

Trinity Times

Gather as God's People...

Grow in Faith, Family & Service...

Go into the World as Disciples for Christ...

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Published by Trinity Lutheran Church
Saint Peter, Minnesota
a congregation of the ELCA

New Member Sunday, April 27th

We are very much looking forward to receiving a great group of people as new members of our congregation here at Trinity. If you, or someone you know of, is interested in becoming a member of Trinity, please contact the church office at 934-4786.

Those planning on joining our church family should set aside these dates and times on their calendars:

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30-7:30pm – New Member Orientation Meeting

Everyone who may be thinking of joining is welcome. You will learn more about our congregation and the programs offered here. This is a time to ask and have questions answered, as well as a chance to get to know some of our members.

Thursday, April 24, 5:30-7:00pm – New Member Potluck Food, Fellowship, and Fun: These three are the focus of this evening's event. Pictures will be taken of new members at this time.

Sunday, April 27, 9:30am – New Member Sunday Service We "officially" welcome you into our church family! This is a time for all of us to celebrate as we continue to "grow" as the Body of Christ here in this place.

Confirmation Sunday, May 4th

In preparation for Confirmation, all 9th Graders (parents, take note!) need to set aside these dates and times on their calendars:

April 2, 7:30pm in the sanctuary – Confirmation Sunday meeting with parents (9th Graders will join us at 8 p.m. when small groups are done).

April 9, 7:30pm in the sanctuary – Pictures in the Sanctuary

April 16, 7:30pm – Confirmation Service planning meeting (confirmations interviews will begin after school at scheduled times).

April 23, 5-10pm – Confirmation Retreat, parents are to join us at 9:30pm in the sanctuary.

May 4, 10:45am – Service of Confirmation in the sanctuary

Name Tag Sunday

New members will be received into our congregation on Sunday, April 27th. In honor of this event, we have named April 27 as Name Tag Sunday. We encourage everyone to find and wear their name tag, or you can wear a stick-on one (these can be found at the entry doors). The name tags will be helpful for our new families, as well as for the rest of us. Let's make May be Name Tag Month and see how many of us can keep wearing our names! We want all who worship at Trinity to feel welcome here!

4th Grade Wheat Planting

April 27th

Fourth grade Wheat Planting will take place on Sunday, April 27, at the 10:45am worship service. 4th Graders and their families are all invited to attend on the special day.

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YOUTH & FAMILY

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A Note from Erika

April 2008

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Spring is here – new beginnings in the resurrection of our Lord. We can say Hallelujah after the long Lenten season....we have been reflective and contemplative....and even sedentary in our winter “bulk” (both literally and figuratively) and some of us (mainly me) have become very pale from lack of moving and sun.

What a difference the Easter season (and spring) is! Everything comes back to life....and not just the trees, flowers and grass. We are alive again in Christ. So what does this new life look like to you? Where do you want to see new growth and rebirth?

As I was preparing for our senior high mission trip to Chicago I found an article about urban churches in the windy city. This Catholic priest was placed in a church in 1983 that had a huge old beautiful church, but had only 4 parishioners left. That's right 4. The article goes on to explain the circumstances that led to this and the story of how the church was revived. As of last year they had 3,500 families on its rolls, and it counted 5,300 more people affiliated with the church. The article, and I (and probably you reading this) asked, what happened? There are a lot of factors to the story, but the main thing was intentional outreach.

The priest said, “When you're down to four parishioners, the last thing you do is ask them their needs so you can meet them.” The church reoriented itself around mission. “People do not want to be members of institutions that will meet their needs, but they do want to be part of a mission, to have an experience of the church in action. They were re-creating the Sabbath,” the priest said.

Here at Trinity we are called to Gather, Grow and Go! This is about discipleship. The ministry of Trinity is of the baptized, not the clergy or staff. It's not going to be done by the new church council, or the new youth & family committee (although I'm excited about their full ranks and potential), this is about creating a community that reaches out to others. So I ask you again, in this Easter season, where do you want to see new growth and rebirth? Please prayerfully consider how we can be renewed disciples this Easter in this place. I'd love to hear your thoughts. I will leave you with this verse that I am praying this spring:

“I have pitched my tent in a land called hope.” - Acts 2:25 (The Message)

GATHER... GROW... GO!

Blessings, Peace, Love and Joy to you in Christ's name!

Erika Reckling

Live the Life Youth Group

This youth group is starting a new series called TAKIN' OUT THE TRASH! We are talking about different ways our faith plays out like a game in our lives! We all have trash in our lives. We all hold on to things we should let go of – past mistakes, being hurt. We often consider the wrong things valuable and important. We do things that we know are wrong and don't do the things that we know we should. That's trash that needs takin' out! This series focuses on the Good News: We are not what we do. Jesus went to the cross to prove God's love for us – while we were yet chin-deep in trash! We do not battle sin alone. We have help takin' out the trash in our lives!

