



TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
CROWN POINT, INDIANA

NEWSLETTER

September, 2009

Newsletter Email: newsletter@trinitycp.org

Web Page: www.trinitycp.org

Looking out the window in the upper deck office in my new home at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, I notice the sky has never seemed so blue. The clouds are slowly moving their way across the sky as I am finishing up my first week. I haven't had time to look out the window this week and that is very exciting to me. Now, before I guide you to think, "I thought we paid this Southern Hoosier to work. Why is he in his office for the first time staring out the window," read this. Whether it is sitting down at the library table, conference room table, or my favorite, many dinner tables with the family of Trinity, I have been examining what the Lord has done and is doing in Crown Point. Better yet, I have become energized by the passion many have here, not only to examine, but to explore the depth of love and power God has for His people. These people truly want to be disciples. Thank you to all who have warmly invited me into this area.

I have no clue what the next cloud will look like but I know there are more clouds to come. It is hard telling what God has in store for us next, kind of like Brett Favre's NFL career, but whatever the case may be, it will be beautiful as it will be used to reflect his Son, Jesus. I am excited that I still have yet to meet all of you as we all look towards the clouds, to the heavens, to see what God has in store for His people in Crown Point as we go out and connect, serve, and celebrate God.

*Brandon Grelle,
Director of Contemporary Worship and Youth
Director*

From Your Pastor ...

Dear friends in Christ,

Sometimes there are days when things just don't work out quite the way I expect. When those days happen, I have been known to jokingly say, **"I love it when a plan comes together!"**

As I consider this statement, I sense that there is much more in this statement than just a little bit of humor. Consider this from God's perspective. The whole plan of creation came together according to God's purpose and plan. From our perspective, we can look at the blessings God has given us in creation and say, **"I love it when a plan comes together!"**

Or consider the work being done by a congregation. God calls us to faithfully worship him, and each worship service is a time for us to rejoice and say, **"I love it when a plan comes together!"** I often find that God does some wonderful things with our feeble plans for worship, and turns the services into wonderful gatherings in God's grace.

Or consider other work being done in a congregation. I have been wonderfully amazed at how God has been molding me personally to lead this congregation into new and better efforts at outreach into the community. When I began serving at my first congregation, I spent much time simply learning to be a pastor. I wasn't able to focus on the bigger plans God had in store for the church and for me. When I moved to the next congregation, I participated in Pastoral Leadership Institute, and began developing a real passion for mission and outreach. We were able to do some unique ministries in Fort Wayne, and as I look back at my growth and the changing attitude of the congregation, I can only imagine God himself saying, **"I love it when a plan comes together!"**

I see that plan unfolding here in Crown Point. God has given this congregation faithful pastors to lead and equip the congregation for mission and outreach. I am thankful for Pastor Thoeleke and his emphasis on missions, and for Pastor Press who introduced the idea of church planting during his ministry here. Upon my arrival here, I was most excited about the mission focus of this congregation. God was working a plan to prepare us to consider some bold and courageous steps in ministry.

The plan has continued to unfold with my classes and their focus on mission and outreach. I am very grateful for the opportunity to grow in understanding the significance of outreach, and how it can be implemented in the congregation. I see God's plan in bringing us together as congregation, ministry team, and community to accomplish a plan that God is gradually revealing to us today.

What is that plan? I see how God has strategically prepared us to reach out to the lost by way of a church plant in a nearby community. We have done it before. Trinity has assisted and worked diligently to plant three congregations: Hope in Cedar Lake, Trinity Memorial in Merrillville, and St. Michael's in Hebron. It has been a number of years since the last congregation was planted. But as we look around, the harvest is even more plentiful than ever before.

Consider what is happening in our city and county. The population continues to grow, even when other areas experience declining population trends. School systems in the area are hard pressed to provide enough space for increased enrollment. Lake Central and Crown Point High Schools are just a few examples. New homes continue to be built in the area. The new interchange at 109th will only continue this growth. As growth develops, there are many people who move into the area who do not know Jesus Christ. The question we must ask ourselves is this: **“What has God prepared us to do to make an impact for the sake of His kingdom?”**

The Elders reviewed and unanimously approved a concept paper I prepared that addressed this goal of making an impact in the kingdom. The means toward that goal is to plant a church. The timeline is aggressive but with God's help very achievable. I believe that by Fall of 2011, we will have been able to launch a new church for the sake of the kingdom. There will be much that needs to be done, but as we work toward the goal of making an impact in the kingdom, I am convinced that God will work some significant changes in our hearts. When you work in the mission field, you become more aware of the harvest. This leads us back to God to seek his wisdom, counsel, strength, and passion for others. As we are drawn closer to God, we are led closer to the cross of Christ, to hear His cries on our behalf and to see the hope found in His death and resurrection. It is then the power of Jesus and His death on the cross that compels us to do the Father's will.

