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Happy Birth-



November 28th–December 11^h

- 28—Mike Ducey, Phyllis Rannals, Gale Vogler
- 29—James Hallene, Doug Nandell, Andrew Rockwell, Steven Rylander, Andrew Thomas, Jacqueline Wells
- 30—Frederick Larsen, Jessica Roth, Kara Sisco, Jill Southerland
- 1—Josephine Pulford
- 2—Olof Johnson, Scott Sandberg, Sharon Winters, Janet Woods
- 3—Annette Beechamp, Kayla Kauzlarich, Thelma Magnusson, Tammy Mendoza, Cindy Ribbeck, Kenneth Roehrs, Robert Schluter
- 4—Marlis Beechamp, Kay Linney, Sonia Nimrick
- 5—Brittany Blackwood, Suzanne Buckles, Carol Burns, Barbara Herrarte, Kelsey Malmstead, Miranda Mendoza, Rose Pettifer, Theresa Scott
- 6—Dennis Bert, Vicki Corners, Deborah Lerschen, John Wils
- 7—William Cleaver, Amy Pittman
- 8—Susan Basala, Kurt Johnson, Andrea Larson, Ronald Tiedge
- 9—William Averill, Linda Elliff, Jennifer Roth
- 10—Terrill Baner, Laura Ford, Henry Martin
- 11—Robert Ingelson, Anthony Lampasona, Frances Nelson, Gina Pellegrini, Terri Schickel

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LIVING GENEROUSLY

Happy Thanksgiving and Blessed Advent to All!

I believe in Year Around Stewardship as a year-round thanks to God for all the blessings we receive as well as the promise of eternal life in heaven as a gift of grace from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. I am honored to make a financial commitment to the 2005 Ministry of Jesus Christ through Trinity Lutheran Church. I am also grateful for everyone who has responded with a 2005 Commitment so far and I am hopeful for a 100% response from EVERY MEMBER.

In addition, we the Saints of Trinity need to fulfill our 2004 commitments to our ministry teams as well as our commitments to our ministry partners who depend on our faithful responses. Here are some Biblical references from my Fuller classmate Pastor Rick Warren, related to God's overwhelming love and our "Living Generously" every day.

Number of times Key Words are written in the Bible.

"Believe" (272) "Pray" (371) "Love" (714) "Give" (2,152)

"In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the work, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'." —Acts 20:35

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure ... running over... for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." —Luke 6:38

BENEFITS OF GIVING

1. Giving makes us more like GOD. *You can give without loving, but YOU CANNOT LOVE without GIVING.* "For God so loved the world the WORLD that He gave His only Son ..." —John 3:16
 2. Giving draws us closer to GOD. "For where your treasurer is, there your heart will be also." —Matthew 6:29) *Where is your heart today?*
 3. Giving is a victory over MATERIALISM. "The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives." —Deuteronomy 14:23, LB
- (Continued on page 3)

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

Pastor Joel Bexell

Pastor Laura Koppenhoefer

Pastor Chris Meyer

THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS AT TRINITY

Worship Services: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

November 28, 2004 – 1st Sunday In Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

Of one thing we can be certain: our fragile, mortal lives will come to an end. We know neither the day nor the hour. Yet with our hearts enlightened by faith, we know that Christ—our life and our resurrection—is already with us in his word, his baptismal promise, his body and blood, his community of faith. We have been grasped and held for all time with Christ's steadfast love. In these gifts of grace, the people of God rejoice. Indeed, if there is any urgency, it concerns our mission in this fragile, broken world that yearns for light, life, and salvation.

December 5, 2004 – 2nd Sunday In Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

In the scripture, prayers, and hymns of Advent, John the Baptist brings us to the Jordan River and the waters of baptism. He calls us to repent, for the reign of God is near. The Baptizer calls us to the font of new birth, where we have been grafted into God's branch, the root of Jesse. He calls us to the holy supper, where we receive forgiveness in the life-giving fruit of Christ's body and blood. From the celebration of word and sacrament—from the center of our worship—we are called to go forth as a people whose mission is the proclamation of God's mercy for our suffering world.

Advent Ministry Opportunities

Saturday, November 27th, December 4th, 11th & 12th at 8:00 a.m.

