



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

October, 2009

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

Dear Trinity friends,

I want to thank you all for your cards, concerns, and especially for your prayers during my recent illness. I have been uplifted and encouraged in my recovery because of them all.

Diana Dyba

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

We sometimes joke about clumsy people by saying, "He (or she) couldn't walk and chew gum at the same time." Perhaps you remember the challenge given to you as a child to try to pat your head and rub your stomach at the same time. I found it hard to do two different things at the same time.

I wonder if we have some of the same concerns about doing both mission (work for the sake of the kingdom done outside the walls of the church building) and ministry (work for the sake of the kingdom done within the walls of the church building). There may be the fear that if we focus on mission, on reaching those who are lost and have no hope of Jesus Christ, that the work on behalf of those who are part of the congregation must come to a stop. After all, the logical thought is that we just can't devote energy to do work both inside and outside the congregation.

But what we may be forgetting is that sometimes we do one kind of work that benefits another aspect of ministry. For instance, the youth are beginning to plan service activities out in the community. This is one of those "both and" activities. It is an event for the youth in the congregation, but it focuses on connecting with some of the neighbors in the community, which may open the door for evangelism. Youth like to do service work when it is done as a group, so ministry within in the congregation is blessed, and mission work in the community is also blessed. It doesn't have to be mission or ministry. It can be mission and ministry.

How does this relate to the prospect of reaching out by way of planting a congregation in a neighboring community? First of all, a mission goal like this brings various groups of people together to work on something significant. This blesses the relationships among those involved, while working toward mission and outreach toward the lost. We have been very blessed with significant growth, but many of the new members we have received are already believers who just happened to move into our community. This is growth in the congregation, and we rejoice in that, but not growth in the kingdom. Growth in the kingdom happens when

those who are not believers in Jesus Christ come to believe in Him and receive the gift of eternal life. This happens when unbelievers come to the baptismal font, or come to Christian Essentials class, and confess that Jesus is their Lord.

A second blessing in striving for a mission project like this is that people are encouraged to use their talents for the work of Christ and His kingdom. A project like this will require a foundation of prayer. People who have a great prayer life can begin using their abilities for the sake of Jesus. It will require organization and planning, and those with these skills can use them for Jesus. It will require some telephoning and perhaps door-to-door canvassing. People with these gifts can participate by doing what they naturally love to do. Again, as they work together, there is joy in serving Jesus.

We are blessed with some wonderful challenges in the days ahead. There is still much to do in the ministry within the congregation. We will continue to work toward that. But there is also much to do in mission outside the congregation, mission work that can be as close as ten miles from Crown Point. Jesus reminds us that the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few, and to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send workers into the field. I encourage you to look in the mirror and see if perhaps you are one of those God has called to serve in both ministry within the congregation and mission outside the congregation.

Pastor Easterday

Pastor/ DCE Appreciation Month

In recent years, we have begun acknowledging the faithful service of Pastors and Directors of Christian Education (DCE) during the month of October. This year, we will be recognizing the faithful Trinity servants on October 18. Those who are serving, have served, or are retired servants who now are members of Trinity are:

Rev. David Easterday	Ordained 1994
Rev. David Kipp	Ordained 1992
Rev. Lothar Thoenke (Trinity Emeritus)	Ordained 1965
Rev. Corey Wielert	Ordained 2006
Rev. Don Biester (Retired Emeritus)	Ordained 1960
Rev. Dr. LaMarr Miller (Retired)	Ordained 1951
DCE Paul Wendt	Commissioned 1991
DCE Brandon Grelle	Commissioned 2009

We praise God for each of these faithful servants of Christ and rejoice in their years of ministry!

NCD Survey Results

In the past few years, Trinity has done ministry self-assessments using the Natural Church Development (NCD) materials. NCD has developed a questionnaire that identifies eight quality characteristics of congregations and the level of performance the congregation has achieved in each area. The survey shows areas of strength as well as areas that need to be strengthened.

Two months ago we took our third survey since 2006. We have received the results of the thirty surveys completed by members of the congregation.

Our top area of strength is Inspiring Worship Services. We offer a variety of great worship services, and I rejoice that those who took the survey see this as a strength area in ministry at Trinity.

The area that needs to be better developed is once again Loving Relationships. This is not surprising in a congregation that is as large as Trinity. I have begun reminding people that a large church needs to work to be intentionally small in many activities so people are connected to each other. Small group ministry, servant events, and personal relationships are all essential in keeping us united in these loving relationships.

The boards and task forces will work toward this component next year as another step toward providing the best possible ministry here at Trinity.

I want to personally thank the people who took the survey at my request. I am grateful for your willingness to serve in this important way.

