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Happy Birthday!
 March 20th— April 2nd

- 20—Brian Magnusson; Michael Sutterman
- 21—Jennifer Garlach; Jennifer Kramer; Ruth Suman
- 22—Everett Anderson; Susan Lee; Dorothy Reedy; Marilyn Rosenberg; Henry Van Note
- 23—Alexander Johnson; Anne Larsen; Kimberly Toland
- 24—Britney Fox; Graham Garlach; Lindsey Nelson
- 26—Kevin Blackall; Josephine DeWitte; Verlee Dismer; John Michaletti; Jonathan Ruud
- 27—Alex Basala; Elise Benson; Christopher Hall; Joel Sommers; Carter Stephenson; John Vinsel
- 28—James Flick
- 29—Lindsey Sutter
- 30—Nancy Hultquist; June Peterson; Heidi Schultz; Robert Simmons
- 31—Richard Iavarone; Zachary Layman; Abbey Leedy; Sherry McBride; Brittany Meredith
- 1—Kimberlee Forber; Taryn Menzer
- 2—Mitchell Allison; Andrew Boster; Kathleen Maxey

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Trinity Visitor

Don't Miss God's Gift of the Cross on Your Way to Easter

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 NIV)

Isn't it amazing how people pronounce names? I was a pastor in South Washington County and our daughters were in the school district for over 27 years, and people still said “BEX-L”. I greatly appreciate when people of all ages fondly call me “Pastor Joel.” I have even responded when a confirmand called me “Pasture Joel.” Now, as a shepherd of the wonderful Trinity Lutheran of Moline (dot org) it seemed to make sense. For the record, we say “Bex-ELL” as in “saved by the bell.”

We all make mistakes, don't we? Whether it is a mispronunciation or a misdemeanor, mistakes are part of our humanity. How can God be both just and kind? How can God dispense truth and mercy? How can God redeem the sinner without endorsing the sin?

Can a holy God overlook our mistakes? Can a kind God punish our mistakes? A third choice became God's preferred alternative- the Cross of Jesus Christ.”

Max Lucado (Lu-KAY-doh) in my Lenten journal, *He Chose The Nails*, asks the question: “Why is the cross our symbol of faith? ... Its design couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal- the other vertical. One reaches out- like God's love. The other reaches up- as does God's holiness. ... The cross is the intersection. The cross is where God forgave His children without lowering His standards... How? God put our sin on His Son and punished it there... ‘ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son’ (John 3:16 NIV)

“As boldly as the center beam proclaims God's holiness, the crossbeam declares His love. And, oh, how wide his love reaches. Aren't you glad the verse does NOT read: ‘ For God so loved the rich...’? Or ‘ For God so loved the famous...’? Or ‘For God so loved the thin...’? It doesn't. Nor does it state, ‘ For God so loved the Europeans or Africans...’ ‘The sober or successful...’ ‘The young or the old...’” No, when we read John 3:16, we simply (and happily) read, ‘For God so loved the world.’”

“Are you included in the world? Then you are included in God's love. ... When asked to describe the width of His love, He stretched one hand to the right and the other to the left and had them nailed in that position so you would know He died loving YOU.

“But isn't there a limit? Surely there has to be an end to this love. You'd think so, wouldn't you? But David the adulterer never found it. Paul the murderer never found it. Peter the liar never found it. When it came to life, they hit bottom. But when it came to God's love, they never did.

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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 20, 2005 SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY/ 6TH SUNDAY IN LENT

On this day Christians throughout the world begin the great and holy week that culminates in the central celebration of our faith: the Lord's passage from death to new life celebrated in the Three Days. Today's reading of Christ's passion sets forth the central act of God's love for humankind. In the reception of the Lord's body and blood, the church receives this life-giving love. In prayer, hymns, and readings, we hear the great paradox of our faith: Christ is proclaimed the mighty one who reigns from the tree of life.

MARCH 27, 2005 THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Today is the day God began creation, transforming darkness into light. Today is the day Jesus Christ rose from the darkness of the grave to new life. Today is the day when the church celebrates its birth from the waters of baptism and its new life in the holy supper. Though suffering, injustice, and sin continue to mark the world in which we live, the Christian community goes forth from font and table with Christ's mission to heal, liberate, and forgive. In the fifty days of Easter rejoicing, the church asks the question: How does our baptism send us forth in joyful service to the world?

