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## Happy Birth-



### December 26<sup>th</sup>–January 8<sup>h</sup>

26—Gregory Boden

27—Paul Boettcher, Andrew Knox, Leigh Olson, Aaron Rohrer, Barbara Steigman, Sara Wildermuth

28—Mary Kruse, Mary Gail Laverenz, Ann Reynolds, Kathie Womack

29—Sandra Hansen, Barbara Lamon, Aaron Nitzel

30—Christy Hild, Christopher Swanson

31—Jana Danielson, Sean Doherty, Marc Griffin, Rebecca Grimes, Mary Thoms

1—Sophie Doroba, Lois Gerse, Travis Hankins, Robert Johnson

2—David Esterdahl, Sandra Rennick, Kristine Ruggles

3—Bruce Carter, Jean Ray

4—Carolyn Doroba, Jean Lee, Debra Rollick, Craig Tillman

5—Aileen Day

6—Paul Eckermann, Jessica Graham, Roberta Prybil, Ernest Rehder, Diane Sandberg, Inez Stablein, Terrance Walters

7—Shelly Decker, Betty Hufford, Karen Zurn

8—Francis Creger, Lloyd Cutrer, Beth Darnell, Calvin Lancour, Alex Leaf, Lori Love, Daniel Olson, Elizabeth Peterson, Eric Prybil

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# Trinity Visitor

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<http://trinitylutheranmoline.org>

*Blessings at Christmas and throughout the  
New Year from the Staff at Trinity!!*



### Christmas Eve Services:

**5:00 p.m. – Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion.**  
Especially for families with small children and travelers.  
Featuring a memorable Children’s message and The Trinity Praise Team.

**7:30 and 11:00 –**

**Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Holy Communion.**  
Featuring a heartwarming Christmas message, the Trinity Choir and Special Music.

### Sunday, December 26th Services:

**First Sunday After Christmas—Services of Christmas Carols and Communion**

**8:30 a.m. (Spirited Traditional) and 11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)**

Featuring a Celebration for All Ages with a Christmas message by Pastor Joe Robb.

### Trinity’s Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 23, 2005 at 12:15 p.m.

The **2004 Nominating Leadership Team** requests all prospective nominations for church council Ministry Leadership Team Leaders to be forwarded to Kurt Meyer (Chair), Tom Ribbeck, Mary Palomaki, Bill Gerse, Dave Dwyer, Genevieve Anthony or Pastor Joel Bexell. It is hoped that potential Ministry Team Leaders strive for the goals outlined in **“PoWeR SouRCE”**: **Pray** daily, **Worship** weekly, **Read** the Bible diligently, **Share** a tithe of your Time, Talent, & Treasure generously, **Reach Out** to others in Christ’s name, **Care** for others in need, and **Encourage** Spiritual Growth in adults, youth and children.

**An OPEN NOMINATING MEETING is scheduled for  
7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, January 3, 2005 for all persons who  
would like more information about the joys, opportunities, privileges and  
responsibilities of serving on the 2005 Trinity Lutheran Church Council.**

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.

#### December 26, 2004 – First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 9:2-7      Titus 2:11-14      Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Three great vigils mark the festivals of the year: Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas. At this vigil celebration, we join with Christians throughout the world to celebrate the great mystery of our faith: God speaks to us in our words so that we might know God's mercy; God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we might share in God's unfailing love. It is not a baby's birth we celebrate, but the light of redemption. As Paul reminds us, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Christ unites himself to our fragile, mortal lives so that we might know he is with us, always offering us life, health, and salvation. With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest."

#### January 2, 2004 – Second Sunday After Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14      Ephesians 1:3-14      John 1:1-18

Today, in the concluding days of the Christmas season, we reflect more deeply on the significance of the Christ who was born at Bethlehem. Our minds may not be able to comprehend just how Jesus existed with God from the beginning of time, as the first chapter from the Gospel of John proclaims today. What we do know is this: God comes into our presence today through Jesus Christ. Indeed it happens each Sunday and every other time the church gathers. Through the scriptures as they are read and preached, through the bread and the wine as it is offered to the baptized, God is made flesh among us. The real miracle of Christmas is that God is here now with us—always.