Pastor Easterday

40 Days of Prayer

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be about halfway through our 40 Days of Prayer worship focus. Prayer is a crucial foundation for what God has called us to do. We have prepared a prayer guide for this 40 day period, and you can pick up copies in the tract racks at the back of the church or in the Atrium. The focus for the remaining weeks in October is:

- Oct. 3-5 Means and Discipline of Prayer
- Oct. 10-12 Value and Benefits of Prayer (How does God answer prayer?)
- Oct. 17-19 Diversity in Prayer- Kinds of Petitions.
- Oct. 24-26 The Life of Prayer

We encourage you to join in that holy conversation with God as a regular part of your daily devotions.

Pastor Easterday

The Principal Connection ...

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

But they want to go where their friends are going! Shouldn't I let them stay with their friends? This question may be masking an underlying question: Who should make the decision where your son or daughter will go to school? Should that decision be made solely by the parents, solely by the student, or through a combined effort? Parents who allow their kids to make or share in the decision about where they will go to school might be faced with this type of logic:

You say to your child:

"I've thought and prayed about it and I would like you to go to Trinity."

Your child says:

"But, mom and dad, all of my friends are going to (fill in a public school here)! You aren't going to separate me from my best friends, are you?"

Now what do you do? Friends are extremely important to the average child in school. It is not surprising that they would want to do what their friends are doing. School at any level can be a scary proposition and going into a new environment with their best friends at their side can be very appealing. This argument is probably the most compelling one that a kid can make to his or her parents.

The answer to this dilemma is two-fold:

1. Parents should make the decision about school for their son or daughter. Your son or daughter's input should be considered, but ultimately, decisions about the spiritual well-being of your children should be yours. **If you believe that choosing a school will play a role in the spiritual development of your son or daughter (I guarantee it will), then making that decision for them is not only prudent – it's Scriptural:**

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

It is truly amazing that excellent parents, who have guided and made the right spiritual decisions for their children since birth, will often allow their kids to choose where they will spend 40-50% of their awake time for the next years of their life. Unbelievable, really.

2. They will make new friends. That may be a harsh reality for them to grasp, but not only can they stay in touch with their existing friends, but they will make new ones as well. If you have ever spent considerable time around students, you would know that friends and social circles are ever changing for kids during those years. It is rare indeed that a student has the same best friend as all the way through school. Regardless, the beauty of a Christian education is that it provides an environment that holds to a Christian worldview perspective. Your son or daughter can make friends that will encourage his/her walk with Christ.

They will be taught at Trinity Lutheran School what it means to be a true Christian friend to others. They will have the opportunity to rise above the normal shallow childhood friendships and learn what it means to truly love others as Christ loved them.

We will celebrate **Grandparents Day** on **Friday, October 9, from 7:30-10:00 a.m.** This will culminate with our Chapel service at 10:00 AM. Our **Book Fair** will be in the Atrium from **October 16-20**. On **Saturday, October 17, at 5:30 p.m.**, Mr. Schultz will read to the children. Stop by and buy a book for your child or grandchild.

Muffins for Moms will take place on **Friday, October 16, at 7:00 a.m.** Moms are invited to come for a muffin and beverage sponsored by our Parent Teacher League (PTL). The 2nd quarter will end on October 21. We will have 47 days of school and 10 days of church and Sunday School attendance.

We will have **NO SCHOOL October 26-30**. We will have Indiana Lutheran Teachers Conference and Fall Break to celebrate. We thank the Lord for this time of refreshment!

We know that with God all things are possible. We give thanks for all 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 partnership with us! We pray that God will bless our school year in all things!

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

The October Congregational meeting is the time we elect some new members and officers to our various church boards. I say "some" new members because although we hold elections each year, the board terms are 2 years in length. This way, each year we begin with some new and some experienced board members.

Although the actual term runs from the beginning of the year to the end of the following year (January to the next December), once elected we want all newly elected members to get engaged right away. In fact, again this year we will devote the November board meeting time to helping the boards establish goals and objectives to further God's work at Trinity.

As you will see elsewhere in the Newsletter, October is a busy month. I ask that you be alert to, and active in, all of the upcoming events. I also ask that you be in prayer for our forward-looking plans. Be prepared to say "yes" if asked to help and don't be shy about offering your talents and abilities to all of the Lord's work here at Trinity.

Rob Gardiner

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:

- 1) Fill out an application.
- 2) Allow a Criminal Background check.
- 3) Attend a 1 hour training session.

Certification is good for 3 years.

Trainings for the beginning of October:

Monday, October 5th 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 8th 1:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Sunday, October 11th 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Childcare will be available. All trainings held in the cafeteria.