Men's Advent Breakfast

Sunday, December 19th 4:00 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program in Sanctuary,
followed by treats in Founders Hall.

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Holy Communion
5:00 p.m. Contemporary Family/Children's Worship
7:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

HELP!! \$41,460 is the amount Trinity is **behind** in **Mission Support**. The reason for this is that many of our giving families are behind in their pledging to date. In this Thanksgiving Season we are thankful for what we have, but need to look where we are in our own **Thanks-Giving**. Please help out. If you are up-to-date and still have not used your Thanksgiving envelope, please consider this extra gift and place it in Sunday's offering, as we all share in God's bountiful harvest.

Deadline for articles for next Trinity Visitor is Thursday, December 2nd.



Congratulations!

The rosebuds on the altar Sunday, November 21st were in celebration of the births of:

Charles Fiske Vermeire, born November 15th, son of *Mark & Deb Vermeire* and grandson of *Joseph & Ann Vermeire*;

and

Tristan Reed Johnston, born November 15th, son of *Mark & Korrie Johnston* and grandson of *Larry & Barbara Johnston*.



Thank You...

My dear friends!

I want to thank each and every one of you for your thoughts, prayers and cards in response to my mother's death. It is very heart-warming and comforting to know that my church 'family' was with me. It truly made a very sad and difficult situation much easier for me.

Again, please accept my deepest thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards and, most of all, your kind gift of friendship!

Sincerely,
Chris Volquardsen

Our Condolences to:

Chris Volquardsen on the death of his Mother, **Evelyn Volquardsen**, who entered eternal life November 1, 2004;

and to

Art Milton on the death of his Aunt, **Dorothy Milton**, who entered Eternal Life November 13, 2004

We apologize to those of the congregation who had already pledged and may have received a second pledge commitment letter and card in the mail last week. This was an oversight. Thank you for your continued support of Trinity's ministry.

Connections

LYO News

❖ Wednesday, December 1

Let's worship with our families, then we'll meet in the LYO room at 7:30 p.m. for conversation and fellowship.

❖ Saturday, December 4

We will meet in Founders Hall at 9:00 a.m. to set up for the Pastabilities Dinner.

❖ Wednesday, December 8

We will meet in LYO Room at 7:30 p.m. and share our faith through conversation and fun.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, December 5— Pastabilities Dinner 6:00 p.m. in Founders Hall. We will be there from set-up through clean-up.

February 11, 2005— Junior/Senior High organized ski trip to Sundown Mountain. See Jim for registration forms.

PRAYER CHAIN 762-3624

Hospitalized...

As of Monday, November 22nd

Genesis West: Pr. Meyer

Trinity West: George Westcott

ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP	8:30	11:00	Total
November 14th "Learning"	200	134	334 160
WOW November 17th			175
November 21st "Learning"	197	195	392 128

HINTS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

If your child has a Biblical name, talk about its meaning. Listen for it during worship and tell your child, "I heard your name today!"

"Sunday School Class of the Month"

Trinity's 2nd and 3rd graders are being recognized for the month of December. Please look for their picture as you enter the sanctuary on December 12th! The class is invited to worship as a group with their families on that Sunday at 11:00 a.m. worship. Please be sure to greet them!

COOKBOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS!!

We will be selling the Goodwill Cookbooks in Fellowship Hall during the fellowship hour December 5, 12, and 19. These make excellent gifts for Christmas giving so don't pass up this opportunity to buy them. The cost is still \$15.00. They are also available in the church office during the week. Thank you for your wonderful support for this project.

Lucia Moore and Carole Bloeser

HEALTH TIP

Fight the Flu

In light of the shortage of flu vaccine this year, we all need to practice some healthy habits. These common sense tips should be practiced in any case. Here are just a few: Get plenty of sleep; exercise; drink plenty of water; eat nutritiously; manage stress; stay away from crowds; wash your hand frequently; cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing – and discard tissues properly; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth; stay home if you are ill.

Julie Blew, Parish Nurse



PASTABILITIES
Trinity LYO's
Annual Pasta Dinner
Sunday, December 5th
6:00 p.m.
in Founders Hall



Spread Some Christmas Cheer!

