



Trinity Times

January, 2007

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."

The Children's Christmas program was held on December 17th. The children did a wonderful job of putting on the program about Jesus birth.



Above preschool, kindergarten



Preschool through 6th grade.



5th through 8th grade

Christmas Birthday Breakfast for Jesus on December 9th.



Mr. Whitney with the children at the Nativity scene.

The Live Nativity at Trinity on December 17. See Pictures below.



Pastor Meyer's Family and Parents



From left to right: Tammy, Holly, Pastor John VI, Johnny VII, Jimmy, John V, Carol. (story next page.) Page 1

From the Pastors Desk!

By Pastor John Zeitler

Our New Pastor

Hi! I'm Pastor John Henry Meyer VI. I was born in Hollywood, Florida, on August 22, 1977. I have lived in 6 different states and have moved 15 times in my life. My parents now live in Eatonton, Georgia.

I married my wife, Tammy Aita, on June 26, 1999. We have three beautiful children, Holly Elise was born on May 26, 2000. John Henry VII (Johnny) was born on October 2, 2002. James Loghan (Jimmy) was born on June 1, 2005. Our move here to Belle Plaine was our 8th move in the seven years we've been married.

My wife was born on October 26, 1977 in Detroit, Michigan. Her family still lives in the area. She graduated from Martin Luther College with a major in elementary education and a minor in German. She is a full time mom and enjoys crafts and singing in the choir.

I enjoy both playing and watching many types of sports, although soccer is my favorite. Geocaching is also a favorite pastime for our family.

I graduated from Martin Luther College in 2000. I graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2004. I served as a vicar for a year at Redeemer in Big Rapids, Michigan, and at Faith in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. I served a congregation in West Allis, Wisconsin as my first call.

I am extremely excited to be here among you at Trinity. My family already feels so blessed by your generosity, courtesy, and love. I look forward to serving the Lord here for many years to come.

Thank you and God Bless!

Pastor John

Prayer Chain

Need a prayer? Hurting? Ask other Christians to pray for you. Call Jeff Anderson at 952-492-5854 with your request, or if you would like to join the chain to pray for others. Six people have already signed up. The chain is growing. We are also forming an email link in the chain. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Elders on Duty

Our church elders are always ready to listen if you would ever like to discuss an issue regarding spiritual matters in our congregation.

Wayne Krentz (873-2599)

Jon Luedloff (467-2314)

Jim Baumann (873-2514)

Trinity RescueNet

Our new RescueNet program to rescue our fallen away members will begin on January 25th (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m. Volunteers for this mission will meet for prayer, study and planning strategy and setting up action plans. Visit will be made, letters will be written, post cards mailed, prayers said, phone calls made. The plan is to meet monthly and move forward at a pace which will fit into each volunteer's schedule and match the task with the volunteer's gifts and abilities. May God bless this effort to regain the straying in our Christian family. Sign up in the Church lobby or talk to one of the elders or Pastor Zeitler.

Care Committee

Do you need some extra help or an encouraging word from a fellow Christian? Perhaps you have an illness in the family, suffered the death of a spouse, need a ride to the clinic or hospital, need to visit a loved one in the hospital, need a ride to church, the victim of a disaster or fire, etc. Do you have a family member in Iraq who would appreciate a package from a church? Call LaVonne Sclingmann at 873-4324.

Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours

We have begun our parent discussions group today at 9:15 a.m. In the school choir/utility room on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. We use a 45 - minute format, viewing a DVD by Dr. Kevin Leman, a Christian psychologist and teacher. We use his thoughts to start our own discussion. We'll talk about basic principles of Christian parenting, recognizing there are a variety of ways of applying them.

- Understanding what's best for your kids
- Understanding kids and why they do what they do
- Authority, not authoritarian
- Gain your teens love and respect, and keep it
- Helping kids feel good about themselves for the right reasons
- Turn life's hassles into success

Talk to Pastor Curt (873-5592) for more information. We are asking \$10.00 per family to cover expenses which includes a workbook that is your to keep.

Gifts to Soldiers in Iraq

Our Member Care Committee will be sending packages to our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you still want to submit the name of a friend or relative in the armed forces overseas, call LaVonne Schlingmann at 873-4324. Gifts will be packaged on January 15th for mailing. You may donate gift items in the donation box in the lobby. Appropriate gift items include ballpoint pens, penny candy, chapstick, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner, soap, shaving cream, disposable razors, lotion, deodorant, foot powder, cotton socks, individually wrapped whips, feminine products. The travel size version of these items is preferred. Notes of appreciation and encouragement are also appreciated, as are, phone cards, reading material (Forward in Christ editions you may have already read.) Individual snack items are also appreciated.

Deficit Has Left the Building!

By the grace and blessing of God at the end of the year we were able to eliminate our \$28,000 deficit that had accumulated in our operating fund. More than \$10,000 in gifts were received through the special Christmas offering and members also came forward with other special gifts beyond their regular offerings. Take time to personally thank God for this blessing, even as you approached him for help in this matter. What a joy in working together to meet this heavy challenge! Pray that God blesses us with similar joy in the final six months of our fiscal year.

