



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL**
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

December, 2009

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

My sincere thanks and appreciation to Pastor Easterday, Pastor Kipp, and the entire Trinity family, for the prayers, concerns and well wishes expressed during my recent illness. May God's gracious love be with you all. Ron Atkinson

From Your Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

Over the years I have heard a number of people lament (a fancy word for complain) about the time we spend in Advent. Advent is four weeks leading up to Christmas, and then we quickly move past Christmas to the Epiphany season when we remember the Magi following the light and being led to Jesus. The thought in the minds of some people is, "Why can't we just go straight to Christmas?"

In thinking about this, I wonder if we have lost the joy of anticipation and preparation. Mary knew the great joy of the anticipation of God's gift of the Savior given to man. The angel Gabriel came to Mary and greeted her. When told that she would have a Son and name Him Jesus, she was immediately began a time of waiting and preparation. God could have chosen to enter earth instantly, but instead chose to send his Son by way of Mary's womb, which according to the normal time for childbirth took nine months. Each of the days in that time is also essential for parents in their preparations. There are arrangements for the place for the baby to stay. More importantly, there are the preparations parents must make in marriage to get ready for a lifetime of parenting. Each month is important.

Advent is a time of waiting, but each day is important to our faith life. Without time to prepare, there wouldn't be much time to recognize our sin and the need we have for the Savior. Without time to watch for the signs of His coming, we might miss His arrival. Without the time of waiting, we might begin to think that we control God's plan for salvation, which in our hands would be totally out of control.

No, waiting is an important time of preparation. We now wait for His return, sometimes with yearning for that heavenly home, and sometimes with anxiety because of the life we have lived. In either case, the time of preparation is beneficial, for there is joy in yearning for heaven, and there is time for forgiveness for those with anxious hearts. When Jesus came, He didn't immediately begin ministry while he was a baby.

Instead there was a time for waiting, and then a time for teaching. But ultimately, His was the time for making things right with God on the cross of Calvary. Now the anxiety over our sins is replaced by the yearning to be with Jesus in heaven.

As we wait, we pray. When Gabriel came to Mary, Mary prayed (Luke 1:46-55). When John the Baptist was born, his father, Zechariah, prayed (Luke 1:67-79). As we wait, we pray. We pray that God will use us to make disciples of all nations. We pray that our faith will be sufficient to face trials and tribulations. We pray for that special place Jesus is preparing for us in His Father's house (John 14:1-4). We pray that Jesus will come quickly.

One of my favorite Advent hymns is really a prayer for that second coming of Christ. I share it as a reminder of the blessing of patiently waiting for God's plan to be fulfilled.

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
Than mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wider our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

May you have a blessed time of prayer in preparation for the coming of Jesus!

Pastor Easterday

The Principal Connection ...

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

The last number of months I have been making a case for sending children to our Lutheran school at Trinity. This month is December and I want to focus on the real reason for the season.

I had a very close friend who shared with me that his job at IBM was a continual series of challenges and opportunities. Each challenge brought on a new opportunity. **Christmas is just that kind of time.**

When challenges occur we get scared and unsure of what we are to do. The writer of Hebrews 13:6 reminds us "So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'"

Daily we face challenges from the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature that would divert us from the realization that our Lord is by our side. **He sent His Son to this earth in the form of that tender baby of Bethlehem** to do what we could not do. He lived the perfect life, suffered, died, and rose for our sins.

Christmas season brings with it many challenges and opportunities. For those who are struggling with health it is a challenge to get out of the house. For those who are struggling with finances it is a challenge to meet the bills that pile up at this time of year. For those who have a personal challenge with family members this season is replete with opportunities to move forward with forgiveness and love.

We give thanks for a God who recognizes that we are through our own sinful nature a challenge and yet He provided the opportunity for us to come to Him and be forgiven through His Son. We give thanks for a Savior who left his royal home to endure the challenges of temptation successfully, providing us with the opportunity for eternal life.

Our prayer during this Christmas season is that God continue to bless us all with challenges and opportunities to serve Him with joy. **May we praise and bless our God who sent His Son at Christmas for us.** May God provide you with answers to your challenges and opportunities to give Him thanks and praise for His love.

We will have a shortened month of school activities due to our **Christmas vacation**, which will go from **December 21 until January 1.** We will **resume school** on **January 4, 2010.**

We look forward to sharing the love of our Lord at our **Christmas Convocation Service**, which **will be on December 18 at 2:00 PM in our sanctuary at Trinity. You are all welcome to attend!**

Basketball season is in full swing. Boys and girls have many teams, which are **coached by terrific volunteers. Marv Hecht, Phil Gardin, and Brandon Grelle** coach our boy's team. Our girls get involved in cheering. **Tammy Gardin** coaches our Cheerleaders.