Christmas caroling is such a wonderful way to spread your Christmas cheer and

God's never-ending love. Join us on Sunday, December 12th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room for a caravan to our caroling destinations. Carol books will be provided. Please bring some Christmas goodies to share afterwards with hot chocolate (provided).

We will be having sign-ups in Founders Hall on November 28th and December 5th during fellowship time. You may also sign up by calling either Mary Palomaki (755.6892) or Dawn Simmons (658.2022). This is sponsored by Sarah Unit, but we welcome everyone for some wonderful Christmas cheer!

ATTENTION

TRINITY MEMBERS AGES 20-40!

We need your blood. Our church is in its 29th year of hosting blood drives and we have given 2,418 units of blood. But many of the folks who gave these units are no longer able to give. We need you to step up and carry on the proud tradition of saving lives. Please volunteer for Monday, December 6th, 3:00–5:30, by signing up in Founders Hall or calling Judy Rullman, 762.5183.

(Continued from front page)

LIVING GENEROUSLY

4. **Giving** strengthens our **FAITH**. "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus

PUT ME TO THE TEST, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." —Malachi 3:10

5. **Giving** is an investment for **ETERNITY**. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasure in heaven... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." —Matthew 6:19-21

6. **Giving** blesses us in **RETURN**. "Those who are generous are blessed" —Proverbs 22:9
"A generous person will be enriched." —Proverbs 11:25

7. **Giving** makes us **JOYFUL**. **"Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly,** for with a single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly."
 —1 Chronicles 29:9

When you and your loved ones sit down for Thanksgiving dinner, please remember God's generosity over the last year and make a promise to "Living Generously."

*Your Partner in Christ,
 Pastor Joel*

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS – 2004:

At the Special Meeting of the Congregation on April 18, 2004, a resolution to comprehensively amend the Constitution and By-Laws of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was defeated. Concerns were expressed, and recommendations were received, to strengthen the amendments and related process. During the past 6 months, members from the congregation and the Constitution Committee have identified and incorporated many specific improvements, including:

Constitution:

1. C11.01 - Added section to describe the vice-president's responsibilities. The focus is on constitutional leadership.
2. C12.02 - Changed church council terms from 3 years to 2 years and changed provisions to allow election to two consecutive terms (4 year total).
3. C13.02 - Added provision that Nominating Committee members are not eligible to be nominated for election to the Congregation Council.
4. C13.04 - Revised provision to limit Mutual Ministry Committee members to two terms. Changed membership from appointment to election by Council.
5. C13.06 - Re-established the Personnel Committee, renamed it as Human Resources Committee, and moved it from the By-Laws to section 13. Specified this committee's structure, member eligibility and 2 term limit.
6. C13.07 - Moved the Endowment Committee from the By-Laws to section 13. Specified this committee's structure, member eligibility and 2 term limit.

(Continued on page 5)

MINISTRY TEAMS AT WORK

November, 2004

Member Care – This team has been formed to serve members of this congregation in their time of need. The entire team meet on October 18th, and there are 48 volunteers currently. **Within Member Care are nine teams: food, tele-cards, transportation, yard work, skilled labor, housekeeping, respite care, military support, and special events.** The food committee has delivered three meals to three different Trinity families, and the tele-cards group is making and sending cards to members. Checks made out to Trinity Lutheran Church are being accepted, with “Member Care” written on the memo line. If there is a preferred recipient of the donation, the name needs to be written on the memo line also.

Communication – The team reviewed the efforts to inform members of the Special Congregational Meeting on November 21. It was suggested that a separate schedule for the Advent/Christmas events would be advantageous. A new effort will be made for people to subscribe to eTV after the first of the year. More discussion focused on attempting to involve more members in committees and activities. The team also talked about working with the Evangelism Committee to plan a Welcome Center for the west narthex and then present the idea to the Church Council.

Building and Grounds – The need for a full-time janitor was stressed. The Monday after Thanksgiving some front pews will be removed in order to accommodate musical groups. Carpeting will be repaired the next day. New “No Skateboarding” signs have been purchased and will be posted. Volunteers are needed on Saturday after Thanksgiving to “fluff” branches of the Christmas tree and help put it up.