The Elders will be soon addressing the congregation about this plan and we will provide more information for you at that time. I do ask that you continue to lift this up in prayer. God has a plan for us, and we know that

He loves it when a plan comes together! May God grant us that vision for the kingdom and provide us a means for this to be done!

Pastor Easterday

40 Days of Prayer

Beginning September 12-14, the weekend worship services will focus on prayer as a foundation for the ministry God has called us to do. The weekends will focus on the following elements of prayer:

Sept. 12-14: God and His Word as the Source and Origin of Prayer.

Sept. 19-21: Prayer and Faith Life- Developing a Heart for Prayer

Sept. 26-28: Prayer as Dialogue and Conversation (Speaking and Listening)

Oct. 3-5: The Means and Discipline of Prayer

Oct. 10-12: The Value and Benefits of Prayer

Oct. 17-19: Diversity in Prayer- Kinds of Petitions

Oct. 24-26: The Life of Prayer

We have begun raising the importance of prayer to a new level at ministry team meetings, at Elder meetings, and in confirmation classes. We have begun something called prayer pairs. At the end of the meeting, people gather in pairs and offer prayers for each other. It has been wonderful to hear a room full of elders simultaneously offering their prayers for each other and for the congregation.

Please invite your friends to join us in this important element of our faith life in Jesus, as we ask Him, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Pastor Easterday

The Principal Connection ...

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

How can I possibly afford the tuition at Trinity?

It is true that Christian education comes with a fairly high price tag. Trinity Lutheran School Tuition for K-8 students is \$1760 for members and \$3880 for non-members. The Registration Fee is \$300 for all students in K-8. Spread out over 10 school months, that is a commitment of \$176 to \$380 a month for elementary school education. Something to consider with that price tag:

Trinity does provide financial aid for families that qualify for tuition assistance. Even with assistance, the tuition amount may still seem daunting, especially when public school is virtually free. How does a middle income family afford it?

Attitude and mindset are key! When something becomes a priority, it is easier to find a plan to make it work. If you believe that a Christian school education is important in the academic and spiritual development of your son or daughter, then sacrifices in other areas become more doable. For instance:

- Cell phones (\$60 a month) or Christian education?
- Cable (\$40 a month) or Christian education?
- Eating out four times a month (\$200 a month) or Christian education?
- Internet (\$40 a month) or Christian education?
- New clothes (\$60 a month) or Christian education?
- Starbucks once a week (\$20 a month) or Christian education?
- Gym membership (\$40 a month) or Christian education?
- Saving for vacations (\$60 a month) or Christian education?

If Christian education was a top priority, it is possible that \$400 a month could be saved just in the examples above. In fact, this is exactly how many families are affording the tuition right now:

Don't forget the SCRIP program. Our families have the opportunity to take money off of their tuition bill when they purchase SCRIP cards. Gas, retail, groceries are all budgeted items that you will purchase. When you buy the SCRIP cards you get the %-age of savings deducted from your tuition. You are saving yourself money!

➤ *"Sure we had to make some sacrifices, but the struggle was well worth it. I can confidently say that I felt they were ready academically AND spiritually for high school. It would have been difficult to get them ready on my own – I was happy to partner with our Lutheran school to get that accomplished. It's hard to write that check every month, but as I look at my kids now . . . I wouldn't do it any differently." (a mother of three kids who are Lutheran School graduates)*

Committed Christian families, with the Lord's help, are making it work to send their children to Trinity. Committed Christian parents are doing what it takes to provide Christian education for their kids. Is it often a huge sacrifice? Yes. Is it worth it? **Absolutely.** Nothing is more important than the daily presence of God's Word in the lives of your son or daughter. Nothing. The future value of your investment now is well worth the sacrifice that it takes to make it happen.