April 6th – Frisbee Bowling & other fun games! Join us for a fun night of “trash talking” as we compete in various games, like Frisbee bowling, can stack, and hankerchief. There will be prizes for the winning team, so make sure you bring your friends!

Special Service Project Sunday April 20th after 10:45 worship: the youth & family committee (aka the youth) will join up with social ministry committee to do our semi-annual adopt-a-highway cleanup just outside of Cleveland. We go out for pizza afterwards....so grab some friends and help us literally TAKE OUT THE TRASH! We'll be back to the church by 2:30pm Parents: we'll need drivers! Please call the church office or Erika if you can help!

April 20th – 2 the Dump: Doubts and Questions is our theme! (Part 2 in our TAKIN' OUT THE TRASH Series) We'll look at a bunch of movie clips (and have tons of popcorn) and talk about how doubts and questions are an OK part of faith; they can lead to a deeper, more vibrant faith. Make sure you bring your friends!!

Senior High Coffee Club

Grab your friends and head to COFFEE CLUB, a casual way to GROW deeper in your faith! We understand that your schedules are busy and that sometimes you have tons of homework, but come when you can!

Meet Erika at River Rock from 7:00–8:30pm on Mondays! Or at Waldo's from 3:00–4:30pm on Tuesdays (after school)!

Trinity's Annual 30 hour Famine

When: Sat. & Sun., April 26-27, 2008

Mark your calendars now...write this down in pen! More info coming soon! This youth event is open to ALL St. Peter youth grades 7-12. Grab your friends, sleep in the "cardboard town" at church.... BE SEEN. BE HEARD. BE HUNGRY. Go without food for 30 hours! It's about saving kids lives! www.30famine.org

Amplify Christ!

Purchase a super cool youth T-shirt... just \$15 (in black or pink). See Erika for Details.

Confirmation Calendar Reminders:

7th & 8th Graders:

April 2, 9, 16, 23 all @ the regular time 6:30-8:00; NO Meeting on April 30th

9th Graders:

April 2, 9, 16, 23 all @ the regular time 6:30-8:00; 9th grade retreat on April 30th from 5-10pm (more info to follow) Remember, confirmation Sunday is May 4th @ 10:45 worship.

Everyone: Remember the TEST on April 23rd on Commandments 7-10

Camperships Available

New This Year: Campership Application Forms

Please remember that Trinity provides scholarships (camperships) for ANY Lutheran camps, including family camp. Monies are available from one of our wonderful endowment funds. Trinity is so blessed to be able to offer these camperships and we want to make sure that those people who go to camp are aware of this blessing. Therefore, we have created an application form, to help us better organize this scholarship process and shed light on this blessing to help our young people. Everyone will receive a campership, this is not a competition, just some new paperwork. A campership will pay 50% of the fee up to \$250.00. There is a maximum of \$500 per family to insure that we have enough scholarship money for everyone.

Summer is Coming!

The countdown to summer is in full swing, its time to start planning for summer 2008! Grab a copy of Trinity's 2008 summer programming brochure from the youth table in the narthex or check online for all the details about Vacation Bible School, Boundary Waters, Sonshine Music Festival, and much more!

YOUTH & FAMILY

2008 Summer Mission Trip Minute

Next summer, Trinity's youth and family ministry hits the road again for two very special mission trips. In this month's mission trip minute let's look at the bible verse and song that the youth are using in preparation for their trips. This is a great song to use for personal devotions! Please continue to pray for our youth teams as we move forward with the fundraising and planning of these trips.

Theme verse: "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." – Deut. 15:11

I pretend not to see him for the 21st time....
Monk And Neagle - Twenty First Time

Lyrics:

Nowhere to live, nowhere to fall
he used to have money, but he's wasted it all.
His face is a photograph burned in my mind,
but I pretend not to see him for the twenty-first time

He sleeps under stars, that's all he can afford
His blanket's an old coat he's had since the war
He stands on the corner of Carter and Vine
But I pretend not to see him for the twenty-first time

He may be a drifter, he's grown old and gray
But what if he's Jesus and I walk away?
I say I'm the body and drink of the wine
but I pretend not to see him for the twenty-first time

She's twenty-nine but she feels forty-eight
She can't raise three kids on minimum wage
She's cryin' in back of the welfare line
but I pretend not to see her for the twenty-first time

She may be a stranger tryin' to get through the day
but what if it's Jesus and I walk away?
I say I'm the body and drink of the wine
but I pretend not to see her for the twenty-first time

This is a call for a change in my heart
I realize that I've not been doin' my part
when I needed a Savior, I found it in Him
He gave to me, now I'll give back to them

Drifter or stranger, father or son
I'll look for Jesus in every one
'cause I am the body and drink of the wine
and I'm thankful there's more than the twenty-first time

TRINITY WOMEN

Mission Projects

In late February, 57 quilts were taken to St. Paul for Lutheran World Relief. Many thanks to Harold Frey for making that delivery. The quilters have been meeting twice a month in February and March and want to thank all who have donated fabric and yarn to keep our project going.

