that time of prayer to seek God's will. I am asking for some help with this. We need some people who would be willing to regularly gather and pray about this and other ministry components. I have a few names of people whose lives are based upon prayer. I am looking for more to participate in this prayer ministry. If you are willing to help, please talk to me after services so we can lay the foundation for outreach in the right way.

May we continue the holy conversations with our Lord Jesus Christ as a way of life, and not just a 40 day focus!

Pastor Easterday

Worship Services-November

Oct. 31-Nov. 2 All Saints' Weekend

We will read the names of the faithful departed members of Trinity at each of the weekend services.

Nov. 7-9 23rd Weekend After Pentecost (Veterans' Day Weekend)

We will recognize all the veterans of the congregation as well as those who have family members currently serving in the military. If any of the veterans would like to share some of their military items like uniforms, medals, or other important memorabilia, please contact Pastor Easterday.

Nov. 14-16 24th Weekend After Pentecost

What happens in the "in-between" time between the death of Jesus and His second coming?

Nov. 21-23 Last Sunday of the Church Year

What is a "healthy fear" as we wait for the Lord's return?

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Eve (7:00 p.m. service)

Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day (9:00 a.m. service)

How can there be "plenty in want?"

Nov. 28-30 The First Weekend in Advent

O, come, O, come, Emmanuel.

Dec. 2 Advent Midweek Service (Wed.)

2:00 & 7:00 p.m. services

5:30-6:45 p.m. Soup Supper

The Principal Connection ...

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

We have been taking a look at why parents should send their children to our Lutheran school. **A question I hear regularly is, "Doesn't bigger mean better?"**

Indiana is full of impressively huge, new schools. A quick tour through many of the public schools in the Crown Point area will reveal beautiful gyms, classrooms, auditoriums, cafeterias, and labs. It seems only natural that parents would take one look around at the facilities, programs, classes, and activities that a huge public school has and think, "That's what we want for our son or daughter."

For smaller Christian schools like Trinity, it is nearly impossible to compete with the endless stream of resources that a public school can pour into its programs and facilities. So, in the face of that kind of competition, **why would anyone choose a small, Christian school?** It's time to ask yourself an important question:

Which do you value more, "things" or environment?

When I first began this series of articles I addressed the importance of an environment that is Christ-centered.

Along with this it should also be **noted that Trinity provides advantages that a large public school simply cannot:**

- **Students are less likely to get lost in the shuffle.** At a smaller school, teachers and administrators will often know the names of all of the students in the building. That kind of intimacy is often key in the academic and spiritual development of your son or daughter. Trinity is dedicated to making connections with all our students. **Relationships, not facilities, are what make a school excellent.**
- **Class sizes are smaller.** Instead of classes of 25-30 that can be found at larger schools, most Christian schools have class sizes that are more in the 15-25 range. While class size is often overrated (the skill of the teacher is more important), your son or daughter will not just be "a number" at Trinity.
- **Opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities are greater at a smaller school.** Simple math dictates that your son or daughter's odds of "making a team" or "getting a part" are better if they are competing against less people. Many of the students take advantage of this unique situation and are involved in many different activities during their time at Trinity.
- **We are a family.** At a smaller school, students, parents, and teachers feel as if they are part of community in which they can take pride and have input. People know each other, and relationships become the foundation for the excellence of the school, not facilities and programs.

- **Most Christian schools actually HAVE extremely adequate facilities and programs.** It's a misconception that because Christian schools are smaller and often have financial challenges, that they do not have good gyms, classrooms, auditoriums, labs, activities, and programs. If you haven't had a chance to check out the facilities at Trinity, you should do so soon.

A caring, Christian environment that values each of its students as a special child of God is a wonderful thing. When that environment is small enough that kids do not get lost in the shuffle, it's even better.

November will bring Parent Teacher Conferences November 11-13 from 3:30-8:00 p.m. in most classrooms. Please check the note sent home on specific times. We will send our 1st Quarter Report Cards home on Tuesday, November 3.

