



Trinity Times

May, 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."

Palm Sunday, April 9th



Palm branches were passed out to all who were interested in marching around the Church, waving the branches and singing the praises of the Lord. We were reminded of how the palms were waved when Jesus rode the colt to Jerusalem.

**May 3rd was examination of the confirmands .
Confirmation will be on Sunday May 7th at 10:30 a.m.**



The young people who will be confirmed and the Pastors. Pictured back row: Pastor Zeitler, Chelsea Barta, Tyler Koeppe, Andrew Peltz, Deborah Schwichtenberg, and Pastor Moldenhauer. Middle row: David Keup, Jennifer Schmitz, Miranda Pomije, and Karl Schmidt. Front row: Desirae Guschette, Shelby Sieben and Jordan Dunfee.

April 30th the school children put on a production, "Salute to America." It was a very enjoyable program. The children did a very good job with their songs and narration.



April 22, a men's breakfast was held at Trinity . A video followed. The next breakfast will be Saturday, May 13, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. All men are encouraged to attend.

From the Pastors Desk by Pastor John Zeitler
The Top Ten Predictions for the Rest of the Year

1. The Bible will still have the answers.
2. Prayer in Jesus' name will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move hearts miraculously.
4. God will still be the praise of his people.
5. The Holy Spirit will still work wonders through the Word of God.
6. There will still be singing to God for his goodness.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon his people.
8. There will still be room at the cross for you.
9. Jesus will still save the lost.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

School Faculty Downsized

After considerable discussion, debate and prayer, our congregation has made the difficult decision to reduce our faculty by one position for next year. This move comes as a result of a decreased student enrollment and a serious financial shortfall in our operating revenues. As a result of this decision, it was resolved to release our teacher with the least years of classroom experience, Mr. Matthew Wurster, our 5th and 6th grade teacher, from his call at the end of the school year (June 30).. We are grateful to Mr. Wurster for the two years of service he was permitted to give to us in our school and congregation. Pray that God fulfills his desire to serve in the teaching ministry in the future. Please take time to personally thank him and encourage him.

Looking Forward Together

Our congregation has voted to proceed with a comprehensive plan for our future to address our financial issues and to maintain the integrity of our Lutheran school as an outreach arm in our growing area. We thank Mark Kuske for creating the framework for this plan and presenting it to our leadership at a time when we were all struggling with what to do. The plan has a number of goals:

1. Reduce the congregation's share of the called workers' health insurance premiums by having them pay 40% of the premiums (save about \$20,760 annually).
2. Reduce secretarial and bookkeeper's hours (save about \$15,800).
3. Reduce custodian hours (save about \$12,400).
4. Reduce the administrative assistant's hours (save about \$5,000).
5. Call a six-tenths time teacher to help in grades 5 and 6 for one year (save about \$5,000).
6. Enlist at least 100 individuals who will increase their offering by \$30 per month (\$3,000 this fiscal year, \$36,000 next year).
7. Enlist volunteers to help with school and church secretarial work.
8. Enlist volunteers to help with custodial work.
9. Begin paying off our operating debt of \$220,000.
10. Find joy in an increased level of stewardship of time, talents and treasure by all our Trinity family members.
11. Look forward, not backward.
12. Pray for success.

Continued on page 3

Teacher Call Accepted

Our congregation called Mrs. Barabara Hanneman as our part time teacher for grades 5 and 6 for next year. Mrs. Hanneman has accepted that call. Mrs. Hanneman is the wife of Pastor Bruce Hanneman at St.Paul's Lutheran in Arlington. She has taught at St. Paul's and in other schools. Her term with us will begin on July 1. We thank God for answering our prayer so quickly.

Confirmation Class

This year's confirmation class will publicly speak their promises of faithfulness to Jesus on Sunday, May 7. The members of the class are:

Chelsea Barta	Jordan Dunfee	Desirae Guscombe
David Keup	Tyler Koepp	Andrew Peltz
Miranda Pomije	Karl Schmidt	Jennifer Schmitz
Deborah Schwichtenberg		Shelby Sieben

May God bless them with a strong faith throughout their lives.

Nursery Now Available

Thanks to many dedicated leaders and volunteers, we will be able to open our nursery for younger children on Sunday, May 7. The nursery will provide child care during worship services and bible classes in a specially equipped space in the choir room in the school. We need volunteers to serve on Sundays. Please sign up to help with a service in the church lobby. Youth are encouraged to volunteer for this serve. Call Carla Barziza with any questions (873-3260).

Member Visitation

Most family visits have been completed by our visiting teams and most surveys have been turned in. Some of our teams are now helping others who ran into some time binds. If you have not yet been contracted by the team assigned to you, please call the church office or the pastors to ask for a visit. Thank you to all the volunteers who offered their services for this project. All results will be compiled for a congregational report at the quarterly voters' meeting on May 24.

