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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

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**SHALOM! May God bless  
 Your 2006 with Peace, Love, Joy and Health.**

As part of a St. Luke's, Minnesota fall "Miracles and Blessings" stewardship campaign, KTIS Christian radio personality, Chuck Knapp, told this interesting story about choosing priorities along our spiritual journey.

There was once a very rich man who "wanted to take it with him" when he died. He prayed and prayed until the Lord gave in, but on one condition- he could only bring one suitcase of his wealth.

The rich man then began to worry, "What kind of currency should I bring- the dollar, the pound, the yen, the mark?" He finally decided that the best thing to do was to turn it all into gold bullion. The day came when God called him home. St. Peter greeted him, but told him he couldn't bring his suitcase in with him. "I have an agreement with God that I can take it with me," the man explained.

"That's unusual," St. Peter said. "This has never happened before. Mind if I take a look?" The man opened the suitcase to reveal the shining gold bullion.

"Pavement!" the amazed St. Peter exclaimed. "Why in the world would you bring pavement?"

The audience laughed heartily at the foolish notion that one would bring gold to the heavenly places. When I told the story to one of our daughters, she said she "didn't get it." How had I gone wrong after all these years in explaining the extravagant dreaming of heaven as the place where the streets are "paved with gold.?"

As we enter the New Year 2006, we sometimes convince ourselves that the riches of this world make a difference to the Creator of All things, seen and unseen. Quite the contrary. In the same chapter that Jesus teaches the Lord's prayer, Jesus specifically says, "***Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***" (Matthew 6:19-21)

I propose that the first spiritually responsible New Year resolution include our PoWeR SouRCE theme: ***Pray*** daily, ***Worship*** weekly, ***Read the Bible*** diligently, ***Share a tithe*** of our Time, Talent and Treasure generously, ***Reach Out*** to others in the name of

*(Continued on page 2)*

## BUDGET FORUMS IN JANUARY

In January the Finance Team and Council representatives will be hosting special forums to answer questions and share information about the 2006 budget. All persons with helpful comments or concerns are encouraged to attend.

*This is your opportunity to ask questions and get detailed information.*  
The forums will be Sundays, January 15th and 22nd at 10:00 am in the Multipurpose Room.

### Important Information!

The annual reports, resolutions, 2006 Congregational Council and Nominating Committee nominations, and proposed 2006 budget will be distributed **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** for all interested persons.

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting- 12:15 PM Sunday, January 29, 2006

*This year's annual congregational meeting will have a new celebration flavor. The Trinity praise team will help us gather in the Multipurpose Room for a multimedia presentation of Trinity's 2005 ministry. (You've probably seen the cameras at special events.) The year 2005 has been a year of wonderful accomplishments for which we invite you to come and celebrate with your partners in Christ's mission through Trinity's ministry.*



### Call Committee Update

The Trinity Call Committee will meet with Pastor Jeff Clements, Assistant to the Bishop, on January 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss possible candidates for Senior Pastor. Call Committee Chair, Krista Kruse and the Call Committee will continue to give timely updates on the call process. **Once names are given to the Call Committee, strict confidentiality MUST be maintained.** *Pastor Joel*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Jesus Christ, **Care** for others in need, **Encourage Spiritual Growth** in ourselves, adults, youth and children.

Start 2006 with SIX weeks of **PoWeR SouRCE** living. You will be well on your way to a more purposeful, focused, and healthy lifestyle that will fill your heart with the love of God. You will be more interested in serving God and others, than packing an earth-bound suitcase of mere "pavement." *Shalom, Pastor Joel*

### Up 'N Adam, Eve

Wednesday, February 1st at 8:30 AM

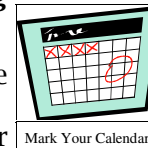
**"Eagles" presented by Janet Moline**

Tickets \$3.00 available January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>  
In Founders Hall  
Or call Julie Blew at 762-3624 or Al Hansen at 762-1734

### Sharing "What Helps" on the Journey: A time for those who are grieving

Thursday, January 26, 2005  
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room

This time is intended for people who have suffered the loss of a spouse, child, sibling, parent, or significant other - especially in the past two years. A light refreshment will be served. We will be working a "What Helps" resource to share with others who grieve. This evening is facilitated by Pastor Laura Koppenhoefer and supported by our Health and Wellness Ministry Team. No reservations are required. Questions? Call Pastor Laura at 762-3624.