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend our Registration Day, this was a magnificent success! Thanks also to those who were able to make it to our PTL Back to School BBQ. We are so thankful for our PTL officers Phil Gardin, Chris Dixon, Tammy Gardin, Kerri Wilkes, Marv Hecht, and our teacher representative Terry Chelap. We thank our Lord for all of this!

We will have our Lower Grade Open House on September 8 at 6:30 PM. Pastor and I will be talking about our Trinity Covenants. We will have our Dedication of those Trinity Covenants on Sunday September 13 during the worship services. We take serious our commitment to educating your children in the "love of the Lord."

Our children grades 6-8 will have a dance in the gym on September 18 from 7:30-9:30 PM. Friday September 25 children in grades K-5 will partake in an Apple Fest and Hay Ride at Kregel's Farm from 6-8 PM. School Pictures will be on Tuesday September 22.

We know that with God all things are possible. We give thanks for 224 children in the school and for ready hearts anxious to hear the Gospel. We pray that God will bless our school year in all things!

John E. Schultz

Child Protection Policy

Trinity has a Child Protection Policy that requires any volunteer who works with children or youth to:

- Submit a Volunteer Application
- Allow a Criminal Background Check &
- Attend Training

These are done every 3 years at this point. Last year we asked for the first two items. If you have not yet filled these forms out, please pick up copies at the Reception Desk.

This year we are implementing the training. The first option is Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. The second is Monday, September 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Please attend one of these sessions. Thanks! More sessions will be offered if needed. We may also request an in person interview.

Thanks for your help is keeping our activities safe for our children and youth.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON SEPTEMBER 12TH?

Help in Rebuilding Homes is needed for LARRI:

The NW Indiana floods of last Sept have left many people in Munster, Hammond, Gary, Lake Station, Portage, and Crown Point with severely damaged and unlivable homes. LARRI (Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana) is trying to help those who cannot afford to rebuild themselves. On Saturday Sept 12, LARRI is sponsoring a "Blitz Build" to help a few of these victims and to increase awareness of their plight. If you would like to participate with other Lutherans in this day of "doing good", please contact Tom Brown of the LCMS Indiana District Disaster Response at 219/771-0760 or thomasfrancisbrown719@verizon.net.

SERVICE DAY IN THE COMMUNITY **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH**

The Handyman Ministry, working with Lakeshore Area Recovery of Indiana, LARRI, is again looking for volunteers to work on Saturday, September 19th to help with the clean up and repairs of homes that were flooded during last fall's storms. In August, we made improvements to a home in Whiting that will be used to house volunteers who need housing while they give of their time for this recovery program. If you are interested in donating your time for this effort, contact Dennis Mills at 661-8565 no later than September 13th. No skills are required. You must be at least high school age. We will be working in one of the following communities; Munster, Griffith, Hammond, or Lake Station.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will meet on Wednesday, **September 23rd**, at **6:30 p.m.**, in the Conference Room.

Join us for popcorn and a movie:..

Fireproof will be shown on **Saturday, September 12th** at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Please join us for this movie event that will **inspire** and **challenge** you. A bible study class, based on the movie, will begin **Sunday, September 13th**. If you attended in April...why not invite a friend!

Women's Bible Study: Women of all ages are welcome to join us on **Tuesday mornings beginning September 8th, from 9:00-10:30 a.m.**, in our school library. We will be studying the book "That I May Know Him" by June Kimmel. It is a 12 week study focused on the three women in the bible; Hagar, Hannah and the woman at the well. Childcare will be provided. If you have any questions please call Leslie Gardiner at 662-9487. Hope to see you there!

Happy Anniversary!

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|------|--|
| 9/02 | Gary & Debbie Hammond |
| 9/03 | Brian & Melissa Knipper |
| 9/04 | Fritz & Joyce Rather |
| 9/05 | William & Jean Banta, Eric & Sheri Deedrick, Matthew & Pam Shea, |
| 9/06 | Harold & Hertha Chubbs |
| 9/07 | Paul & Kim Dahlman, Jeff & Amanda Alliss |
| 9/08 | Richard & Linda Angerman, Kent & Hazel Gardin, Don & Sheri Tokoly |
| 9/09 | Klaus & Karin Becker, Kevin & Jennifer McCord, Jason & Christine Genovese |
| 9/10 | James & Bonnie Surma |
| 9/11 | Robert & Toni Michalak |
| 9/12 | Wally & Jennifer Suslowicz |
| 9/15 | Helmut & Ruth Baum |
| 9/16 | Allen & Ruth Champion, Tom & Kara Whitaker |
| 9/17 | Michael & Dena McCormick |
| 9/18 | Robert & Angie Jensen |
| 9/20 | Dick & Lois Uhter |
| 9/21 | Don & Janice Fronek |
| 9/24 | Kevin & Andrea Cole |
| 9/26 | Dennis & Joyce Mills, Bart & Jennifer Rashin, Daniel & Christina Kvachkoff Jr. |
| 9/27 | Mike & Sue Murphy, Derrill & Roberta Kregel |
| 9/28 | Brad & Kristin Campbell, Jason & Jennifer Green, Adam & Laura Eich |

