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Happy Birthday!

July 10th — July 23rd

- 10-Jeremy Haynes-Lancour, Leonard Lindell,
Frank Stewart
- 11-Ruth Scott
- 12-Jean Johnson, Marah Tews, Elizabeth Thoms
- 13-Tara Johnson, Connor Maccabee, David
Maccabee, Jason Wheeler
- 14-Carol Brockhouse, Erika Hankins, Douglas
Lambert, Karen Nyman
- 15-Helen Clayton, Grey Giovanine, Amy
Hultquist, Cindie McCallum, Kristen Young
- 16-Lee Garlach, Robert Leedy, Jane Tiedge
- 17-Hailey Hoepfner, Ruby Rylander, Stuart
Thoms, Mark Walker
- 18-Jon Oakleaf, Virginia Pearson
- 19-Mary Boster, Karen Piff, Max Schultz, Todd
Slothower
- 20-Karen Anderson, Lauren Judickas
- 21-Margo Bensenberg, Michele Blew, Nicholas
Fox, Maxine Neels, Clara Rogiers, Pamela
Saunders, Stephanie Thoms
- 22-Barbara Newcomb
- 23-George Schlenker

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Trinity Visitor

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Trinity Goes On Vacation!



Join us Sunday
 at 10:00 am
 In the Multipurpose room
 to hear about the travels of
 our own members!

**July 10th: Beth Deadmond, Luke Lester,
 Justin Tigerman, Haleigh Turner, Bob
 Simmons — Christian Adventures
 “Boundary Waters”**

July 17th: Pastor Joel — Holy Land

**July 24th: Ben Ingelson —
 Cameroon & Senegal**

July 31: The Bahls — China

Summer Sunday School at Trinity!!!

Every Sunday, All Summer
 10:00—10:50 am



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

July 10, 2005 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

For the next three Sundays, the gospel readings present the image of the seed. Though it is very small and seemingly insignificant, the seed contains its entire future; with light and nourishment it will grow and prosper. The seed is a vital image of faith in God, baptism, a congregation's life, the word, and the great paradox at the center of Christian faith: God brings flourishing life out of what appears to be little, dormant, even dead. It is a primary image of faith's central mystery: the dying and rising of Christ. There is ground for hope here.

July 17, 2005 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The parable in today's gospel reading sets forth what we may experience every day: evil coexists with the good. The conclusion to the parable--the weeds will be burned--seems simple, except for this: the one who speaks gives his life over to death, that God's mercy for all people may be revealed, and that God's power to bring good out of evil may be known. Is it possible that even weeds and thorns will be transformed into beautiful flowers and lush vines?

Here is each Christian's mission: to speak and to act with mercy and justice in a world that knows too well the presence of evil.

Today is the commemoration of Bartolomé de Las Casas, a sixteenth-century Spanish missionary in the Western Hemisphere who worked to stop the enslavement of native people.

2005 NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

Our NIS Assembly was held June 17-18 at Augustana College. Attending from Trinity Lutheran were Pastor Laura Koppenhoefer, and delegates, Bob L. Anderson, Jeff Martin, Deb Robb, and Karen Dowsett. In this and the next two issues, we will hear about the myriad of activities that our larger church is involved in – straight from the Assembly participants! A summary of the activities and results of the polling related the sexuality study can be found on our synod web page at www.nisynod.org.

From Bob L. Anderson—

As Chair of the Synod Social Ministry Committee, I had the assignment to lead two forums outlining the ways the Committee and its subcommittees and task forces seek to fulfill the Mission Statement of the Committee, "to express God's love by leading the Church toward greater compassion, justice and service."

One of the ways this is done is through Lutheran Social Service of Illinois, which was also featured in several forums explaining how this 3-synod Illinois organization works to aid those in society with special needs and through the Lutheran Network for Justice Advocacy, which seeks to correct many of society's more serious problems.

(Continued on page 9)

Connections: LYO News

No LYO Wednesdays on 29 June, 6 July, 13 July, and 20 July (short summer break)

Leadership Lab July 18-23 - Western Illinois University, Macomb

Wednesday, July 27th Drive-in Movie Night - Watch for details in July!!

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

Senior Board Meeting July 12th
at 9:00 am
In the Library

Health Tips

A new law requiring dental exams for all children in Kindergarten, 2nd grade and 6th grade went into effect on July 1st. Report cards will be withheld until these exams have been completed. Good health habits start when children are still very young and dental health is an important part of being an over-all healthy person. Call for your child's appointment today. Julie Blew, Parish Nurse

Trinity Coed Baseball Schedule

July 10th—8:00 pm #8
July 17th—8:00 pm
July 24th—4:00 pm
July 31st—8:00 pm

Games are played at Greenvally Sports Complex, Moline, on diamond #7 unless otherwise noted. Please come support our team!