The Lutheran World Relief box will remain in the narthex through the month of April to collect fabric, Christian reading material, and items for the Shelter House in Willmar. These will be taken to our Synodical Convention on May 3rd for our "in-kind" offering. Thank you to those who have already brought a donation.

Book Club

The book discussion club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the church library. The book to read for April 3rd is On the Run by Lorena McCourtney. If you like a light mystery, this is for you!

On May 1st, the selected book is Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson. This book has an important message for the world today. Once you've read it, you won't forget it. All readers are invited to come join both of these discussions!

April Schedule

April 1st, 6:30pm	WELCA Board Meeting
April 3rd, 7:00pm	Book Club
April 4th, 1:30pm	Martha Circle
April 7th, 9:30am	Mission Quilting, Noon Potluck
April 14th	Card and Napkin Sales
April 21st, 9:30am	Rebecca Circle
April 21st, 3:30pm	Hope Circle
April 22nd, 5:30pm	Spring Gathering in Glencoe
April 26th, 2:00pm	Trinity Tea
May 3rd	Synodical Convention in Willmar

Invitation to Tea

On Saturday, April 26th at 2:00pm, Trinity Women are hosting their third annual high tea and you are all invited.

Dee Dee Raap, from Sioux Falls, will bring an inspiring message: "The Power of Memories—Creating Your Legacy." Dee Dee is a professional speaker and author whose message helps busy women remember and celebrate the gifts of their mothers' lives. She has been featured on TV, radio and newspapers in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, and Wyoming. She is the author of the book Dear Mom: Remembering, Celebrating, Healing. Come join us and be inspired to laugh and celebrate the best gifts of our mothers' lives.

You are invited to come and enjoy our tables decorated with memories, delicious "high tea" foods, a memorable speaker and warm fellowship. Don't miss this wonderful event of celebrating the gift of our moms! And remember to bring your own tea cup!

Tickets will be on sale between services or call Sharon Litynski (934-1437) for reservations.

Synodical Convention

The SW MN Synodical Convention of Women of the ELCA will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar. The convention will begin at 8am with registration and close at 3pm with coffee and fellowship. The theme this year is "Act Boldly with Humility." The featured program will be presented by vocalist, Kim Schnitzer and speaker, Vicki Marthaler entitled "Sing and Tell the Story."

All women are encouraged to participate in this event of inspiration and fellowship. The cost is \$35, which includes the registration, meals and coffee breaks. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the narthex hallway.

Every congregational unit is entitled to one voting delegate but visitors are unlimited. If you would be interested in being a delegate, please contact Kay Mowbray, 934-3170. Our delegates registration fee is paid by our Trinity Church Women. Registrations are due by April 19th.

Trinity's Mission Statement

The mission of Trinity Lutheran Church is to:

Gather as God's people,
Grow in faith, family and service, and
Go into the world as disciples for Christ.

The Natwick Epistle

“Well,” I heard someone say to me, “another Easter has come and gone. I don’t understand why we keep at trying to celebrate it over and over again for the next month-and-a-half.”

I’ve pondered this a fair amount over the years, and here is the conclusion I’ve come to. I think that for many, Easter is simply a spring-time celebration, an official heralding of the changing of the seasons. In fact, even the name we give to this holiday, “Easter”, has its roots in the coming of spring. Easter is named for Teutonic goddess of spring, Eastre.

Springtime certainly is a time when the earth appears to come back to life after having died. Plants of the field seem to spring forth from dead foliage and dead earth.

Most historians feel that the first Christians, as they had so many times before, used this understanding of the world as an opportunity and an illustration to talk about Jesus and his own death and resurrection.

As time went by and the numbers of those who came to believe grew, the celebration and focus of Easter turned from being a time commemorating spring and worshipping the goddess of spring, to being a time in which Christians remembered, proclaimed, and celebrated Jesus’ own death and resurrection. The earth’s own coming to life in the spring was transformed from being the focus of one celebration to becoming a powerful reminder of Jesus’ own resurrection from the dead.

Unfortunately, the celebration of “Eastre” lingers on and is, indeed, the focus for many, whether they are aware of it or not. Many people are not comfortable with celebrating Jesus’ death and resurrection, but most everybody is comfortable with celebrating the coming of spring after a long winter. Look at our Easter decorations commonly sold in stores today: flowers of pastel colors, bunnies, colorful eggs, baskets lined with grass (albeit fake) and filled with candy. We dress ourselves and our houses with colors that tell us winter is at an end, spring is coming

Go ahead and ask people to name three things you associate with Easter. I’m sure, for many, it will be eggs, baskets, chocolate bunnies, and jelly beans; but there are those who will speak of Jesus and an empty tomb.

