



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

November, 2011

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

Annual FREE Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Trinity Lutheran Church will again host its 6th Annual FREE Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 24th. 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.

On Sunday November 6th, between services, we will have sign up sheets in the Atrium seeking 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 help provide transportation for those who can not drive themselves. There will also be a sign up to volunteer to donate food for the dinner. This sign up sheet identifies our food needs.

For further information or to make your reservations for the dinner, please contact Joyce or Dennis Mills at 661-8565. We are taking reservations so that we can determine the amount of food to prepare.

Thank you for your generosity.

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

November is a month that is filled with wonderful significant events in the life of the church. The celebration of Reformation Day at the end of October springboards us into the celebration of All Saints' Day, a bittersweet day as we remember our dear loved ones but rejoice that they are with Christ forever. John's words in Revelation 7 are words of hope and encouragement.

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:14b-17)

Thanksgiving soon follows as we remember to thank our creator for giving us all things. We are reminded of all that God gives in the first article of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." The explanation guides in how we are blessed by God and gives us good direction for our thanksgiving.

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that he has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this he does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Advent follows Thanksgiving as we make preparations for the second coming of Christ as we prepare to celebrate His first coming and birth at Christmas.

If you are like me, this is a wonderful season of the church year. It is a time filled with memories of our childhood years and of the times our families may have gathered together for worship. The only twist in all of this is that the true blessings of this season only come to those who know and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. For those who do not, this holiday season is only a secular season, filled with memories, but without any hope for eternity.

With these thoughts in mind, we consider this month's Biblical principle for church planting:

The central work of the new church will always be to help people put their trust in Christ, and grow into maturity as His followers.

This is **The Mission Principle**. Without this understanding of the work of the church, all of the significant church celebrations have no meaning. Without the hope of forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus and the promise of eternity, All Saints' Day only becomes a day of sadness at the death of our loved ones. Without an awareness of the great sacrifice of

God's only Son, Thanksgiving only becomes a time to talk about Pilgrims and turkeys. Without an awareness of the return of Jesus to raise us from the dead and take us to heaven, Advent only becomes a time of commerce and shopping.

Why do churches plant churches? So the new church can do for others what our churches have done for us, bringing us into the presence of Jesus Christ that our lives may be changed for eternity. Without the churches of our past, we would live without hope. Because another congregation planted Trinity in 1858, we can gather in worship and rejoice at all that God has done.

My prayer is that as we gather in worship during these next few months, we will be challenged to consider how to bring this great blessing that we have received through the church to those who are not believers in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Easterday

Worship Services- November

Nov. 5-7 All Saints' Day Celebrated

We will remember those who have departed from our church family this past year during this worship service. As we remember the time on earth of those who now dwell with Christ, we will also focus on our stewardship of time while we dwell on earth. (Revelation 7:9-17, II Peter 1:5-11, Luke 13:6-9)

Nov. 12-14 22nd Week After Pentecost

We will consider the fruitful use of our financial resources (money) in light of God's great gift of all that we have. We are reminded that our treasure is not here on earth but is in heaven. (I Chronicles 29:10-16, Colossians 1:9-13, Matthew 6:19-24)

Nov. 19-21 Last Weekend In The Church Year

Ezekiel reminds us that God gives us the great blessing of rich pasture. This will be our commitment weekend as we make our promises to the Lord and place them on the altar as our gift of love and commitment. (Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, I Corinthians 15:20-28, Matthew 25:31-46)

Nov. 23-24 Thanksgiving Eve/Day

We gather together to seek the Lord's blessing and to give him thanks for all he has done to sustain and save us. (Deuteronomy 8:1-10, Phil. 4:6-10, Luke 17:11-19)

Nov. 26-28 1st Weekend In Advent

The beginning of the church year focuses on the return of Christ. His return has implications for us both now and for all eternity. (Isaiah 64:1-9, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37)

Nov. 30 Advent Midweek Service (Wed.)

Worship at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

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

The Advent services will focus on the "O Antiphons," ancient cries of the church for God to come and save us. Each antiphon begins with "O" and then adds a name for Jesus. This first week the focus will be on these three antiphons: Come, O Emmanuel, Come, O Wisdom, and Come, O Adonai.

The Principal Connection ...

"Both Great and Small Praise our God!"

"The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:12

What a beautiful time of year. The trees are changing colors from green to red, yellow, brown, and gold. It seems to be a celebration of God's beauty which He shares with us. I just love this time of year! Unfortunately it doesn't last long. Soon the snow will be falling and we will be in the dormant period of God's creation. But we have a lot to accomplish before that happens.

Students of the Month

Congratulations to **Bodie Buse, Erica Bautista, and Michael Coy** who were selected as students of the month for October. Their teachers **Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Schultz** recommended them for their positive attitudes, exemplary behavior, sincere willingness to help others and overall beneficial deportment.