Member Care

Playcrafters Barn Theater Benefit Performance for Trinity Member Care, Thursday, July 14th at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$10 – includes show and dessert. Dessert is being served prior to the show at 6:45 pm. Tickets available in Founders Hall on July 3 and July 10 or call Cheryl Schmidt at 764-7313. Supplemental funds provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans East Rock Island County Chapter.

Annual Congregation Picnic

Sunday, July 24, 12:30—3:00 pm

Peterson Park 37th St. and 7th Ave. Moline

Hamburgers, Hotdogs, & Lemonade provided.

Bring a side dish to pass.

Please sign up in Founders Hall or call Karen in the church office 762-3624.

Food, Fellowship, & Fun!

Trinity Supper Club

Pork Chop dinner, July 19th, Founders Hall, 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 and may be purchased in Founders Hall after services July 10th & July 17th. Questions? Call Lucille Almquist at 794-1580.

Attendance:

WOW, June 15th: 27

Sun., June 26th: 8:30: 215 11:00: 151

Learning: 20

Sun., July 3rd: 8:30: 158 11:00: 140

Prayer Chain: 762-3624

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!!!

A great big thank you goes out to Chris Ford, Todd Slothower, Sarah Turner, Stacey Christensen (our adult leaders), Maggie Jones, Luke Lester and Sam Cavins (our Sr. high counselors) for all their amazing ministry at Faith Builders Confirmation Camp! Pastor Laura and Anne

Thank You

Howard Dunn sends a grateful "Thank You" to everyone who sent greetings and cards on his 80th birthday!



The rosebud on the altar Sunday June 26th was for *Jake Andrew Johnson*, born on June 16th, 2005 His parents are Kai and Tricia Johnson. His grandparents are Olof and Caran Johnson.

Sunday July 3rd was for the birth of *Brody Michael Meyers*, born on June 25th, 2005 . His parents are Mike and Mindy (Johns) Meyers. His grandparents are Joe and Joanne Cravero, and Greg and Marg Meyers from Tillsonburg, Ontario, Canada.

WELCA Scholarship Fundraiser
Sarah Unit is sponsoring a "Girls Night Out" a fun night of shopping to raise money for the WELCA Scholarship Fund. The event will be held on October 29th from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please contact Kathy Meyer at 762-0575 or Jan Peterson at 309-523-2008 to get signed up or for more information.

Notes on the Journey

On this warm summer day, I've been thinking about "discovery." Now, not the kind of discovery like – "Oh, there isn't any milk in the fridge!" or, "Hey! That crazy squirrel can tip over the new bird bath." Not like that.

Discovery like this. Discovery like when a baby discovers that his fingers can go in his mouth – and a few months later, so can his toes! Or discovery like when a toddler smiles – that mom and dad do too, or that all kinds of things happen when you push the buttons on the TV remote.

I "heard" discovery in the congregation last Sunday when the youth and leaders from the boundary waters trip shared their adventures and their witness to Christ alive and at work in their lives. I think the congregation discovered that these young people pushed themselves, learned about themselves and each other, worked together, and found God in the mix...and, get this (!) talked about God, AND...did so in front of other people! That kind of discovery is good for the soul.

A similar kind of discovery happened during confirmation camp – during the course of the week of learning and fun – and especially during the "Alpine Tower" adventure. Last year at camp, our special camp activity was horseback riding for those who desired to do so. This year we added the climbing on the Alpine tower to our repertoire of camp activities. (If you haven't seen a picture of this 50-foot tower yet, check it out at: ymcacampabelincoln.org.)

Adult leaders, youth leaders and confirmands alike discovered things about themselves and others in the process. Like... how much water it takes to stay hydrated in 94 degree heat, how high 50 feet is, how good it feels to stand on solid ground after you have been dangling in the air, how much one needs encouragement from others, how we might be capable of much more than we ever thought possible, of how people called "Copper Top, Kermit, and Benoit" can become ones new best friend in just minutes, of how one

always/never wants to climb anything again and of just what it means to truly trust.

I've climbed before. I've also loved it. Of course saying that doesn't account for the sheer terror I experienced the first time I climbed. The place: a high ropes course in Vero Beach, Florida. The reason: (now what was it?) Oh, yes, I signed up for a youth leadership class in seminary and this was one of the course requirements. The time: one full week in January of 2001. The joys: Of course, "making it", meaning climbing and not falling, as well as "discovering" a connection between faith and life.

One metaphor for that connection in high ropes adventure education is "being on God's belay." "Belay" is that system in climbing where the climber is wearing a harness to which is attached an extremely strong rope. This rope is looped up over the highest point in the climbing apparatus (in this case, the Alpine Tower) and then looped through a series of safety devices on the "belayer" or rope holding person. That person and system assure the safety of the climber. The belayer constantly monitors progress, offers direction and encouragement – protecting the climber's very life!