#### “Second Mile” Offering Request

Trinity Lutheran Church has many ministry financial obligations that will not be met if the 2004 year-end individual giving commitments are not fulfilled. Perhaps some have experienced under-employment or relocation. At the same time, others may have been greatly blessed in 2004. I've heard rumors of some possible “bonuses” or stock options or even select improvement in personal holdings (stock, land, inheritances, etc.).

Your “Second Mile” offering, above and beyond your 2004 commitment, will ensure that Trinity's ministry obligations for 2004 will be met and that 2005 will have a healthy beginning.

#### REMINDER

In order to fulfill your financial commitment to Trinity, your Year 2004 offerings must be postmarked by December 31, 2004. Any offerings received after that date will be credited to your Year 2005 offering statement.

#### HINTS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN AT WORSHIP

Know that sound and movement in children are okay. Children are present members and future leaders in our church.

#### A Note of Thanks

Thank you for all of your prayers, visits, and get-well wishes during my recent hospital stay. Thanks, also, for the altar flowers.

Especially, I appreciated Pastor Joel for bringing me Communion and for Julie Blew's visits. I am anxiously looking forward to getting back to work at Trinity. We love our Trinity family.

*Pastor Chris Meyer*

#### Hospitalized...

As of Monday, December 20th

Trinity West: George Moriarity

Genesis West: Holly Hunt

#### Our Condolences to the families of:

**Maxine Hochstatter, age 79,**  
who entered eternal life December 11, 2004.  
Services December 15<sup>th</sup>.  
*Mother of Christine LaCroix.*

**Dr. James Bright,**  
who entered eternal life December 6, 2004.  
*Father of Anne Schwieder.*

**Martha Carlson, age 88,**  
former Trinity member.  
**Wayne Rummery, age 89,**  
who entered eternal life December 17, 2004.  
Services December 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Connections

LYO News

❖ Wednesday, December 29

We will be meeting in the LYO Room at 6:30 p. m., sharing our Christmas stories, and sharing our faith.

❖ Wednesday, January 5, 2005

Let's all start the New Year by attending WOW at 6:30 p.m. and then we will meet in the LYO Room

**REMINDER:** LYO is responsible for January Sunday Fellowship time (coffee and donuts).

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8th and 9th – Leadership Lab Reunion at Augustana.

February 11, 2005 – Junior/Senior overnight ski trip to Sundown Mountain, Dubuque, Iowa. Registration deadline is January 26th. See Jim for registration forms.

**PRAYER CHAIN 762-3624**

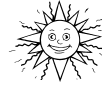


#### ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP	8:30	11:00	Total
December 12th “Learning”	238	175	413
WOW December 15th			50
December 19th “Learning”	253	159	412
			98



## Thank You Page



### “Pour Justice to the Brim”

#### One More Opportunity to Buy!!

Thanks to everyone who purchased Equal Exchange Coffee!! Last year, Lutheran World Relief issued a 90-ton challenge. Not only did Lutherans in the United States meet the challenge—they purchased more than 99 tons of fair trade coffee. Not only were farmers in Columbia, Nicaragua, Tanzania and many other third-world countries given a fair price for their labor, but they were also provided with resources for social and community development such as health care, public transportation and educational initiatives. Here at Trinity we have sold slightly less than last year, and there is still coffee that needs to be sold. If you can use another package, please plan to purchase on Sunday, January 9th.

Finally—something to think about: If Trinity would use Equal Exchange for its Sunday Coffee hour, we could make a significant contribution.

### Salvation Army Meals

Thank you to all who have helped with our five meals at the Salvation Army site in Davenport during 2004! It would not have been possible without the generous donations of dozens of casseroles, rolls, salads, cookies, gallons of milk, pounds of fruit and also monetary contributions! Thank you, thank you!!