Don’t get me wrong, I enjoy Easter Eggs and Easter Baskets along with the next person, but these things have no significant power for my life. The Easter I yearn to celebrate has, at its center, a bare, empty cross and a cold, empty grave. It is Jesus’ death and resurrection that makes my heart sing. It is this that I will speak of when I talk to family, friend, and stranger alike.

For me, I hear God powerfully shouting out to us: “FOR YOU! See what I have done, FOR YOU!” Fifty days of celebration... Can we do any less?

Christ has risen. He is risen, indeed!

Pastor Eric

THE PASTOR’S CORNER

Contact the Pastors

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Trinity Women to Sponsor Bus Trip

On Thursday, June 5th, we’ll have the opportunity to visit three historic sites in Owatonna. Our first stop will be at Minnesota’s only state orphanage: The Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children. They were called “State Schoolers” and there were 10,635 of them between 1886 and 1945. Children who were orphaned or abandoned or abused were sent to this orphanage in Owatonna. Our guide will be a person who has lived at the orphanage.

Our second stop will be at the Dunnell House in the Village of Yesteryear. The village is an excellent example of life in early Minnesota featuring the Dunnell House, built in 1868. It was built by Mark Hill Dunnell, a prominent Minnesota legislator.

Our last stop will be the National Bank. The bank is world-renowned as an example of Prairie School architecture and is a National Historic Landmark. In 1906 Carl Bennett engaged architect Louis H. Sullivan to build a prominent structure. Visitors are captivated by the interior color of more than 200 shades, two large painted murals, and the play of light through stained glass and skylight.

There will be surprise stop at the end of the day!! We’ll leave church at 9am, eat lunch together at the Owatonna Country Club, and return home at 4pm. The cost is \$30 and includes everything—the charter bus, the tour guides at each site and the lunch at the country club. Sign up begins in April. Come and be a part of this enjoyable one day trip. Everyone is invited—men as well as women.

If you have any questions, please call Marvel Prafke at 934-9078.

TRINITY NEWS

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit all items for the May newsletter to the church office no later than April 15th. All items are preferred in an electronic format.

LBW's to South Africa

Trinity has about 150 copies of the LBW (old Green Worship Book) stored. They are now being shipped to South Africa along with copies from other congregations. They will be shipped via container provided by Global Health Ministries. The cost is \$3.00/hymnal. A special offering has been authorized by our church council to be received June 15th, the weekend of Synod Assembly, targeted for shipping costs. We hope to accumulate the \$750.00 necessary for these costs. The special offering envelope in the pews may be used at any time and marked for "Green Hymnals".

Lenten Soup & Bread Suppers Were Terrific!

Many, many thanks to all of you wonderfully good soup makers! Our Lenten Soup and Bread suppers were always a treat to look forward to, and they wouldn't be possible without you!

Would you consider sharing your soup recipes with us? Bring a copy of your recipe to the church office and we will put them together for folks who want one. Thank you for your soups and sharing your recipes with us.

Many thanks to volunteers for helping out with the Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers. What a great group of workers! Many thanks to Dale and Kay Mowbray for keeping us supplied with bread and for over-seeing the kitchen each Wednesday evening. Thanks to all you who served, did dishes, and cleaned up each week – we couldn't have done it without you. And, thanks to all our confirmation small groups and their guides for their participation in the supper each week.

What's New in the Library?

The Bible Encounters by Thomas Youngblood and Sandra Aldrich. Twenty-one stories of changed lives.

Enslaved by Ducks by Bob Tarte. Writing as someone who's been ambushed by the way in which animals, even cranky ones, can wind their into the heart, Bob Tarte reveals the truth of animal ownership—and who really owns whom.

Wednesday Night Suppers Resume

Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers each week during the month of April. The Fellowship Suppers take place each Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 6:30pm in the Gustafson Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$4/person with a maximum of \$12/family. Here are the menus for the month of April:

- April 2: Sloppy Joes, Cold Veggies, Pickles, Salad, Drink, Dessert
- April 9: Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread, Green Beans, Drink, Dessert
- April 16: Hot Beef Sandwich or Commercial, Vegetable Medley, Bread, Drink, Dessert
- April 23: Pan Lasagna, Salad, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Drink, Dessert
- April 30: Baked Potato/Salad Bar, Broccoli, Bread, Drink, Dessert

Steering Committee Needed for Fall Fundraiser

In January, Trinity's Church Council committed the congregation to participating in a Fall Fund Raiser, perhaps similar to last year's Block Party held late in August. Funds raised will be used to supplement our youth minister's salary which currently is being funded at 50% from the operating budget. Youth Minister, Erika, who last year spearheaded this effort, cannot do so this year because of multiple responsibilities and an extended term of youth ministry education slated for this spring.