Teachers also considered student attitude and work ethic. The children receive a certificate of merit for this award. They have their pictures posted on a bulletin board outside the Principal's Office. We pray prayers of thanks to the Lord for His blessing our school with these wonderful children.

Thanks!

We would like to thank all those who came for **Grandparents Day**. We celebrated with 170+ grandparents. A special thanks to **Tammy Gardin and all the volunteers**.

Thanks to all who attended and purchased something from the **Book Fair**. A special thanks to **Angie Jensen and all the volunteers**.

Thanks to all those moms who came to **Muffins for Moms**. A special thanks to our **PTL Board and to Marv Hecht, Pastor Reeves, Pete Dyba, and Tim Gardiner** for their help.

Thanks to all who came to the **PTL Apple Hayride at Kregel's farm**. Thanks to **Darryl and Roberta** for hosting our PTL time of fellowship!

Activities in November

Cheeseballs are going to be made Saturday November 5. Pick-Up will be from 11 AM to 1 PM. The proceeds will go toward playground improvements for the children. We will host our **Parent Teacher Conferences on November 8-11 from 3-8 PM every night**. We will have a **Veteran's Day** assembly **November 11 at 11 AM** in the gymnasium. **Mr. Larry Nimetz** will be our guest speaker.

We will celebrate with our dads at our **Donuts for Dads on Friday November 18 at 7 AM**. Our **Middle Upper Grades Spelling Bee will be Friday November 18 at 2 PM** in the gym. All are welcome to come. We will have **NO SCHOOL November 23-25 for Thanksgiving Break**. Our **Day School Board will host a Town Hall Forum** for our parents to come and share about the school **November 29 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria**.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Sarah Fraikin** who made the Homecoming Court at Lowell. Way to go Sarah!

If you know of anyone who has attended and graduated and is an alumni who is doing well and is successful at their school, please let Mr. Schultz know. We want to recognize them in the Principal's Pad of our Trinity Weekly Announcements (TWA)!

Thank you for all your prayers and support which help to make for a very special school year. We pray for God's blessings to all of you.

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

On October 14-15, Trinity hosted a workshop called "Churches Planting Churches", led by Rev. Michael Ruhl from The Center for United States Missions. The workshop's content was extremely relevant to Trinity's efforts to plant a church in Cedar Lake. Importantly, I learned the answer to the question many of you have been asking, "Why should Trinity bother to plant a church?"

Before answering this question, let's first take a step back and consider Jesus' directive to all Christians in Matthew 28:19-20, "*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 everything I have commanded you.*" I think it's safe to assume that we all feel obligated to obey this command from our Lord, but few of us know how to effectively spread the Gospel message to non-believers. Simply offering weekend worship services doesn't appear the answer – how many non-Christians have you seen walk in our doors lately? We know that standing on street corners waving the Bible or evangelizing door-to-door are unlikely to work in today's society. But this doesn't excuse us from fulfilling the Great Commission.

What does work? Research has shown that the single most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven is planting new churches. It is estimated that 60-80% of new adult members in new churches were previously not actively involved in any church. By contrast, most new adult members of established churches (like Trinity) are transfers from other churches. Another study found in a recent year that roughly half of all churches did not add one single new member through conversion.

So there are actually two answers to the question, "Why should Trinity bother to plant a church?" First, Jesus told us to spread the Gospel to non-believers, and second, planting a new church is most effective way to do so. Nothing else Trinity has done in recent years or is planning to do is as likely to yield as much growth in God's Kingdom. Furthermore, there's no reason to fear that planting a new church would have any detrimental impact on Trinity's other current ministries – we can do both.

Our Mission Outreach Task Force knows there's much work ahead in figuring out how to best plant a church in Cedar Lake. But I hope we all can agree that this is a project worth pursuing. After all, Trinity Crown Point (any every other church on Earth) was once a new church plant!

Greg Forsythe

Board of Finance & Staff Management

As we move through the year we find ourselves with the budget behind us and we're working hard to make the numbers work. It seems as though we are always fighting to make ends meet. That being said though, we have had some very positive events that have happened. A Night of Abundant Blessing was another great success adding funds to improve the school in various ways.

The continued success of Susan Magruder through her unending enthusiasm and tenacity has secured the first of what we hope will be many more grants for the school.

School enrollment, though down from previous higher levels, is maintaining and there has been a pleasant surprise in the number of students now attending the upper grades.

We have completed an employee hand book for the Trinity Church and School employees that should add a level of stability and fairness.

We are about to conclude an independent financial review and implement a number of the ideas and controls that were suggested.

So as we continue through the year, please pray for our continued success and that we will find the necessary funds to continue Gods work here at Trinity.

