



Trinity Times

September, 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."

Vacation Bible School 2006. Christmas in August was the theme this year. The pictures below show the singing and dancing and groups doing their activities. A good time was reported by all who attended.



A pot luck dinner was given to welcome Andre and Cora Moldenhauer. They will be attending school at Trinity. We are glad to have them here.



From the Pastors Desk

by Pastor John Zeitler

Pastor Moldenhauer Resigns

It was with great sadness last week that we learned Pastor Moldenhauer had decided to resign his position as pastor at Trinity. His resignation was accepted with regrets by our congregation at the voters' meeting on August 27. The following words are from Pastor Lucas' letter to our council dated August 18.

"Dear members of the council at Trinity Lutheran Church of Belle Plaine,

"Serving God's people here in Belle Plaine has been a great privilege and an honor. I worked hard to always stay positive about Trinity's ministry. Focusing on the growing ministries here made the work fun and enjoyable. I greatly enjoyed working in the community, letting them know that we have a great thing going. Basically, I can be positive about Trinity because I know that sin and grace unite us all.

"Now it is necessary for me to resign as pastor here at Trinity. This is a very personal decision, a decision made for various reasons. As a pastor here I had certain obligations. But the priorities of my family and my health need more attention. This would have been true even if we hadn't started the adoption process last November.

"My resignation will be effective September 1, 2006.

"Since I am a homeowner here in Belle Plaine, Our children will attend school at Trinity where they will receive a fine Christian Education.

"The nature of this letter is brief and vague; therefore I am willing to further discuss my personal decision. As a Christian I also want to keep the 8th Commandment. So understand that we will not blame, nor will we spread negative rumors in the process. God's People deserve to hear information from me, instead of (misinformation) being treated as though it were true. Keeping the 8th Commandment gives glory to God that he deserves, and it also positively represents his people, maintaining an image we have worked hard to create.

"Sincerely,

Lucas J. Moldenhauer"

Our church council has honored Pastor Moldenhauer's decision and his request to tell people personally why he chose to resign his position and pursue another direction in life. They will also issue a statement to the congregation describing the efforts made to help him in his ministry this past year. It will tell what events led up to a decision which we had hoped would have been different. Please be careful to not give your ear to the "rampant rumor mill" and share information that you cannot verify. This only damages Pastor Lucas' reputation and hurts our congregation. We wish God's richest blessings to Pastor Lucas and his family in their future. We also pray for the Lord's guidance as we move forward to continue the work he has given us to do.

Memorials Received

- In memory of Reuben Tesch
From New York Life Insurance Company for Debt Retirement
From Carol Jean Seaberg for General Fund

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Church Council Notes

Pastor Moldenhauer's resignation letter was read and accepted.

Membership Changes

Received by confirmation or profession of faith:

- Kelly and Rana Rucks and children (Blake, Jackson, Daniell, Seth)

Transferred out or Released:

- Rob and Shelly Selly and children (Aaron, Alec, Erica, Patrick)
- Alan and Kathy Labbs and daughter (Rachel)

Enrollment in our school appears to be on target. We should be able to at least maintain the number we ended up with last year. We have met with five families interested in enrolling their children in our school.

A new service with Vanco will permit parents to pay their tuition electronically through automatic deductions from their checking account.

Our school athletic conference will allow non-students to participate in our sports programs if their schools allow them.

Kay Carlson has consented to serve as our head organist. We thank Shelly Selly for all the years she has served in this position.

Lynn Erickson has consented to serve as choir director and Messengers director for the year.

Our Mission Festival will be held on October 15. Pastor Marcus Birkholz will speak to us about the "Friends of China" mission program.

There was discussion about going to one summer service next summer. We will seek other opinions about this suggestion before making a proposal to the congregation.

Sunday School materials are ordered for the first quarter. Two teachers are still needed.

The Financial Stewardship Committee reported on their plan to present the results of the congregational surveys to the congregation together with an action plan.

Outreach reported on the successful VBS program and shared ideas for the future.

We still need someone to take over the chair of the Adult Discipleship Committee.

Volunteers will be sought to help with cleanup in the library, cleaning windows, setting up/taking down tables and chairs and cleaning offices and utility rooms. We will seek help with snow removal in the winter.

The narthex carpet will be cleaned and new faucets will be installed in the kitchen.

Volunteers of Office Duty

We are seeking volunteers who will answer phones and watch the entrance of our school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. Because of our budget cutbacks and Pastor Moldenhauer's resignation, we are in need of a lot of volunteer help. Please call Pastor Zeitler or sign up in the church lobby for whatever time you can offer. Any hours will be appreciated.

