



Trinity Times

April, 2006

Trinity Lutheran Church Mission Statement: "We are a family, united and saved by faith in Christ, dedicated to praising God and sharing His love and Word with all People."

Trinity Girls Basketball

By Mark Kuske

The Trinity girls "A" Basketball team completed a successful basketball season finishing with "A" team winning the consolation championship at the MLC. Both teams were competitive in all of their games throughout the year. The "A" team finished with 4 wins and 5 losses overall, with a couple of the losses decided in the last quarter. The team played great defense and showed excellent teamwork throughout the season. Competing for the Tigers this year were Chelsea Klatt, Jenny Schmitz, Kaitlyn Kuske, Alyssa Buszmann, Desirae Guschette, Miranda Pomije, Debbie Schwichtenberg, and Shelby Sieben



The Trinity girls "B" team also played well all year. The tigers showed great improvement throughout the year in all areas especially on defense and hustle? This team has a great future ahead of them! The Tigers competed in all the games even though most of the roster was two or more years younger than their Opponents. The highlights

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of the year were a victory over Arlington and a couple of multiple overtime games. This year's "B" team members were Chelsea Klatt, Grace Miner, Kayla Krick, Erica Selly, Aby Meyenberg, Darian Vinkemeier, Katelyn Jeurissen, Krista Peltonen, and Megan Schmitz.

Boys Basketball

By Mike Klatt

The Trinity Boys Basketball teams made tremendous improvement over the past year with the "A" team capturing the consolation championship in their final game at Martin Luther College. The teams entered the season with great enthusiasm and never were discouraged despite some inexperience. The challenge for us is balancing skills and plays for players from the 3rd to 8th grade. However, our younger players gained much experience and are going to have a bright future for themselves and Trinity Lutheran School. We graduate two players, Andrew Peltz and Jordan Dunfee. These young men were wonderful examples and a joy to coach and watch develop over the past four years. They will be greatly missed.

Our outlook next year is promising. Despite some inexperience and a lack of height, our overall speed and outside shooting will be a key advantage. This group also has the ability to challenge for another MLC championship with commitment, determination and a willingness to practice over the summer months.

Basketball is a fun sport and wonderful game. But it is just that, a game. We at Trinity instill in our athletes that they represent our school and church on and off the court. Learning about leadership, teamwork, and positive Christian attitude are all part of the experience. Our goal is that the basketball experience will inspire our athletes to strive to do their best in their career, their marriage, their relationship with family members or their boss, but most importantly that they focus on Jesus. That's the difference at Trinity --- and we have lot of fun playing the game and giving honor to our Savior!

If you are interested in playing basketball please contact the school and inquire about the possibilities!



‘COUNT ME IN!

Let’s tell it like it is! God is chastising us! We can’t simply gloss over the facts and pretend these things never happened. We can’t simply point to someone else and say “Let them take care of it!” We can’t take ourselves out of the picture and pretend we are not part of the problem. Admit it...we have really let ourselves go!

The enrollment in our Christian school is down. We have made a heart wrenching decision to reduce our faculty by one teacher because of financial issues - at a time when God is giving us unprecedented opportunities for mission growth. Our Sunday worship attendance has been down since last June. Our offerings have gone down from last year by almost \$50,000. About one third of our congregation is “inactive.” They don’t come to worship, they don’t come to receive the Lord’s Supper. About 45% of our active members decreased their offerings last year - and this is after we had agreed to call an additional pastor and give our staff a thoughtful raise as we strive to meet the synod code. We have frozen our offering commitment to synod to help with missions around the world. About one third of our congregation brought absolutely nothing forward in offerings to the Lord through their congregation last year. Another third (about 150 families) sacrificed less than \$10.00 per week for their Savior.

I know of a congregation whose church burned down years ago. As the members gathered afterwards to decide what to do next, a sizeable contingent were all for collecting the insurance money, selling the property and dividing up the proceeds among the congregation members. They saw an opportunity for personal financial gain at the expense of the church and had little interest in carrying out the mission for which the congregation had originally organized. Fortunately, another contingent saw the absurdity of that move and worked hard to convince the congregation to rebuild. They eventually decided to do exactly that and today have a newer and better facility. The congregation is now thriving in a remote rural area.