Nominations for Leadership Positions

Nominations are being sought for annual leadership elections in February.

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Thank-You from the Pioneers

The boy and Girl Pioneers would like to thank everyone who donated items, bought items, or volunteered for our annual Bake/Craft Sale in November. We raised approximately \$1,463.85 including a supplement from Thrivent! The money will be used towards the cost of meetings, activities, awards and the pine car derby. Thank you for your support of these young Christians!

News from Home to Home Thrift Store

Every indication is that building a new store at a new location was a good decision. Each day we greet new people, stopping for the first time. Generally they have noticed the huge sign! If they haven't been able to stop in right away, they finally find the opportunity to do so.

We are appreciative of the many fine donations which make the store attractive and always changing. With great excitement on the part of volunteers and recipients, we recently allocated another \$35,000.00 to projects on The Lutheran Home Campus. That brings the six month total to about \$60,000.00! These are projects which are not in the budget, so this is an awesome blessing!

It is necessary for the store to coax some more people into volunteering! We are especially interested in finding a **group from Trinity to take on one Saturday a month.** Several would work in the donation room sorting, marking, testing, or cleaning the donations. One person (or two) would work at the cash register. This person would learn how to open and close the store. The hours on Saturdays are 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. There is work for men and women! We would love to work out something with you, so please phone the store at 873-6901. Speak to or leave a message for Joann Pomije who is stepping in for Barb Vathauer while she is on a medical leave. Volunteering can be so much fun! It gets you out of a rut! It makes you feel good! It's very rewarding! It's helping The Lutheran Home help others!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Spiritual Enrichment Weekend for Women: Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

(WELS) of Stillwater MN invites you to join us for a weekend of speakers, music, entertainment and fun. Mark your calendars now for April 20 - 22, 2007! Detailed information will follow after the first of the new year. Questions can be directed to Karen Diethert 715-549-6519.

Food Drive for MLC Students

The first two weeks in February will be designated for a food drive for the food shelf for the students at MLC college. You may bring your non perishable food stuff and put in a box provided for that purpose. The same food that would normally be for any food shelve will be acceptable.

Donations of money may be given; there will be baskets set out for this after the service the first two Sundays in February. Thank you for your generosity.

Bloodmobile

We have been informed that it is Trinity's turn to host the bloodmobile on Thursday, January 25, 2007, from 1:00 - to 7:00 p.m.

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Positions to be filled are Elder, Adult Discipleship Chairman, and three School Elders. Members of the Nominating Committee are Scott LaPointe, Wayne Krentz, Jeff Schmidt, Dan Barziza, Principal Whitney, Pastor Zeitler and Pastor Meyer. Say a prayer for faithful leaders who will help take our congregation forward in carrying out our mission and ministry.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Our congregation is extremely grateful to all the volunteers who have helped with cleaning and painting the parsonage and getting it ready for our new pastor. We thank the crew of volunteers who drove to Milwaukee to load and move the Meyers' belongings to Belle Plaine. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped move Mr. Whitney to his new home. Thank you to all those who donated candy, nuts, fruits and cash for the children's Christmas bags. Thank you to all those who responded to the special deficit elimination project at Christmas. We had an overwhelming response to all these challenges. Take the time to thank God for these blessings and for giving us the joy of working together to carry out his mission Belle Plaine and beyond.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet on Sunday, January 21 at 12:30 at church for a skiing afternoon at Mt. Kato in Mankato. The group will return by 8:30 p.m. On Sunday, February 4, the group will meet at Schuettes for a Super Bowl party. Parents of our teens will meet at Zeitler's (1007 W. Prairie Street) on Sunday, February 11, at 6:30 p.m. to review the progress of our youth program and set the tone for the future. On Sunday, February 18, the group will go to Chaska Community Center for ice skating. Call or email Pam Schuette for details (952-240-3913) (pam@alansondesign.com).

Midweek Services (Thursday)

Our regular midweek Thursday evening services will resume on February 1 at 7:00 p.m. with communion and will continue every Thursday after that until Ash Wednesday on February 21 when we begin our midweek Lenten service.

Memorials - Gifts - 2006

Ruben Tesch Memorial (12-21-2006)

\$500.00 Debt retirement Fund given by his family (Ruth (Tesch) Westphal and Diane (Tesch) Nelsen)

Erwin Karnitz Memorial (12-13-2006)

\$1,000.00 Capital Improvement Fund from his family to be used for new desk and office furniture for Pastor's office.

Elmer & Elsie Ernst and Mary Busta Memorial (12-27-06)

\$50.00 Capital Improvement Fund from Mary Ernst (Mary's grandparents)

Frieda Schmidt and Kathryn Vathauer Memorial 12-27-06

\$50.00 Capital Improvement Fund from Mary Ernst

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We are asked to bring cookies, and for people to help with greeting the people who will be donating blood and with serving the food. Men and women alike are asked to volunteer to help. We need someone to take the blood to St Paul at 6:30 p.m. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex of the church for you to indicate if you will be able to bring cookies or help on the 25th. We need about 25 to 30 dozen cookies. Thank you for your help.