Work Night

On Wednesday, September 6, our Properties Committee will hold a work night starting at 3:30 p.m. to prune the shrubs around our property. Bring your gloves and shears.

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- In memory of Emil Wolpern and Edwin Krohn
From Elaine (Wolpern) Sweiger for the Bible Garden.

Choirs Begin Rehearsals

Our church choirs will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th. Messengers (open to youth in grades 3 - 8) will rehearse at 6:00 p.m. The Senior Choir meets at 7:00 p.m. Exceptional talent is an optional, but enthusiasm for expressing and sharing your faith is a must! Come and make a "joyful noise." Call Lynn Erickson (873-4328 or 361-5306) for more information.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes for public school students in 7th and 8th grades will begin on Wednesday evening, September 6, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Students are asked to bring a bible (NIV), a catechism and a notebook. Catechisms may be purchased from the church (\$17.00).

Sunday School Registration

Register your child(ren) for Sunday School in the lobby. Classes will begin on September 10. We still need several teachers and substitutes. Talk to Pastor Zeitler or Alan or Joanne Pomije (952-758-2926) if you could help.

Adult Membership Class

Pastor Zeitler will begin a new adult membership class on Monday evening, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. This class is for members and non-members who wish to take a refresher on Christian doctrine. Please talk to pastor if you want more information about the class.

Singles Retreat

The WELS/ELS Singles are planning a retreat at Camp Croix in Danbury, Wisconsin, September 15-17. See the bulletin board for more information.

Offer a Senior a Ride To Church?

A resident of the Lutheran Home, Mrs. Ruth Briggs, a member of our Fairfax congregation, is looking for a ride to church for services on Sundays. Either service would be fine. If you can help her out for any Sunday, please give her a call at 873-5456.

Survey Results Are In!

After many dedicated hours the congregational surveys have been compiled and are ready to be presented to the congregation. There will be three open forums held to discuss the results. The dates and times will be Sunday, September 10th, at 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 p.m. A letter will be sent to the congregation so everyone will be informed. We strongly encourage all members take the opportunity to join in these presentations.

From Home to Home Thrift Store by Barb Vathauer

Here it is, already September! It's a great time to shop the store for late summer bargains and new fall finds, including fall and Halloween decor.

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Scrip Cards Available

Our Trinity Education League has Scrip cards for sale from Cub, BP, SuperAmerica, Old Navy/Gap and many other businesses. Orders are placed on the first and third Sunday of the month. You may designate half of the profits from your purchases toward tuition reimbursement.

Notes From the Quarterly Voters' Meeting

Pastor Lucas Moldenhauer addressed the voters concerning his resignation.

Pastor Moldenhauer's resignation was accepted with regrets. The treasurer reported a balance of \$6,609 in the checkbook at the end of July. We borrowed \$4,000 in July and another \$11,000 in August to meet payroll and pay expenses.

We will make our budgeted long term loan payments from September through May when offerings are more abundant. Principal Whitney reported a potential enrollment of 54 children in our school.

Ralph Malz reported on the Minnesota District Convention. He represented our congregation as a delegate in June.

The auditing Committee reported that all books are in order. Our Elders will hear input from members regarding the future structure of our ministry as we prepare to call another pastor. The meeting was recessed and will continue on Sunday, September 10, at 9:15 a.m. Between the worship services.

Pioneers Host Bake/Craft Sale

Please mark your calendars! The Lutheran Boy and Girl Pioneers will be hosting their annual Bake/Craft Sale on Sunday, November 12th from 9:30 - 12:00 a.m. We are welcoming any donations from the congregation of any new craft items, canned goods, baked goods, or monetary donations for the Pioneer Programs. Please consider now what you might be willing to donate. We are especially hoping to receive more craft items this year. Thrivent Financial will be matching all proceeds up to \$400.00. The money raised will go towards the Pine Car Derby, outings/activities, and materials used for Pioneer meetings. All donations may be brought to the church on Saturday, November 11th from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Miner @ 873-4387.

Thank you for your support - Julie Miner, Fundraiser Coordinator.

Spread The Word!

From Julie Miner

In the July/August issue of the Leaders Newsletter "The Guide" is some exciting news that we hope your caravan will help us with.