Worship and Music – **Christmas Eve Worship Services will be: 5:00 Family/Children’s Worship (Contemporary) and 7:30 and 11:00 p.m. (Traditional).** Christmas caroling will be on December 19 after the Children’s Christmas Program and participants will include the Trinity Choir, Praise Ensemble, and the WOW singers.

Congregational Life – This committee is considering a December potluck. In January, the film “Luther” will be shown, and a “Trivia Night” is being planned.

World Mission Ministry – Eight M-bags of textbooks donated by Aledo High School and the Augustana Bookstore were sent to Ekeneya Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania. Mwangaza, a joint effort of the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, conducts the Mwana-Baba Program that provides special instruction to fathers and sons that makes their involvement in family and community life more effective and productive. Upon request from the WMMT, \$1,000 was granted from the Endowment Fund for the Mwana-Baba/Father-Son Program.

Stewardship – Response Sunday is November 7, and follow-up letters will be sent during the week of November 15. Follow-up calls will be made November 21, the completion date being November 24.

Health and Wellness – There will be a CPR training session on November 20th from 9:30 a.m.– noon, and the cost is \$15 per person. Five new hearing assistance devices were ordered and will be in service November 14. Health/hygiene kits are being assembled and will be sent to Ericsson School. Some educational materials are available for flu prevention.

Evangelism – The Discipleship class began on October 31 during the Education Hour, continuing through November 14, and **new members will be received at the 11:00 a.m. worship on November 21.** The team discussed ways to improve outreach.

TRINITY SUPPER CLUB

Tuesday, December 21st at 5:30 p.m.
Featuring Giles Weigandt & Rose Andresen,
accompanied by Steve Steely on the piano.
Tickets available December 12th & 19th
in Founders Hall.
All ages welcome!

UP’N ADAM, EVE

Wednesday, December 1st, 8:30 a.m.
“Christmas Remembrances”
By the Up’N Adam, Eve Planning Committee,
along with Larry Johnston’s
Christmas Melodies.
Tickets available Sunday, November 28th
in Founders Hall during fellowship time.
Or call either Julie at 762.3624
or Al at 762.1734



Trinity’s Mitten Tree December 12th & 19th

As in years past, we will once again be collecting mittens, scarves and stocking caps on this tree, which will be located in the west narthex. You may bring your donations in Sunday, December 12th and 19th, or drop them off during church office hours (8-5) Monday through Friday. The Salvation Army will distribute these items to needy families on December 20th. Please give generously!!

Advent Brunch

Saturday, December 11th, 10:00 a.m.

The Quad City Chapter of Valpo Guild is sponsoring an Advent Brunch to be held at Trinity. Each table will be uniquely decorated with a Christmas theme. A mini-boutique will be available. Inspirational Advent Devotions led by Pastor Joel will follow the delicious brunch.

Call Judy Rullman, 762.5173,

Trinity Churchmen’s First Advent Breakfast

For All Trinity Men
Starting Saturday, November 27th, in
Founders Hall. Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.,
Worship at 8:30 in Chapel. No reservation
needed. We welcome “First Timers”!
We will continue on Saturdays, December 4th
in Founders Hall; December 11th in Multi-
Purpose Room; last breakfast is December
18th in Founders Hall.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Christmas Memorial Poinsettia envelopes are available in the pew racks for you to remember or honor a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia plant to help decorate the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The list of those remembered/honored will be included as an insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Deadline is Sunday, December 12th.

“Wednesdays at One”

“Wednesdays at One” Bible Study continues in the Multi-Purpose Room, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Bring your Bible and join Pastor Joel for this weekly study of the lectionary texts used for preaching. Returning and new participants are all welcome!

ENDOWMENT REQUEST DEADLINE

is Monday, December 6th for requests to be considered at the fourth quarterly meeting of the Committee. Requests need to be received in the church office by that date. Scholarship funds available to Trinity members; you may pick up a form at the church office. Questions? Call Jerry Lundeen, Endowment Fund Chair, 764.1108.

Sunday School and Journey of Joy Calendar of Events For November/December 2004

November 14–December 19: Drama Rehearsal

Children with drama parts in the Christmas Program will have practice from 10–10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

November 28: Come learn as a family what Advent is all about – in Multi-Purpose Room at 10:00 a.m.