The PTL will be making Cheeseballs on Saturday, November 7, in the school cafeteria at 8:00 a.m. You can pick up your orders between 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the gym. This year's proceeds will go toward three items. First we will give 10% to a church mission. This year the mission will be our scholarship fund. Second, the PTL is helping with the salary for our school librarian, Mrs. Weglewski. Finally, we will take the remaining proceeds and put them toward the purchase of a SMART board for one of our classrooms. The SMART board is an interactive board that allows, video access, internet access, and is a valuable teaching tool to open up the world of learning to the children.

We will celebrate Veteran's Day on November 11, at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. Mr. Jim Warner will be our guest speaker. November 25-27 will be our Thanksgiving Break. There will be no school.

We know that with God all things are possible. We give thanks for all of our children in the school and for ready hearts, anxious to hear the Gospel. We give thanks for parents who value their child's spiritual development and share in this partnership with us!

Serving our Savior in prayer,

John E. Schultz

From the Contemporary Worship and Youth Director. . .

Somewhere outside my window the other day, it was overcast. The weather was about the same as it is today. People were out doing their day-to-day tasks. Food was being purchased, taxes were being paid, and people were telling stories. A couple men climbed up on top of a roof with tools. With these tools in hand, they preceded to pound through the roof of a home. This was no normal construction project. Actually, it was more of a medical situation.

These people knew the remedy was inside this building. They knew of a medicine that was curing people all over with different ailments, aches, and pains. They knew simple words from this Savior would bring about healing. They ripped apart a roof, lowered their friend safely down to Jesus, and within minutes, his life changed in ways they weren't aware of. Somewhere outside my window today...

First Step Saturday November 7, 9 a.m. - noon. Here is just one opportunity to serve our Remedy together as a church. All are invited to Trinity to share in breakfast, a small devotional, and "ripping apart roofs". Whether it be delivering food items to the poor, visiting the sick, roofing a house, the possibilities are endless on First Step Saturday. Please contact Brandon Grelle if you are interested in joining this multi-generational service event for more information. The experience is also in need of breakfast goods!

Parent Celebration November 8, 6:30 p.m. All parents of Jr. and Sr. High youth! How do you do it!? You are invited to celebrate your youth. The fact that they are present in your lives! The fact that they sometimes listen to you! The fact that they have a God that loves them and has a perfect will for them. Meet in the gymnasium, November 8th, to hear beneficial information about today's youth, Trinity's youth mission, and other important information for growth.

Brandon Grelle

Thoughts from the Treasurer

Here is a brief update as to where we are at the end of October as a full report was just given 2 weeks ago at the congregation meeting.

1. General Fund offerings are \$15,000 ahead of budget and \$33,000 ahead of last year.
2. Expenses are about \$12,000 over budget.
3. Our Building Loan has a balance just over \$50,000. On our present payment schedule this should be retired by December, 2010.
4. All payables are current. The \$146,000 in payables as of June 30, have all been paid.
5. Summary – Cash flow is tight as it will be when a ministry is growing. God is providing our daily bread. We continue to give thanks for your tithes and offerings

As we manage our resources here at Trinity, we ask the same questions, you ask at home. High on that list is how can I get more for my dollar? Glad you asked. There are 3 simple ways we can all help.

1. **SCRIP** – Great Gift Card opportunity! There are many local vendors: Home Depot, Lowes, Strack & Van Til, Walgreens, Wal-Mart and now Visa among the 100 or so participating merchants. You get a card at face value for what you pay and the School gets a percentage back. See Bonnie in the Atrium on Sunday mornings or after school on Friday afternoons.
2. **Box Tops for Education** – On Selected cereals, cake mixes and other products you are already consuming. Take a minute when the box is empty and clip the coupon. Place them in the collection box by the reception desk in the Atrium. These are redeemed for items used in classrooms.

3. **Campbell Soup Labels** – On each can there is a coupon near the UPC code. Clip on the dotted lines. Place them in the collection box by the reception desk in the Atrium. These are redeemed also for items used in our classrooms.

A fourth way to stretch your gift is to utilize matching gift programs through Thrivent or your employer. Thank you again for sharing the blessings God has given to each of you.

