

EDITOR: The Rev. Dr. Joel L. Bexell, Interim Pastor
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: The Rev. Laura Koppenhoefer, The Rev. Christian H. Meyer, Visitation Pastor; Jim Graham, Youth Minister; Julie Blew, R.N., Parish Nurse; Anne Williams, Education Minister; Stephen Steely, Minister of Music; Jon Palomaki, WOW Worship Leader; Brian Schou, Contemporary Worship Leader; Tina Hayz, Blessed Beginnings Director; Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant; Natalie Condit, Accountant.

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Happy Birthday!

February 20th to March 5th

- 2/20: Vikki Hankins, Amy Roehrs, Dawn Simmons
2/21: James Gale, Jeremy Suman
2/22: Gregory Blew, Samuel Cavins
2/23: Justus Jorel, Penny Knox, Elizabeth Lee, Katherine Smith
2/24: Howard Braren, Marilyn Johnson, Brian Wils
2/25: Janice Baner,
2/26: Cindy Bender, Christopher Larsen, Jr.
2/27: Christian Meyer, Abigail Sutterman
2/28: Dalton Klundt
3/1: Annette Larson, Michael Maffie
3/2: Matthew Magee, Mark Watt
3/3: Michael Anthony, Luke Lester, Amy Owens, JoAnn Stribling,
3/4: Caroline Anthony, Heidi Colton, Richard Eckhardt, Benjamin Griffith, Margaret Roehrs, Frank Verfaillie
3/5: Kelly Giovanine, Betty Kruse, Lureta Stafford

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1330 Thirteenth Street
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Phone 309.762.3624
FAX 309.762.3674

E-mail: office@trinitylutheranmoline.org
<http://trinitylutheranmoline.org>

Trinity Visitor

40 Days of Purpose Driven Lutherans

Well, we're off and running on the 40 Days of Purpose Ministry. I encourage you to meditate on your Trinity "Forty Days of Purpose" devotional written by Trinity members, continue to read the "Purpose Driven Life" book and memorize appropriate Bible verses. We continue our Lenten pilgrimage as we also attend Wednesday "Purpose Driven" sessions at 5:30 PM and 6:30 PM worship as well as Sunday worship- learning- worship.

Sunday, February 13th we discovered "**We are not an accident! We know our purpose for life on this planet.**" God desires us to know: We were created to be loved by God; We were made to last forever; We find our purpose talking to God and Reading the Owner's Manual. How has God's purpose for your life changed?

Wednesday, February 16th, we discovered "**We were Planned for God's Pleasure-WORSHIP.**" Our first purpose is to WORSHIP GOD. Worship is our response to God's love. Worship is Giving back to God. God wants us to love God THOUGHTFULLY, PASSIONATELY and PRACTICALLY. Worship is Focusing our Attention on God. Worship is using my abilities for God. How has God's purpose for WORSHIP changed your life in 2005?

Wednesday, February 23rd we will explore God's second purpose: **We were formed for God's Family- Fellowship.** The people of Trinity renewed our commitment to God's family in 2004 with wonderful responses to "Member Care", "Befriender Ministry," and activities through Congregational Life. Come learn more about God's purpose for fellowship on March 23rd.

Wednesday, March 2nd, we will explore: **We were Created to become like Christ-Discipleship.** Some call this "womb to tomb spiritual formation." God use various influences to grow us into Christ's image. Some influences are obvious like daily scripture, memorizing Bible verses. Other influences are more mysterious. Come and learn more about God's purpose for discipleship on March 2nd.

You Purposeful Pioneer, Pastor Joel

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 20, 2005 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

In today's gospel, Jesus directs our attention to the font of baptism. By water and the word, the Holy Spirit gives us new birth. Freely, out of love, we are made sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus, messengers of the Holy Spirit. From the waters of baptism we rise as a people blessed by God. We are sent forth into the world, not to condemn but to offer mercy.

Today is the commemoration of Rasmus Jensen, a missionary from Denmark who became the first Lutheran pastor in North America. He died in 1619, within months of his arrival in America.

