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# Happy Birthday!

*February 1st to February 19th*

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19th: Patricia Averill, Kirsten Lester, Shelby Resler

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# Trinity Visitor

## “Forty Days of Purpose Driven Lutherans: Living the Purpose Driven Life” BEGINS SUNDAY

Last weekend my wife Donna and I were exploring the North Park Mall in Davenport when a young girl about eleven years old walked by. Across her t-shirt in large print was the banner, “IT’S ALL ABOUT ME!” Now this young girl appeared quite innocent in her appearance and she no doubt has wonderful parents who love her dearly.

As an experienced father of four daughters I have learned not to make premature judgments about popular culture trends or phrases. Many people in our culture could well be wearing the same phrase across their heart: “It’s all about me.”

The first chapter in Rick Warren’s *The Purpose Driven Life*” begins an antidote for our self-focused culture: **“IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU!”** We go on to affirm the Biblical truth: **“IT’S ALL ABOUT GOD.”** I encourage you to invite you family and friends to our Lenten journey through *“Forty Days of Purpose Driven Lutherans: Living the Purpose Driven Life”* beginning Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Hum, maybe we should make Trinity t-shirts proclaiming: **“IT’S ALL ABOUT GOD!”**

The **40 Days of Purpose** will include:

We will experience eight “Purpose Driven Life” learning opportunities.

I encourage every worshiper to pick up a copy of *“The Purpose Driven Life”* and Trinity’s 2005 “The Lenten Devotional: Purpose Driven Lutherans” so that we may all meditate on the same thoughts each day for 40 days.

Folks who are presently not in a small group will be invited to take part in a six-week “connection experiment.” Those already in groups will be invited to invest six weeks discussing God’s purposes for our lives.

Partners in Christ’s Mission, I believe that God’s Holy Spirit is transforming our lives, our church and our culture. We will experience God’s transforming power through a commitment to 40 Days of Purpose.

Your Transforming Shepherd,

Pastor Joel

**See inside cover for details on what’s covered on Wednesday nights!**

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*  
*Sunday services at 8:30 am and 11:00 am*

**February 6, 2005: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

**Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday is also TRANSFORMATION of our LIVES Sunday** as we begin the "Forty Days of Purpose Driven Lutherans: Living the Purpose Driven Life." Today's theme is an introduction to the Forty Days entitled: *"I'm No accident! I know my PURPOSE for my life here on this planet."*

We will address questions of existence (Why am I alive?), significance (Does my life matter?), and intention (What is my purpose?). Ephesians 1: 11-12 tells us that God Chose Us For God's Purposes- *"In Christ we also have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of Him who accomplishes all things according to His counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to see our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory."*

**February 13, 2005: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

In the early church, those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil were given intense preparation in the preceding weeks. This catechetical process is the origin and purpose of the Lenten season: a time for the church and its baptismal candidates to ponder the meaning of baptism into the death and resurrection of the Lord. The forty days--a scriptural image of testing and renewal--invite us to return to holy baptism. On Ash Wednesday we receive the ashen cross of pilgrims (a baptismal gesture) who go forth to the font of new and eternal life.

The weeks of Lent invite us to speak the truth about the keeping of our baptismal promises. The weeks of Lent invite us to hear and taste God's abundant forgiveness in word and sacrament.

**FORTY DAYS OF PURPOSE SCHEDULE**

- Sun. February 6<sup>th</sup>: "I'm no accident! I know my PURPOSE for my life here on this planet."
- Ash Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>: "Forty Days of Purpose" readings begin.
- Sun. February 13<sup>th</sup>: "Forty Days of Purpose" for the Family @ 10:00 hour
- Wed. February 16<sup>th</sup>: "I'm Planned for God's Pleasure."- WORSHIP
- Wed. February 23<sup>rd</sup>: "I'm Formed for God's Family"- FELLOWSHIP
- Wed. March 2<sup>nd</sup>: "I'm Created to Become Like Christ."- DISCIPLESHIP
- Wed. March 9<sup>th</sup>: "I'm Shaped for Serving God." - MINISTRY
- Wed. February 16<sup>th</sup>: "I'm Made for Mission." - WITNESS
- Wed. February 23<sup>rd</sup>: "I'm Created for Celebrating." - THANKSGIVING

**Wednesday Evening Schedule**

- 5:00: Soup Supper
- 5:30: Learning Time for all Ages  
—Bring your soup to class!
- 6:30: Lenten Worship
- 7:30: Optional Small Group Time\*

**\*A Word about Small Groups:**

Part the **Forty Days of Purpose** is conversation. We have a feeling that the conversations are going to continue. So, we want to offer you a structured time to that. When you registered we asked about times and days to meet. Those times are for a small group meeting of one hour. You'll receive a mailing with more information in the next week.

**Sunday School Class of the Month**  
 The 5th and 6th grade class is the class of the month! Please plan to worship with your family at the 11:00 service on February 20th.