Jim Hensley

Board of Church Properties

Just a few highlights.

The rear parking lot was striped late this summer to show angle parking. This should help organize the use of that lot. In the past the parking could be a bit unorganized. This should make better use of that space.

We recently had repairs made to the exterior stucco surfaces on the school. We have plans to have the exterior stucco and wood surfaces re-painted or stained. The weather could be an issue. Hopefully we get enough warm weather to allow that to get done.

We still have plans to do interior painting during the winter months.

After some hefty repairs in the spring, we have managed to keep the heating and air conditioning equipment working.

Another big thanks to Jim Warner and Bob Kerr for all of the hours they spend mowing and trimming our property to keep us looking good.

Thanks to Jon Kozlowski for organizing the snow shoveling crew. It is almost that time of year again. If you can help remove snow from the church sidewalks before church services, contact Jon, me, or the church office.

Gary Diekelmann

Board of Communications

Job Seekers Workshop

With 17 job seekers attending, and five speakers, the first annual Job Seekers Workshop, sponsored by the Board of Communication Services (BOCS) and held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, the workshop was a success. Many who attended were grateful for the opportunity, and we want to thank *Laura Lunkes* for her vision to organize the event, and *Brandon Grelle* for his gracious assistance, to make the workshop successful.

Log on to www.trinitycp.org

The church website continues to enhance the ministries at Trinity with news and updates about activities at the church. The website gets hundreds of "hits" weekly from members and guests. Our webmaster, *Dan Torkelson*, has been doing an outstanding job maintaining the site and keeping up with church ministries.

Video Photographers needed

The BOCS is constantly on the lookout for news about Trinity for reporting to the local media. On average, Trinity gets a news story in the local press at least once a month. Should your board have an announcement, please let *Dennis Hodges* know. The BOCS will then make every effort to get the news or announcement published. Is there a video photographer in among church members? Local TV – Lakeshore Public Television has offered to post church events, provided it comes with video photography.

Banners and Signs

If you see a professional looking banner and sign in and around Trinity Church, chances are sign maker *Dan Matalin* is the one who made them. Dan, who is to be heartily commended for this great service and ministry, offers this service to all church boards and functions.

Church Services recorded?

The BOCS is looking at possible radio and TV broadcasts of church services.

Child Protection Policy

Anyone who works with children at Trinity, which would include accompanying children on field trips, Sunday School, VBS, Youth ministry, coaching.....everything involving people under the age of 18, needs to be certified by Trinity's Child Protection Policy. To do so, one must:

- Fill out an application.
- Allow a Criminal Background check.
- Attend a 1 hour training session.
- Certification is good for 3 years.

Training sessions for the November & December:

- Monday, November 23rd 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 19th 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Monday, November 29th 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 6th 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Childcare will be available. All training sessions held in the cafeteria. Registration in advance is not required.

Trinity Cares

Trinity Cares is grateful for the support we have received this past year. It has allowed us (Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church) to be a blessing in Jesus' Name in the lives of many people – both members and non-members.

In the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:15-30) the master goes away for an unknown period of time and places three of his servants in charge of different sums of money. Trinity Cares is one of the helping arms (a servant in charge of one of God's sums) of this congregation. We give back the Master's 'talents' in the paying of bills (*or putting money toward the total amount owed*) that could not ever be paid by the clients who come to us. We give back the Master's 'talents' in the sharing of the Gospel message with those who have not heard it, those who have forgotten it, and those – because of their woundedness – who cannot at the moment trust it, but who want to. We give back the Master's 'talents' in prayers to encourage, empower, and strengthen clients as they travel a very tough road.

It is hard to have been put in a position where one cannot pay the bills. Sometimes it is even harder to ask for help out of such situations. Most of the time there are children involved who are cold or hungry. It is hardest to face them as a parent in need. But there is no depth where our triune God cannot go (Rom 8:38-39) – and there is no place He is not willing to enter to protect and bring back His children (Luke 15:3-7) – places like hardship, joblessness, foreclosure, hunger, past-due bills.

