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Happy Birthday!!



September 19th–October 2nd

19—Daryl Block, Eileen Burton, Sara Hankins, Juliann Melik, Kristen Stewart, Lawrence Taylor, Roger Zurn

20—Katherine Priggie, Annette Teslik

21—John Boten, Barbara Gunderson, Wade Hansen, Kimberly Lazenby, Pat Schluter, Nick Tillman

22—Ruth Crowe, John Hansen, Sarah Hultquist, Harold Jersild, Tom Kennedy, Kelsey Walters, Thomas White

23—James Buck, Lynnette Meredith

24—Robert Boden, Judy Boten, Clara Carlson, Leane Carter, Thea Hansen, Katherine Kruse

25—Christian Ingram, Brent Johnson, Dale Manley, Kurt Meyer, Hazel Verfaillie

26—Jane Brobston, Jennifer Mendoza, Sarah Walker

27—Louann Bodenbender, Mindy Meyers, Joseph Vermeire, Kim Vermeire-Lang

28—Michele Hughes, Karen Kramer, Janann Peterson, Tim Stice, Derek Varner, Scott Zweifel

29—Kathleen Block, Matthew Carson, Bonnie Nelson, Jan Wagner

30—Susan Dechert, Zach Tillman

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Upon the recommendation of the Rev. Dr. Gary M. Wollersheim, Bishop, Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA, the congregation council has affirmed the appointment of Rev. Dr. Joel L. Bexell, Doctor of Ministry, as Interim Senior Pastor for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pastor Joel was ordained in 1977 and has served 27 years in the St. Paul (Minnesota) Area Synod, ELCA. He and his wife, Donna, live in Cottage Grove, Minnesota (a suburb of St. Paul). They have four daughters and three grandchildren. We welcome Pastor Joel into our church and look forward to the sharing of his ministries at Trinity beginning Monday, September 13, 2004.

The Council also wishes to express its appreciation to the entire church staff and ministry teams for their excellent ministries and contributions this year. We thank God for Pastors Joel, Laura and Chris and the church staff, as we continue our efforts to proclaim Christ through growing our ministries, especially in worship and Christian education now and in 2005.

Change is never an easy thing in our lives, yet without change, we may never meet the challenges God has set forth for us. As we move forward in our Trinity family, please take the challenge to worship, learn and serve our Lord.

*For the Congregation Council,
Tom Ribbeck, Council President*

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 am – Traditional Worship

9:30 am – Fellowship in Founders Hall

10:00 am – Learning for All Ages

11:00 am – Contemporary Worship

TRINITY SAYS “YES!” TO NEW BEGINNINGS



Sunday, September 12th marked the beginning of something special here at Trinity. Both the Traditional and the new Contemporary Worship Services were

wonderful, and the turnout for the new “Learning for All Ages” program was all we had hoped for—and perhaps even more than we anticipated. We are very excited and look forward to a wonderful, Spirit-filled year of learning about Jesus and walking with Him in our spiritual journey. Our thanks to all who participated in this endeavor marking a new phase of our growth at Trinity. May we all continue to live up to the challenge!

MISSION STATEMENT OF TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
Praise God – Serve Christ – Love One Another

Pastor LaCroix Pastor Koppenhoefer Pastor Meyer

THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS AT TRINITY
Worship Services: 9:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

September 19, 2004 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 8.4-7 + 1 Timothy 2.1-7 + Luke 16.1-13

Early in the academic year may seem a strange time to think about the final exam, but on this day Jesus reminds us that each of us needs to give an accounting of all that is entrusted to us. In the new logic of God's reign, knowing the riches of grace we possess demands resolute action from us; we risk it all for possessing the lavish love of God offered to us.

September 26, 2004 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 6.1a, 4-7 + 1 Timothy 6.6-19 + Luke 16.19-31

The readings for this day continue the theme of the past several weeks asking God's people to consider their relationship to wealth. Our money can be a powerful tool for alleviating suffering in the world, but it can just as easily become a strong force that alienates us from the riches of God's love. We need to know where we place our deepest values.