Our girls also play basketball. **Ed Fraikin and DJ Ivanyo** coach our girls. **What a blessing all these people are for volunteering their time to do this for our children.**

We know that our Wednesday evenings will be full as we look toward **Advent services** in each church. We **encourage our families to attend** and share the messages of love leading up to the birth of our Savior. We will worship at 2:00 and 7:00 PM

The **Board of Christian Education** would like to wish all our members and families a very Merry Christmas. **I am so thankful for Rich Rainey, Mary**

Lou Thompson, Pat Hamilton, Karen Bartholomew, Linda Watland, Russ Bunde, Mark Rayonec, Pete Dyba, and our new members Angie Jensen and Tim Gardiner.

We wish God's richest blessings to all of you from our Faculty and Staff at Trinity Lutheran School. May the warmth and love of the season be yours as you peak into the manger at God's greatest gift of love for us --His Son Jesus. We ask God's richest blessings on you as you support our school. **Thanks for your prayers and your generous gifts of money to help support the school!** We are so blessed to have you with us! We give thanks for our parents who value their child's spiritual development and share in partnership with us!

John E. Schultz

From the Executive Director ...

Our November planning session was an exciting time for Trinity's leaders to look ahead at the work before us. The work of planning, coordinating and doing continues this month.

Trinity is blessed in many ways and the most obvious to me is the people who call Trinity their church. These people have a love for Trinity and a deep desire to serve their Lord and Savior. It is a diverse list: Parents, Called Ministers of Religion, Transfers, Life-long members, young, old, men and women. I could list our church family into various categories which could highlight those differences, but we have many similarities as well. I want to thank you for your passion and encourage you as you serve our Lord.

My desire is that as everyone of us, through prayer and Bible study, knows and pursues God's will in their life and work. Our collective work then, as a Church, will be more powerful and make a greater impact, than we can even imagine.

Blessings to you at Christmastime.

Rob Gardiner

Board of Communications

Music from Trinity Lutheran Church

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Trinity Church Organ, the Board of Communication Services is working with Music Director Karol Ketcher to sponsor and produce a CD of Christmas music. Watch for copies, with all your Christmas favorites, to be available over the next few weeks. For information, call Dennis Hodges @ 887-1351.

Dennis Hodges

Board of Finance & Staff Management

Trinity's Endowment Fund

Stewardship or the care of the gifts God has given us continues to be a focus for the Finance Board. In October, the congregation approved a change to the Endowment Fund By-Laws. This article will explain those changes and how we hope to impact our ministry in the future.

The Trinity Endowment Fund was first set up in 1993 as a means to manage bequests or large gifts given outside of our normal offerings and not designated for a specific ministry. The purpose of the fund has been amended several times, but approved uses include scholarship assistance for Trinity, Lutheran High School and college students preparing for the ministry, as well capital projects, new staff additions, continuing education tuition for staff or new ministry opportunities. The fund is active and being used for these purposes today although our balance is down to about \$25,000 plus a \$135,000 loan to the congregation.

The original by-laws did not restrict use of the principle and call on the Board of Stewardship to manage the funds. The Board of Stewardship no longer exists so we needed to make that change. As we looked at the Trinity's financial needs in the long term, it became apparent that we could benefit from a perpetual income source as well as be able to fund current needs. We did this by setting up two accounts within the Endowment Fund.

The first account is called the Ministry Fund. The Ministry Fund will continue to function like the original Endowment Fund. Gifts and earnings will be applied to the items listed above.

The second account is called the Permanent Fund. This fund will be limited to a 4% withdrawal every June based on the balance on May 31 each year. In time the goal of this account is to provide all of the scholarship funding at Trinity Lutheran School that is needed. At present this need is \$75,000 per year. This would require a fund of \$1,875,000 (about 1 year's operating budget for Trinity) to fund the scholarships. Our goal is to be at \$3,000,000 in 5-7 years as we anticipate future needs as our school enrollment grows,

Gifts to these funds can be made at any time. Questions can be directed to Pastor Easterday, Greg Forsythe, Jud Salmon or Jim Hensley.

Jim Hensley

Day School Development Director

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church and School is seeking applicants for the new position of Day School Development Director. Interested candidates should forward a work history and cover letter to: "Day School Development Director Search" c/o Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church and School. Questions or requests for more information should be directed to Pastor Easterday, John Schultz or Rob Gardiner. The position is being created in order to establish and expand additional sources of funding to our Day School Ministry. These types of funding include planned giving, annual funding events, matching gifts and other special gifts and grants. This request for applicants is in recognition of the unique funding challenges for our School and will be in support of our entire ministry at Trinity.