Our own TLC&S members (*and members of the community who live in Crown Point, Cedar Lake, Winfield Township, and Lakes of Four Seasons*) come to Trinity in need. Trinity Cares meets their financial needs (*giving to the clients' creditors toward the paying of debts*) after a face-to-face meeting with one of our teams. But each client, whether or not it is realized, has the more serious and imminent need to be connected to the Person of Jesus Christ, from Whose storehouse, care, and love we ultimately draw to pass on to him/her. Many tears are shed around our little kitchen table by both client and team members – tears of thanks and gratitude, and definitely, and more importantly, tears of recognition that Trinity Cares is only the vehicle, the means, by which the Lord God meets a need or two.

We do not take this trust lightly. Trinity Cares is presently in need in two significant ways. We have the financial need to have our coffers replenished. Our greater need is willing volunteers. We need at least three (3) people willing to learn to meet with clients who seek our assistance. We also need 1 or 2 volunteers who have the two or three hours a week to learn the 'behind the scenes' record-keeping process. It is similar to being a receptionist who gathers the information, sets up the appointments, keeps a record of the meetings, and sends out follow-up materials.

Is the Lord putting it on your heart to help in any way? Please speak to DCE Paul Wendt.

School News

The fifth grade class would like to thank everyone for participating in our car washes and bake sale. We were able to earn over \$700 toward our trip to Camp Lutherhaven. If you are interested in seeing the types of activities we do while at camp, come and check out the display on the lower level of the school. Thanks again for your support. *Brenda Dean*

LOOKING AHEAD:



Christmas Blessing Tree

Trinity is again sponsoring the Christmas Blessing Tree in order to share the love of Christ by blessing children, military family members, and a few of our shut-ins with Christmas gifts and their families with prayers. All of these names will come from within our congregation, school and/or Bakery House families.

We would like for you and/or your family or small group to prayerfully consider taking 1 star off of the tree in the atrium (so that many people can share in the blessing) and providing suggested gifts for that person.

If you would like to make a monetary donation rather than purchase gifts, please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran with a memo to Christmas Blessing Tree. Place in an envelope and label it Christmas Blessing Tree and give to the front desk. All donations will be used for the families on our tree.

In addition, we will be collecting food, toiletry and laundry items in order to give a food basket to each family. These items can be placed in the wooden box in the back of the narthex.

Watch for further info in the bulletin and next to the tree. Thank you for helping those less fortunate during this holiday season. May you and your family feel His love and blessings as you look forward to the coming celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas Day.

If you have a name that should be included, or any questions, please contact Kathy O'Day at 662-9617.

Rebuilding the Breach/Bakery House Annual Dinner/Auction Fundraising Event at Trinity on Sunday, December 6

Fellowship/silent auction 4:30p.m.

Musical Offering 5:30p.m.

Dinner & Program 6:15p.m.

Ticket prices: Adults \$20; Seniors \$15; children (12 and under) \$5

Please plan to attend. IN District President Rev. Daniel May will be our guest speaker. Rev. Maxwell Anokwute will bring you up to date on what's happening at the Bakery House and you'll also hear personal testimonies from the men on how the Bakery House has changed their lives.

We are seeking items for the silent auction and sponsors for the event (\$250-bronze; \$500-silver; \$1,000-gold). Please support this worthy cause and help your brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need.

Information, call: Marianne Manning 663-3504, Elaine Edwards 374-7382 or Sharon Voyak 663-7285

Happy Anniversary!

11/1	Bill & Erica Myers, Denton & Ann McCormick
11/2	Bob & Joanne Stephen
11/3	Doug & Sharon Dix, Gary & Nona Rowland
11/5	Ronald & Tina Yakimow
11/9	Kevin & Rebecca Crum
11/11	Fred & Janet Rosenwinkel
11/12	Jim & Kathryn Hensley, Jeff & Kimberly Smith
11/14	Arnold & Shirley Patz, Mark & Angela Vicari
11/15	Greg & Denise Puent
11/17	Dave & Eileen Maxwell
11/18	Charles & Theresa Saager, John & Lynda Smith
11/19	Greg & Sandy Henderlong, Jack & Karen Ritsema
11/20	Daniel & Carissa Totleben
11/24	Gary & Martha Diekelmann, Phil & Tammy Gardin
11/25	Dennis & Sandy Reynolds, Rick & Karen Gurtatowski, Tim & Tina Gardiner
11/26	Larry & Becky Hiestand, Rob & Leslie Gardiner
11/27	Bob & Anna Mae Kerr, Robert & Karla Stiener
11/28	Dave & Pam Zona
11/30	James & Melissa Mangrum