How sold are you on the mission for which our congregation has been organized? How convinced are you that we are each personally accountable to make sure that mission of sharing God’s word goes forward? Or would you too be happier to see the church burn down and collect some personal financial gain in the process? The process we are going through now to address the difficult issues in front of us is a critical, but a valuable one. We can either avoid the issues, let someone else deal with them, or hold each one of ourselves accountable for finding a solution. God can bless us greatly through these difficult times - or we can let them destroy us.

Good things are happening in all this! Leaders are emerging who are willing to step forward and encourage others to look forward, not backward. One person has burnt the midnight oil to draft a comprehensive plan that attempts to address all the issues on all sides and has sacrificed much time to present it at meetings of our various boards and committees. Volunteers are stepping forward who are offering to help with the school activities, church activities, secretarial work and custodial work. People are talking about the issues, realizing that we must address them, not avoid them. More members are using the word “outreach” and many are finding ways to reach out to inactive and prospective members in the community and at work. Volunteers have come forward to carry out an intensive survey of the congregation to get the answers we need to address the issues and plan for the future. We cannot continue to borrow for operating expenses without a plan to pay it back.

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Faculty Position Eliminated

At our annual meeting on March 5 our congregation voted to reduce our school faculty by one position and to renegotiate the positions of custodian and receptionist. At a special meeting on March 18 the congregation took the painful step of rescinding the call to Mr. Matthew Wurster, our 5th and 6th grade teacher, on June 30. Mr. Wurster was chosen because he has the least amount of classroom experience of all our teachers. We pray that God guide him in his future and, if it is his will, that he be given another opportunity to serve in the teaching ministry which he loves. Please encourage him and ask if you can be of help to him in making the transition. Pray that God guide us in reorganizing our school system and staff to continue serving families who want a Christian elementary education for their children.

New Church Leaders

Our new church leaders elected on March 5 are:

- Elder: Jim Baumann
- Secretary: Scott LaPointe
- Treasurer: Bruce Panning
- School Elder (3 Yr): Brandt Vinkemeier
- School Elder (1 yr): Erich Meyenburg
- Youth Discipleship Chairman: Dan Barziza
- Properties Chairman: Jeff Vinkemeier

We are grateful to God for giving us these new leaders. We ask that God bless their service and give them joy in their new roles. We also thank those leaders who have completed their leadership terms and all those who came forward to allow their names to be placed on our ballot.

Trinity Member Survey Visits

You should have received a letter recently informing you of the congregation survey we are now conducting. A team of volunteers are calling on our members to take a fourteen-question survey. Topics in the questionnaire include outreach, our school finances, worship services and more. Twenty eight volunteers have come forward to help with the survey. They are: Eldrid Karnitz, Arlen and Sharon Schwichtenberg, Marlin and Julie Matzke, Manley and Gayle Vinkemeier, Gary and Nella Schmidt, Mark and Michelle Kuske, Tom and Therese Kaletka, Nate and Andrea Hahm, Pastor Dallas Miller, Anthony Hetzel, Mathew and Susan Dunfee, Gary Peltz, Garth Perry, Deb Malz, Jim and Lynn Erickson, Brandt and Brenda Vinkemeier, Tom Schlingmann, Scott LaPointe and John Littlepage. Please welcome the visitors when they call and gladly offer the information they need to help us plan for the future. All information will be confidential and the results compiled by Tony Hetzel. No names will be taken on the surveys.

Easter Overnight Housing For Choir Members

Can you house some students overnight on the night before Easter Sunday? The Luther Prep Choir from Watertown, Wisconsin, will be singing for our Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. On Easter Sunday, April 16th. There is a list of choir members on the bulletin board in the lobby. Please sign up on that list if you can provide overnight housing for some of the choir members.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9, Worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 13, Worship and Communion at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday, April 14, Tre Ore Service 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

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Some might think that this is "much ado about nothing." Not so! There will always be some who will keep on saying "it will never be done," even years after it has been done! God is leading us little by little to see the future he can give us and he is leading us all to become accountable for it. We may still have to take some painful steps backward before we can go forward, but this is a refining process that will make us stronger. We will deal with the issues and ask God to guide us and bless us in the process. We will be accountable and not find excuses to "take our ball and go home". And when he points us backward to show what he has accomplished through his children, we will not rest back on our laurels and congratulate ourselves. We will continue to move forward in his service as a family richly blessed, giving all the glory to him.

Your Job? Pray for God's blessing in this process. Pray that he makes you accountable as a member of this Christian family. Pray that he gives you and all of us joy as he opens his hand of blessing for us. And then step forward and say, "Count me in!"