A CHILD'S WORD

September 19th – Special Message from Pr. Joel September 26th – *Standing Up*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

Learning For All Ages

Adult Learning – First Rotation

Sundays September 19–October 17 at 10:00-10:50 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY
 With Pastor Joel Bexell

JOURNEYING TOGETHER FAITHFULLY
 Facilitated by Craig Tigerman

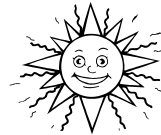
LUTHER AT THE MOVIES
 Facilitated by Quint Ford

GOD IS MY CEO
 Facilitated by Larry Johnson

Deadline for articles for next *Trinity Visitor* is Thursday, Sept. 23rd.

HINTS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

Watch for the month your child's Sunday School class is recognized and make a special effort to attend worship together as a family that month.



Thank You...

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of the Trinity staff, and to Pastor Meyer for presiding, to Craig Tigerman for preaching and to Justin Tigerman for sharing the "Child's Word" on Sunday, September 5th. Your gracious service afforded me the time to stay with Rod during his hospitalization.

We thank you all for your continued prayers.
Your Sister in Christ,
Pr. Laura



TRINITY GOLF OUTING

Sunday afternoon, October 10th
Sunrise Golf Course
in Pleasant Valley

Sign up today and all Sundays in September in Founders Hall.

For more information, contact Larry Carson, Chuck Allen or Jim Wells.

HEALTH TIP

Healthy gums

There are several warning signs that may indicate you have gum disease: bleeding gums when you floss or brush, gums that are red, swollen or tender, gums that have pulled away from your teeth, bad breath, and loose teeth. Plan to visit your dentist if you have any of these symptoms.

Connections

LYO News

❖ **Wednesday, September 22**
 We will meet in Founders Hall at 6:30 p.m. to bake apple pies. The proceeds will help LYO to keep down the cost of the Summer Boundary Waters Adventure trip. We hope to be ending at our normal 9:00 p.m. See you there!

❖ **Wednesday, September 29th**
 We will meet in LYO Room at 7:30 p.m., spending time sharing our faith through our week's experiences and will be in discussion about this weekend's retreat at LOMC.

❖ **Wednesday, October 6th-WOW**
 Let's all attend the WOW (Worship on Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. with our families. We will then meet in the LYO room at 7:30 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER

October 2- 3 - LYO retreat at LOMC (cost is \$55.00). See Jim for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN 762-3624

ATTENDANCE

<u>WORSHIP</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 5th	207	107	314
	<u>8:30</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Total</u>
September 12th	231	196	427

Up ‘N Adam, Eve

Wednesday, October 6th at 8:30 a.m.

Eleanor Anderson
“Revisiting Tanzania”

Tickets available Sundays,
 September 31st and October 3rd
 in Founders Hall.



TRINITY SUPPER CLUB

Tuesday, September 21st
 in Founders Hall

“Currents of Change in China ”
 with Norm & Janet Moline

Tickets available
 Sunday, September 19th
 in Founders Hall between services.

SPANISH LESSONS

Interested in learning Spanish? You can study with other Lutherans! Beginners, intermediate and advanced students welcomed. Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning September 30th at Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Moline. To register, call 755-1018 or email ilc@derbyworks.net.

ATTENTION BRIDGE PLAYERS

The Trinity Bridge Marathon is being organized for the 2004-05 year. Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Jim or Joan Ribbeck (788.8058) by September 1st.

Human Resource (HR) Committee

Formerly Trinity’s Personnel Committee, the HR Committee has been meeting often this summer and is developing plans to update HR processes, including job/position descriptions, compensation, and evaluations. The Committee consists of Council members Tom Ribbeck (president), Steve Kruse, Eric Sandberg, and Kurt Meyer (past vice president), and congregation members Lori Lester, Heidi Schultz and Howard Swayne (HR chair).