Trinity needs persons willing to serve on a "steering committee" to plan and implement this fundraiser. We need to get started soon on this task as likely permits must be sought and reservations made. Willing to assist? We need energetic persons willing to brainstorm, plan, implement, and inspire other congregational members to share in the effort. Please speak with staff or church council members if you are willing to assist. The church office number is 934-4786.

Amazing Greys

The Amazing Greys will meet on Tuesday, April 8th, 1:30pm in the Gustafson room. Come for games, goodies and gab! Eileen Kivi and Gert Wright will be your hostesses.

Daily Readings

Trinity's worship schedule is Sundays at 8:00am and 9:30am. The 10:45 service is intended to be leaner, shorter and "family friendly."

NOTE: the daily lectionary is found in ELW starting on page 1121. The first three of the week's readings reflect the previous Sunday; the last three prepare us for next Sunday!

April 6

Holy Communion at all services

Monday	1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:19-28
Wednesday	Matthew 12:38-42
Thursday	1 Peter 1:8b-12
Friday	1 Peter 1:13-16
Saturday	Luke 14:12-14

April 13

Holy Communion at all services

Monday	1 Peter 1:23-25
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:1-3
Wednesday	John 21:1-14
Thursday	1 Peter 2:9-12
Friday	1 Peter 2:13-17
Saturday	Luke 15:1-7

April 20

Holy Communion at all services

Monday	1 Peter 5:1-5
Tuesday	Hebrews 13:20-21
Wednesday	Matthew 20:17-28
Thursday	Acts 6:8-15
Friday	Act 7:1-16
Saturday	John 8:48-59

April 27

Holy Communion at all services

Monday	Acts 7:17-40
Tuesday	Acts 7:44-56
Wednesday	John 8:31-38
Thursday	Acts 27:1-12
Friday	Acts 27:13-38
Saturday	John 14:27-29

Financial Update (thru 3/19)

Income	\$97,268.00
Expenses	\$103,021.00
Difference	-\$5,753.00

TRINITY NEWS

Pray Down the Debt

While reading a magazine article in *Good Housekeeping* on reducing your debt, the following theme soon became apparent. It was 'paying down the debt.' All of sudden I thought why not 'Pray down the debt.'

I noticed that we again have about a \$6,000 deficit for the beginning of this calendar year. We were so successful in paying down the operating line of credit at the end of 2007 and we paid off the Miller House mortgage in full. We had a mortgage burning for these two debts at the annual meeting. I know many of you approved heartily. At the Council level, we accepted a 2008 balanced budget that required a 3% reduction in expenses and a 5% increase in giving. Before the debt gets out of hand, I believe that it's time again to pray for specific prayers asking for people to respond to God's call to stewardship ministry, to become Disciples of Christ, and as good stewards we are obligated to be fiscally responsible.

The concept of Stewardship means to be a follower of Christ. As good stewards we gain a deeper understanding of scripture. We learn that everything we have comes from God and belongs to God. It is our obligation to return to Him a portion of what we have so generously received from Him. He expects a return on His investment in us and we are to share our time with others in His ministry, give our talents in service to the community and grow the money that he has generously given to us.

Stewardship is a way of life. It's like the air we breathe. It's part of us, we don't have to consciously think about it, *it just is*. It's personal and it involves so much more than just money, but money is a big part of it. It's how you live your daily life. It's always putting God first. There is great trust and peace that comes from this way of thinking. There is great joy in living out the stewardship way of life and there is even greater joy in teaching it to others. There is also great joy in praying for others to come to the realization that stewardship is based on your need to give out of gratitude—not on the church's need to receive. It's a spiritual way of life, a life conversion process.

This is what Jesus means when he calls us to be disciples in Matthew 28:19: "Go then, to all people everywhere, and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. I will be with you always, to the end of age."

For your consideration, Marlene Lindemeier

TRINITY NEWS

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Vacation Bible School

VBS 2008 is scheduled for June 2-6 in the mornings at Trinity. VBS is for children entering kindergarten through 6th grade. The theme for this year is "Rainforest Adventure"! Mark these dates on your calendar now; Registration will be starting soon! We're also looking for adults and teens interested in helping. Please contact Lori Hanson at 934-4786.

Are you interested in being on the Children & Families Committee? We're looking for new members! Contact Lori Hanson at 934-4786 if interested.

Dear Friends and Supporters of the "Over Sixty Band",

I am happy to report to all of you very generous contributors that we reached our goal of \$1000.00 plus \$200.00 extra.

The \$200.00 will go to support the cemetery fund, and if more should turn up, which I expect, it will be directed there as well.

I wish to express a sincere "thank you" to all who were so generous, and didn't give me a "bad time" for doing this. There are thirteen contributors total, one was a very large sum, who wanted to know how much more was needed, and wrote the check, putting us way over the top.