December 5, 12, & 19: Mitten Tree

The mitten tree will once again be set up just outside the church office.

All of the mittens, scarves and stocking hats collected will be taken to Salvation Army on December 20th.

December 5: LYO Pastabilities – 6:00 p.m. in Founders Hall

This is a fun family event. If you've never attended, now would be a great time to come and see what "Pastabilities" is all about!

December 18: Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program

9:30 a.m. for children with drama parts; 10:00 a.m. for all classes.

December 19: Christmas Program at 4 p.m. in Sanctuary.

Children with drama and solo parts will need to be here by 3:30 p.m. and all classes will need to be here by 3:40 p.m.

Parents—Please bring a dozen Christmas treats to share during fellowship after the program. 3rd and 4th graders' parents will set up the refreshments and 5th and 6th graders' parents will clean up after refreshments are served.

If we don't get volunteers for this task – the children will not get to have refreshments after the program. Thanks!!

December 26: Christmas Program participants will sing at the 11:00 a.m. service.

December 24: Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Worship Services will be 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

5:00 p.m. worship will once again be a family service.

Holy Communion will be served at all three services.

December 26–Jan 2: One Room Sunday School. Look for more information.

January 9: Journey of Joy Resumes

MEMBER CARE: MILITARY PERSONNEL

Trinity's Member Care Committee invites members to submit the names of relatives serving overseas in the U.S. Military. The intent of the Committee is to send a "care package" to those military personnel deployed overseas.

You may write their name and address and place it in the offering Sunday, November 28th, or call it in to Joyce Ford (764.3881) or the church office by the **Monday, November 29th deadline.**



BLESSED BEGINNINGS NEWS

“Show & Share”

During November, the Blessed Beginnings Preschool children brought a boxed or canned food for “Show & Share.” The children told what they liked about the food and then we boxed them up to be donated to the food pantry. A total of **65 pounds** of food was collected. Guess what the favorite was....mac ‘n cheese with a whopping 19 boxes!!! Among the other favorites were 8 cans of various vegetables, 7 cans of soup and 6 cans of Spaghetti-O’s and Ravioli. We talked about being thankful for our food and being able to help others. Thank you, God, for letting us share our blessings with others!

“Pizza with the Preschool” is a Hit!!

What a success!! Over 150 people came to celebrate with pizza and fun on November 17th. Families and friends of Blessed Beginnings Preschool came to enjoy food and fellowship and to raise money for the T.O.P. Scholarship Fund. Over \$380 dollars were raised at the “Pizza with the Preschool” event, which will be matched by Thrivent, to be used to help give the gift of preschool to families in need. The 4’s then “lifted their spirits” to sing at the WOW service to a standing room only crowd. They did a great job!! Thank you again for all of the support!

Note Cards for Sale

As a new fundraiser this year, the Blessed Beginnings Preschool children were given the opportunity to design their own note cards, which families could then order. There are some extras that have been beautifully packaged and ready for sale – just in time for the holidays! They come in packages of 10 cards for only \$5 each. They will be sold during fellowship time on Sundays in December, when a Board member is available. If you have questions, please contact any of the Blessed Beginnings Family Board members, or call Tina Hayz, Director, at 764-7220. The monies raised will benefit the T.O.P. Scholarship Fund.

(Continued from page 3)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS–2004

By-Laws:

1. C13.09.01 - Re-established the existing constitutional duties of the Executive Committee. Moved sentences from Constitution C13.01 to By-Laws.
2. C13.09.01 - Re-established the Human Resources Committee and added clarification to its duties.
3. C13.09.01 - Clarified the wording of Endowment Committee responsibilities.

The Church Council has approved the following process to consider this revision.

1. A Special Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for **12:15 p.m. on Sunday, November 21st** to consider a resolution to amend the constitution in its entirety.
2. The final revision (proposal dated 21 October 2004) is available on the Trinity web site and copies are available at the Church Office.
3. If the amendment passes at the Special Meeting, the constitution would then be submitted for ratification vote at the **annual congregational meeting in January 2005.**

If you have questions, please contact a member of the Constitution Committee (Helen Brandt, Tom Thoms or Eric Sandberg) or Church Council.