



# Trinity Times

November, 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."

Music And Jesus presented the Play "The King's Cafe"



The opening scene.



Who should be in charge?



What kind of restaurant to have? What to serve?



Having fun.



The cast. Directed by Michelle and Kaity Kuske. Script was written by Kaity Kuske, Kristyn Haberkorn, and Amy Gergen. Jr. Leaders were Jenny Schmitz and Kirsten Kowitz.

A very enjoyable play. The children all did very well. Page 1

## From the Pastors Desk!

By Pastor John Zeitler

### Death as Defined by Halloween and Reformation

October 31 is .....? The answer is usually "Halloween!" It's the season of "trick or treat," candy, jack-o-lanterns, witches, ghosts and ghouls. Forgotten in all the hubbub is the victorious festival of the Reformation which officially began in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517.

Halloween comes off as a "celebration" and mockery of death, the devil and everything evil. We can have a lot of fun with the parties, pranks, costumes and decorations, but don't forget the positive values and hope given to us by God through the Reformation.

For someone who has experienced the death of a loved one, Halloween can so easily come across as an insult, rather than a fun time, with the ghosts hanging in trees and the gravestones and skeletons on the front lawns. Death is very real. It hurts and causes deep pain and grief. It threatens and terrorizes each one of us. We can make fun of it, mock it, and dress up in silly costumes to mimic it, but it will not go away. We can whistle in the dark and pretend it is only make believe, but it will find us, . . . and our loved ones. It is very real.

The "other" October 31 celebration, Reformation, does not glorify the fear of death, but rather the defeat of death. The Reformation recovered the truth of the bible, God's word, which declares that Jesus has already gone through death for us and that we will never die because of him. We will never be taken victim by the devil and cut off from God in hell. This is God's gift to us through his great love which we cannot earn, nor do we deserve. We cannot earn it, but only believe it and enjoy it. The body may die, or "sleep" for a while, but God guarantees a resurrection to eternal life free of fear and death forever.

Reformation is a celebration of life and hope. It puts the facts of God's written life guarantee in front of us and invites us to celebrate. Halloween is a spoof of something very terrible and very real and offers no hope or solution, except a short term laugh and a few smashed pumpkins.

Let's have our fun with the fall festival, let's laugh at death and the grave . . . But let's continue where Halloween stops. Celebrate the victory of Christ over death and the recovery of this truth through the Reformation.

On October 31, 1517, a statement was nailed to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany, challenging those who were trying to "scare" people into heaven and threaten people with hell if they didn't follow men's rules. It challenged people to just look in the bible and see what God really says: sin is bad, death is horrible, hell is real, but Christ has taken care of it all. Life is a gift from God. It is free and through Christ it lasts forever. Enjoy! And celebrate God's wonderful grace! Happy Reformation!

*There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:22-24)*

### Reformation Festival Service

Celebrate the Lutheran Reformation with your fellow congregations at the joint Reformation service on Sunday, November 4, at 2:30 p.m. at Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Professor Keith Wessel will be the speaker.

## From the Church Council (10/16)

In attendance: Pastor John Zeitler, Pastor John Meyer, Principal Dan Whitney, Dan Barziza, Nate Hahm, Jeff Vinkemeier, Erich Meyenburg, Jon Luedloff, Maynard Harms. Pastor Zeitler began the meeting with the opening verses of 2 Timothy 4. Paul spoke to a young pastor about the purposes of a minister's life. These words apply to all Christians.

There was one adult baptism (Christine Garrison) and 2 child baptisms (Nathan and Sarah Garrison).

Offerings remain consistent with trends from previous years. However, a line of credit was also necessary to make payroll.

WELSSA procedures are underway with the direction of Mr. Whitney and Mr. Tony Hetzel. They will be making necessary contacts in the near future.

Mrs. Lori Monday substituted for Mrs. Bratsch during her time away. She asked not to be paid for this time. A card has been sent as a thank you and a gift will be made by BOSE.

The end of the school day is now set to 3 p.m. to more closely follow the bus schedules.

BOSE will reduce their budget by \$2,700 to assist in the payment of Mrs. Grabitske's retirement package. This is approximately 12.3% of the school budget.

Scoreboard purchase is made by TEL with funds raised in a previous year.

\$10,000 borrowed with an expected need to turn again to the line of credit at next payroll.

Contributions are approximately \$15,000 - \$16,000 short of budgeted needs. Total receipts on paper show \$16,000 positive but still lacks about \$28,000 in cash.

**Resolved**, "Establish AV (audio-visual) fund with the proceeds from the pork dinner and add to it the funds of the special community events fund."

There was discussion of purchasing and installing remote camera equipment for viewing church services while inside the nursery.

Easter services were discussed with the question of whether or not we should switch worship times from 8 a.m. And 10:30 a.m. To 6 a.m. And 9 a.m. The question to consider was stated as "Do we stay with posted schedule so we don't miss visitors or absent members?" Continuing discussion decided to leave worship times unchanged.

Pioneer boys need a new volunteer leader as Al Mosbeck would like to step down. This position may need more aggressive pursuit to fill.