Don't forget the Celebration "One Hundred Fifty Years, Under God" at Norseland, MN. June 21st and 22nd, 2008. Parade at 4:00pm on Sat. the 21st. Pork Feed and Celebration after parade, plus a concert by the "Over 60, Band."

Again, "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely, Dolores Holteen

Senior Spring Clean-Up 2008 *Starting Saturday, April 15th*

Experience the satisfaction of helping others. Volunteer through VINE to help older homeowners get their yards ready for spring. Organize a group from church, school, family, or civic organizations to help with raking, gutter cleaning, filling bird baths, preparing gardens, moving lawn furniture, sweeping porches and garages, and other outside tasks. Sign up forms can be found on the VINE website at www.vinevolunteers.com.

A Letter from Pastor Joyce and Ian Graue

This afternoon I visited a Center here in Bouar where courses are offered in woodworking, masonry, ironwork and sewing. One of our Lutheran women is enrolled in the sewing course there and I wanted to know more about the program; I hope that in 2009 a scholarship can be found for her to do further study so that she can teach sewing classes in the Women's Center ("Chez Marthe et Marie") which was dedicated and opened in February.

Well, I had all I could do to maintain a straight face as I met with the Director of the Center and the Instructor of the sewing course. The Director explained that 90% of the sewing course is practical BUT the Center has no sewing machines for the students so only the theory is taught. Nevertheless, the women enrolled will receive a Certificate at the end of this year (for doing 2 years of theory which constitutes 10% of the program?!). The women can then enroll in a third year to receive a Professional Diploma which will qualify them to teach sewing -- but at this rate at the end of the third year they still will not have had any practical experience!!! Can you believe it?

The Director apologized for the lack of materials, explaining that the Center should be receiving government funding for its operation, but the government has no money. Nevertheless, the Center remains open and courses are offered, even though there are no materials to teach with or with which to do the practical components.

I was shocked -- and I pray that it didn't show on my face.

But I also was yet again encouraged by the resilience and dedication of the Central African people: my friend taking a sewing class which has no practical component to it, a sewing instructor who teaches with no books, no sewing machines, no fabric, ... and a Director who keeps the doors to the Center open even though there are no materials for the students enrolled.

April finds us in the church in the Easter season, celebrating life and hope and faith. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb 11:1)

I think that I was taught a lesson in faith this afternoon.

The Lord be with you!

Pastor Joyce & Ian Graue
ELCA missionaries, Central African Republic

Association of Congregations

Trinity's delegates to Gustavus Adolphus College's Association of Congregations are Kermit & Jan Swanson and Sandy & Dane Buendorf.

Trinity Lutheran Church

1892-2008

TRINITY NEWS

We, the 1,920 baptized members of Trinity Lutheran Church honor our past and embrace our future in this our 116th anniversary year of Our Lord 2008. Trinity's anniversary will be noted this year at the Sunday, April 20 services.

- 1893 The Sunday School held its first picnic at Lake Emily, an outing for the whole congregation with fully 200 present
- 1895 At the first formal meeting it was decided to build a church
- 1896 Original church completed with 175 total membership; 61 confirmed; 140 in Sunday School. Entire cost: \$4,000.
- 1900 The new century begun with ringing bells and shooting guns, was one of the most prosperous of all the nine years of the history of the congregation with 200 enrolled in Sunday School; 40 in Ladies' Aid; 232 total confirmed members.
- 1916 The congregation changed its constitution so as to permit its women to vote in all church affairs, "a progressive step."
- 1932 The original church, enlarged and remodeled, was dedicated. Entire cost: \$12,759.89.
- 1936 Church name changed to Trinity Lutheran Church.
- 1939 Church steeple removed.
- 1943 Trinity congregation declared its parish "debt-free" and the mortgage was officially burned with 500 adult members, 100 in Sunday school.
- 1955 Parish hall built.
- 1988 Old church was razed for ground breaking of new church.
- 1989 Present church was dedicated. Entire cost: \$1,002,412.00.
- 1998 Tornado strikes city of St. Peter with Trinity damaged, but left standing.
- 1999 Trinity's renovation and new addition are completed leaving a cost of approximately \$475,000 after insurance coverage. "Lift the High Cross" campaign was implemented to obtain funds for the present and future needs of our growing congregation. The faith community has prospered to 1,591 confirmed members and 190 in Sunday School.

Did You Know That...?

- Instead of receiving salaries the first few years, Pastor Sander and the other two preachers divided whatever was left of the collection money after other expenses were paid.
- The first baptism was that of Clinton Louis Linden, son of Charles A. and Mary Johnson, born July 11, 1892 and baptized Sept. 11, 1892.
- "The assistant" the First English Lutheran Church obtained for Pastor Sander for \$100 was a horse.
- The morning Christine Bornemann failed to get any sound from the organ for the hymn, she found that the two boys paid 10 cents a service to pump the organ had fallen asleep.