**Hints to Encourage Children at Worship**  
 Seek out a child and shake hands during the sharing of the Peace. Try and use his or her name!

**Sixth Parenting Class**  
 The sixth session of Raising Faithful Children in a Fragmented World will be held:

**Wednesday, February 9th at 6:00 pm  
 In the Multipurpose Room.**

**Celebrating Trinity's Health and Healing Ministries**  
 On Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> we experienced the healing power and presence of God with a Healing Service at both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services, celebrated Julie Blew's fifteen years of faithful ministry at Trinity and commissioned our Befriender Ministers. Even though the service went longer than usual, God's healing and hope was warmly welcomed.  
*If you know of someone who would appreciate prayers or pastoral care, please let one of our pastoral team know (309-762-3624).*

*I would like to thank all my friends from Trinity that attended my 80th birthday open house on Jan. 9. A special thanks to Irma French and Karleen Young for all their help. Thanks for all the cards from my many friends. It was a special day!  
 Sincerely, Jean Lee*

**Connection LYO News**

**February 9th: Ash Wednesday:**  
 Lets all attend the Ash Wednesday service at 6:30, we will meet in the LYO room following the service as we continue our Lenten experience.

**February 16th:**  
 Lets all attend the Lenten experiences that are offered: learning at 5:30, worship at 6:30, after that we will meet in the LYO room for faith filled conversation.

**Important Date: February 11:**  
 Overnight Ski Trip, all those who registered meet at church at 9:30.

**Please take a moment to fill out the Worship-Learning-Worship Survey. Your input is important to us. Trinity depends on your comments in order for our ministry to broaden and fulfill the needs of our congregation. Thank you in advance for your interest and continued support.**

Prayer Chain: 762-3624

**Attendance:**  
 Wed., Jan. 19th: WOW: 60  
 Sun., Jan. 23rd: 8:30: 183 11:00: 181  
                   Learning: 153  
 Sun., Jan 30th: 8:30: 181 11:00: 149  
                   Learning: 116  
Correction: WOW on Jan. 5th was 45, not 25 as recorded.

### Women's Lenten Brunch

*Each and every woman at Trinity is invited to a Lenten Brunch!*

Saturday, February 12th at 10:00 am  
Founder Hall  
Special Guest: Pastor Joel

Tickets are \$5, available February 6th at church.

Babysitting available upon request.

Please contact Irma French for more information: 764-3698

Trinity has forwarded \$3518.00 to Lutheran World Relief for Tsunami recovery. Thank you on behalf of God's people.

- Pastor Joel

### School, Health & AIDS/Hospice Kits For Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries

The World Mission Ministry Team will again be packing School Kits and Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief and AIDS/Hospice Kits for Global Health Ministries. To complete these kits we need your donations of items to be included in the kits. You may put them in the LWR box on the table under the World Mission bulletin board in the lower West Narthex.

#### Following is a list of items needed:

#### SCHOOL KITS

Blunt Scissors  
Pencil Sharpeners  
Rulers with inches on one side and centimeters on the other

#### HEALTH KITS AND AIDS/HOSPITAL KITS

Soap (bath-size bars)  
Toothbrushes  
Toothpaste (5 or 7 ounces)  
Wash Cloths  
Bath Towels (new or used)

Any questions? -- Call Joan or Jim Ribbeck, 788-8058

### Trinity Churchmen's Lenten Breakfasts For ALL Trinity Men Saturday, February 12th

Come to the Multipurpose Room

Coffee served at 7:30, during gathering time.

Breakfast is at 8:00 am.

Men from Quad City Illinois ELCA Churches are invited to join us!

Worship at 8:30 in the Chapel.

A different pastor gives the homily each week.

NO reservation is needed but a \$3 donation is welcome

We welcome first timers!

We continue on Saturdays: February 19th through March 19th in Founders Hall.

## Notes on the Journey

Lists. I've got them. I've even been known to write down something I've already done in order to have the satisfaction of crossing something off my list! A few new lists have shown up on our refrigerator. One is a list of stuff to have my dad do when he visits the next time, like install a new light fixture in the hall. This has spurred another list, which is "stuff to buy, so dad can do what he needs to do."

There is another list of the places where I need to do Christmas returns. I'm hoping that (somehow) the appropriate receipts will leap out at me while I'm recording checks on the computer. There's a list of things to write each week. (Given a few more paragraphs and I'll be able to cross off "Notes on the Journey.") There's a list of prayer requests. Another list has the folks in the hospital.

There are ways that lists help me a lot. I'm much less likely to lose sleep about remembering the many things I have to do when I have taken the time to write them down. I'm also more likely to get the foods we actually need at home when I have a list to guide me through the aisles. Also, because certain roles (like being a pastor or parent) involve a lot of "seed planting," a great deal of what I do is ongoing, and has more "middle" to its nature than precise "beginning and ending." Celebrating the middle - doing the shopping with the kids, working with the Senior High Think Tank, etc. - is important, reveals relationship growth, and shows progress toward a desired goal. Therefore, I list the middles, too.