Call for Ushers: Trinity has a need for additional ushers especially for 10:45 a.m. service as well as the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. Understanding Trinity's need, we are opening up this service opportunity to all members of Trinity including women and youth at least 12 years old. Your family could form a family ushering team as a way to incorporate your family's faith into service to Trinity. We are especially encouraging family and/or women ushering groups. Please direct all questions or comments to Dave Maxwell at 661-0547.

From the Director of Contemporary Worship and Youth...

No window gazing this month. I think I was tattled on by those who read my article last month. The last couple of weeks were loaded with great conversations, planning, and events like the Jr. High District Youth Gathering as pictured. Trinity had twelve total participants and God had His way with them. One youth facebooked it as the, "Wildest...funniest....learning more about myself weekend than ever B4," while another wrote to me stating, "before this, I realize that I have taken life for granted and I pray to God that he would forgive me for everything I have done". Wow. God be praised!

Want to get involved in the community with the youth? We need supplies, hands, and food! October 10th, the youth will be meeting at Trinity to go off into groups doing various service projects in the Crown Point area. Call me if you would like to support this great outreach or if you have any questions, (219) 663-1578 at extension 338.

Brandon Grelle

50's Drive-In

Enjoy an old fashioned 50's drive-in dining experience on Trinity's parking lot on **Sunday, October 18th!** Hamburgers, hot dogs, malts....some even delivered on roller skates! The food will be ready about 4:30 p.m. and we'll take orders and serve until about 6:30 p.m. Come and enjoy! Brought to you by the Sr. High Youth.

National Youth Gathering

The registration window is open for the 2010 LCMS National Youth Gathering. Event takes place **July 17-21, 2010** in New Orleans, LA. We are registering people now. Contact DCE Grelle or DCE Wendt for details.

Trinity League

What is old to you is new to others!

Trinity League will be having their Trash to Treasure room at the Holiday Market Place and Café' on November 7th. If you have any items you would like to donate, please place them in the small room off the fellowship hall from Monday, October 23rd through Friday, November 6th. All items should be clean and in working order. We will not accept clothing. All unsold items will be donated to a local charity.

JOB FAIR

Looking for a job? Need to revise your resume? Trinity's Board of Communication Services is hosting a Job Fair on **Wednesday, October 14th**, complete with a computer workshop. Tell your friends and relatives that experts will be available to answer questions and help you focus on improving their job search skills. to sign up or for additional information, call Laura Lunkes at (317) 797-9452 or Dennis Hodges at (219) 887-1351.

It pays to know how to search for the best job and to be prepared for the job search interview.

Archivists

What is your knowledge of Trinity Lutheran Church History? Becoming a church archivist is a great way to understand the trials and successes of this special congregation. Call Dennis Hodges at (219) 887-1351 for more information.

Trinity School News

National Junior Honor Society:

On Saturday, September 19th our National Junior Honor Society Chapter took part in an event in Valparaiso called "Kids Against Hunger". It was an assembly line process of putting rice, soy, dried vegetables and a chicken flavoring mix that contained vitamins and nutrients into a plastic bag that needed to be weighed, sealed and packed into cartons. Each person had a responsibility in the process. Each bag of food was enough for a person that received that meal to survive another day. Half of the meals packaged that day would go to Indiana food pantries with the other half going overseas. There were 75 people at our 2 1/2 hour shift and the goal was to package 36,000 meals. We blew away that goal by packaging over 43,500 meals for the hungry in that time frame.

It was a fantastic experience that the kids genuinely seemed to enjoy and the realization hit home when it was stated that they helped to save over 43,000 lives that morning. *Alyssa Vajda, Amy Fraikin, Andrew Schwimmer, Ashlyn Stiener, Erik Gardin, Olivia Pillar and Sophie Reiners* were privileged to take part in the event. They did a great job. Also a special thanks to the *Reiners and Fraikins* for providing transportation early on a Saturday morning!

LOOKING AHEAD:



Wiseway Turkey Awards: Trinity will again host a Thanksgiving Dinner on November 26th. In the past, we have been able to obtain our turkeys through Wiseway's Free Butterball Turkey giveaway using their Turkey Awards. With Wiseway no longer in the area, we are asking that you ask your family and friends who shop at other area Wiseways to start saving and then donate their Turkey Award's to Trinity for our Thanksgiving Dinner. Wiseway has started handing out Turkey Awards. So we need to act now. A Turkey Awards box is on the Atrium's desk where you can donate your awards. With the free turkeys and your donations of food stuff, we have been able to keep the cost to Trinity minimal. These awards help us defray the majority of our cost.