Happy Birthday!

| | |
|-----|---|
| 9/1 | Florence Boe, Cliff Esboldt, Wendy Hoefling, Jason Voyak |
| 9/2 | Sandra Reynolds, Cameron Zimmerman, Grant Wilkes |
| 9/3 | Marie Segert, Sandra Birmingham, Jennifer Pollitt, Laura Stieve, Kenneth Johnson Jr., Emily Damjanovic, Collin Shea, Linzee Jones, Cameron Alliss |

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|------|--|
| 9/4 | Cathy Stinson, Robert Gromek |
| 9/5 | Tina Stiener, Noah Oosterhoff |
| 9/6 | Sandy Smith, Phil Davis, Daniel Matuska, Kyle Rainey |
| 9/7 | Nancy Schmidt, Rachel McClanahan, Brooke Nack, Allison Gardin |
| 9/8 | Ruth Gale, Cathy Ventura, Kimberly McGraw, Michael Luebcke, Blake Marshall |
| 9/9 | Carol Witten, Guy Ramey, Pamela Moyer, Dawn Beamer, Vicky Fanno, Scott Constable |
| 9/10 | Mark Lutzow Sr., Kara Davis, Mary Nemeth |
| 9/12 | Stuart Snow, Phyllis Hecht, Brittney Johnstone, Ellery Shea, Kendall Finley |
| 9/13 | Eric Deedrick, Ava Stojkovich, Ryan Finley |
| 9/14 | Beckie Heineman, Jennifer Haberling, Michael Stinson |
| 9/15 | Tom Witten, Lisa Cizmar, Julissa Davis |
| 9/16 | Brian Cebra |
| 9/17 | Gary Rowland, Larry Sacha, Dave Zimmerman, Dayna Martin, Sarah Board, Mirissa Haberling |
| 9/18 | Linda Angerman, Jack Ritsema, Rich Wolter, Brandon Gurtatowski, Andrew Schwimmer |
| 9/19 | Jenna Constable |
| 9/20 | Diane Horst, Kim Merrell, Dena McCormick, Leslee Wiater, Anita Mendoza, Hannah Carter |
| 9/21 | Margaret Stanley |
| 9/22 | Hazel Gardin, Joel Havard II, Matthew Reynolds, Bruno Hnatusko III |
| 9/23 | Pamela Castner, Thomas Mauman, Aaron Hensley, Jacob Carter |
| 9/24 | Kathleen Berda, Marilyn Kozlowski, Terry Ippolito, David Foster, Raymond Finley Jr., Todd Sapper, Kyle Stovall, Ariana Klingberg |
| 9/25 | Nancy Orgon, John Camp, April Bielawski |
| 9/26 | Roy Garrett, Mark Rosenwinkel |
| 9/27 | Jeannine Furukawa, Richard Knight, John Swanson, Michael Dean, Gwen Pearson, Daniel Ivanyo, Sandra Johnson, Jamie Wilhite, Abigail Pillar, Abigail Goeringer, Rachel Torkelson, Tyler Thurn, Emma Riffle |
| 9/28 | Lynette Kregel, Jason Aubuchon, Gretchen Hensley, Quinn Rosenthal |
| 9/29 | Katherine Albach, Christopher Carnahan, Rachel Peyovich, David Guenther, Blake Klingberg, Lucas Johnson |
| 9/30 | Robert Kerr, James Orgon, Linda Salmon |

Baptisms

Violet Marie Boettger & Avery Kay Maynard were received into the family of God through Holy Baptism on August 2nd.

Violet is the daughter of Chris & Heather Boettger, Sponsors for Violet are George Wilkins and Lindsey Kelderhouse.