February 27, 2005 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

In the early church, immediate preparation for baptism at Easter was heightened by the proclamation of gospel stories chosen especially for the last Sundays in Lent. We hear these readings today and in the Sundays to come.

Today's gospel is the story of the Samaritan woman asking Jesus for water. It is an image of our great thirst for God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness. It is an image of God's grace freely given to us in scripture, baptism, the holy supper, and the faith of our brothers and sisters. The church invites all who seek God to come to these good things where we encounter the one who gives us life-giving water.

Northern Illinois Synod 2005 Congregational Resourcing Event

Saturday, March 12, 2005

Kishwaukee College, Malta, Illinois, 8:30 am - 3:15 pm

Keynote Speaker: ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

The Northern Illinois Synod's Congregational Resourcing Event is one of this synod's finest yearly events. Church council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers and leaders—just about everyone in a congregation can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. Take a look at the list of workshops posted outside the lounge. Grab a registration form and return it to Anne Williams' office door by February 27th.

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

Look at the baptismal font. Where is it? What does it look like? Talk with your child about his or her baptism.

Trinity Churchmen's *Lenten* Breakfasts For ALL Trinity Men

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.

All friends are invited to an open house for Ernst and Rita Rehder in celebration of their 80th birthdays. Please join them Feb.27th from 1pm-3pm at Forsberg Village Community room, 2400 1st. Street A place Moline.

The event is being hosted by their son and daughter-in-law, Jens and Judy Rehder, Andover 309-521-8403. Ernst and Rita request that gifts be omitted.

Connection
LYO News

February 16th:

Let's 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.

February 23:

We're doing dinner for the Lenten series, so come on out and help! Contact Bob Simmons for more details. Come on our afterward for learning (5:30) and worship (6:30) and than LYO like usual in the LYO room at 7:30.

Confirmation Corner

Don't forget required Sunday School for Confirmation happen in the next few months. Keep an eye out for letters coming home with more information.

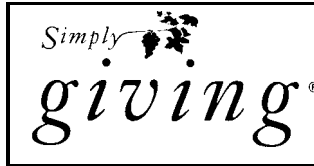
Your Invited!

Come to a Mallards game on March 12th! Watch a hockey game and hear a great message of faith too!
Contact Anne for more information @ 762-3624!

Prayer Chain: 762-3624

Attendance:

Wed., Feb 2nd:	WOW: 60	
Sun., Feb 6th:	8:30: 186	11:00: 170
	Learning: 144	
Ash Wed.	12:00: 43	7:00: 137
Sun., Feb 13th:	8:30: 196	11:00: 167
	Learning: 103	



The Stewardship Team would like to re-introduce and invite your participation in the program sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans called “Simply Giving”. Simply Giving is a program that will enable you to give your church offering by using electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may already be using EFT to have your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium withdrawn from your checking or savings account. Now your gift to God can be regular and “off the top,” just like these other commitments.

Would you please take a look at the enclosed information and consider whether your stewardship would be enhanced by this convenient, consistent way of giving? It will be especially convenient when your summer travels begin!

If you would like to participate, you may complete and return the enrollment form along with a voided check if you want it to come out of checking; or a savings deposit slip if you want it to come out of a savings account to the church office.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this new giving opportunity!

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

Mother’s Appreciation Dinner.



Mother’s Appreciation Dinner sponsored by Sarah Unit to be held on Sunday, April 24 at 5 p.m. in Founder’s Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to come. We will provide you with more information in the future.

Notes on the Journey

“What color is the sun?” “Lellow!” “Hurray! What color is the sky?” “Boo!” “Blue, that’s right! What color is the refrigerator?” “White!” “Good for you! You’re learning your colors! Did you hear those colors, [insert a person to show off to – like Grandma, Papa, neighbor, sissy, lady in the check out at the grocery store, pediatrician]”? We’re learning colors!”