Dennis and Joyce Mills

Happy Anniversary!

10/1	Robert & Kandis Pigg
10/2	Mark & Jeannine Furukawa, John & Vicki Mowery
10/6	Michael & Brenda Dean
10/8	Troy & Dawn Stovall
10/9	Michael & Shannon Belmonte
10/11	Russ & Shirley Boettger, Gerry & Dawn Gora
10/12	Rich & Patti Wolter, Rick & Cindy Fitzsimons
10/13	Robert & Joyce McCann
10/14	Gary & DeeDee Waters, Jim & Kim Merrell, Les & Brooke Nack
10/15	Kevin & Karol Sparenberg
10/16	Jim & Mary LaDuke, Gerry & Missy Luebcke
10/17	Dan & DJ Ivanyo, Greg & Nicole Johnson, Bailey & Jennifer Kasch
10/18	Bob & Margaret Becker, Bryan & Julie Bodamer, Dan & Heather Forsythe
10/19	Bob & Cathy Stinson, Robert & Amanda Maynard
10/20	Frank & Lorraine Csicko, Don & Barbara Wigley, Hans & Hermine Enderlin, Denny & Marilyn Brannock
10/21	Robert & Kris Bikoff
10/22	Ron & Darlene Reda
10/23	John & Irene Ringers
10/24	Roy & Audrey Wieler, Willi & Helmi Paul, Michael & Jennifer Kulak
10/25	David & Ingrid Monix
10/26	Tom & Debbie Johnstone
10/27	Dan & Judy Thomas
10/28	Bill & Sue Campbell, Wayne & Lois Turczi
10/29	Chris & Dayna Martin
10/31	Mark & Diane Jackson

Happy Birthday!

10/1	Duane Huber, Lorraine Keilman, Denise Puent
10/2	Roseann Dennis, Nathan Bunde, Ryan Alliss
10/3	Richard Scheub, Andrew Knapp, Ethan Wilkes
10/4	Michael Gella Jr.
10/5	Leslie Edmonds, Mary Ellis
10/6	Cynthia Fitzsimons, Megan Dean
10/7	Lee Kardelis, Grant Hult, Nathan Mueller, Dominic Dennis, Benjamin Robinson
10/8	Kathleen Petrick, Sharon Grelecki, Kaleigh Klingberg
10/9	Pearl Kregel, Shirley Klockenga, Lenny Jones Jr., Caleb Miller
10/10	Joan Kaiser, Millie Seebold, Charles Anderson, Bob Stephen, Dave Zona, David Long, Madeline Thunberg
10/11	Amy Kozlowski, EA'mon Willison, Eriana Ivasiecko
10/12	Karen Radford, Rudy Regelin, Rachel Stinson, Rebecca Vajda
10/13	John Knox, Christine Genovese, Tiffany Holzauer, Justin Smith, Nicholas DeVries
10/14	Katy Langbehn, Pastor Kipp, Robin Biggs, Thomas Haberling, Marcie Mundt
10/15	Roy Wieler, William Banta, Jean McLean, John Linge, Felicia Schuster, Rob Gardiner
10/16	Elizabeth Klepsch, Ada Dickerson, Brittany Ronning
10/17	Fritz Rather, Larry Smith, Justin Cozart, Holly Schuster
10/18	Shirley Boettger, Cindy Schulte, Kathy Mueller, Ashley Suslowicz, Ben Kulak
10/19	Michelle Rydberg, Matt Turczi, Anna Lehman
10/20	Dorothy Taylor, Sandy Monroe, Karen Cozart, James Ricci, Brady Schuster
10/21	Klaus Becker, Andrew Weglewski, Michelle Ward, Jennifer Green, Kali Manning, Donald Pozworski
10/22	Deanna Nowakowski, Mark Lutzow Jr., Andrew Foster, Kyle DeVries
10/23	Lucas Fair
10/24	Lisa Riffle, Alec Evans
10/25	Kim Dahlman, Chris Nowakowski, Alexandra Pavot, Courtney Farrell, Carley Pearson
10/26	Bob Nayder, Phillip Morrow, Frank Voyak, Dennis Schulte, Sydney Hnatusko
10/27	Fred Guenther, Kyle Snow
10/28	Sue Board
10/29	Irene Rust, Brenda Dean, Robert Maynard IV
10/30	Glen Beer, Jayne Murdoch, Beth Reiners, Scott Leslie
10/31	Marie Fasel, Fred Klepsch, Laura Lunkes, Samantha Nowakowski

Weddings

God's blessings to Matthew Brauer and Andrea Pozworski who were married on September 5th.