As I approached the Tower to climb on that hot day at camp last week, I know that the confirmands were wondering if I would climb at all! It had been 3 or so years since I last climbed on a course at Wartburg in Dubuque. But climb, I did, all the way to the top. I remember the physical challenge and the trepidation that came with climbing an unknown Tower as it held unknown challenges, but I remembered how the "system" works and trusted the belayer (rope holder) and felt completely safe. And, yes, on the top of that tower, with a beautiful view of God's creation, I remembered (aka – discovered) again, that I am thankful to be on "God's belay."

On God's belay,
Pastor Laura

HELP WANTED

Preschool Teacher/Assistant Director

Blessed Beginnings Preschool seeking candidate with skills in early childhood education. Child Development Associate (CDA) degree desired. Send cover letter and resume by July 25, 2005, to Tina Hayz, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1330 13th Street, Moline IL 61265. See also www.trinitylutheranmoline.org

"Assignment Reporters" Wanted

Would you like to write an occasional assigned article for the Visitor? You would not need to attend any committee meetings! Contact Barbara Steigman (752-0250) or anyone on Trinity's Communication Team.

WOW

Worship on Wednesdays continues through the summer on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Music begins at 6:15 p.m. Worship begins at 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion is celebrated and the nursery is staffed.

Assisted Hearing Devices

Assisted hearing devices are available from the ushers to insure that everyone may enjoy worship each Sunday. Please help us maintain them by notifying an usher when you have problems with a device. Also let us know if you need one and there has not been one available. We own 7 devices, but there are only 5 in the sanctuary. If one followed you home, please return it. Questions may be directed to Julie Blew, Parish Nurse at 762-3624 ext. 5.

Blessed Beginnings News

With thanksgiving for 7 wonderful years of serving, and with sadness, the Blessed Beginnings Family Ministry Board accepts the resignation of teacher, Sharon Snyder. Mrs. Snyder shared the following with the Board:

"I would like to take this time to thank all of you for the experience of the unconditional love of the children at Blessed Beginnings Preschool, these past seven years. Teaching and working with the children and their families has allowed me to grow spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. I take pride in knowing that in some small way I have touched their lives and hopefully have sparked their curiosity for knowledge."

Mrs. Snyder has been offered and accepted a teaching position that is closer to her home in Colona.

Members of the congregation and Blessed Beginnings families are invited to send their thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Snyder via the church office. The Board will be recognizing her for her teaching ministry later this summer.

LIBRARY LINES



Henri J. M. Nouwen is said to be the most widely read spiritual author in the world. A trained psychologist and theologian, he wrote more than forty books. He was born in Holland, taught at Yale, Harvard, and Notre Dame, and spent the last ten years of his life as a priest in residence in a mentally handicapped community near Toronto, Canada. He died suddenly, of a heart attack, in 1996 at the age of 64.

On the day of his funeral, his book, The Inner Voice of Love, 282 Nou, came out. It contains more than 50 excerpts from a journal that he kept during a very troubling time in his life, giving hope and courage to endure broken relationships, loss of a loved one, and other traumatic incidents in our lives. In the last five years of his life he wrote a lot about death and dying. His own death, the death of Jesus, our death, and said that death is not something to fear or avoid. It is, rather, a continuation and fulfillment of life. These writings are exemplified in his book, Our Greatest Gift, 242.4 Nou.

One of his books that I enjoyed is The Return of the Prodigal Son, 242.4 Nou. A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's painting of the same name enthralled Nouwen and he eventually spent three days in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia, first sitting on the floor in front of the painting (much to the dismay of the guards, who wanted to throw him out), and later, after they found out who he was, sitting in a comfortable chair placed there by the director, who told him that he could sit there as long as he liked. Nouwen deals so well with the themes of homecoming, rejection, jealousy, reconciliation, affirmation and anger as he takes the point of view of the father, the young son, and the older brother.

Our library has eight books by Henri Nouwen. Most of them are rather small and his style is very simple and easy to read. If you would like more information about Nouwen, there is a web site at the Henri Nouwen Library in Ontario, Canada. The address is www.hnle.org.

The Good Book Club meets on July 25th to discuss The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time by Mark Haddon.

(Synod Highlights Continued from page 2)

Members of the Assembly learned about the activities of the ELCA through other speakers and forums, one of which explained how important this year's theme, "Together in Mission" is to advancing God's Kingdom. This was carried through to the local level as Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, Dean and professor from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque in another forum outlined "asset based parish growth strategies".

For me the highlight of the Assembly was the hour spent debating approaches to the sexuality study of the Church which will be considered at the August Churchwide Assembly. So many of the speakers, and even more members in the subsequent polls expressed how God's love can be shown to all people He has created.