Ladies' Aid

We thank God for all the faithful work done by Ladies' Aid throughout the years. Because of changes in leadership and membership availability, the faithful ladies have elected to discontinue this group as an organization and to handle some key ministry components a little differently.

Funeral dinners can still be arranged by calling Jean McLean at 663-3442. They will be handled in the same manner as before.

Workers and donations of desserts will still be needed for these dinners. Men can also help.

In the future a standing funeral dinner committee will be formed. It would be great to have a list of volunteers to call upon when needed.

If you would like to be one of these volunteers, give your name and phone number to the church office or to Jean McLean 663-3442, Lois Uhter 552-0179, Helen Melcher 663-0705, or anyone you know that helps at funeral dinners.

We give thanks to God that the group was able to serve all these years.

Jean McLean

Trinity League

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

Trinity League will hold their annual "Christmas Cookie Sale" at the Old Courthouse. The date for the sale is **Saturday, December 12th, from 10:00am to 1:00pm or until sold out.** Donations are appreciated and can be brought to the church by Friday, Dec. 11th or right to the courthouse on Saturday morning.

Trinity League Meeting

Our meeting for December will be held on **Thursday, December 17th at 7:00pm.**

Happy Anniversary!

12/4	Donald & Diane Obert
12/5	Gerald & Wendy Hoefling
12/8	Scott & Sandra Wilson
12/9	Mark & Michelle Rydberg
12/10	Chris & Deanna Nowakowski
12/11	Mitre & Marilou Jovanoski
12/12	Adam & Kelly Miller
12/17	Todd & Sandra Johnson
12/18	Thomas Jr. & Dorothy Taylor, Greg & Nancy Forsythe
12/22	John & Marilyn McConnell
12/28	Dave & Ginny Masengarb, Paul & Linda Watland, Paul & Christine Wendt
12/29	Thomas & Gloria Thirion, James & Clare Knipper, Steve & Jeanette Dixon
12/31	Ralph & Marilyn Einspahr, Dan & Kim Torkelson, Wayne & Julia Thunberg

Happy Birthday!

12/1	Michael Murphy, Mike DeVries, Bryan Bodamer
12/2	Todd Taylor, Joyce Carnahan, Aimee Kozlowski, Sophie Reiners, Ezekiel Lehman
12/3	Pat Garrett, Hanna Tokoly
12/4	Mark Speichert, Bob Duffala, Jacob Coy, Zackary Thurn
12/5	Bill Borsits, Jean Banta, Kim Torkelson, Jenn Wright, Carlie Hult, Jacob Ronning
12/6	David Schwimmer, Peter Dyba, Kristen Koszyk, Jordan Olson, Logan Knapp
12/7	Letty Kasch, Donna Witham, Larry Berda, Adam Smith, Brittany O'Connor
12/8	Mabel Molden, Patrick Croak, Ginny Masengarb, Logan Dixon, Noah Wilkes, Danyel Ebert, Jacqueline Woldt
12/9	Thalia Bobor, Kyle Hart
12/10	Steven DeHaan, Chelsea Kingston, Hailey Franklin
12/11	Gerard Petrick
12/12	Bonnie Ralph, Debby Martch, Shannon Belmonte, Amy Fraikin
12/13	Ruth Waite, Mary LaDuke, Tim Loeber, Allison Herkey
12/14	Karen Kaemerer, Rodney Kasch, Kathy Phariss, Brittany Komaskinski, Mitchell Gromek, Tyler Fanno
12/15	Hermine Enderline, Pamela Shea
12/16	Geneva Summerhill, Nancy Speichert, Timothy Doyle, Sheri Tokoly
12/18	Richard Stiener, Robert Stiener, Karen Ritsema, Carol McClanahan, Laura Magaldi, Dave Maxwell, Timothy Malott, Donovan Swalby, Justin Jacob, Stefanie Jovanoski, Danielle Johnson

