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Happy Birthday!

March 6th to March 19th

- 3/6: Jacob Crotty, Karen Neder, Matthew Nimrick, Marissa Riehl, Abigail Ryser, Virginia Schweider, Ashley Smith
- 3/7: Beverly Boettcher, Ralph Stephenson, Craig Tigerman, Anne Williams
- 3/8: Jennifer Blackall, Robert Lazenby III
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- 3/10: Dennis Hild, Melissa Scott, Abbey Weis, Rena Wils, Colby Zank
- 3/11: Patrick Barnes, Matthew Benson, Jayne Hartson, Mitchell Peterson, Holly Schou
- 3/12: Genevieve Anthony, Kristi Johnston, Marcia Judickas, Sharon Peterson, Katherine Schilb
- 3/13: Kathy David, Joseph Lamont
- 3/14: Kimberly Abbott, Alan Efflandt, Bernard French, Carol Funk, Lukas Johnson, Waldtraut Landis
- 3/15: Alexander Carson, Laura Carson, Katherine Deadmond, Mary Heinzman, Jennifer Roderick, David Suman, Anne VanSpreybroeck
- 3/16: Michael Allison, Eric Loff, Julie McCafferty, Sarah Turner
- 3/17: Nancy Devilder, Kacie Keller, Matthew Layman, Nathan Martin, Rita Rehder, Daniel Sutterman
- 3/18: Daniel Decker, Benjamin Frieden, Kathleen Hegg, Alissa Ruud, Laura Wildermuth
- 3/19: Singe Nelson, Kelly Roemer, Ethel Siegfried

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1330 Thirteenth Street
 Moline, IL 61265-3099
 Phone 309.762.3624
 FAX 309.762.3674

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

Trinity Visitor

Purpose Driven Life
Discipleship—Evangelism—Service



Here we are at half-time on the 40 Days of Purpose Driven Lutherans Lenten pilgrimage. Hopefully you are catching up with the upcoming daily readings in *The Purpose Driven Life* and Trinity's 40 days of Purpose Driven Lutheran devotional. Week one we discovered the first purpose, and perhaps the most revolutionary one, **Worship**. The next week we learned about the second purpose, **Fellowship**. We were we were formed to be a part of God's family, and hopefully you are experiencing some great Fellowship and are growing in you spiritual life with others. God's third purpose, **Discipleship as** God created us to become like Christ, and God uses various influences to change us into God's image. If you have fallen behind in your daily readings, don't fret! Just pick up today with the first chapter on "Created for Christ likeness", and get back in step!

Wednesday, March 9th – “We Are S.H.A.P.E.D for Serving God”

March 9th marks the halfway point in the 40 Days of Purpose Driven Life as we focus on the purpose of **Ministry**; for many people this will mark their high point in the adventure. It is so exciting to discover the special way God shaped you for serving Him, and you'll get to explore that shape and find ways to put it to good use right here at Trinity! (S.H.A.P.E. = Spiritual Gifts + Heart + Abilities + Personality + Experience)

Wednesday, March 16th - “We Are Made for Mission”

Have you ever wondered, “When a person becomes a Christian, why doesn't God just take them into heaven?” The answer is that God has an assignment for each of us; you were **made for a mission**. What is that mission? You don't have to speculate. Just as Jesus was leaving to go to heaven, he left clear instructions for each of us. Come March 16th and explore the only one of five purposes we can't do in heaven!

Wednesday, March 23rd - “We Are Created to Celebrate”

What have we learned about God's purpose and meaning for our lives? Our journey

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together through the Forty days of Purpose Driven Lutherans has been heartwarming. We have seen our people getting plugged in through a variety of ways: they have plugged into our church by indicating their interest in joining Trinity; they have plugged into faith by renewing their baptismal promises; they

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

March 6, 2005—The FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

The gospel for this Sunday is the story of a blind man healed by Christ. It is a profound image of our human condition: we seek after greater clarity and light. It is also a baptismal image of washing and receiving sight, of Christ's desire to enlighten us with the truth of who we are: God's beloved daughters and sons.

March 13, 2005—The FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Today's gospel is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. With Martha and Mary we stand at the graves of our beloved dead and hear Jesus say, "I am the resurrection and the life." His words give hope to all who dwell in the shadows of death. But they are also words spoken next to the baptismal font, where we die to death and rise to life in Christ. In the power and presence of the risen Christ, Christians prepare to renew their baptismal promises and welcome new brothers and sisters at Easter.

have plugged into fellowship by joining a small group; and they have plugged into serving God by joining a ministry! What a joy it is to experience the purpose-driven life together. Wednesday, March 23rd of Holy Week, we take a look back, and celebrate together the God-moments of the Purpose Driven Lutheran experience, and we look forward to what God has in store for the future of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Our Lenten journey leads us to Holy Week, beginning Palm Sunday, March 20th; Maundy Thursday, March 24th; Good Friday, March 25th, Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26th and the CELEBRATION OF EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27th @ 7:30, 9:30 & 11:00 AM.

Your Purposeful Pioneer,
Pastor Joel

Sunday School Class of the Month
The High School Class is the class of the month. Please worship together at the 11:00 service on March 13th.

Hints to Encourage Children at Worship
Pick a special word, like *prayer, Jesus, forgiveness* or *peace*, and listen for it during the sermon. Count the number of times you hear it.

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 Saturday: through March 19th in Founders Hall.

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.

Prayer Chain: 762-3624

Connections: LYO News



June 7, 1948—February 23, 2005

In memory and in thanksgiving for
Jim Graham's ministry with all youth.