I loved those days of childrearing. The same scenario repeated itself over and over. More colors, then shapes. The shape of the hamburger. The shape of the wheel. The shape of the sandwich. Then counting – shoes, bugs, cheerios, steps, days until sixteenth birthday. (Oops, sorry for the rush!)

A few weeks ago, I talked with the confirmation students about those early learning years. They recounted years and years of repetition. Years of learning. The shape of letters. The sounds of letters. Eating sandwiches into particular shapes and naming the shape.

Then we talked about worship. We talked about the way God works through our worship to teach us those very important things about God. We learn that God loves to talk with us in prayer. We learn who God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is. (In doing so, we learn Triune God math! 1+1+1=1). In our sanctuary we see the story of God’s people in the windows – Adam and Eve, the baby Jesus, healing people, dying and rising, Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses on the church door. We learn about confessing our wrongdoings and hearing God’s forgiveness. We learn to praise God!

Even as I taught, the parents in the room (small group leaders and myself) had a bit of a “come to Jesus” moment (as Pastor Joel would say). A reality check perhaps. After all of those years of “blue” and “triangles” and “counting by

10s,” how were we doing at teaching those basics of the faith as families? How are we doing at bringing our children to worship and worshipping with them?

I don’t think we’re doing so hot. And, I want to apologize. First I apologize for years of church leaders who said that they didn’t want kids in worship, that it interfered with adults (the people who “mattered”) hearing the preacher. That is just not the case. People of ALL ages need to worship. Adults aren’t the only people who “matter” to God.

Second, I apologize that generations of the very young weren’t nurtured in positive worship and faith growth experiences SO THAT, when it came time to bring their own children to worship, they said “No, I was certainly too [insert your own adjective here – wiggly, loud, busy, etc.], and MY kids are certainly much worse that I was, so there is NO WAY I am bringing them to worship.” (Also refer to Apology #1).

Third, I apologize for letting parents’ and other adults’ faith lives be so neglected that the only possible nourishing they might get is on Sunday mornings for that one hour of worship when the kids were in Sunday school. And, when the worship is perceived as “too early, too late, too whatever” that anything is a reason not to worship. After all, in baptism, we all make vows to teach all our kids (and adults) the basics of the faith. I’m sorry if the historical model that we fostered with old worship pattern was one that led parents to communicate to their kids (and the world) that about anything is more important than our loving God and our relationship with God that grows through regular worship and learning.

I can’t make up for sick kids, and lousy soccer schedules, and being so over committed during the week that staying home on Sunday is

perceived as a way to “love” the family. However, I do pray that you will accept my pledge and the pledge of our whole community of faith to help fellow parents and all adults to grow in faith and communicate faith-filled priorities to our children... and to welcome people of all ages in worship, and learning.

What can you do as parents and caring adults? Come. Worship. Learn. Pray. Welcome one another. (All are good things, and worth repeating!)

Confident in Christ
Pastor Laura

Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations

A 2002 ELCA report on the health and wellness of clergy found that pastor’s work habits and work hours contribute significantly to stress and poor health. Long work hours also lead to insufficient time for family and recreation. Pastoral activities require a great deal of evening involvement in addition to daily ministries and weekly worship schedules. It is important that pastors be recognized as having families, and requiring regular, quality time for renewal, refreshment and personal business. Pastors need to take care of themselves—so that they can care for those placed in their care.

The Trinity Mutual Ministry team asks for your support of Pastors Joel, Laura and Chris staying healthy of body, mind and spirit. Pastors Joel and Laura are scheduled to have 2 personal days away from the office each week—except for emergencies, pre-arranged appointments and scheduled special services or events. These personal days are generally Friday and Saturday. Each week, to prepare for their sermons, they also need a block of solitary time to pray and reflect on God’s word. Please respect their need for dedicated sermon preparation time, and scheduled personal time away from the office. Also, please be flexible if they suggest an alternative time to speak or meet. Each pastor remains on call, at any time, to assist members in cases of emergency

Mutual Ministry Team.

Ministry Teams at Work

Buildings and Grounds Snow removal went well when it was needed, but there has been more than normal ice. The equipment is running well. It has been necessary to tag and tow cars that do not belong in the parking lot.