	Nicole Aubuchon, Ethan Brown
11/15	Diane Obert, Jenny Cherven, Rachel Stas, Bret Snow
11/16	Ken Pape, Sherri Holzhauser, Darlene Noak
11/17	Dennis Wickberg, Mary Parry, Tracy Franklin, Lilee Coomer, Brianna Cherven
11/18	Ron Reda, Charlotte Morrow, Rick Gurtatowski, Eileen Riggs, Nicole Riggs, Nathan Carey, Stoe Duffala Jr.
11/19	Dick Uhter, Robert Neitzel, Cindy McGraw, Eric Erickson, Nona Rowland, Steve DeVries, Dana Monroe, William Mangrum
11/20	Rebekah DeHaan, William Best
11/21	Marilyn Angulo, Christine Miller, Adam Henderlong
11/22	Jack Esala, Cynthia David, Joe Alliss, Rayburn Pigg, James Stovall II
11/23	Deborah Malott, Neil Morrow
11/24	Ruth Whited, Marilyn Brunk, Jamie Kirby, Shannen Reynolds
11/25	Lorraine Csicsko, Gert Polster, Tim Koelikamp, Lee Hinson III
11/26	Evelyn Henry, Angela Heinzman, Jeanette Dixon, Brennan Brown, Joshua Suslowicz
11/27	Anova Frasure, Dawn Cozart
11/28	John McConnell, Makenzie Knopf, Seth Knopf
11/29	Betty Buth, Megan Rainey,
11/30	Toni Michalak, Ann Westerwell

Happy Birthday!

11/1	Patti Wolter, David Monix, Raleigh Haas, Christopher Best, Chase Davis, Alex Goldstine, Robert Maynard
11/3	Bridgett Castner
11/4	Christopher Esala, Adam Moor, Stacy Martin, Matthew Board, Christopher Constable, Ashton Rager
11/5	Bernice Anderson, Karol Sparenberg, Bethany Wendt, Taylor Gella, Hayden Knopf, Harry Wise, Paige Stadnik
11/6	Roberta Sonnenberg, Becky Bergner, Michelle Best, Julie Bodamer, Samantha DeHaan, James Arroyo
11/7	Betty Perry, Don Wigley, Heather Forsythe, Amanda Curley, Allison Cizmar, Faith Bergner
11/8	Mardi Kalember, Paula Stiener, Steve Dallman, Lisa Haas
11/9	Ryan Smith, Megan Rydberg, Olivia Kvachkoff
11/10	Arlene Knox, Debra Kish, Chris Ronning, Anthony Nichols, Eli Oosterhoff
11/11	Terri Schoonover, Sherry Doyle
11/12	John Ringers, Amy Aardsma, Amy De St. Jean, Evan Henderlong
11/13	Pastor Easterday, Coreen Asche, Alexis Belmonte, Sydney Myers, Steven Thurn
11/14	Anthony Reda, Lisa Gromek, Brandy Egnatz,

Baptisms

Jacob John Robinson, Ashley Louise Nester, Jessica Carole Nester, were received into the family of God through holy baptism on October 11th.

Jacob is the son of Jeff & Michelle Robinson. Sponsors for Jacob are Karen DePaoli and Nathn Robinson.

Ashley and Jessica are the daughters of Rich & Michelle Nester. Sponsors for Ashley and Jessica are Nancy Ketcik and Charles Fox.

Funerals

Douglas Dixon was called to his eternal rest on October 8th. His memorial service was October 14th.

Donald Woodke went home to be with the Lord on October 15th. His funeral was October 19th.