Continued from page 1

“They, like you, found their names on God’s list of love. And you can be certain the One who put it there knows how to pronounce it.”

When I was young, we used to sing, “If you can’t bear the cross, then you can’t wear the crown.” There is a certain simplicity knowing that the truth of Easter is known by all who know the truth of the cross. Our sins are not forgiven by December birthdays or Palm Sunday parades, but by the perfect gift of Jesus Christ nailing all our sins and shortcomings to the cross. GOD’S LOVE IS TRUE, REAL AND PRESENT!

Named and Claimed by Jesus Christ,

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 20th.

Hints to Encourage Children at Worship

Find the cross at the front of the church. This Easter week the cross is very significant. Teach children to make the cross and to cross themselves when the pastor says “In the name of the Father”.

Attention:

All Sunday School Children and Their Parents

Sunday, March 20th, Pastor Joel has invited all Sunday school children to be part of the Palm Procession at the 11 am service.

We need your help in directing the children before and after this event. **We will meet in the chapel at 10:45 am** to rehearse and then meet Pastor Joel in the back of the church. Following the procession and song, the children can stay and worship with you or be met in the chapel. Please contact either Jon Palomaki (755-6892) or Dawn Simmons (309-658-2022) if you have any questions. Thanks!

Worship and Music

The 160 surveys that were returned are being compiled and reviewed. New leadership has been named for Worship and Music. Nancy Hultquist has agreed to chair the team, with Jan Peterson as co-team leader. Karen Dowsett is the Council Liaison. They are looking for new members to join this vital committee. Please contact Nancy or Jan if you are interested.

Prayer Chain: 762-3624

Connections: LYO News

FRIDAY 18: Lock at Augustana College

Sunday 27: Easter Breakfast.

Call Bob Simmons at 309-658-2022 for more information!

WELCA’s Mother’s Appreciation Dinner *Presented by Sarah Unit* **Sunday, April 24th**

Come and enjoy grilled chicken or pork, sweet or baked potato, salad, and desert. Prepared by Sarah unit member’s husbands! Dinner at 5 p.m. Program at 6 p.m. – QC Music Guild Children’s Chorus (with Sarah Slothower) Tickets on sale all Sunday’s in April! \$5 adults, \$3 children

This year we have asked several groups in the church to decorate a step stool. Raffle tickets will be sold 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5. Money raised will go to support ministries of our church. Raffle tickets available all Sunday’s in April – drawing will be held the night of the dinner.



Attendance:

Sun., Mar. 6th: 8:30: **203** 11:00:
 Learning: **132**

Wed. Mar. 9th: **150**

Sun., Mar. 13th: 8:30: **200** 11:00: **146**
 Learning: **141**

Delivery of Easter Memorial Garden Plants to Homebound:

If you would like to deliver an Easter plant to a homebound member, please fill out a card (located in the pew racks); the card will then be mailed back to you with the name and address of the person who is to receive the plant. Plants may be picked up any time after services on Easter Sunday (please note, the church office will be closed on Monday, March 28th). Thank you.

A word from Diane Beam:

Diane and Bob want to send their heartfelt thanks to the Trinity family for all of their prayers, cards, calls and support during Diane's stem cell procedure in Omaha. They both have shared their overwhelming sense of love, confidence and peace during this time. Diane is progressing on schedule and has tolerated this difficult procedure quite well. They send greetings to all here at Trinity. Please continue to pray for and support the Beams during Diane's continuing recuperation.

Thank You

I would like to thank my "Trinity Family" for their many prayers, telephone calls, visits, cards and beautiful altar flowers shared with me during my hospital stay and recuperation at home.

A special thanks to Pastor Joel, Pastor Laura, Pastor Meyer and Julie Blew for their prayers and visits. A word of appreciation to Val Groene for her care and concern while I was hospitalized.