*Eva Hunt*

*From the Family of Roger Zurn:*

A sincere thank you to Pastor Joel and Pastor Robb for their loving counsel and comfort. Thank you to Pastor Robb for being with us at the visitation and officiating at the funeral. A special thank you to WELCA for the wonderful lunch. Also, thanks to Pastor Laura for her comforting messages, and to Julie Blew for her years of support, and Steve Steely for providing the music. Thanks to all who attended the visitation and funeral and for the many cards and condolences.

### Thank you to the following Shared Ministers in Christ:

**To all who responded so generously with Trinity’s 2005 Stewardship Commitment Response Cards** for our shared ministry in Jesus Christ, capital expenses and ministry beyond, Trinity within our synod, and around the world. Your faithful fulfillment of your commitments will be the cornerstone for Trinity’s 2005 purpose-filled mission.

**Thrivent Branch 31086**, for the generous financial gift to Trinity’s Member Care Ministry in the amount of \$1,300.00 which enhanced the very generous contributions of Trinity members to our new Member Care Ministry. Thrivent also provides many resources for Trinity’s ministries, offers resources for individuals and families and matches financial gifts to Lutheran Colleges and seminaries and much more.

**Trinity’s “Handy Hands”** work team for many maintenance projects around the church in recent months. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jerry Schmidt or Jim Graham at 309-762-3624.

**The Finance Ministry Leadership Team**, especially Karen Anderson, Natalie Condit, Bob Blew and Jim Scott, as well as the wonderful office volunteers for the many hours required to print and distribute the December 5<sup>th</sup> financial report to households. If you have any questions, please call Karen in the church office, 309-762-3624.

## Notes on the Journey

I like wrapping gifts. I like making interesting bows. I like clean crisp folds and hiding the tape under the paper. Of course that all takes a bit of time, and, sometimes I don’t have that much time. I’ve learned that my wrapping “stamina” is extended when I have a dedicated wrapping area and I’m sitting up at a table, rather than hunched over a package on the floor. (Yes, some years that is the only way to find an uncluttered surface!)

I like the anticipation of giving someone something really special. I like the secret. I like the planning and hunting. And, of course, I like a good bargain. While I miss being with some extended family over the holiday, it does spread out some of the fun by having Christmas celebrations last a month or more. Certainly, the best gift, the gift of the Christ child is one that we can experience new every day of the year.

It seems that each day I am still “unwrapping gifts” from you all. We have received hundreds of cards and generous memorial gifts since my husband Rod’s death in November. (Not to mention your generosity in the months preceding.)

Now, I’m a “good wrapper,” but I can’t even imagine how I might wrap the gifts you gave us...

- Wonderful music for worship, most of which Rod had selected
- Welcoming of the St. John’s Community of Joy Praise Band and Singers to our worship and collaborating with them in this ministry
- Ongoing, heartfelt prayer
- Preparing perhaps the longest funeral worship bulletin ever!

- The most grace-filled breakfast before worship I have ever attended—oh, what a gift it was to be able to all gather here, filled with warm food and fellowship, at the beginning of a very long day.
- Tire repair, yes, tire repair, from somebody, who learned that my sister-in-law had a flat tire right before the worship and would have to drive back to Bloomington in just hours.
- Recording of our gifts and addressing of acknowledgements...a seemingly endless task!
- Ushering, preparing the Lord’s Table, greeting, welcoming, directing.
- Waiting in line at Esterdahl’s or at the church to express your care.
- Supportive staff, who carried on in ministry during Rod’s days in hospice and since his death.
- Food, and Tic Tacs, and tissues, and pop, and coffee, and stamps, and more.

How does one begin to wrap those kinds of gifts? Just like you did. Wrapped in Christ’s love.

Many of us are well acquainted with grief. Grief that seems to have no end. Fortunately, we know a God of love, whose gift of love has no end. Thanks be to God for all good gifts...regardless of wrapping.