Celebration of American Pioneer Faith

The annual Swedish *Högmässa* Worship service will be Sunday, September 26th, at 4:00 p.m., in the historic Jenny Lind Chapel in Andover, IL. The liturgy will be in Swedish, and the sermon, delivered by Pr. Gregory Mayer, will be in English.

There will be refreshments afterward in the chapel basement museum.

Free-will offerings will be accepted, the proceeds of which will be used to support the maintenance and preservation of the Chapel.

REPORT FROM TRINITY’S STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As of September 8th, Trinity is behind in commitment to the Northern Illinois Synod \$23,750. We as a church have not paid our obligations for the months of June, July and August. The reason for this is that as of September 8th, some Trinity members are behind in fulfilling their pledge commitment to a total of \$55,250.

If you fall in this group, please bring your offerings current so Trinity can fulfill our church obligations. Thank you for your continued commitment.

Notes on the Journey

Foot washing. I’ve always loved foot washing. As a nurse, (back 20 years ago when new moms who had C-Sections had to stay in bed a few days) I loved washing mom’s feet. I know from experience that it feels wonderful. I found it a joy to do as well. Some gentle washing, drying, and tender conversation heals more than just the body.

Recently when Rod was hospitalized, I washed his feet almost every day. One day he said, “That Jesus sure knew what he was doing when he washed the disciples feet... it’s great.” Most people who participate in the Maundy Thursday (during Holy Week before Easter) foot washing say similar things.

It was Jesus’ command to his disciples on that night of the Last Supper that comes to mind when I wash feet – “Even as I have loved you, love one another.” (FYI – “Mandatum” in Latin means “command,” that’s where the name, Maundy Thursday, comes from.)

Spending a little time with people’s feet in mauve-pink hospital basins has given me a little time to think about that command to love one another. Foot washing certainly doesn’t bring out the lovey-dovey kind of sticky-sweet love. Sure, you can love the person whose feet you are washing, but still only be washing feet because you are commanded to do so. I think that washing is more about compassion, and loving wholly. Washing the feet of the ones I love, helps me understand how Jesus loved the disciples and the whole world. His is the kind of love that would know us completely – rough toenails, callouses, bunions, fallen arches, and all – and still care enough to clean us and heal us.

During the two weeks before our big worship service time change and celebrations for Pastor LaCroix, I saw and experienced lots of that kind of love. Certainly my family and I have experienced the Christ-like care of our Trinity family as Rod has continued treatment for cancer. But there were even more acts of love than that. Maybe you were you a witness or provider of these kinds of love:

- Carefully selected communion ware and altar preparation
- Enthusiastic teachers for Learning for All Ages
- Beautiful music in all of our worship settings
- Wonderful children worshiping with wonderful adults
- Tasty food and good fellowship between worship services and at the All Congregation Celebration Meal
- New signs and a huge balloon cross (What a great witness to the neighborhood!)
- Mulch spread and new indoor signs in place
- A video display of dozens and dozens of Trinity members serving one another
- The bread and wine broken and poured – for us.

God’s love is poured out in so many ways. Thanks for letting Christ work through you. Thanks for saying “Yes!” when you have been asked. Thanks for joining together in big and small ways to catch the Spirit.

Confident in Christ,
Pastor Laura



COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

Communication Information regarding September 12th will be forwarded to the press and radio. Directional signs for inside the church are being developed by John Scott. The sign in front of

the church will be updated with the new schedule. Craig Tigerman will be in touch with Trinity's college students by e-mail. Craig is also setting up a new "sports page" for web site.

Building & Grounds All the exterior lighting is on photo cells. Big refrigerator is on a new breaker. Checking into new outlet strips for lounge coffee pots. Banner will be up by Sunday. Electrician to repair choir loft fixture and fixture in Steve Steely's office. Remove half-pew in back row for communion service Sunday September 12th. Extinguisher system in kitchen is completed. John Scott and Boy Scouts are doing projects at church Saturday, both inside and out.

