



Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

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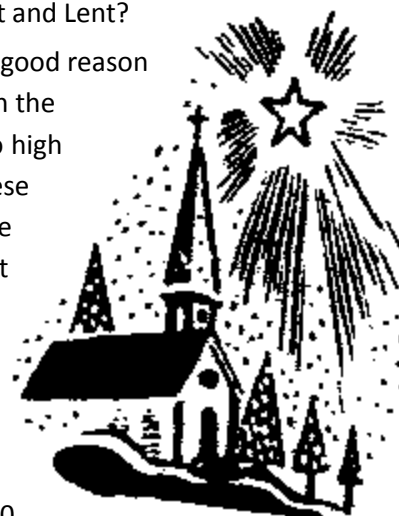
December 2011

Why do we have Wednesday services during Advent & Lent?

This is probably one of those questions best answered with another question, "Why not?" Why wouldn't we want another opportunity during the week to be in the Lord's house and hear His Word? Maybe the better question would be, "Why don't we have midweek services year round?" While there are a number of Lutheran churches who don't have Advent and Lent midweek services anymore, there are probably just as many other Lutheran churches who have begun offering a midweek service all year long. So what about Advent and Lent?

For us at Trinity, when it comes to Advent and Lent, there is good reason to have a midweek service. The two most important festivals in the Church every year are Easter and Christmas. These are the two high points of our Church Year, and Advent and Lent prepare for these two major festivals. It makes good sense then that during these seasons of preparation and intensified devotion we would want to be gathering together more often than once a week. During the days of Advent, our midweek services help to prepare our hearts through repentance and faith for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Not only do we prepare to celebrate His coming as a baby in Bethlehem but also and more urgently we prepare for His second coming. During the 40 days of Lent, our midweek services help to prepare our hearts through repentance as we contemplate and meditate on Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

This Advent you are invited to be a part of our midweek services at Trinity. During Lent this last year we began learning a new service in our hymnal, the service of Evening Prayer. We plan to use this service for all our Wednesday services during Advent and Lent. While it takes a little time to learn the music of Evening Prayer, it is well worth the time. The service of Evening Prayer is rich in meaning and comfort. It is called a "service of Light" as it focuses around the Light of Jesus Christ that shines into the darkness of this sinful world and illuminates our hearts, giving us hope and joy. Join us this Advent as Christ, the Light of the world, shines into our hearts the joy of forgiveness, life, and salvation.



2011 Advent Midweek Services

Theme: Jesus our Prophet, Priest, and King

- 6:45 Hymn Requests
- 7:00 Service of Evening Prayer
- 7:45 Refreshments in Parish Hall
- November 30th Jesus our Prophet (after Moses)
- December 7th Jesus our Priest (after Melchizedek)
- December 14th Jesus our King (after David)

2011 Christmas and New Year's Services

- December 24th 6pm Children's Christmas Service
"Light a Candle"
- December 24th 10pm Candlelight Service
- December 25th 10am (Sunday) Christmas Festival Service
with Lord's Supper
- December 31st 7pm New Year's Eve Service

Trinity Lutheran Preschool

DECEMBER UPDATE



The Preschool Board has been hard at work as we continue to make preparations to open the Preschool in the Fall of 2012. While there are many people involved in this process, the current members of the actual Preschool Board are:

Chairman: Joan Comincioli Vice-Chairman: Teresa McFarland
Treasurer: Rhonda Zielsdorf Secretary: Amy Enright
Pastoral Advisor: Pastor Boehne

The Board has been working on job descriptions, parent handbook, Preschool by-laws, supplies and equipment, advertising, fundraising, and facility needs (just to name a few things). In January you will notice a more intense effort to find a Director/Teacher and to advertise the Preschool in the community. We will continue to keep you updated and welcome any comments or suggestions from you. Please continue to pray for the Preschool and for the board.

In October, we shared the first five blessings of a Lutheran school. This month we give you the final five potential benefits of a Lutheran Preschool here at Trinity Lutheran.

6. Help children see all of their lives from the perspective of God's Word.

As the Christian faith is integrated into the classroom and curriculum, Christian decision making and problem solving are facilitated.