12/19	Chuck Thompson II, DeeDee Waters, Kristin Campbell, Laura Eich, Sophia Foster
12/20	Gloria Thirion, Emery Manley, Tina Gardiner, Erica Stephen
12/21	Mark Jackson, Samantha Sangkaratana
12/22	Doris Rentner, Patricia Hamilton
12/23	Marge Haley, Randy Kingston, Brenda Spar, Michelle Robinson, Jeff Alliss, Andrew Sangkaratana
12/24	Sandra Sapper, Christine Good, Victoria Gromek, Alex Knipper
12/25	Jake Thunberg
12/26	Florence Sergeant, Amanda Maynard, Ryan Doyle
12/27	Alexander Long, Makenzi Morris, Jackson DeHaan
12/28	Ruth Champion, Joyce Mills, Matt Franklin, Kristen Pavlovick, Matthew Brauer, Charlie Garrett
12/29	Joyce McCann, Kenneth Board, Ryan Claus, Isabelle Boettger
12/30	Robert Pigg, Navin Pace
12/31	Susanne Heinzman, Gerry Luebcke, Daniel Schuster, David Herkey, James Knipper

Weddings

A wedding celebration of the marriage of Heidi & Rinku Ghasi took place at Trinity on Saturday, November 28th. Heidi is the daughter of Gary & Dede Waters.

Baptisms

Lukas Vincent Albano, son of Jennifer Albano was baptized into the family of God on October 25th. Sponsors for Lukas are Alexis & Jason Kegebein.

Evelyne Marie Noak was baptized into the family of God on November 22nd. She is the daughter of Albert Noak III & Kimberly Nicholson. Sponsors for Evelyne are Jeff Hammond and Shelly Nicholson.



Monday, December 21st

for article submission to the January newsletter. Articles may be dropped off at

church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

2009 Focus on WATCH Groups

Triangle Dinners

These things are exactly what the name implies, although the tables are usually rectangular. The triangle consists of the three “couples” sitting down to dinner – not necessarily married couples. They may be friends, two singles put together for the evening, not necessarily members of Trinity, and so on.

The whole thing got started a few years ago with twelve couples getting together once a month for three months in the fall. Then there would be another round from January to March. The point of the exercise is to get you to meet six couples (twelve new people) in three months and so widening our circle of friends while enjoying some food.

Each couple is the host once during the three months. They determine what happens that month and usually responsible for setting the time and place (in conjunction with the others) and making sure that there's an entrée on the table. Vegetables and dessert is delegated to the others. Neither meal or the dishes are meant to be fancy, just nice enough to provide an intimate setting for good conversation.

In order to make sure everything works out (that there are two new couples to meet with every month, that someone else is the host etc.), Judy Duffala is the coordinator for each three month period. She works with the list of names submitted for that time period and tries to make sure everyone gets to meet as many new people as possible. It seems to be an excellent way to broaden our horizons and an effortless way to meet new people.

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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December 6, 2009 – Luke 3:1-6

“Prepare for the Lord”

Rev. James Elsner, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Hudson, IN

We are each called, by the Word of God preached by John the Baptist, to prepare for Jesus Christ in our lives.

December 13, 2009 – Philippians 4:4-7

“Rejoice in the Lord”

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

Unfortunately some people believe that rejoicing only occurs when we are having fun or being entertained. Christ's birth, His life, His death, and His resurrection enable us to rejoice in the Lord . . . always!

December 20, 2009 – Luke 1:26-38

“Mary, Merry, Marry Christmas”

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

In a wonderful way, Christmas started on earth with Mary. Which led to everyone having a Merry Christmas, in which we celebrated God Marry-ing the world, i.e. joining Himself to us in a unique, powerful, and saving way.

December 27, 2009 – Isaiah 9:6

“Four Messianic Titles”

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

Hear about Jesus' four magnificent names, which describe the Messiah's essence, character, and work, give us great comfort and joy today.

Enrich your life by helping others

If you're one of the 76 million baby boomers approaching retirement, you're probably in better health and are far more active than retirees of the past. If you're one of them, consider contributing your time, energy and expertise to one of the many volunteer organizations in your community.

Congregations, non-profit organizations and civic groups are just a few places that offer meaningful opportunities to those willing to serve. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities through its chapter program. These opportunities give Thrivent Financial members and other Lutherans the chance join together to meet individual and community needs.

So, next time you're thinking about retirement, think about your strengths, passions and special gifts. Then think about how rewarding it would be to share them. For instance, if you like building things or helping others, you might want to participate in a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity project.

For more information about Thrivent Financial volunteer opportunities, contact Carsten Falkenberg, Senior Financial Consultant, at 219-663-8699 or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

LHM/LLL FLOAT (60 years)

Don't forget to watch the Tournament of Roses Parade (Pasadena, CA) on **New Years Day, at 10:00 a.m.** The LHM/LLL float's theme this year is “The Ten Commandments – Jesus Fulfilled.” Matthew 5:17

IN GOD'S SERVICE:

Rev. David A. Easterday, Senior Pastor
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Rev. David P. Kipp, Associate Pastor
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