From Jeff Martin—

My first session was Congregational Life. They put on the Congregational Resourcing Event yearly at Kishwaukee College in Malta, IL. The next CRE is on March 11, 2006 and the Keynote speaker will be Pastor Peter Marty of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA. Their e-mail newsletter, called Walking Together, can be found at njsynod.org.

Second I attended the Outreach presentation. They examined concepts such as Natural Church Development, which "is a process that churches go through to look at the strengths and weaknesses of their particular congregation and identify areas for improvement for creating a growing and thriving church." Grace Lutheran Church in Rockford is looking at establishing a satellite congregation because they have no room adjacent to the current building to expand. A satellite location gives Grace the opportunity to reach into a fast-growing area of their community that would ordinarily be considered too geographically removed (over 3 miles) to have an impact on.

Saturday I learned about the Diakonia Program. It has grown from just two locations in Rockford and Moline, to include River Forest, Aurora, Schaumburg, and Chicago. It is a two-year program consisting of 12 five-week courses, six each year. Diakonia participants "are committed to serve through the church in a variety of ways: teaching, administration, liturgical leadership, action for social justice, evangelism, visitation of the sick, community organization, youth work, ministry among the elderly, and the like."

The most interesting to me was the Hispanic/Latino outreach. Emphasis was placed on the point that a hundred years later, many of our local churches find themselves in the same situation they were in originally; surrounded by people new to this country or this area. It was stressed that initial outreach didn't need to involve having a pastor who speaks Spanish fluently. Having Bible study lead by a college student who speaks Spanish is often a way to initially engage potential new members. Also effective is reaching out at Christmas time with a "Las Posadas" observation.

July 10th

	8:30 AM	Gerry Schmidt, Dale Manley
ACOLYTES:	Logan Ryser, Logan Resler	11:00 AM
READER:	Duane Swenson	ACOLYTES:
COMM. ASST:	Deann Thoms	READER:
ASST. MSTR:	Mary Carson	ASST. MSTR:
GREETERS:	Mel & Judy Rullman; Jim & Sally Rylander	GREETERS:
W.E. PRSTR:		USHERS:
USHERS:	John Boten, Jill Gehbauer,	Nancy McCormick

July 17th

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
ACOLYTES:	Angela Bahls, Emily Kauzlarich	ACOLYTES:
READER:	Brenda Turnbull	READER:
COMM. ASST:	Mary Carson, Kay Allen	COMM. ASST:
ASST. MSTR:	John Turnbull	ASST. MSTR:
GREETERS:	Jerry & Elaine Lundeen, Mary Kruse	GREETERS:
W.E. PRSTR:	Dick & Marie Liljeberg	W.E. PRSTR:
USHERS:	John Boten, Jill Gehbauer, Gerry Schmidt, Bruce Peterson	USHERS:
		Carl Bengston, Dick Riddell

July 24th

	8:30 AM	Gerry Schmidt, Butch Trevor
ACOLYTES:	Sarah Buckles, Morgan Mumma	11:00 AM
READER:	Joyce Ford	ACOLYTES:
COMM. ASST:	Genevieve Anthony	READER:
ASST. MSTR:	Jim Scott	ASST. MSTR:
GREETERS:	Nancy DeVilder, Joyce Ford	GREETERS:
W.E. PRSTR:	Bruce & Jan Peterson	USHERS:
USHERS:	John Boten, Jill Gehbauer,	Carl Bengston, Dave Anthony

July 31st

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
ACOLYTES:	Jeremiah Love, Cameron Beek	ACOLYTES:
READER:	Judy Rullman	READER:
COMM. ASST:	Kellene Anthony	COMM. ASST:
ASST. MSTR:	Rick Meredith	ASST. MSTR:
GREETERS:	Lloyd & Katherine Cutrer, Al & Rose Andresen	GREETERS:
W.E. PRSTR:	Laurie Walker	W.E. PRSTR:
USHERS:	John Boten, Jill Gehbauer, Gerry Schmidt, Butch Trevor	USHERS:
		Carl Bengston, Helen Brandt

Join Us For Summer Choir!

Meet in the tower rehearsal room at 8:00 am; sing for the 8:30 service. Begins Sunday, July 3rd and continues for all five July Sundays. Questions? Call Steve Steely at 762-3375.



Attention Trinity Singers and Musicians!

You are invited to join the Praise Ensemble's summer season. We rehearse from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. previous to the 11:00 service. Join us for one week, one month, or longer--whatever your summer schedule allows. Singers can just show up; instrumentalists should contact Brian Schou in advance to make sure there is appropriate music available (brianschou@trinitylutheranmoline.org or 755-5401). Please join us as we praise God, serve Christ, and love one another!