Gym floor will be redone in the first two full weeks in June (9th - 20th). The cost is approximated at \$1,400.

Options to re-key the building are being considered. This includes a possible deposit necessary with sign-out of who has keys.

Many Volunteer cleaning crews are not arriving. This puts extra stress on Win at the addition of several hours.

Kitchen/Auditorium Fees were discussed.

More Budget Cuts: No pre-printed bulletins will be ordered. This should save around \$300 to \$400. The *Forward in Christ* subscription was reduced to save approximately \$50. Also, the meditations order was reduced to save a "couple hundred".

**Resolved:** The quarterly voters' meeting will be held November 27th at 7 p.m. *Continued on page 3* Page 2

## Thanksgiving Service

Join in celebrating the special gifts of our God in the Thanksgiving Festival Service on Thursday, November 22, at 9:00 a.m.

## Outreach to Muslims Speaker

Two special presentations will be made at Trinity by our synod's Outreach to Muslims team on Thursday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. (in place of the evening service) and on Thursday, November 15, at 1:30 p.m. For our school and anyone else interested in the church. This presentation has been made around our synod and will give you some fascinating insights in the Muslim world and the effect of the gospel on people's hearts.

## Christian Growth Classes Offered Weekly

### The Book of Revelation

Led by Pastor Zeitler on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the gym during coffee hour.

**Running the Rapids:** Raising Adolescents (Dr. Leman video series) Led by Pastor Curt Seefeldt on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the school.

**Crisis Care:** Hope for the Hurting (Dr. Norman Wright video series) Led by Pastor Ed Fredrich, Monday evenings, in school, at 7:00 p.m. This week's theme:

## Women's Study Group

Led by Kristin Werner during morning preschool on Tuesdays at her home (844 Daniel Drive) during the school year, from 9:00 a.m. -- 10:30 a.m.

## Women's Spiritual Enrichment, The Gospel of John

Led by Kathy Fredrich at her home (848 S. Chestnut Street, Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

## Marriage and Family Workshop

Saint Peter Lutheran Church of St. Peter, MN, will host a marriage and family workshop on Friday, November 9, from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Anita Smith with Cornerstone Christian Counseling will conduct a workshop on "Managing Your Time In A Busy Family." This workshop is free. We only ask that you reserve a place by calling Saint Peter Lutheran Church (507-931-1866) or by sending an e-mail (spevluth@hickorytech.net) If you don't have the time to come, you may need this workshop!

## Can You Help??

To help clean on Saturday morning (to help save on our custodial expenses). Call Jeff Vinkemeier at 873-3487 or the church office. To promote member ministry (surveying talents and spiritual gifts and enlisting them in the service of the Lord through our church. Call Quin Anderson (873-3401) or the church office.

Serve as an usher? Call Gary Peltz (873-5573) or the church office.

Serve as a morning receptionist for a few hours on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday in our church/school office? Call Vera Lieske (873-6816) or the church office.

Help with the snow blowing duties as winter falls upon us? Call Jeff Vinkemeier at 873-3487.

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A review of mission offering status is needed. How do we increase our mission offerings?

## Memorials

### Erna Kruschke Memorials (Sept. 28, 2007)

Padded Pew Fund from family and friends

General Fund from family and friends

### Chad Ince Memorial (September 27, 2007)

School Library Fund from Ray and Bev Ince

### Larry Bratsch Memorials

Audio-Visual Fund - from family and friends

Preschool Classroom - from family and friends

Debt Retirement Fund - from Louie & Vera Leiske

Knotters' Group - from Gary & Nella Schmidt

School Fund - from John & Carol Buszmann, Arvin &

Shirley Ernst, Robert & Mavis Hillstrom, and Friends

School Fund (Kindergarten Room)-Rod & Karen Bauer

Padded Pew Fund - Loren & Shirley Stier, Wally & Evonne Otto, and friends

General Fund - Elmer & Wanda Sellnow & Friends

Missions - From Friends

Athletic Fund - from Friends

The Lutheran Home- From Friends

School Library Fund - From Myra Nagel

Trinity Capital Improvement Fund - From Barb & Win Vatthauer

### Lee Borgardt Memorials

Audio-Visual Fund - from family & friends, John & Carol Buszmann

Trinity General Fund - from family & friends

Debt Retirement Fund - from family & friends

Padded Pew Fund - from Loren & Shirley Stier

Trinity Knotters - from Gary & Nella Schmidt

School Fund - from family & friends

Senior Choir - from Louie & Vera Lieske

School Library Fund - From Family & Friends

Trinity Capital Improvement Fund - from Barb & Win Vatthauer

### Lila Laabs-Schwecke Memorials

Endowment Fund - from Lila Laabs-Schwecke

Audio-Visual Fund - from Brian & Karen Walker, Dr.