My journey is not finished and I will continue to be grateful for your prayers as I resume treatment. God Bless You,

Allan Andresen

Birthday Request

Dorothy Reedy will be 91 years old on March 22 and her daughter, Sharon Dodd, would like to present Dorothy with a "basket of cards" from her friends at Trinity on her birthday. Members of the congregation are invited to send a birthday card to Dorothy Reedy c/o Sharon Dodd, 2913-16th Ave., Moline, IL 61265.

Companions in Christ

Companions in Christ is holding an informational meeting on April 4th, 2005 at 7 pm in the small chapel. ***Companions in Christ is an amazing Spiritual Journey*** that opens up the participant to spiritual disciplines in prayer, scripture, study, worship, ministry and Christian conversation. If you are a person who is seeking a deeper experience with God in company with others in a Christian setting, then this may be the opportunity you are searching for.

We have sent follow up letters to members who previously expressed an interest in *Companions*. All are welcome, but since this is a small group experience, there is limited space. Please notify the church secretary, Karen Anderson, if you are interested in joining *Companions in Christ* this spring.

Thank you!

We would like to thank all our friends from Trinity that came to our birthday open house on February 27th. Thanks for all the cards for our special day!

Sincerely,

Ernest and Rita Rehder

Trinity's Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage to Holy Week

Palm/ Passion Sunday, March 20th theme "We Walk By Faith" based on the Palm Sunday Procession and the Passion Of Christ. Featuring a Palm Procession & great music.
8:30 & 11:00 Worship, 10:00 Learning

Wednesday, March 23rd – Purpose Driven Lutherans Observation of What We Have Learned in our Lenten Pilgrimage- 5:30 PM in the Multipurpose Room (No meal)

Maundy Thursday, March 24th – Theme "Walking and Praying With Jesus" "Cross Walk" Meal remembering Christ's Passover Meal in Founder's Hall- noon Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion – 7:00 PM

Good Friday Tenebre, March 25th "A Service of Darkness" featuring the Trinity Choir directed by Steve Steely- 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil- "Stories of Our Salvation" featuring area ELCA congregations, Pastors and a mass choir. 7:00 PM at St. John's Lutheran, 4501 7th Ave, RI

Easter Celebration Services, Sunday, April 15th –

Theme: "An Empty Tomb, An Eternal Promise"

Every Easter Worship Service will feature Holy Communion, The Quad City Brass, an Easter Procession, a Children's Message and Child Care

7:30 AM Sunrise Traditional Easter Celebration

Featuring the Trinity Choir

8:30 AM Easter Breakfast served by Trinity's Lutheran Youth Organization-LYO

Proceeds for the LYO youth ministry matched by Thrivent Branch #31086

9:30 AM Traditional Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

Featuring the Trinity Choir

11:00 AM Contemporary Easter Celebration with Trinity's Praise Ensemble

Maundy Thursday

All men and women of Trinity are invited to participate at 12 noon on March 24th in the Maundy Thursday Service and Meal. Guests are welcome. Tickets are \$5.00 each. They will be on sale during coffee hours on Sunday, March 13, and Sunday, March 20th. You may also call Irma French at 764-3698. The meal is being prepared by WELCA,

March 25th

Good Friday Tenebre, A Service of Darkness"

Seven choral meditations on the Last Words of Christ. Adapted from the ancient tenebrae for SAB. Composed by Dale Wood, featuring the Trinity Choir directed by Steve Steely- 7:00 PM

Blessed Beginnings Preschool

We are now accepting enrollments for the 2005-2006 school year for our 3 & 4 year olds' programs. We have openings in both of our afternoon classes. The 3's meet on Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-3:00 pm and the 4's meet Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:30-3:30 pm. If you, or someone you know, have a preschooler that would benefit from this Christian-centered pre-Kindergarten experience, just let us know!

Call Mrs. Hayz at the preschool at 764-7220 for more information, or to get an application.



Friendship Friday

Friendship Friday with Blessed Beginnings Preschool will not be meeting on March 18th. The children will be taking a field trip to Intouch Day Center that day to see where some of their Friendship Friday friends spend their days. We will meet again on April 15th. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Journey of Joy Notes

Vacation Bible School – June 13 – 17, 2005 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Are you interested in making a difference in a child's life?

Then come and volunteer a week of your time for Vacation Bible School.