Look for more *Did You Know That...?* in the coming Sunday announcements pages.

Ambassadors in Mission (AIM)

The next meeting will be Sat., April 12 at 9:30am at St. Matthews Church in Fernando, a rural parish near New Auburn. Everyone is welcome to attend. No registration required. We can carpool from church. Please call Kay Mowbray, 934-3170, for more info.

The program "Building Conference / Circuit Relationships" will be presented by Pastor Rebecca Sullivan. Pastor Rebecca has led a group to South Africa and has gained insight into ways we can partner with our companion synod there. One of her goals is to have 5 committed farmers among those who next travel to our companion synod. A trip is tentatively planned for October 2009.

Please look at the newspaper articles on the bulletin board outside the Gustafson Room. They tell the story and have photos from the mission trip taken to South Africa in January 2008. We are beginning to learn ways that we can truly partner with our sisters and brothers in South Africa.

IN HIS SERVICE

April 2008

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Council Assistants

8:00 Becky Grabow
9:30 Sharon Litynski
10:45 Kris Kelly

Video Camera

April 6th Tom Frey
April 13th Tom Frey
April 20th Dale Bjorklund
April 27th Dale Bjorklund

Lay Readers

April 6th
8:00am Warren Litynski
9:30am Marilyn Beyer

April 13th
8:00am Adrian Lo
9:30am Kris Kelly

April 20th
8:00am Vivian Mork
9:30am Bill Robertz

April 27th
8:00am Tammy Poppen
9:30am Judy Krull

Fellowship Hosts

April 6th Justin and Barb Simpson
April 13th Verl and Sandy Pettis
April 20th Greg and Kathy Witty
April 27th Craig and Jessica Schrupf

Nursery

9:30am Kelli Darge
Brooke Evans
10:45am Marie Annexstad
Katie Hanson

Acolytes

9:30am Brittany Guth
10:45am Becky Porter

Consider "Sponsoring" Coffee Fellowship with Fair Trade Coffees!

Many of you have discovered and enjoyed the Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate that are available for sale at church. Now you have a chance to share a cup of it with your church family by purchasing some for Fellowship Time on Sunday Morning. Simply purchase a bag or two of coffee (your choice) and drop it off in the church office.

If you've never checked out the Fair Trade display in our narthex, we invite you to do so soon! By choosing to buy fair Trade products, we ensure that farmers in developing countries earn enough income to adequately feed and care for their families and communities. What a great way to help out people in need!

Cystic Fibrosis Fundraisers

Please join friends and family of Maranda Miller at one or all of these Cystic Fibrosis fundraising events! CF is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system.

BINGO at the Red Men Club St. Peter

(must be 18 years and over to play)

Saturday, April 5th, 2008

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. - BINGO

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Food: Hot beefs, chips, pickle and dessert \$5.00

BAKE SALE at First National Bank Lobby St. Peter

Friday, April 18th, 2008

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Great Strides Walk - Wheeler Park North Mankato

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008

Registration 9:00 a.m. Walk begins 10:00 a.m.

Lunch and a party following the walk. It's a fun family activity and a great way to get exercise.

Your support in any way allows us to give Maranda and others like her living with CF the quality of life and future they deserve. Together, we can help make "CF" stand for "CURE FOUND!"

Vital Statistics

Baptisms

Avery Lee Burgess

Daughter of Tara and Billy Burgess

Born: March 2, 2007

Baptized: March 2, 2008

Matthew James Timmerman

Son of Sonja and Jim Timmerman

Born: December 12, 2007

Baptized: March 9, 2008

SERVICE LIST

All Trinity members share in food preparation and serving duties for funerals and other church events throughout the year. The membership has been divided into 13 groups with designated coordinators for each month. This allows one group to have a month off each year. Groups move up one month each year as well, so that you are not serving in the same month each year. This list is also used to secure ushers. Should your assistance be needed, a coordinator will contact you.

April, 2008

Food Coordinators:

Kathy Schulz 934-2961

Usher / Greeter Coordinators:

Neil & Joan Anderson 934-5317

Name

Adams, Eldon & Jeanette
Adamson, Eva
Anderson, Pat & Ernie
Bakke, Ed & Ginny
Bode, Brent & Peggy
Braam, Lyla
Brenke, Rebecca
Brock, Keith & Terri
Brown, Gary & Amy
Brown, Eldon & Margo
Brown, Jeff & Monica
Carlson, Tim & Diane
Davey, Bruce & Lynn
Frey, Tom
Guth, Susan
Haslip, Kammy
Lusty, Grey & Kassie
Markiewicz, Zona
Menk, Terry & Mary
Oachs, Alan & Rosy
Olmanson, David
Pettis, Verl & Sandra
Pursifull, James
Rauschman, Janice
Reckling, Erika
Reinhart, Jim & Diane
Rustman, Richard & Judy
Schmit, Dale & Sue
Schroeder, Lois
Schrumpf, Craig & Jessica
Simpson, Justin & Barbara
Solseth, Melva
Taylor, Kimberly
Thole, Robert & Lillian
Wettergren, Richard & Janet
Wettergren, Jeff
Witty, Greg & Kathleen
Yeske, Paul & Lori
Zachman, Joe & Shannon