7. Demonstrate the high value the congregation places on children.

Lutheran preschools require a considerable amount of prayers, energy, time, and finances. Such an investment by the congregation clearly demonstrates to the community that it places a high value on children, God's beloved little ones.

8. Enhance the public relations of the congregation.

As preschools reach many segments of the community, the parents who come to the school begin learn more about the congregation. The congregation becomes better known in the community because of the school parents and the preschool's marketing efforts.

9. Seek out the lost.

Lutheran preschools provide new and varied opportunities for evangelism by the congregation and the staff. Lutheran schools in general are considered the most effective agencies in congregational evangelism. Eighty-five percent of the fastest growing congregations in Synod operate schools.

10. Fulfill the congregation's responsibility for the Christian education of its children.

It is the corporate responsibility of every congregation to provide for the Christian education of its children. While this is done through many different avenues including Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation, etc., a Lutheran preschool is of great advantage to any congregation to teach the Christian faith to its children.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Carls	Dec. 2
Vickie Paluska	Dec. 2
Ron Ales	Dec. 12
Chelsea Kessinger	Dec. 14
Carl Miller	Dec. 14
Sharon Gerth	Dec. 15
Rhonda Zielsdorf	Dec. 16
Mark Paternoga	Dec. 18
Nancy Eichelberger	Dec. 22
Frank Iskrzycki	Dec. 23
Tim Porth	Dec. 23
Sue Wallace	Dec. 27
Ella Schramek	Dec. 28
Arlene Rinkenberger	Dec. 29
Trent Zielsdorf	Dec. 30

*Happy
Birthday*

Welcome New Members

At our November Voters' Meeting, we welcomed two new members into our congregation and we thank the Lord to have them both among us here.

Iona Oltmann
501 State Rte 116
Germantown Hills, IL 61548

Virginia Lang
22461 State Rte 9
Tremont, IL 61568

Welcome

(If there is a birthday we have missed, please let us know.)

Monthly Reading from the Book of Concord

FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION

ARTICLE IV: GOOD WORKS

Faith must be the mother and source of works that are truly good and well pleasing to God. St. Paul calls them true fruit of faith, also fruit of the Spirit. For, as Dr. Luther writes in the Preface to St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans:



Faith, however, is a divine work in us that changes us and makes us to be born anew of God, John 1. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different men, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them. Whoever does not do such works, however, is an unbeliever.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it. This knowledge of and confidence in God's grace makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all creatures. And this is the work that the Holy Spirit performs in faith. Because of it, without compulsion, a person is ready and glad to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace. Thus it is impossible to separate works from faith. (paragraphs 9-12)

Condensed quotations from the Lutheran Confessions from Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, copyright 2005, 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Thank You from Wittenberg Lutheran Center

Trinity recently sent the financial support to Wittenberg Center at ISU that was budgeted for this current year. The following is the thank you from Pastor Bill Jensen:

November 09, 2011

Dear fellow believers,

Thanks and praise be to our Triune God! We thank God for you, our brothers and sisters who worship and are baptized in His name, and who share with us in His redemption! Your gracious gift to the Wittenberg Lutheran Center has been received with great joy. Your check that we received today will go toward a service project benefiting tornado victims in Alabama. By giving our students opportunities to help others, we can proclaim the Good News to people in personal ways that reflect our Lord's awesome love for us.

Thank you again for your on-going support of the CID's mission here at Wittenberg. May our gracious Lord continue to bless you and keep you in the true faith.

In Christ,
Pastor Bill Jensen
Pastor, and Missionary-at-large



Letter from Alvina Federwitz

Our March mission project was in support of the Federwitz family. The following letter was received from Alvina:

October 31st, 2011

Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting me through your gifts and prayers to empower Liberians to develop and use their mother tongue languages so Liberians can hear and read God's Word in a language that truly speaks to their hearts.

In May 2011 the Klao people of Liberia were able to receive the whole Bible that was translated and printed into their own language. LIBTRALO, Klao Language Association and my work has just begun as we need to find creative ways to encourage the Klao people to desire to read God's Word in their language. This year key Bible verses from the Klao Bible have been put to Klao music. Pray with us that Klao people will come to faith in God by reading or hearing God's Word in a language that speaks to their hearts.