Avery is the daughter of James & Amanda Maynard. Sponsors for Avery are Chris & Deanna Nowakowski.

Funerals

A memorial service for Norman Meyers was held on July 30th. Norman was called to his eternal rest on July 21st.

Mae Belle Reeder was called home to be with the Lord on August 12th. Her funeral was August 15th.



Monday, September 21st for article submission to the October newsletter. Articles may be

dropped off at church or sent to newsletter@trinitycp.org.

Bible Study



Beginning September 6th

Christian Essentials

Led by Pastor Easterday Library
A look at the essence of the Christian faith with special emphasis on what we believe as Lutherans and why we believe it. A great course to explore the Christian faith. A wonderful way to review what we believe as Lutheran Christians. This course is the one which leads to membership.
12 weeks.

Beginning September 13th

Revelation

Sanctuary, Chapel area

Led by Pastor Kipp
Explore this book of comfort for Christians undergoing persecution as we are assured that our God does have all matters in His hands. Comprehend the grace and joy expressed in this last book of the Scriptures. Overcome the fear and confusion often associated with the book of Revelation and discover the jewel this part of Scripture brings to us!
12 weeks

Faith Stepping Stones – Stone 2 – Raising a Healthy Preschooler

Led by Sandy Rosenwinkel Room 103
Learn about the ongoing physical, emotional and spiritual development of your growing child with a focus on aiding your child in understanding the grace of God given to them in their baptism. Learn the **practice** of praying with your child each night at bedtime to add to the nightly blessing.
6 weeks.

Faith Stepping Stones – Stone 3 – Entrance Into School

Led by Principal John Schultz Room 102
Learn about the continuing physical, emotional and spiritual development of your child as they enter Kindergarten or First grade with a focus on learning to live in the grace of God given in Jesus Christ. Learn the **practice** of Highs & Lows to use nightly with your child along with prayer and blessing.
6 weeks

Faith Stepping Stones – Stone 4 – My Bible

Led by Ruth Schultz Room 202
Overview the whole Bible, understanding that this story is our family story as members of the family of God. Underline or highlight 120 key Bible passages to aid in comprehending and applying God's Word in daily life. Learn the **practice** of reading a Bible verse each night with Highs & Lows, prayer and blessing.
12 weeks

Fireproof

Led by Mike Dean, Rob Gardiner & others Gym
A means to make strong marriages stronger. A means to strengthen marriages that need to be strengthened. A great way to provide the best thing parents can provide for their children – parents who love** each other. (**Love is a verb, not an emotion!) Come and grow!
Library
6 weeks

Romans

Conference Room

Led by Jeannine Furukawa & Mike Strunk
Using Martin Franzmann's commentary on Romans, explore this solid, point-by-point presentation of the Gospel. Discover the "power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes". Grow in your understanding of God's love for you!
Ongoing until done...

Faith Lessons on the Promised Land

Led by Paulette Urbanchock Choir Room
This DVD-based survey course of the Scriptures (in 7 parts) is like an armchair tour of the Holy Land. Filmed on location in Israel, new insights on favorite Scriptures await at every turn. This session (#1) highlights the Holy Land – the place God planted His Old Testament people. [Session #2 begins when this session ends!]
5 weeks (may extend)

Discovering God's Way of Handling Money

Instructor *tba* Fellowship Hall
The Bible contains 2,350 verses that speak about how we are to handle the gifts God gives to us (Yes!...that's money & stuff). If you are looking for a way to get a handle on finances, this course is a great place to begin! Topics include: debt, honesty, giving, work, saving and investing, teaching children about money and more. Biblical and practical teaching!
8 weeks (may extend)

Look for the Growth in Faith booklet for a full listing of Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study, Confirmation studies, Youth studies, Sunday School and watch Groups (our small groups).

2009 Focus on Small Groups

PTL

As we continue our focus on small groups, this month we come to another one which is basically known by its acronym, the PTL. When I first came across these mysteriously named groups I was fresh from England, and being a young and wayward vicar (as far as my humor was concerned) imagined that the letters might stand for Portly Tipsy Lutherans, and that they must therefore be a fun group. Actually PTL stands for something much more mundane: Parent Teacher League.

My imagination has had to be restrained over the years, and now I simply wonder what might happen if we had a glorious cheeseball fight between the teachers and the students (pastors emeriti being allowed to choose which side they play on).