Bible Garden

You will notice a landscaping project taking shape in the circle behind the church sign. This is the "Bible Garden" designed by Becky Baumann and Ruth Anderson which was approved by our council last fall. All labor, plants and items are being donated. If you would like to help out, talk to Becky or Ruth. All plants in the garden will have a biblical name or some biblical association. We look forward to the project taking shape throughout the spring and summer.

Above and Beyond

Pledges are now being received for the "above and beyond" offering in our comprehensive plan for the remainder of this year and the next. You received a letter in your mailbox. One way to increase you offering is to use the Thrivent Giving Plus matching fund program. Sign up with Mark Kuske in the church lobby. A chart in the lobby will update us on the number of individuals and the amount of pledges received.

Continued from page 2

Some of these items will become effective on July 1, the beginning of our fiscal year. Some have already been accomplished. Some are in progress. The plan involves a commitment of some type by everyone. God is already blessing us. Are you in???

Memorials Received

Gifts given in memory of Peter Malz on his birthday (April 21) by Ralph and Deb Malz, Leo and Donna Schmidt, Mark and Diane Kes.

Volunteers Needed

For help with summer custodial work (sign up in church lobby).
For help with church and school secretarial work.
For help with church nursery.
For help with the "Above and Beyond" fund drive.

Preschool Registration

Registration for our Preschool for next year is now open for all. Materials for members have been distributed. Please let us know of others who may be interested in enrolling their child in the fall. Those who want more information may talk to Principal Dan Whitney or Teacher LaVonne Bratsch.

Housing for Summer Experience Students

The Lutheran Home is looking for families willing to house some college students for several weeks this summer. The students will be taking part in the TLHA "Summer Experience" which gives them opportunities to work with families and churches in ministering to people with developmental disabilities. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board.

News from the Lutheran Home

Faith Apartments is the newest housing option offered by TLHA in Belle Plaine. The apartments are designed for use by people with disabilities who can live independently. They will open in June.

The Lutheran Home Foundation 12th Annual Charity Golf Classic will be held on June 21 at 12:00 noon at Valley View. Contact Jenny Scherer for more information at 873-4749.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

The regular meeting of the congregation will be held on Wednesday, May 24, at 7:00 p.m. On the agenda will be results of the congregational survey and the approval of a budget for the next fiscal year. All members are invited to attend.

Graduation and Ascension Day

Our Trinity School eighth graders will graduate in a special service for Ascension Day on Thursday, May 25, at 7:00 p.m.

High School Graduates

We welcome all our high school graduates to come to the 8:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, May 21, with our gown and be seated together in the front row. We will march into the service together after the bell is rung. We will recognize our graduates and offer a special prayer for them that day.

Men's Breakfast

The first Men's Breakfast saw 12 participants on April 22. A video on "Lamb of God" was shown by Win Vattbauer. The next breakfast will be Saturday, May 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. A Video on the resurrection will be shown. All men, young and old, are encouraged to come.

Council Notes from April 18

- A support plan for Mr. Wurster will be presented to the congregation for approval on May 24.
- Brian Miner and Tony Hetzel were appointed as the two new members of the Board of School Elders for a one year term.
- An account was established with Klein Bank to expedite stock transfers.
- A new printer for the office was approved.
- The Budget Committee (Maynard Harms, Scott LaPointe, Bruce Panning, Nate Hahm, Pastor Zeitler, Pastor Moldenhauer and Mr. Whitney) will be meeting to present a final draft to the council on May 16.
- The pastors' job description and guidelines was tabled until the next meeting for discussion.
- A DVD promoting our school and congregation has been developed by Ben Matzke at Bethany College.
- Mr. Whitney will negotiate with families who have special tuition needs.
- We have the potential for 10-12 children in Kindergarten next year.
- The Pro Turf contract was not renewed for our lawn. We will do our fertilizing and weed control.
- Our treasurer reported a balance of \$9,852 in the checkbook. We have avoided the need to borrow for payroll and expenses so far.
- The Secondary School Fund of \$400 was distributed equally to ministry students, Justin Pomije and Holly Pearson.
- Promotional bags were handed out at the Belle Plaine and Jordan showcases.
- The Belle Plaine basketball program and the Just for Kix dance program have inquired about using our gym.

NOTICE TO ALL GROUPS THAT USE THE KITCHEN IN CHURCH:

The Ladies' Aid have cleaned the kitchen recently. We need **EVERYONE** to help keep it clean.

Please check the refrigerator and the freezer to see what is yours. Label your group name and date the product. Take home things that will not be used. Anything that has an expired date on it should be tossed.

Also, please check the storage area and make it look neat. Again, take out anything that is not being used.

Thank you for your help!!!

A Big Thank You to Jon Schuette family and the Bob Schmidt family for their wonderful job of removing the snow from the parking lot, sidewalks and the driveways this winter. .