Albert & Dorothy Marden, Harold & Luetta

Yotter, and Win & Barb Vatthauer

### Ryan Laabs Memorial

Padded Pew Fund - from Wally & Evonne Otto

### Hildegard Bentz Memorial

Building Fund - from Virgil & Anita Herrmann

### Paul Daniel Schultz

School Fund - from Bill & Judy Schultz

### Verner and Esther Hillstrom Memorials

For Lappy Song Books - From Robert & Wayne Hillstrom

### Marion Schmidt Memorial

Senior Choir Fund - from Safford and Florence Herrmann

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**College Student Addresses Needed**

Please submit the address, phone number and email address of any college student in your family to the church office or Pastor Zeitler. Our synod's campus ministry program will put them on a special mailing list.

**Script Orders**

Script orders to help support our school will still be accepted on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Orders will be distributed the following Sunday. Please call Rachel Weires (873-2745) if you have any questions.

**Thrivent Elections**

The elections for Thrivent Scott County Branch officers will be held next Sunday, November 11. Nominess are needed. Please call Vera Lieske for more information (873-5816)

**Mission Offerings**

We have about 9 weeks left to raise about \$12,000 to meet the goal of \$40,000 our congregation has committed to missions. These offerings not only help send missionaries abroad, but also help pay for our pastor/teacher training programs. Use the "Mission" blank on our offering envelope or designate a special gift for "Missions". "The light that shines brightest at home, shines the farthest abroad."

**Use Goodsearch on the Internet**

From our School Board: If you search the internet, be sure to check out GoodSearch. When you use GoodSearch, 1 cent is donated to Trinity for every search done. Just type in "Trinity" in the sponsor box. Look for "Trinity Lutheran School (Belle Plaine, MN)" in the drop down menu. If you shop online, try GoodShop. It works the same as the Scrip program with a portion of every sale given to Trinity. Proceeds for both GoodSearch and GoodShop will be applied toward teachers' salaries in the church budget.

**Time of Grace TV Ministry**

Sundays, 6:30 a.m., Channel 9 (FOX TV)  
Pastor Mark Jeske

**Trinity Lutheran Service**

Mondays, 9:00 a.m.  
Local Cable Channel 8

**Christian Counseling Services**

Mankato --New Ulm: Dan Loe, Anita Smith  
Cornerstone Christian Counseling 507-354-1147  
Twin Cities, Burnsville: Brent and Wenday Baumler,  
Gene Martins  
Bachmann Associates:" 952-892-8495

**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.

Jon Luedloff (467-2314)  
Wayne Krentz (873-2599)  
Jim Baumann (873-2514)

**GOD'S YELLOW PAGES**

**Find Safety in God**

Psalm .....4:8  
2 Corinthians .....6:16  
Joshua .....24:17

**Accomplish Goals**

Philippians .....3:13-14  
Galatians .....2:20-21  
1 Thessalonians ..5:25-24

**Laugh at Yourself**

Proverbs .....17:22  
Job .....8:20-21  
Psalm .....126:2-3

**Choose a Positive Attitude**

Romans .....15:13  
Isaiah .....55:12  
Romans .....8:26

**(Promises to help you)**

**Identify goals**

John .....9:4  
Psalm .....25:9  
Psalm .....37:3

**Live Above Mediocrity**

Isaiah .....2:3  
1 Timothy .....6:12  
2 Timothy .....4:7-8

**Live a Powerful Life**

Proverbs .....31:31  
2 Corinthians .....4:7  
2 Timothy .....1:7

**Wait With Hope**

Isaiah .....40:31  
Hebrews .....6:11-12  
Psalm .....27:14

**Ladies' Aid**

There will be election of officers this month be sure to attend. The Aid purchased new drapes for one of the class rooms. A vote was taken to replace the drapes in Pastor Zeitler's office. The coffee hour collection in October went to the M L C Auxiliary to be used on their special projects for the College. Trinity was in charge of the Bloodmobile for October 23. Donna Karnitz organized the workers and the cookie donations for the afternoon of the Bloodmobile. Our Next meeting will be November 8 at 7:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Shirley Ernst and Irma Woestehoff. All ladies are welcome to attend. If you don't feel you want to join just come and visit. Coffee hour will be November 18, Serving will be LaVerne Muehlenhardt and Mary Miller. The November Friendship/Courtesy Team Co Chairwomen are Janice Schense and LaVerne Muehlenhardt. The rest of the Committee are  
Linda Mathwig Yvonne Woestehoff Mary Mathwig  
Carol Kruschke Janet Sellnow Lynn Erickson  
Debra Maresch Mary Meyer Nancy Otto  
Lois Schuldt Natalie Irwin Anita Herrmann  
Michelle Guscette Andrea Hahm Jennifer Meyer  
The Friendship/Courtesy Team co chairwomen for December are Kay (Jamres) Carlson and Jill Carlson.

**Articles for the News Letter are due by Nov. 25. Please give to Luella Heitkamp, or put it into our mail box at church, or send by email to luellaheitkamp@unique-software.com Thanks!**

**All I really needed to know, I learned from Noah's ark.**

- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah buildt the ark.
- Stay fit. When you'er six hundred years old, someone might ask you to do something really big.
- Don't listen to critics -- do what has to be done.
- Build on high ground.
- For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- If you can't fight or flee -- float.
- Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
- Don't miss the boat.