Every time you search the internet Lutheran Girl Pioneers could earn a penny. GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise

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It's been some time since our good friend, Esther Schultz, was able to be with us at the store. She was a long-time volunteer who loved to iron! We were saddened by her loss, but rejoice in the confidence we will meet again in heaven someday. We extend our condolences to Mel and all her family. Construction on our new storage shed is nearly completed! We want to thank Greg Manthe, Ed Werner, and Al Pomije for installing some shelves which will hold the many boxes for every season of the year. We are appreciative of the beautiful things many are donating! There are so many wonderful surprises! Greg and Al have some additional projects in the store, and we are so grateful! Please, if you have a little time, we could use some volunteer help at the store. We're off to a great start in the new store, but it would be so much easier if we had a bigger pool of people. One or two half-days a week would really help! Call me at 873-6901 soon.

Girl Pioneers by Sarah Meyenburg
Lutheran Girl Pioneers is a group for all girls, kindergarten through 8th grade. While in Pioneers they will learn from 7 core units:

- Managing God's Gifts - times, talents and treasures
- God's great outdoors
- Communication
- Responsibility and Respect
- Wellness
- Ecology

Girls in grades 3 - 8 can earn special achievements outside of the regular curriculum.

We also have special family activities being planned. They include hiking at the Ney Center, the Sever's Corn Maze, Skating at skateville, and a swim and gym day.

If they have any questions they can contact Julie Miner at 873-4387 or Sarah Meyenburg at 873-4667.

Pie and Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 24th, is the Lutheran Home Auxiliary-sponsored Pie and Ice Cream Social for residents, families and friends, from 2-4 p.m. In the large activity room of the Hope Residence. Free will offering will be asked for the pie and ice cream.

This project is a fundraiser for special projects of The Lutheran Home and Hope Residence.

We ask the members of Trinity to consider baking pies and helping serve at the social. Check the sign up sheet in the narthex of the church. Be sure to note if you are a Thrivent member as we are seeking matching funds up to \$500.00.

All WELS churches in the Auxiliary district are asked to help out. Your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you!!

Please note !!!

The Ladies will be cleaning out the freezer in the store room by the kitchen. If you have anything in there please check it out, as anything that is not labeled or is outdated it will be tossed. Now that the season for more activities is here the room is needed for their use.

About \$7,300 a year without anyone spending a dime!
You can put a logo and link to GoodSearch on your internet page by following the instructions at <http://www.goodsearch.com/Logo.aspx>
Be sure to spread the word!
Thanks.

GOD'S YELLOW PAGES

Receiving God's Comfort

- Psalm61:1
- Psalm80:3-4
- Joshua1:9

Celebrating Success

- Proverbs31:27-29
- Exodus15:20-21
- Ruth4:14-15

Daring to Risk

- 1 Corinthians2:9
- Job42:1-2
- Esther4:15-16

(Promises about)

Counting Your Blessings

- Ephesians1:3
- Isaiah25:1
- Proverbs10:22

Laughing at Yourself

- Proverbs17:22
- Psalm126:2-3
- Job8:20-21

Living a Powerful Life

- Proverbs31:31
- 2 Corinthians4:7
- 2 Timothy1:7

Ladies' Aid

The next Aid meeting will be September 14th at 7:30 p.m. We will be starting our FALL SCHEDULE and the meetings will be in the evening until next June. All ladies of the church are encouraged to attend and find out what we do and consider joining us.

September 14th Hostesses are: Karen Bauer and Jan Schense.

The freezer in the back room at church is going to be cleaned. Food that is not marked or is old will be tossed. If you have any food in there please check it out.

We will be redoing the Standing Committee list in a month and if for some health reason you feel you can't serve please leave Irma Woestehoff know by either calling 507-665-6581 or leave a note in her mailbox at church.

September 17th Ladies Aid Coffee Hour: Hostesses are Donna Karnit, Shirley Ernst and Luella Heitkamp.

September 23 LWMS Fall Rally at St Paul's in New Ulm. Remember all ladies of Trinity are considered members of the LWMS. Watch for more details in the Bulletin.

September 24th pie and icecream social at the Lutheran Home
The September Standing Committee Co Chairwomen are Irma Woestehoff and Vivian Luedloff.

The rest of the Committee are:

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| Laurie Fogarty | Jan Westphal | Vera Lieske |
| Elaine Sweiger | Jennifer Winter | Judy Bessel |
| Geraldine Witt | Lola Kulow | Joyce Miller |
| Cindy Hetzel | Lisa Bessel | Charolette Hesperheide |

Holly Braunsdorf-Tietz

The October Standing Committee Co Chairman are, Janice Schense and LaVerne Muehlenhardt .

PLEASE submit your article for the News Letter by September 24th. 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!