Wednesday, November 18th, for article submission to the December newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

Bible Study



Faith Stepping Stones – The Bible

A special 2 hour overview of the Faith Stepping Stones – bible marking for 2nd grade parents is scheduled for **Sunday, November 22, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please register by contacting DCE Wendt @ 219-663-1578, ext. 308 by Sunday, November 8th. While time will not permit marking all 100 passages, a marking guide will be distributed as we overview the Scriptures. A simple plan for utilizing the bible in family devotions will also be presented.

2009 Focus on WATCH Groups Trinity League

This month we focus on one of our older groups (in the sense that it's been around a long time; this is not in any way a description of its members, all fine women of sound mind and seemingly permanent youth). The group had its beginnings about 100 years ago. There already was a Ladies' Aid at that time, busy with all kinds of things for the church. This group simply met for enjoyment, to meet other members, to bond and become friends. In the 36 years that I have known them, they have always met in the evening [3rd Thursday of every month, except for August and January]. Whether that has been true for all of their history I do not know, but with so many women working for a living, the evening has certainly made it possible for more women to meet.

The usual agenda is a devotion, and a little business, followed by a discussion of whatever comes up and a good dessert. I am assured by Sandy Henderlong, Trinity League's president, that this rather casual approach to so important a matter as what they are going to talk about is no problem. The ladies all feel very comfortable with each other and have plenty to say. The business portion is due to the fact that from early times so many ladies together couldn't just sit there and do no work at all. They may have had a bad conscience about that, or about neglecting their husbands and children. I have never delved into their secret motives. But in some months they do things. November is such a month. They used to have a Fall Bazaar together with the Ladies' Aid. Now, on November 7th, they have a *Holiday Market Place and Café*. Booths will be set up by Trinity members, but also by Pampered Chef and others. Plus there will be a dessert bar. That might even tempt me. In December there's a cookie sale in the Old Courthouse.

Whatever money is made goes to pay for kitchen needs at Trinity or to help Trinity's Board of Properties out with paying for a non-budgeted item or two that is badly needed. The League also sees to the altar flowers on Sundays and the special decorations at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving. If you're looking for an evening out where you can get to know some of our ladies, this is a group you might want to give a try.

Pastor T.

* * * *

“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)**.

November 1, 2009 – Thematic
“Saints We're Stuck With”

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

We can't choose our fellow saints; that's God's job. But He does give us the resources to live with them.

November 8, 2009 – Mark 12:38-44
“Stewardship Mights and Mites”

By Rev. Willis Schwichtenberg, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Freeport, IL

Stewardship focus of the story of the widow's mites.

November 15, 2009 – Hebrews 10:11-22
“Jesus Our Sacrifice”

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

Christ Jesus has fulfilled all of the Old Testament sacrificial rites. He is our sin offering, our burnt offering, and our peace offering.

November 22, 2009 – Mark 13:26, 33-37
“Watch!”

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

We are to “watch” for Jesus' second coming, for three reasons. 1) We do not know when Christ will return. 2) We want to be, and must be, ready for Christ's arrival. We are ready through faith in Christ. 3) We are eager for Christ's second advent.

November 29, 2009 – Luke 19:28-40
“Bethlehem to Jerusalem”

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

The Old Testament prophecies (Jeremiah) are fulfilled in the coming Savior (Bethlehem) who fulfills His ultimate purpose as He goes to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in preparation for Good Friday and Easter.

* * * *

How can I share? Let me count the ways . . .

This is a great time of year to be thankful for all that we have. Take time to reflect back on the past year and consider helping those less fortunate. Involve your children in this decision and make it a family affair.

ASK “How do you want to steward the gifts God has entrusted to your care?”

WHO Have your child find a person, activity or organization that supports his or her interests, as a starting point.

HOW Then let your child decide how they want to help.

Part of passing on our values to our children is showing how we act on them ourselves. Talk to your child about your values and how they are reflected in your life. 'Tis the season for sharing – they'll get it! For other ways to share your resources and values, contact Carsten Falkenberg, Senior Financial Consultant, at 219-663-8699 or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

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