Since Liberia is an oral based culture, the Kpelle, Klao, Bandi, Lorma, Gbarzon, Mann and Vai language associations have recorded the New Testament in their language on players we call the Proclaimer. A few weeks ago, a Bandi man told me how they were using the Bandi Proclaimer in home Bible classes. He said that the Bandi people really enjoy hearing God's Word narrated by both men and women in a language they understand. The best part is that they understand God's Word clearly.

I will again be on a short furlough, April to June 2012. It is my hope to visit churches in Southern California, Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Thank you specifically for the gift that you sent in April.

In God's Loving Care, Alvina Federwitz

Quarterly Voters' Meeting Minutes

NOVEMBER 6, 2011

The November 6, 2011, voters' meeting was opened with roll call with 41 members present. Rebecca Meyers and Darrell Punke wish to become voting members. Diana Uphoff made a motion to accept them as voters. Seconded by Craig Duncan. Motion carried.

Joan reported that the general fund balance as of October 19 was \$27,761.93. It was noted that of that amount, approximately \$10,500 is from Corn Festival proceeds and Thrivent Choice Dollars. At this time total expenses are at 110% due in part to payments made on scheduled improvements. Barb reported the balance remaining on the building fund loan is \$12,077.85. The final bill has not been received as of this date for the boiler project. \$500 from the quilt project was donated to the building fund to go towards the loan. Nancy reported the memorial fund third quarter balance is \$1,749.10. Tim Matzke made a motion to accept all financial reports. Seconded by Pat Scott. Motion carried.

Pastor Boehne reported that Iona Oltman wishes to become a member of Trinity by transfer, and Virginia Lang by affirmation of faith. Motion was made by Lisa Hocker to accept these two new members. Seconded by Grant Armstrong. Motion carried.

Joan reported that an anonymous donor has generously donated \$4,000 to the preschool for help with startup expenses and wishes to express her thanks for that donation. The preschool board consists of Joan as president, Rhonda Zielsdorf as treasurer, and Amy Enright as secretary. The initial committee members are also helping with preparations to get the preschool up and running by next fall. There is presently \$4,400 in the preschool account. An application for a LWML grant for \$2,000 has been submitted. Trinity members can donate to the preschool through Thrivent Choice Dollars also. There were no other board reports.

Lisa reported the Corn Festival committee decided that a portion of their proceeds will go towards extra tables in the parish hall, \$1,500 to the pre-school, and any remaining funds will go towards the boiler project.

Old Business: none

New Business:

The list of nominees for church office positions was read: Tim Matzke for president, Darrell Punke for elder, Dean Weber for trustee, Diana Uphoff for education chairman, and Lisa Hocker for financial secretary.

Pastor informed the voters about the pros and cons of purchasing a new copy machine. A new copier will be approximately \$3,760. Discussion was held. Kevin Evans made a motion to buy a new copier with Thrivent funds. The Thrivent fund has \$5,750 presently. Seconded by Nancy Jarrett. Motion carried.

Pastor informed voters that a delegate is needed to attend a circuit forum meeting in February and then also attend the district circuit conference from July 8 to July 10.

Lisa Hocker, Tim Matzke and Carla Skare are on the board of evangelism and are planning on making a brochure for Trinity and also updating materials in the narthex and setting up a pamphlet rack. The board plans on following up with new members and visitors.

Bob Jarrett suggested there may be a need for a changing table in the women's restroom. It was suggested that the trustees could purchase one without a vote, and Dennis stated they will look into that.

Sharon Duncan made a motion to use the \$600 Trinity has budgeted for Wittenberg for their work day projects coming up on November 12. Seconded by Linda Finck. Motion carried.

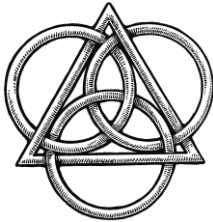
Dennis Hocker stated that the parking lot will need to be re-sealed this coming year and that will need to be put in the upcoming budget.

Motion was made by Dennis Hocker to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bob Clements. Meeting adjourned.



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Mailing Label Here



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