*Confident in Christ,  
Pastor Laura*

## Sunday School and Journey of Joy Calendar of Events

### December 24: Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Candlelight 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:** Christmas Program participants will sing at the 11:00 a.m. service.

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

**January 9: Journey of Joy resumes**

Join us Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> during “Learning for All Ages” (10:00-10:50 a.m.) in the Sanctuary with Steve Steely, our Minister of Music, to learn about and sing our favorite Christmas songs and hymns.  
A movie will be shown in the Nursery for kids up to age 7.

Please join us also on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> as we celebrate Epiphany with Learning for All Ages in the Multi-Purpose Room.

### TWO EASY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO HELP YOUR CHURCH

#### 1. Your E-Mail Address

If Trinity’s staff can communicate with you electronically, it would save postage and paper, and phone messages.

Please send your e-mail address to: [office@trinitylutheranmoline.org](mailto:office@trinitylutheranmoline.org) today!

#### 2. The Electronic Trinity Visitor (eTV)

If you have Adobe Acrobat Reader (version 4 or higher, downloadable **free** from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)), you can save Trinity about \$20 a year by signing up to receive eTV instead of the “snail mail” version. You can print your eTV at home, and you can forward it to friends near and far.

Please send a note to [office@trinitylutheranmoline.org](mailto:office@trinitylutheranmoline.org) indicating that you want to receive eTV. Are there others in your home or away at college, in the military, or out of town who have individual e-mail inboxes? We can send eTV to as many e-mail addresses as you give us—it’s FREE!

**Deadline for articles for next *Trinity Visitor* is Thursday, December 30th.**

## Blessed Beginnings Preschool

“The Best Gift of All!” Epiphany Programs

**Monday, January 3, 2005 – 4’s classes**

**Tuesday, January 4, 2005 – 3’s classes**

**Both programs begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Trinity Lutheran sanctuary.**



Keep the holiday spirit alive by coming to see the 3’s and 4’s classes celebrate the great gift of Jesus with songs, stories and action rhymes! Fun for the whole family!

Nursery care available for little ones under 3 years.

Join us in Founders Hall after the program to enjoy some holiday goodies.

### Confirmation Corner PARTY!!!!

Confirmation will be having a Luther Movie Party (LMP for short) on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> after church. The LMP is all about pizza and pop! There will be fun and games (prizes too!!!!) and a movie to watch! Come on out to the LMP after church on January 9<sup>th</sup>! If you have any questions, call Anne at 762-3624.

### “Wednesdays at One”

There will be a brief break from “Wednesdays at One” Bible Study over the holidays. We will resume Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Bring your Bible and join us in 2005!!

### Many Thanks...

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas Program. A big thank you to all the parents who helped set up and clean up. Thanks to Mrs. Rogiers for coordinating the set-up and clean-up. The program was great. Thanks, everyone! A special thanks to Tricia Fox and Dawn Simmons for coordinating the Christmas Program this year. Thanks also to Karen Decker, Jon & Mary Palomaki, Brian Schou, Betty Johnson, Paula Tigerman, Steve Steely and Sophie Doroba. And last but not least—all the Journey of Joy shepherds and teachers!

### Up ‘N Adam, Eve

**Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.**

**Mwenda Ntarangwi, Speaker**

**Assistant Professor at Augustana College  
Mutuuma Primary School, Kenya**

Tickets available December 26<sup>th</sup> & January 2<sup>nd</sup> in Founders Hall, the West Narthex **and** at the Elevator Entrance. Look for the signs!!

Or call either Julie at 762-3624  
or Al at 762-1734.



### YOU ARE INVITED...

The family of Jean Hansen Lee invites you to her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration Sunday, January 9, 2005 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Founders Hall. The family requests no gifts, please.



### BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who donated blood. We made our quota—even exceeded it by one unit! Count giving the gift of life as one of your Christmas generosity.