Congregational Develop a "calendar" of potential events—golf outing, fishing contest, ethnic dinner, summer picnic, trivia night, Supper for 6, Luther movie, putt-putt golf. Next activity is Sundays After Service Luncheon.

World Mission In July and August WMMT attended dinners and programs by missionaries who receive support under the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship Program. Rich and Lisa Hensey, who are sponsored by Trinity, were at Trinity; Meredith Murnyak was at Salem Lutheran and is sponsored by Salem. The WMMT has scheduled "Try-A-Tithe" on Sunday, October 3rd. Trinity members will have the opportunity to experience what happens when one tithes.

Learning There will be a change in Adult Ed. No class on stress, but instead a class on "God and The Workplace". September 12th is planned and done! All ages will meet in Founders Hall previous to classes.

Worship and Music Plans are beginning for Reformation Sunday, October 31st. An ad hoc committee was formed to discuss Christmas music planning options. Discussed ideas for survey instrument for evaluation of worship, learning and worship.

Evangelism Greeters will be outside to hand out information slips and greet each worshipper. Balloons in orange, red and yellow will be tied to each light post in the parking lot. Signs will be placed on each corner to give the times for worship, learning and worship.

Stewardship Speakers are in place for temple talks. "Catch the Spirit" will be emphasized and also how Trinity affects each person's life. There will be follow-up letters on Monday after talks. Draft of first response letter presented to congregation. Commitment Sunday will be November 7th.

Summarized by Donna Rynott

Confirmation Corner

Confirmation Mid-Weeks continue on Wednesday evenings until October 13th.

We gather at 6:30 for Worship on Wednesday. We will have games and fellowship when there is no WOW. Learning starts at 7:15.

We meet in Founders Hall on September 15th and in the Multi-Purpose Room September 22nd.



UPCOMING WELCA EVENT

Saturday, September 25th

Northern Illinois Synodical Convention at Prince of Peace Lutheran, Freeport, IL. Program: "Listen, God is Calling."

For reservations, contact Diane Beam, 797-6867.

"Wednesdays at One" is Back!

"Wednesdays at One" Bible Study will resume on October 6th in the Multi-Purpose Room. The study will last from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Bring your Bible and join Pastor Joel and Pastor Laura for this weekly study of the lectionary texts used for preaching. Returning and new



WORLD HUNGER

Please help by bringing your non-perishable food donations and paper products to the church and putting them in the area just outside Founders Hall. The donations will then be delivered to Christian Friendliness Food Pantry. Or, you may wish to use the envelope provided in this newsletter to make a monetary donation. However you decide to donate will make a difference in the lives of many.

WHERE WILL THE "TRY-A-TITHE" SUNDAY OFFERING GO?

October 3 is designated as "Try-A-Tithe Sunday" at Trinity. On that Sunday, those of us who are not tithing on an annual basis will be able to put an amount in a special offering envelope that, when added to our regular weekly pledge, will equal a 10% tithe for a week. The amount of our weekly pledge will go toward Trinity's annual budget as it always does. **The additional amount bringing our total to 10% for the week will go to Trinity's global mission ministry.**

The Bible tells us that salvation is ours through belief in Jesus Christ and that we should tell everyone about him. **Telling others of Christ should take precedence in everything that we do. One way that Trinity carries out that principle is through its global mission projects.**

Meeting our commitment to the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship Program of \$1,000 for each of the four missionary families we sponsor, plus providing the financial support needed to carry out numerous other global mission projects is dependent upon the support shown by the congregation on "Trinity Mission Sunday" in February and "Try-A-Tithe Sunday" in October. **Financial support for all of Trinity's global mission projects comes from the special offerings on those two Sundays and not from annual pledges.**

The key ingredient to tithing will be the focus of next week's article concerning "Try-A-Tithe Sunday."