May, 2008

Food Coordinators:

Jill Gatzke 934-6399

Charlotte Foss 931-3167

Usher / Greeter Coordinators:

Rich & Nancy Beran 931-2193

Name

Adams, Philip
Ballman, Judy
Bonham, Joan
Boucher, Floyd & Audrey
Burnett, Brenda
Busse, Denise
Conlon, Vince & Betty
Cummins, Dan & Lisa
Elwood, Bob & Linda
Esser, Bill & Diana
Evans, Doug & Deb
Foss, Donald & Charlotte
Haugan, Ron
Healy, Barb
High, Donald & Elisabeth
Kruger, Jim & Rita
Kruger, Pauline
Lesmeister, Peggy
Lindemeier, Marlene
Lindstrand, Millie
Madigan, Beverly
Mayo, Mike & Sherri
Meeks, Bob & Annette
Mickelson, Rosemary
Nimmo, Doug & Ginny
Peterson, Carl & Kathy
Rasche, Michael
Rilling, Louise
Rustman, Steve & Rose
Scheff, Rita
Shetka, Jaime/Mace, Angela
Stark, Delores
Stone, Gregg & Kari
Taylor, Jaime & Barbara
Thorkelson, Skip
Wettergren, Ilene
Wetzel, Chris
Witty, Shirley
Zust, Barbara

APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3:00 HS Coffee Club (Waldos) 5:30 Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 WELCA Board Meeting	2 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Praise Bells	3 7:00 Book Club	4 1:30 Martha Circle	5 9:30 AIM
6 8:00 Communion Worship 8:45 JOY! 9:00 Fellowship 9:20 Sunday School 9:30 Celeb Singers/Adult Ed 9:30 Communion Worship 10:45 Communion Worship 6:30 Live the Life/Faith 4 Life	7 9:30-3:00 Mission Quilting, Noon Potluck 7:00 HS Coffee Club (River Rock)	8 1:30 Amazing Greys 3:00 HS Coffee Club (Waldos) 6:00 Committee Mtgs 7:00 Council Mtg	9 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 9th Gr. Parents Mtg	10	11	12
13 8:00 Communion Worship 8:45 JOY! 9:00 Fellowship 9:20 Sunday School 9:30 Celeb Singers/Adult Ed 9:30 Communion Worship 10:45 Communion Worship	14 6:00 Red Hat Ladies 6:30 Stewardship Mtg 7:00 HS Coffee Club (River Rock)	15 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 HS Coffee Club (Waldos)	16 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Praise Bells	17	18	19
20 8:00 Communion Worship 8:45 JOY! 9:00 Fellowship 9:20 Sunday School 9:30 Celeb Singers/Adult Ed 9:30 Communion Worship 10:45 Communion Worship 11:30 Highway Clean-up/Pizza 6:30 Faith 4 Life / Live the Life	21 9:30 Rebecca Circle 3:30 Hope Circle 7:00 HS Coffee Club (River Rock)	22 3:00 HS Coffee Club (Waldos) 5:30 Spring Gathering in Glencoe	23 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Praise Bells	24	25	26 30 Hour Famine 2:00 Trinity Women Tea
27 30 Hour Famine 8:00 Communion Worship 8:45 JOY! 9:00 Fellowship 9:20 Sunday School 9:30 Celeb Singers/Adult Ed 9:30 Communion Worship 10:45 Communion Worship	28 7:00 HS Coffee Club (River Rock)	29 3:00 HS Coffee Club (Waldos)	30 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 4:30 Jubilee Ringers 5:30 Fellowship Supper 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Trinity Choir 7:30 Praise Bells			

ADS

April 2008

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Trinity Lutheran Church

511 South Fifth Street
Saint Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
Permit No. 3
St. Peter, MN 56082

Address Service Requested

Trinity Staff

Pastors	Charles Christensen Eric Natwick	Youth & Family Minister	Erika Reckling
Church Secretary	Audrey Hanson	Financial Secretary	Lynn Davey
Organist/Pianist	Judy Maharry	Custodian	Barry Wood
Trinity Choir & Praise Bells Director	Ray Jacobson	Communications Coordinator	Heather Tollefson
Celebration Singers Director	Annette Meeks	Christian Education Coordinator	Lori Hanson
JOY! Director	Nancy Sizer	Missionaries in Africa	Pastor Joyce & Ian Graue

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8am–3pm
Friday 8am–12pm

Contact Information

Phone 507.934.4786
Fax 507.934.4562
Email office@trinitystpeter.org