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.

You're 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!

Attendance:

Sun., Feb 20th:	8:30: 167	11:00: 157
	Learning: 124	
Sun., Feb 27th:	8:30:	11:00:
	Learning:	

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.

**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

Notes on the Journey

“What do you know?” (Or maybe more familiarly – “Wha-da-ya-know?”) Is that a greeting that you're familiar with? Sometimes it's preceded by a “Hi!” or a “Hey!” or a “Hey there!” When I hear the “wha-da-ya-know?” it reminds me of simpler times in life, of laid back times, of passing someone on the sidewalk when I'm strolling instead of racing.

Wha-da-ya-know? Truly we know lots of stuff that doesn't get a lot of play. Stuff that doesn't come up in conversation much, like the best way to keep the raccoons out of the garbage. Like, how much gas is left in the car when the tank says ¼ full versus when the “low fuel” light comes on. Like, how to use Expedia or Travelocity.com to order airline tickets.

Wha-da-ya-know? At any one point time, I really only know one joke. Ready? Two guys walk into a bar. The third guy ducks. (I'll give you a minute to reflect on that one.) (I did say I knew a joke – not a “good joke”!)

[Now, insert here a time of waiting. A time of travel to St. Francis in Peoria. A time of sitting vigil with Jim Graham, our youth minister and his family in the Neurological Intensive Care Unit. A time of tears and of telling stories. A time of passing from this life to the next.]

Now, I return to this task. This writing. My question remains. Wha-da-ya-know?

Really there is only one answer that makes any sense at all. There is only one answer that gives hope. There is only one answer that gives life. That comforts. That challenges. That points us to a better day. The answer? Jesus.

Wha-da-I-know? Jesus. Or better yet – who do I know? Who does Jim know? Who do we

know? Jesus.

Jesus. The one who came to the world to save the world, not to condemn it. The one whose love we cannot be separated from. The one who weeps with us. The one who can handle our tough questions. The one that Jim pointed to. The one that we all point to – Jesus.

We may not know much, but we know Jesus.

In sorrow, and in hope, and in Christ with you,

Pastor Laura

Library Lines

Michelangelo & the Pope's Ceiling, by Ross King

Did you know that Michelangelo never laid down to paint the Sistine Chapel ceiling? Did you know that he considered himself a sculptor and not a painter? And did you know that he had almost no experience in the art of fresco (painting in wet plaster) used on the ceiling? These and more interesting facts are revealed in Ross King's recounting of the four years in Rome surrounding the completion of the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

The political and religious worlds of sixteenth century Rome are intertwined in this tale of power struggles within the papacy of Pope Julius II. The ceiling became a symbol to Julius of his power and prestige. But the progress toward its completion was frequently affected by lack of funds, battles to take over the Vatican's territory, problems with obtaining supplies, and even the artist's health and temperament.

Nevertheless, King reveals the gradual unfolding of one of the world's most magnificent works of art. The center of the book provides detailed colored and numbered panels, allowing the reader to visually follow the progression of the ceiling's painting. And the author's recounting of the complex process of everything from pigment and plaster preparation to painting figures on curved surfaces gives us a greater appreciation of this mammoth project.

The ten-page bibliography at the end of the book attests to the depth and authenticity of the author's research. The only challenge to the reader is the mention of many Italian names which are hard to remember. Making a reference list as you go can help this. Once you get all the Italian names deciphered, the book is fascinating!

Sheryl Eckermann

Journey of Joy Notes

Mark your calendars:
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING YOUR WAY!
 June 13 to 17, 2005!

If you would like to volunteer with VBS please contact Dawn Simmons at
 762-3624

WELCA Ministries

WELCA stands for *Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Together, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the

Church, the society, and the world. We minister right where we live, throughout the ELCA across the nation and around the world. We encourage ALL to participate in any or all of these events for fellowship and inspiration with other women of the Church.

In our Church we have 5 WELCA units, which meet monthly and also have several planned programs throughout the year for all women of the Church.

The next upcoming event is the Scholarship Luncheon which funds Trinity Members studying for a Church related career. At the present time WELCA Is providing assistance to Ben Ingleson, who is a student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

WELCA provides many services and engages in many activities:

- Unit Monthly Bible Studies, which also provides fellowship, personal and spiritual growth.
- Sunday Coffee hours – Weddings, Anniversaries and other special receptions.
- Funeral luncheons.
- vacation Bible School treats.
- Caring for acolyte robes
- Preparing baptismal napkins
- Christmas gifts to needy families
- Alter care – which is responsible for all communion services, in preparation and clean-up
- Making visits to new mothers and with either a basket or blanket for the babies.
- Decorating sweatshirts for Ericsson School students.
- Bringing Gods word to prison inmates

The word is TOGETHER. Together we continue to work for God's wholeness, by building mission-focused relationships that are grounded in faith, local and global, and empowering. Together, we accomplish more than we can alone.

WELCA serves our Church, community, and global missions with our sisters in Christ. Kay Allen

<u>Ministries for 2004</u>	
NIS Regular Offering:	\$ 1205.00
Christian Friendliness	\$ 290.00
Mosaic Foundation	\$ 150.00
LSSI In Touch	\$ 100.00
Christian Family Care Center	\$ 459.54
Church Women United	\$ 60.00
VBS Treats	\$ 100.00
Katies Fund	\$ 50.00
Congregation needs and benevolence	\$ 81.63
Tuition for Theology student	\$ 3000.00
Blanket Fund	\$ 50.00
Thank Offering	\$ 124.00
Total	\$ 5670.17