Worship and Music The timetable for the survey was presented. Worship and Music members are beginning a procedures manual for processes for which they are responsible. Hopefully, this manual will be completed within a year.

Stewardship The Thrivent “Simply Giving” program will be presented again to the congregation as one efficient way of fulfilling pledges. It is planned to have a temple talk on February 13, have informational brochures passed out, and there will be web site availability and follow up.

Evangelism The weekly use of name tags will be encouraged and reinforced. More follow-up with visitors will include phone calls, personal visits, and other invitations to join Trinity. Brochures and Trinity coffee mugs will be distributed. The team will be reinvigorating the greeter program and schedule another training session. The Lenten soup/sandwich/salad supper will be another opportunity to meet and greet people.

Health and Wellness The next CPR class will be held on March 12 at 9:30 in the Multi Purpose Room. Joann Stribling will teach the class, and the fee is \$15.00. A new 3D group will be starting from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on February 7 in the lounge. A stroke screening is scheduled for April.

Senior High Think Tank Meeting A group of parents, church staff, teachers, and youth met to find ways to revitalize the Senior High Sunday School program. Anne Williams passed out a questionnaire for people to use to help them determine if they would like to be involved in this ministry. Types of leaders, topics, and formats were all discussed.

Communications It is hoped to obtain more media publicity for special programs and services, such as the Lenten study with Pastor Joel. Costs and possible formats for newspaper ads for special services, such as Easter or Rally Day, were discussed. Craig Tigerman reported that the number of eTVs going out to members numbers seventy-one, and it is hoped that number will continue to grow. The site has now exceeded 10,000 hits!

World Mission Ministry On March 12 members of the WMMT will assemble 50 AIDS/Hospice kits and 50 midwife kits to be sent to Global Health Ministries, along with 50 school kits and 50 health kits to Lutheran World Relief. Many of these items are gifts from members of the congregation and Blessed Beginnings Preschool students. Offerings received in 2004 on “Mission Sunday” amounted to \$5,205.50, and “Try-a-Tithe Sunday” offering was \$2,609.00. Financial support for all of Trinity’s global mission projects comes exclusively from these special offerings.

From the World Hunger Committee

In a time when so many of us are concerned with calories and carbohydrates, it is ironic that there are some who are unable to provide basic nutrition for themselves and their families.

Christian Friendliness Good Pantry is available for those folks who need assistance to feed their families and Trinity Lutheran Church is one of the churches that help in that effort by donating canned goods, paper produces and soap.

You can help by bringing your contributions of canned good, paper products such as paper towel and toilet tissue, laundry soap and bath soap to the hallway outside the fellowship hall. The World Hunger Committee collects the donations and delivers them to Christian Friendliness throughout the month.

Since the need for this supplement to their diets of those in need is an ongoing problem, please consider donating on a regular basis. Perhaps you could buy two of an item on special at the store and donate one of them. You can be sure that the food and supplies will get to local folks who really need it!

Library Lines

Welcome to Library Lines. Look for this column in each issue of the TV to give you information on recent acquisitions, book reviews and any other library news. Library committee members met Jan. 25 and Feb. 1 to process 40 news books and 10 DVDs. Shelves were dusted and rearranged to make room for the additions.

Three of the new books are:

1. PHILLIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN - one of the beloved ARCH book Series. Parents have read these rhyming Bible stories to their children for at least 35 years and they are still popular.
2. WAY TO LIVE- CHRISTIAN PRACTICES FOR TEENS. Dorothy Bass one of the editors of the book talked with her own children and other teens. The first few paragraphs could have been written by a Trinity teen who went on last year's mission trip. The book could be read by individuals or parts read at LYO or Bible Class. Jenny Freedman's book
3. THE BUSY FAMLY'S GUIDE TO VOLUTEERING is a great read for any family wanting to have fun while making a difference. If you think that's not for your family, the first chapter may make you think again.