"Test Me now in this" says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows." Malachi 3:10

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Good Friday continued 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Cantata by our Choir
8:00 p.m. Brief Communion service afterwards
Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service with Luther Prep Choir
8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Festival Services
7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast by Youth Group

Housing Summer Ministry Interns

The first week of June, 2006, will be an orientation and training week for six students serving as interns for The Lutheran Home Association from Martin Luther College, Bethany Lutheran College, and Wisconsin Lutheran College. TLHA is looking for host families throughout this week to house and feed either two or three students. If you are interested in hosting and would be able to help, please sign up in the lobby as soon as possible.

Memorials Received

In Memory of Erna Behnke:
From Bob and Betty Voleck, Dick and Jan Schense, Arnold and Irma Woestehoff, Virgil and Anita Hermann, Rick and Sharon Carlosn, Ollie and Luella Heitkamp, Manley and Gayle Vinkemeier, Gerald and Myra Nagel, Leo and Donna Schmidt, Arlis Fahrenkamp, Herman and Vivian Luedloff, Eleanore Westphal, John and Carol Buszmann, Wilfred and Ruth Stocker, Wally and Evonne Otto, Gary and Nella Schmidt, Win and Barb Vatthauer, and Anonymous.

Membership Changes:

We Welcome:
Patrick and Karen Guenzel and son, Brodie
Karen Firle
John and Tracy Littlepage

We bid farewell and God's Blessings to:
Bill and Kathy Kendal and daughter, Olivia
Mary Ann Pearson
Shannon Sellnow

Bible Meditation Garden

Plans have been drawn and approved by both the properties committee and the church council for a Bible Meditation Garden to be placed on the church grounds. This garden will contain some of the plants referenced in the bible, as well as other plants with some biblical connotation, and Minnesota favorites to round it out. It is a circular garden to be placed between the church sign and the bell tower. There will be a path wandering through the garden with a seating area and a lamppost for light at night. It is planned that this will be a perennial garden and once established will require little maintenance. Ground preparation will begin as soon as the ground permits. The plants have been carefully chosen to be a garden of beauty and hopefully peace. As we proceed with this project donations towards the purchase of the plants, the chosen benches and lamppost would be welcome, as well as some willing gardeners or non-gardeners who would be able to provide some much needed help. You may contact Ruth Anderson - 952-873-2741, or Rebecca Baumann - 952-873-2514 with any questions you may have.

The Lutheran Boy & Girl Pioneers Pinewood Derby

The results are in for our local and District derbies!! Congratulations to all participants! Thanks for a fun day!

Buckaroos:

- Speed -
- 1. Patrick Selly
- 2. Matthew Miner
- 3. Nik Weiers
- Best Design - Patrick Selly

Boy Pioneers:

- Speed -
- 1. Cody Nelson
- 2. Jacob Vinkemeier
- 3. Aaron Selly
- Best Design - Josh Mosbeck

Sunbeams:

- Speed -
- 1 Emily Pachan
- 2. Haleigh Weiers
- Best Design - Emily Pachan

Girl Pioneers:

- Speed -
- 1. Darien Vinkemeier
- 2. Krista Peltonen
- 3. Erica Selly
- Best Design - Aby Meyenberg

Open Class

- Speed -
- 1. Rick Pachan
- 2. Darren Jeurissen
- 3. Jeff Anderson
- Best Design - Darren Jeurissen

The following have placed in the district level and will advance on to nationals ... Good Luck!!!

- Patrick Selly
- Josh Mosbeck
- Emily Pachan
- Haleigh Weiers
- Aby Meyenburg
- Danien Vinkemeier

Boy Pioneer Dates ..

April 6, Thursday - Meeting
Special guest, Mike Ludvik from "Get You Gear" bike shop
April 22, Saturday - Safari Island/Pizza Party/ Movie Night
Watch for the note with details and registration form.

Recruit For Our School

Do you know of children in you neighborhood who are of school age? Give their addresses to Mr. Whitney and he will send a letter of invitation to the family to enroll their children in our school. Use the Recruitment flyer in your mailbox.

Men's Breakfast

On Saturday, April 22 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. our Adult Discipleship Committee will offer a Men's Breakfast in the gymnasium. This will be the start of a regular men's group that will initially meet monthly. A topic of discussion will be offered at the meeting after breakfast. The James Dobson film "Lamb of God" will be shown. A short meeting will follow to plan future events. Donations will be accepted for the breakfast. See you there.