I am told by more sober people, like the PTL treasurer, that the group exists to enable parents and teachers to work together for the benefit of the students and the school. As she's a lawyer, I've got to accept that, and it certainly is a wonderful ideal to get parents and teachers on the same side. When I began my ministry in the sixties, this used to be taken for granted. You got in trouble with the teacher, you got in trouble when you got home. Nowadays this automatic support has often given way to parents feeling that their child is an exception, and the teacher must be making a mistake in handling her or disciplining him.

So we try, particularly in a Christian school, to keep our focus on our aim -- to help every child (sinner and saint at the same time) to grow in faith, in the knowledge of Christ and of God's creation (the curriculum) and in their obedience to him. And in this parents and teachers naturally must work together as one, for our school is only an extension of your home. It is a *supplement* to and *not a substitute* of the role of the parents in Christian teaching and character building. It is our constant prayer that we are not alone in our teaching of faith or values, of social studies or science, but that our parents teach the faith by word and by example, and assist the learning by checking the work of the students on a daily basis.

A reason for the PTL which is sometimes overlooked is that it is also a reminder that the school does not stand alone. It is an integral part of the congregation. Well over a hundred years ago our Trinity forefathers decided to invest in a Christian school to more adequately prepare their children for life. Today we continue to have the same goal even though a school is now far more expensive to run. Even with tuition school parents pay only about half the annual cost to maintain the school and pay for the staff. The rest is paid by members who have no children in the school. We need the continued goodwill of the congregation and good relationships with all the parents, whether they are members or not.

Back to cheeseballs! These have become a great PTL tradition. Last year they raised over \$7,000 in cheeseball sales alone towards the total of over \$10,000 that was collected to help school projects. Phil Gardin, the PTL president, says that recently the board decided to put 10% of the money collected this coming year towards school scholarships. "We try to walk on the sunny side of the street," he insists. There are a number of fellowship events the PTL sponsors including the back to School BBQ, the annual hayride, a fun fair, and a dance for the old children. There are also work projects. Much has been done for the library in recent years. It's good to see the PTL so active.

Pastor T.

Mission Connections ...

Pig Roast – Fall Picnic Open house for the Bakery House: Sunday, September 27, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come see what goes on there. Tour the Bakery House and Pig Out! Transportation will be provided for those who prefer to ride together as a group. A Sign up sheet is located in the Atrium. We will have an authentic Pig Roast featuring KP's Catering (real wood charcoal cooking). Pork, baked beans, cole slaw, potatoes and homemade pie will also be served. There is no cost, but the opportunity for a free will offering will be available. Deadline for sign-ups is September 20. For more information, call Marianne Manning 663-3504.

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming dinner/auction on Sunday, December 6. We are in the process of seeking donations for a silent auction---new/unused items, gift certificates, professional and non-professional services. Please contact Elaine Edwards 374-7382 or Sharon Voyak 663-7285.

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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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September 6, 2009 – Mark 7:31-37 **“Loosened Tongues”**

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

Touched by God's love, we often keep quiet about it, but the Spirit and Jesus enables us to speak and share the good news of Jesus.

September 13, 2009 – Mark 9:24

“Help My Unbelief”

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

We as Christians believe in Jesus. This belief frequently involves both knowledge and trust. At times our faith is eroded, attacked, or challenged by the cares, problems, and philosophies of this world. We pray with the man in our text, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief."

September 20, 2009 – James 4:7

“Resist the Devil”

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

We are to resist the devil, and he will flee from us, because:

I.) We have Christ

II.) We have the Word of God

September 27, 2009 – Psalm 104:33

“Keep Praising God”

By Rev. Richard M. Koehneke, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN

The power source of your faith is not in you or your situation, but in God. Praise connects us with the power source!

**When was the last time you had a
financial checkup?**

When you hear the work *checkup*, what comes to mind? Most likely it's your physical health. But checkups are just as critical to your financial health—which may be equally important. Most financial experts recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year. The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help.

Thrivent Financial offers simple ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings plan. Or a recent job promotion may mean it's finally time to start saving for retirement.

Regular financial checkups are one of the most important ways you can ensure you're doing what's necessary today to help you achieve your long-term financial goals.

For a financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Carsten Falkenberg, Senior Financial Consultant, at 219-663-8699 or carsten.falkenberg@thrivent.com today, or visit thrivent.com.

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