However. I'm lamenting lists today. Too many lists. Feeling like I'm falling a bit behind. Does this happen to you? There are lots of reasons that can happen. Of

course, there could just be more things to do than there is time in a day, or week, or month! Health issues can keep us from working at our best or even having anything to offer at all. Personally, I find that grieving really takes more time than I'm allowing it. Left alone, grief builds up and effects over all physical health, and certainly effects attitudes towards lists! What is your attitude toward lists? Is there too much "to do" and not enough "Ta Da!"

I offer three areas of hope - and don't think of them as a list! (In fact, one point is to have these things be such a part of us that we don't need to write them down to do them....we just do them!)

**First, pray.** Prayer on my knees was always my preferred position - I think I paid more attention to God when I did. (God also knows my knees—yikes!) God knows all about "my ways", and I'm always learning more about "God's ways." **Second, journal.** As a great list writer, it is easy to have ones lives disappear into a jeans pocket here and a coat pocket there (and occasional lint trap). When I journal, the lists connect. My life connects. We don't live a series of lists, we live a life! **Third, read.** Read the Bible all the time. Connect God's word with what is going on in your life. Connect your life with what is going on in God's word.

I leave you with a great list (or is that "Word"?). "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted... Hey, I ran out of room, but there is plenty of time. Please read on in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

*Confident in Christ*  
Pastor Laura

## A Lenten Journey

Every year for Lent we talk about giving something up—sweets or caffeine, sometimes we're even ambitious and claim we're going to give up things like our cars or stress (ha ha!). But, as the forty days of Lent move from winter to spring we often end up forgetting our commitments and eating something gooey and sweet, or having that extra shot of coffee one afternoon, or it rains and we're just tired of walking.

It's always seemed to me that giving something up, while excellent for our self discipline, isn't the only aspect of our Lenten journeys. Lent is about journeying deeper into our faiths and our relationship with God. It's about finding our connections with God, our families and friends, our communities, and YES, our CHURCH too!

This Lenten season we have an opportunity at Trinity to engage in our Lenten journeys together—the whole family. Pastor Joel and Pastor Laura will be leading our congregation through The Purpose Driven Life in a program we're calling The Purpose Driven Lutheran! We are very excited about the possibilities for spiritual growth, fellowship and fun that this program offers our congregation! The program includes learning and conversation time where participants meet as a large group and in break out sessions with a few others on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:20 pm (soup supper is offered from 5:00 to 6:00—PLEASE BRING YOUR SOUP TO CLASS!). We have a feeling you'll want to continue the conversations so in addition to Wednesday evenings we are offering optional small group times. If you've already registered please be looking for a mailing coming your way with more information! If you haven't signed up, pick up a registration form either in Founders Hall or in the West Narthex!

While adults are discovering PURPOSE, our youth will be engaged in a program called Frogs without Legs Can't Hear! This program focuses on relationships and how to be in relationship with parents, peers and neighbors. Jim Graham, our Youth Minister, and I will be leading this program with our Junior and Senior High students.

And last, but certainly not least, our youngest members (from pre-school to sixth grade) will have an opportunity to learn about what the Lenten Season is all about through crafts, coloring and stories all centered on the theme: Lent is for Remembering, led by Dawn Simmons, our Journey of Joy Coordinator.

So, this year, instead of just giving anything up, think and PRAY about giving up some TIME on Wednesday evenings to deepen your faith! Please contact me at 762-3624 if you have any questions!

*Your partner in growing faith,  
Anne, Education Minister*

### Wednesday Evening Schedule

5:00 pm: Soup Supper  
5:30 pm: Learning Time for all Ages  
6:30 pm: Lenten Worship

## Journey of Joy Notes

**Mark your calendars:**

**VBS IS COMING YOUR WAY! June 13 to 17, 2005!**

The Next Two Rotations:

February 20th to March 13th:

Crucifixion and Resurrection

April 3rd to May 15th:

Ten Commandments

We're looking for volunteers to help out this Spring, if you can help out please call Dawn Simmons at 269-1387

## Adult Classes

### **February 20th to March 13th**

Raising Faithful Children in a Fragmented World: Parenting Preschoolers

As we continue our parenting series, Tina Hayz, our Director of Blessed Beginnings will be leading the *Parenting Preschoolers* class. This class is for everyone who is, will be or ever has loved a preschooler! This class meets in the Multipurpose Room.

Honoring our Neighbors Faith: Judaism

We move from discovering more about other Christian denominations to learning more about other religions. Be introduced to *Judaism* with Anne Williams, our Education Minister. This class meets in the Blessed Beginnings Room.

Foundations of our Faith: Hymns and Hymnology

Join our Music Ministry staff in a class on hymns and their history and importance in worship. This class meets in the chapel.

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes

Join Jane Bahls in discovering the journey toward faith and wisdom found in the book of Ecclesiastes. This class meets in the Lounge.