God Bless you all.

Jud Salmon

Trinity Cares Third Quarter Report

2011

Trinity Cares is the helping arm of our congregation designed to assist church and school individuals and families (and those connected to us) who need a little assistance to get past a financial bump in the road. We have several teams of concerned and caring members who meet with these people face-to-face to determine if and how we can be of assistance. In order to have a personal, caring relationship with everyone we help, our aide is offered on a one-time basis. In order to be more effective with those we help, our area of ministry service includes all members of Trinity Lutheran – church and school – and residents of Crown Point, Cedar Lake, and Winfield Township, including both sides of LOFS.

How do you get connected to Trinity Cares? Call the church (663-1578x501) or speak to one of our Pastors. Information is gathered and an appointment made to meet with one of our teams. Currently there are teams available on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm, and Thursday mornings from 9-11am. In these meetings, clients bring all pertinent paperwork and a discussion is held with the client to determine his/her situation. Much prayer is offered, and a decision is made if and/or how we can be of assistance. No money is given to the client. All monies are sent to the companies/people owed payment, and calls are made to inform them of payments being sent.

Since we function through God's good grace, and only because of your generous donations and support, the following data is shared with you on a quarterly basis. You will find the 2011 Third Quarter report below.

We received eleven (11) requests. Three (3) were out of our area of ministry service, and one person left no contact information. The other six requests involved eight (8) adults and nine (9) children. We made payments toward bills owed to NIPSCo and rent/mortgage payments in the amount of \$1,025.73. One of these families was a Trinity member.

We praise God that He has so richly blessed us that we have been able to bless those in need who are made known to us.

Trinity School News

Here's a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair this year. We sold over \$9000 worth of books and other items. Based on our sales and other bonuses earned, we will have nearly \$5000 in Scholastic Dollars to spend on books, instructional materials, and other equipment for the school and library. Already we have over \$1000 worth of new books in classrooms and the library from purchases and donations during the fair. Our Trinity family and the grandparents who came on Friday have blessed us beyond our expectations. Thanks again to you all! Thanks also to Angie Jensen for her many hours of work heading up the fair and to all the other volunteers who helped. We couldn't have done it without you!

Bakery House Benefit Dinner

The annual dinner to benefit our Bakery House ministry will be held here at Trinity on Sunday, December 4th. There will be entertainment beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by a delicious meal prepared by an experienced chef and served by the Bakery House men in the gym.

The suggested donation is \$50.00 per person and tickets will be available after services on the weekend of November 12-14th and also the weekend of November 26-28th. In addition, you can purchase tickets at the atrium desk during office hours. For more information, please call Marianne at 663-3504 or Sharon at 663-7285, or talk to any member of the Bakery House board or the pastors.

Please join us to see and hear how this ministry is growing and helping to tell the story of Christ's love to those who find themselves in need of physical, emotional and spiritual building-up. You will be blessed!!

Happy Anniversary!

11/1	Denton & Ann McCormick
11/2	Bob & Joanne Stephen
11/3	Doug & Sharon Dix, Gary & Nona Rowland
11/4	Peter & Aimee Kozlowski
11/5	Ron & Tina Yakimow
11/11	Fred & Janet Rosenwinkel
11/12	Jim & Kathryn Hensley, Jeff & Kim Smith
11/14	Arnold & Shirley Patz, Mark & Angela Vicari
11/15	Greg & Denise Puent
11/17	Dave & Eileen Maxwell
11/18	John & Lynda Smith
11/19	Greg & Sandy Henderlong, Jack & Karen Ritsema
11/20	Daniel & Carissa Totleben
11/21	Max & Jackie Korte, Leonard & Nancy Anglis
11/24	Gary & Martha Diekelmann, Phil & Tammy Gardin
11/25	Dennis & Sandy Reynolds, Tim & Tina Gardiner
11/26	Rob & Leslie Gardiner
11/27	Bob & Anna Mae Kerr, Robert & Karla Stiener
11/28	Dave & Pam Zona
11/29	Kevin & Pam Vana
11/30	James & Melissa Mangrum

Happy Birthday!