Good Book Club: ATONEMENT by Ian McEwan
Monday Feb. 28th 7 p.m. Lounge

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 or will be parenting a preschooler or 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

Spend some time learning about the hymns we sing and the music and faith that inspired them. In February Brian Schou, the contemporary worship leader will share with us insights about contemporary worship music. March will be the time for Steve Steely to share with us more traditional music.

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.

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes

2005 Council Retreat, February 5, 2005

Council positions elected for one year at the retreat are:

President: Eric Sandberg
 Vice-President: Bob Simmons
 Treasurer: Bruce Peterson
 Secretary: Laura Ford

Council meeting, February 8, 2005

Matters in the Consent Agenda (Pastoral reports, Staff Reports, Ministry Team Reports, and Minutes of the Last Meeting) were approved.

Eric Sandberg led a review of the January financial statement. The reality of the financial situation is that January income was approximately \$3700 under what has been budgeted. Discussion and questions about expenses were posed and answered. The preliminary Financial Report for January as presented was accepted, with corrections to more accurately account for prepaid pledges.

With the new constitution term limits, the nominating committee has suggested that two new council members serve two-year terms and two new council members serve one-year terms. All four new council members will be eligible to be re-elected to another two-year term. The Council's motion that Dave Tewes and Deb Robb shall serve one-year terms and Bruce Peterson and Karen Dowsett shall serve two-year terms was carried.

The Council Liaison positions to ministry teams were assigned as follows:

Karen Dowsett: Worship and Music
 Helen Brandt: Social Ministry/Mission Support
 Laura Ford: Communication, Technology, & Memorial
 Deb Robb: Adult Education
 Scott Stephenson: Congregational Life/Fellowship
 Patty Tillman: Health & Member Care
 Judy Dwyer: Outreach/Evangelism
 Bob Simmons: Children & Youth Education, HR
 Tom Thoms: Property
 Bruce Peterson: Finance, Endowment, HR
 Eric Sandberg: Stewardship & Church Office, Mutual Ministry, HR
 Dave Tewes: Transition Team

Council liaisons will be expected to communicate with and participate in ministry team activities. The Human Resource (HR) team will work on developing "job descriptions" for ministry leaders and liaisons.

Pastor Laura led a team to research and recommend alternatives for disbursement of the funds provided by the Reid Estate. Other team members were Paul Neder, Al Hansen, Tricia Fox, and Ted Thoms. The recommendations from the task force were approved and are:

- \$150,000 to the ELCA Foundation Fund for Leaders in Mission to create the Trinity

Lutheran Church Forrest and Betty Reid Seminary Scholarship Fund

- \$42,252 for the building of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania through the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA
- \$10,000 for funding of 5 Trinity Lutheran youth (\$2000 each) toward their participation in Youth Encounters Side by Side mission work
- \$850 for Blessed Beginnings Preschool TOPS Scholarship Fund matching funds for the \$850 raised this year by the preschool.

Karen Dowsett shared the timetable for survey activities, which will be received through February 13th. The survey team will provide data to the Council prior to the next Council Meeting for discussion, and the Council anticipates sharing survey results at the April First Tuesday meetings.

Bob Simmons introduced the concept of providing transportation to and from our church for learning and worship. This need will be publicized to the congregation.

The recognition of Good Fruits included:

- Eric Sandberg's hard work in planning and leading the Council Retreat and his perseverance to document our progress despite technical difficulties
- Staff members who attended the Council Retreat and gave invaluable insight and input
- Craig Tigerman and the Trinity Technology Team's speedy response and new design of the TLC website
- Patty Tillman for her willingness to lead our Council devotion – a new duty that Council members will rotate for this year
- The Reid estate team for their hard work and thoughtful proposal

Eric Sandberg reminded the Council that First Tuesday meetings have been rescheduled and many will be held on Monday, February 28. Council members were encouraged to attend the Synod Event on March first re. the report on Sexuality at First Lutheran, Moline. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8th.

Joyfully submitted by Laura Ford, Secretary
 Summarized by the Communication Team