Anyone that is going into 7th grade to 95 years of age – your help is needed!

I am looking for Shepherds/helpers for the classes, Art/Craft Coordinator/helpers, Music Coordinator/helpers, Recreation helpers – anyone that is interested in helping we need you!

Please contact me at dawnsimmons@trinitylutheranmoline.org or you can call on my cell at 309-269-1387.

Thanks, Dawn Simmons – Journey of Joy Coordinator and VBS Director

TRINITY MISSION SUNDAY IS APRIL 10

As we look forward to Trinity Mission Sunday, we need to be mindful of how Trinity is involved in global mission. Listing the global mission projects that Trinity completed during 2004 will serve as a reminder of Trinity's global mission involvement.

1. Trinity provided financial support for and maintained contact with five missionary families in Tanzania: Todd and Lori Byerly, Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg, Rich and Lisa Hensey, Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson, Dennis and Meredith Murnyak. In August, the Henseys were guests of honor at a dinner organized by WMMT at Trinity. Funding for the Byerlys, who are volunteer missionaries, was through an Endowment fund grant. Should the Byerlys continue as mission volunteers for a second year, the \$1,000 that Trinity has been donating annually for support of the Henseys, who are leaving the missionary field, will be given as continuing support for the Byerlys.
2. Including the donations from the congregation, confirmation class and Blessed Beginnings Preschool, WMMT gathered and assembled items for and delivered 50 school kits and 102 health kits to Lutheran World Relief along with 50 midwife kits and 50 AIDS/Hospice kits to Global Health Ministries.
3. Four M-bags of college textbooks donated by the Augustana Book Store and faculty were sent to Tumaini University in Iringa, Tanzania.
4. Eight M-bags of mathematics textbooks from Aledo High School were collected and sent by Art and Linda Milton to Ekenywa Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania.
5. The "World Mission Ministry" link from Trinity's internet web site continued to provide a continuous update of Trinity world mission projects along with information about the missionaries for whom Trinity provides support.
6. Over a four-week period, a Sunday School Rotation concerning World Mission, with particular emphasis upon the children in the country of Haiti, was conducted by WMMT members for grades one through six.
7. The special offerings received on World Mission Sunday (\$5,205.50) and Try-A-Tithe Sunday (\$2,609.00) provided total support for Trinity's global mission projects, including support for four missionary families.
8. \$200 was given to "African Palms USA", an organization that gives self-help grants to meet very basic needs of selected African villages. Palm crosses received in return were given out on World Mission Sunday and Try-A-Tithe Sunday.
9. \$800 was given to Friends of Mwangaza with which Trinity has been closely associated since Trinity and the Northern Illinois Synod provided support for its first Tanzanian teacher exchange in 1996.
10. A gift of \$1,000 was given for the development of the Lutheran Medical Centre located in Arusha, Tanzania.
11. The following gifts requested by WMMT were given from Trinity's Endowment Fund: \$500 to "Engineers Without Borders" for a project in the Turkana region of Kenya; \$1,000 to the "Mwangaza Secondary School Teacher-Training Program"; \$1,000 to "ELCA—Feeding the Hungry: Animals-R-Us"; \$1,000 for "Rebuilding Project for Mutuuma Primary School" in Meru, Kenya; \$1,000 for the "Wandering Shepherds Program" sponsored by Tumaini University in Tanzania; \$1,000 to "Mwangaza to send 120 computers to Tanzania"; \$2,000 for "Lutheran World Relief aid for the crisis in Sudan"; \$1,000 for "Mwangaza Mwana-Baba/Son-Father Program" in Tanzania; \$1,000 for the "Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and Palestine Schools and Programs"; and \$1,000 for the "Mto Wa Mbo maternity ward of the Maasai dispensary system" in Tanzania.
12. The World Mission bulletin board in the lower west narthex continued to display Trinity's as well as the ELCA's, Lutheran World Relief's and other organization's involvement in global mission ministries.

You are encouraged to read the article in the next "TRINITY VISITOR" in which the missionaries for whom Trinity provides support will be highlighted. An additional article in that T.V. will tell about the guest speakers who will be delivering the sermon on Mission Sunday.

World Mission Ministry Team