Chasing Away Pride by Anne Ortlund
Do you think anything concerning you now is too small? Your house or apartment? Your personal reputation? Your Influence? Your Job? Your family (you want to add a spouse or children)? Your circle of friends? Your Salary? Your life?

Until I paid attention to Psalm 131:1 I chafed. Then I discovered that God’s leash wasn’t too tight - my heart was too proud! I thought I “deserved” more; my self-image had greater expectations, and that attitude was the very grease on which I slid into self-pity, discontent, ungratefulness, misery. Then I fixed my eyes on Jesus - and in my own eyes I became smaller and smaller. What was my stature, my purity, my power, my excellence compared with His? I felt foolish, embarrassed, very small.

Delighting in God by Mary Hampton
What would you ask for if God offered you anything you desired? Would you ask for long life or riches or protection for those you love? Would you ask for wisdom or a deeper relationship with Him? When your wakeful mind isn’t alert to tell you what you should ask for, would your unconscious heart ask for something that would please God? Psalm 37, a psalm of David, tells us that if we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart. Some people have said that this means that if we are seeking the Lord first, our desires will conform to His. I like to think that it actually means that God places the desires there to begin with.

Savoring Each Moment by Luci Swindoll
To experience happiness we must train ourselves to live in this moment, to savor it for what it is, not running ahead in anticipation of some future date nor lagging behind in the paralysis of the past. With wholeness and sensitivity we must live in the here and now. ‘But what if I don’t like the here and now?’ you ask. ‘What if my present moment is one of disappointment or impairment or heartache? How then do I savor the moment?’ Good questions. And the answers reside in the first and most profound principle for the art of savoring life: *Pleasure* lies in the heart, not in the happenstance. Our circumstances may be dreadful and riddled with reasons for discouragement or sorrow, but that doesn’t mean those moments are utterly devoid of happiness . . . Those special savored moments of fun, reflection, happiness, and pleasure give us a tiny taste of what eternity with Christ will one day be like.

Recapturing Joy by Susan Yates
Is celebrating really that important anyway? Yes, It Is! Life today is difficult. Problems challenge us and we worry about our children’s futures. It’s easy to fall into the trap of taking ourselves too seriously, of worrying about ----->

GOD’S YELLOW PAGES	(Promises about)
Chasing Away Pride	Delighting in God
Proverbs13:10	Psalm25:4-5
Psalm22:26	Isaiah58:14
Proverbs.....23:4-5	Psalm145:2
Psalm131:1	
Savoring Each Moment	Recapturing Joy
Matthew6:34	Proverbs2:10-11
2 Corinthians4:16-18	Matthew5:5-7
Psalm54:8-10	Ephesians5:1-2
Looking For Beauty	Celebrating Victories
Ecclesiastes 3:11-12	Psalm9:1-2
Psalm27:4	Isaiah25:9
Psalm29:2	Psalm89:1

Ladies’ Aid
Election of officers was held in November and the new officers are
President: Donna Karnitz
Vice President: Luella Heitkamp
Secretary: Mary Miller
Treasurer: LaVerne Muehlenhardt
Christian Service: Lola Kulow

The annual Ladies Christmas party was held instead of the regular monthly meeting. Gifts were exchanged. New secret pals were chosen and everyone had a good time and much good food to eat. Monetary gifts were given to the Pastor and the janitor as appreciation for all their hard work in the church. Thank you! We have received a list of new names of missionaries from LWMS for the Befriend A Missionary Program. A monetary gift will be sent to each of them in May as we have been doing for the past years.

The January meeting was held on Jan. 11, with Donna Karnitz and Irma Woestehoff as hostesses. Coffee hour will be January 21 serving will be Mary Miller, Luella Heitkamp, and LaVerne Muehlenhardt. The January Standing Committee Co Chairwomen are Violet Vinkemeier and Dorothy Mueller.

The rest of the Committee are:
Mary Stier Debbra Schroeder Sally Mueller
Lois Wichmann Stephanie Weckwerth Judy Nagel
Angela Olsen Teri Reitz Myrna Peltonen
Debra Shaughnessy Gayle Vinkemeier Lisa Mathwig
Brenda Vinkemeier Sharon Potthier Melissa Siegle
LaVonne Schlingmann
The February Standing Committee Co Chairwomen are, Debra Malz and Shirley Ernst.

PLEASE submit your article for the News Letter by January 28. 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!

success, jobs, acceptance, parenting, illnesses and so on. It’s easy to lose our ability to laugh. It’s easy to forget the simple ways of purely enjoying one another. Celebration keeps us balanced in a difficult world, renews our perspective, and enables us to recapture joy. It provides us with an easy means of building friendships within the family. A real benefit to celebration is that it can be very simple and yet the dividends are so great.