NEWS FOR OUR YOUTH

Every year this happens. *You'd never believe what our pastor made us do for our examination!*" That's right - we just got done with examination for another year, and hearing these phrases is something WE ALL can relate to. Everyone can relate to these quotes.

"When I got confirmed, we even had to know the Keys and Confession."

"When I got confirmed, the pastor would stop us in the middle of a petition and make another confirmand start where the first left off - we all had to pay attention."

"When I got confirmed it was during an actual Sunday service, so we were really nervous."

"When I got confirmed, we had to know **50 PASSAGES.**"

"When I got confirmed, we got called on and if we didn't know it, the dead silence would go on and on."

"When I got confirmed, We'd get called on, walk up to the mic and then hear the question."

"When I got confirmed, we had to shout out the answers and didn't have a microphone."

"When I got confirmed, we had to memorize the **WHOLE BIBLE.**"

"When I got confirmed, my parents had to answer what I got wrong, and the elders had to answer what my parents got wrong." Examination is truly something that unites all confirmed members of our Lutheran Church. But there's something that brings us even closer than the torture of the exam. Faith is what really brings us close. Faith, because we're all united with a sinful nature, we're all in the same boat deserving hell. Faith unites us in forward motion toward heaven. Faith! A hard thing to examine, but an easy thing to grow as long as we stay connected to God's Word and Jesus, the object of that faith.

Sunday, May 7, No Activity (It's confirmation Sunday)

Friday, May 12, Activity (I.L.O. Comedy at Club 3 Degrees)

Sunday, May 14, Activity (The youth do coffee hour on Mother's Day)

Friday, May 19, 7:00p.m. To Saturday 7:00 a.m. (Lock in, movies, DDR, PS2, midnight Bible Study, junk food, open gym.)

Outreach! By Michael Klatt

Recently, Scott County was in the National headlines again listed as one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. Trinity finds itself in a very unique position - Blessed with a rich history - and blessed with the tremendous opportunity to share Jesus in an unprecedented fashion to our growing community.

While a small group of members comprise the formal "outreach committee" the fact is every member of Trinity is on the outreach committee. One of the fundamental purposes of a congregation, and a Christian, is to share Jesus to those who do not know their Savior.

As we share in our common Christian faith, it is our privilege to share that faith with others. In future editions of this newsletter, we will provide updates on how the "formal outreach committee" is planning for the future. Remember, each of us are on the outreach committee for Trinity. As you conclude reading this newsletter, Close your eyes and think about a neighbor or friend who isn't a member of a church, then pray that God will give you the opportunity to share Jesus with them. Keep that person in your prayers on a weekly, if not daily, basis. Remember you are not alone; the Holy Spirit is walking with you, side by side, holding your hand in you walk with Jesus!

GOD'S YELLOW PAGES

About Sin

Romans1:12,19

2 Corinthians5:21

1 Peter3:18

About Repentance

Psalm.....32:5

Acts2:38

Luke15:7

About Sanctification

Romans8:6-8

2 Corinthians3:18

1 Corinthians6:9,11

(About Christian Life)

About Salvation

Romans3:23-24

1 John2:1-2

John3:17,36

About Eternal Life

John5:24

John6:47

John10:27-29

About Prayer

Matthew6:6

John14:13-14

Ephesians3:12

1 Timothy2:1,8

Ladies' Aid

The next Aid meeting is on Thursday May `11th at 7:30 p.m.

"The True Easter Story" will be the topic presented by Win Vatthauer. Come and seek out another faith lesson from this

Focus on Family video series. All the Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

The Hostesses are Mary Miller and Luella Heitkamp.

Coffee Hour May 21st servers Mary Miller, Elaine Sweiger, LaVerne Muehlenhardt

LWMS Coffee Hour on May 28th served by the standing committee.

The May Standing Committee Co Chairwomen are Donna Karnitz and Leona A. Sellnow.

The rest of the Committee are:

Joanna Fahey Judith Schultz Marlaine Savelkoul

Lila Schwecke Julie Miner Carla Barziza

Tina Benck Arlene Kerkow Laura Herrmann

Pat Meyenburg Trudy Smith Wanda Sellnow

Trudy Thelemann Rachel Weirs

The June Standing Committee Co Chairman are, Ruth Anderson and Shirley Hesperheide.

Pease submit your article for the News Letter by May 28th. 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!

Home to Home Thrift Store News:

There are many donations to sort through and process. In addition to our regular store hours, we have established Mondays (when we're closed) as work days - generally from 8:30 a.m. To 3:00 p.m. Call 873-6901 with questions or just come for all or part of the day. It would be nice to establish a regular Monday crew. Much could be accomplished. Thank you for considering this. Yes, we need volunteers on the other days to, so give us a call.

Thank you to Ollie Heitkamp for making and donating the tables that are used to hold the church service programs.

Thank you to all who donated items and who purchased the items at the silent auction on Sunday April 30th. Without you this project would not have been successful.