Thursday Services

We will return to our regular midweek Thursday evening service schedule after Easter on April 20 at 7:00 p.m.

News for Our Youth

by Pastor Lucas Moldenhauer

Seeing lightning in the clouds last night after church definitely caught me off guard. All those robins that came early will finally be finding their worms thawed out! Winter gear and warm clothes will soon collect dust instead of snowflakes. We're entering the season of Spring after a very unique Winter. Our seasons of life are constantly changing too. How about our forecast for this summer? Will my summer job be a good one? What will happen with school friends? Will I exercise more this summer? How about the summer Blockbusters? When will the pool finally open? When will we get burgers from the grill with lots of Doritos and salsa?

This Spring, we have many great activities planned for our Youth. This Spring we'll center our lives around serving and loving and learning, just like Old Testament Joshua. The seasons of his life were stormy, but also exciting. He prevailed because God encouraged him, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 - and God will be with us too.

Sunday, April 2 Activity

- 1 p.m. - help at Thrift Store prepare for Spring with pizza to follow

Wednesday, April 5 Activity

- 5 p.m. Soup and sandwich supper

Sunday, April 9 Activity

- 7 p.m Dodge Ball -

Wednesday, April 12 Movie Night

- 6 p.m. Short intro / 6:30 "The Passion of the Christ"

Sunday, April 16 Activity

- Serving Easter Breakfast - see sign up sheet

Sunday, April 23 Bible Study

- 7 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study

Wednesday, April 26 Activity

- 6 p.m. Adopt a Highway with pizza to follow

Sunday April 30 Activity

- 7 p.m. Special preparation for Mother's Day

May 4, Thursday - Meeting and Awards Night
May 12 - 14, Friday - Sunday Spring District Campout
More info and registration forms later on

Can you Help?

The Boy Pioneer program is again looking for individuals to help with our program next year. Can you commit for the year? Or maybe you have a special talent/ability you'd love to share with us for just one meeting? Having a boy in the program is not a requirement .. Grandparents, uncles or anyone who has the desire to work with Trinity's youth, teaching them about God's creation, handyman skills, citizenship, responsibility and the like. Please consider - you can contact Rob Selly at 873-3055 or selly6pak@juno.com

GOD'S YELLOW PAGES

That God Wants You to Belong To Him

- Psalm103:2-4
- Zephaniah3:17
- 1 Corinthians7:19,23

That God is in Control

- Psalm27:1
- Jeremiah32:27
- Isaiah54:10

That God Exalts Humility

- Matthew23:12
- Ephesians4:6
- Matthew18:3-4

(Inspirational Promises about)

That God's Love is Constant

- Psalm63:1,3
- Psalm86:5
- 1 John4:18,19

That God Enables You to Live Victoriously

- Psalm100:3
- 1 Timothy6:11-12
- 1 John3:4-5

That God Blesses Contentment

- Psalm37:7-8
- Matthew6:19-21
- 1 Timothy6:17-18

Ladies Aid

The ladies voted to purchase 6 more tables to replace some of the tables that are damaged and need to be replaced.

Our April meeting will be April 6th at 7:30. We had to change the date due to the second Thursday falling on Maundy Thursday.

Don't forget the outing to the "Church Basement Ladies" on Sunday April 9th leaving at 12:30.

The Hostesses are LaVerne Muehlenhardt and Dorothy Mueller There will be no coffee hour due to the Easter Breakfast which the Youth group is serving from 7:30 to 8:30.

No LWMS Coffee Hour on April 30th.

The April Standing Committee Co Chairwomen are Arlene Manthe and Mary Miller.

The rest of the Committee are:

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|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Joyce Bailey | Karen Lambrecht | Sherry Guertin |
| Diane Nelsen | Vi Ashauer | Kristi Perry |
| Myrna Westphal | Jennifer Stith | Elaine Meyer |
| Ruth Westphal | Lori Gardow | Sharon Blume |
| Jayne Giesen | Kim Koepp | Cindy LaPointe |

Heather Slinde-Melton

The May Standing Committee Co Chairman are, Donna Karnitz and Leona M. Sellnow.

Pease submit your article for the News Letter by April 30th. You can give the article to Luella Heitkamp or put it into our mail box at church or send by email to luellaheitkamp@unique-software.com Thank You!