Justin Glaser and Holly Freund exchanged vows on September 12th.

Mike Snyder and Jessica Brewer were united in holy matrimony on September 18th.

May the Lord bless these unions.

Baptisms

Jessica Brewer received the sacrament of holy baptism on September 18th.

Katelyn Ann and Jacob Anthony Swienconek were welcomed into the family of God through holy baptism on September 20th. They are the daughter and son of Kyle Wilsom and Danielle Swienconek. Sponsors for Katelyn and Jacob are Dottie O'Marra and Jeff Lundy.

Funerals

Edmond Kent Nondorf went home to be with the Lord on September 18th. He funeral was September 23rd.

New Members

Our church family welcomed several new members on August 30th. They are: Brian & Ann Marie Bissell, Ed Beatty, Heather Boettger, Jessica Brewer, Steve & Becky DeHaan and children Samantha, Miranda, Olivia, Rebekah, Logan, Jackson & Emma, Tim & Sherry Doyle and children Caitlyn, Ryan & Tyler, Mike Griffin and daughters Rachel & Nikki, Don & Shirley Guske, Brandon Grelle, David & Debra Kish and son Brian, Andrew & Karen Knapp and children Wil, Brooke & Logan, Jene Bertels, Denton & Ann McCormick and daughters Kaitlin & Riley, Michelle Nester and daughters Ashley & Jessica, Rudy & Kathleen Regelin and daughter Amanda, John & Irene Ringers, Michelle Robinson and sons Ben & Grant, Keith Simpson, Jeff & Kim Smith and children Rita, Jackie & Justin, Mike Snyder, Kevin & Karol Sparenberg, Donald & Angela Stash and children Donald, Kai & Kam, Kyle Steinbach & Tricia Herman and daughters Rebecca & Sydney Steinbach.



Wednesday, October 21st, for article submission to the November newsletter. Articles may be dropped off

at church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

High School News

Congratulations to Ryan Farrell on being named Outstanding Drum Major along with co-drum major Kelsey Emery, at the Kankakee Valley and Rensselaer marching band competitions. Ryan serves as Co-Drum Major for Crown Point High School's Royal Regiment Marching Band.

The Royal Regiment also received "Gold" honors at both competitions. The marching band includes Trinity members Paul Rowland, Alana Tillery, and Alexandra Pavot.

2009 Focus on WATCH Groups

WAY!

Solomon reminded us that "there is nothing new under the sun." Well, there is, and it's called WAY! -- not "The WAY;" just WAY! Actually it's not entirely new (so Solomon was correct) because it grew out of something else. But there's a new leader, Brandon Grelle, and new leaders can get away with a lot, including another acronym.

What Brandon is attempting to do is to get junior high kids together on Wednesday afternoons after school for a good time. Therefore WAY! Get it? You don't? Then let me spell it out for you: Wednesday Afternoon Youth. I know; it's downright prosaic. But if you, or better, your child would show up, it might just add a little poetry.

Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month junior high youth will meet until 5:30 pm, beginning on September 30th. That date is neither a 2nd or 4th Wednesday, but it goes to show that WAY! is not as simple as it looks. Surprises are in store, plus fellowship and fun and spiritual food. "Try it. You'll like it." That's not Solomon, but they are wise words. And Brandon's cool!

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)**.

* * *

Planning to pay for college?

Whether you're trying to fund a college education for your child, grandchild or even yourself, choosing the appropriate savings vehicle is one of the critical components to your success. But how much money do you need to save, and which plan is best for you?

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers a free education funding calculator to help families estimate how much they need to save. Visit thrivent.com and click on *Planning: Tools & Services*, then *Education Planning*, then determine which savings vehicle is right for you. Here are some of the most popular college savings vehicles:

529 savings plans

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) UTMA/UGMA (Custodial Accounts)

Each savings vehicle has its own unique advantages/disadvantages. A Thrivent Financial representative can help you choose the one that's right for you.

To learn more about paying/saving for college, contact your Thrivent Financial representative, Carsten Falkenberg, Senior Financial Consultant, at 219-663-8699 or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

IN GOD'S SERVICE:

Rev. David A. Easterday, Senior Pastor
1615 W. 95th Ct.
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-8638

Rev. David P. Kipp, Associate Pastor
920 W. South Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-4108

Paul R. Wendt, Director of Christian Education
931 E. Joliet Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-662-9317

Karol R. Ketcher, Music Director
316 S. Court Street
Crown Point, IN 46307
219-663-9105

Brandon Grelle, Director of Contemporary
Worship and Youth Director
2025 E 84th St #3 B
Merrillville, IN 46410
812-525-8475

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

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