11/1	Patti Wolter, Raleigh Haas, Robert Maynard,
11/4	Todd Pflughoeft, Christopher Esala, Matthew Board, Ashton Rager
11/5	Bernice Anderson, Karol Sparenberg, Bethany Wendt, Taylor Gella, Harry Wise, Paige Stadnik
11/6	Becky Bergner, Julie Bodamer, Christine Bryant, Samantha Hickel, James Arroyo, Hayden Tedhams
11/7	Betty Perry, Don Wigley, JoAnne Hurtubise, David Knestrict, Amanda Curley, Allison Cizmar, Faith Bergner
11/8	Mardi Kalember, Paula Stiener, Steve Dallman, Lisa Haas
11/9	Ryan Smith, Megan Rydberg
11/10	Elaine Barber, Arlene Knox, Debra Kish, Chris Ronning, Anthony Nichols, Eli Oosterhoff
11/11	Sherry Doyle
11/12	John Ringers, Amy Aardsma, Amy De St. Jean, Evan Henderlong
11/13	Louise Smith, Pastor Easterday, Coreen Asche, Alexis Belmonte, Steven Thurn
11/14	Brandy Egnatz, Ethan Brown
11/15	Diane Obert, Rachel Stas, Bret Snow
11/16	Sherri Holzhauser, Darlene Noak
11/17	Dennis Wickberg, Mary Parry, Tracy Franklin, Lilee Coomer
11/18	Charlotte Morrow, Eileen Riggs, Nicole Riggs, Nathan Carey, Stoe Duffala Jr.
11/19	Dick Uhter, Robert Neitzel, Cindy McGraw, Nona Rowland, Dana Monroe, William Mangrum
11/20	Rebekah DeHaan, Barbara Evanyo
11/21	Marilyn Angulo, Willard Schuffert, Christine Miller, Adam Henderlong
11/22	Jack Esala, Cynthia David, Rayburn Pigg, Charlie Lintz, Hayden Smith, Greg Puent Sr.
11/24	Marilyn Brunk, Shannen Reynolds
11/25	Lorraine Csicsko, Gert Polster, Tim Koelikamp, Tom Thirion
11/26	Evelyn Henry, Jeanette Dixon, Brennan Brown, Joshua Suslowicz
11/27	Dawn Cozart
11/28	Ruth Mickow
11/29	Betty Buth, Megan Rainey
11/30	Toni Michalak, Memphis Miller, Gavin Wynkoop

Funerals

Ruth Champion was called home to be with the Lord on October 11th. Her funeral was on October 15th.

Baptisms

Autumn Nicole Brzinski, daughter of Jennell & Brian Brzinski was received into the family of God through holy baptism on October 2nd. Sponsors for Autumn are Michael & Mary Jo Rymarczyk.

Camden Matthew Shea, son of Pam & Matt Shea was received into the family of God through holy baptism on October 9th. Sponsors for Camden are his brother and sister, Colin & Ellery Shea.



Friday, November 18th
for article submission to the
December newsletter.
Articles may be dropped off

at church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

Mission Connections ...

Thrivent / Kids Against Hunger Food Packing Event a Huge Success

Thanks to 284 volunteers, we packed 112,218 meals in one eight hour day, exceeding our goal and again setting a record for our annual Valparaiso University event! Over the past three years, our Thrivent Valparaiso projects have packed well over 300,000 meals, more than any other group working with KAH-Greenwood. This year, 90% of the food we packed was distributed to food pantries in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties, mostly through our partnership with the Northwest Indiana Food Bank, while 10% went to the area of Africa currently affected by starvation and political upheaval. At 23¢ per meal, we raised \$25,810 to pay for the required ingredients. 75% of the funding came from our Northwest Indiana Lutheran community: Lutheran churches and schools (20%), individuals and families (25%), and four Thrivent chapters (30%). The remainder was from area businesses and organizations, our Thrivent Mid-America RFO, and Thrivent Foundation. If your church or school contributed funds and/or collected an offering for the cause, they have received a thank you note with the details, and hopefully that is available for viewing on a bulletin board near you. We are sincerely grateful to all of you who, through donation of money or time or both, enabled Thrivent's South Shore Group to again complete a super successful project with the Kids Against Hunger Greenwood satellite. Same time next year? If you would like more information, please contact Carsten Falkenberg, Thrivent Financial Wealth Advisor, at 219-663-8699 local, 800-663-8699 toll free, or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com.

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“Worship for Shut-Ins”

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

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November 6 - Revelation 7:15

"A Sheltered Life"

by Rev. Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer, Holy Cross Lutheran Church~Fort Wayne, IN

God's Word tells us that those in Heaven live a sheltered life. From that vantage point of eternal life with Jesus Christ—for ourselves and those we love who have died in faith—we face the prospects of life with eyes and ears focused on our Savior. This changes everything!

November 13 - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

"Destined for Salvation"

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

People have always been concerned about the end of time. What will happen? When will it be? For the Christian, the end of our journey on earth is but a transition to life with Christ in Heaven.

November 20 - Matthew 25:31-46

"The Day It's All Gone"

by Rev. James L. Elsner, Prince of Peace~Hudson, IN

Jesus Christ will come again! On the Last Day. Are you ready?

November 27 - I Corinthians 1:3-9

"Perfectly Prepared"

by Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr., President-Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN

God prepares sinful human beings through the works and merits of Christ. We are perfectly prepared!

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