Mark Your Calendar!

### Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants

Attention all those who would like to serve in these roles in our worship! One training session was offered in August of this year. Pastor Laura is interested in offering a mid-year training to anyone interested in learning these roles. Interested? Please call Pastor Laura to let her know of your interest -- 762-3624.

## Connections: LYO News

Wednesday, January 11th  
LYO Progressive Dinner  
Leave Trinity parking lot at 6:30 p.m.  
Host homes: Anthony, Doroba, Carson (Courtney), Dooley-Jones

Wednesday, January 18th  
LYO, 7:30 LYO Room

Sunday, January 22nd  
LYO Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser  
4:00—7:00 p.m.  
Alpha Lanes

Wednesday, January 25th  
LYO, 7:30 LYO Room

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

### Sign Language

Renee Partlow, Trinity's own Sign Language Interpreter, is teaching a beginning sign language class at Black Hawk College in February. You can contact Renee at (309) 912-8836 or renee\_coda78@yahoo.com.


### Attendance

Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24th:  
3:00: 250    5:00: 305    7:30: 203  
11:00: 209

Christmas Day, December 25th:  
9:30: 80

New Year's Day, Sunday January 1st:  
8:30: 92    11:00: 69

Prayer Chain: 309-762-3624



**December 11th**

Perry Stewart who joins wife Kristen and children Bailey Bicknell 10th grade Parker (6th grade), Bennett (4th grade), and Riley (3rd grade) Stewart in membership


Jim and Catherine Bishop Kelly (5th grade) Christina (preschool)

**December 18th**

Arion Cox Kyleigh (7 months)

**Baptized in December**

Elvera Lawson	12-01-05
Caeden Paul Prybil	12-18-05
Tara Lynn Smith-Prybil	12-18-05



**Congratulations!**  
To Yvonne Savala and Gary Johnson who were married on December 10th

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 29 January 2006.

- Happy Birthday!*
- January 7th — January 20th**
- 7—Shelly Decker, Betty Hufford, Karen Zurn
  - 8—Francis Creger, Lloyd Cutrer, Beth Darnell, Calvin Lancour, Lori Love, daniel Olson, Elizabeth Peterson, Eric Prybil
  - 9—Laura Carter, Ronald Strother, Peter Suman, Lukas Thoms, Sarah VanDamme
  - 10—Clayton Bergren, William Gustafson, Makayla Mendoza, Kelly Quinn, Manda Schultz Sr.
  - 11—Michael Bailey, Steven Ellefritz, Abby Tillman
  - 12—Cynthia Esterdahl, Richard Liljeberg, Trista Menzer, Thomas VonGillern
  - 13—Andrea Darnell, Charles Hall, Delaney Klundt, Jerry Rusk, Patricia Tillman
  - 14—Sarah Althaus, Kevin Meredith, Chad Minch
  - 15—Kelsey Cavins, Jeanette Fensterbusch, Jeremiah Love
  - 16—Ronald Knuth, Valerie Lopez, Nicole Pulford, Howard Swayne
  - 17—Bertie Anderson, Cary David, Shannon Fox, Robert Hibbert, Larry Johnston, Anthony Kruse
  - 18—Jacquelyn Fitzpatrick, Megan Meyer, Justin Womack
  - 19—Elsa Johnson, Jennifer Larsen, Richard Moore, Brian Roderick, Allison Wells, Ellen Wells
  - 20—Janice Moriarity, John Sandberg



# Notes on the Journey

I have to admit that it seems odd to be writing this first “Notes on the Journey” for 2006 when I haven’t even finished 2005. The Christmas cookies aren’t all baked. The Christmas letter is still dancing around in my head (and the cards are still in the bag from the store). Baby Jesus hasn’t even arrived in the manger! The goats I “bought” for my family haven’t even arrived in Africa!

I guess that being on “the writing side” of 2006 isn’t so bad. It hasn’t been revealed that I bought stuff that either doesn’t fit someone or is a duplicate of what they already have. There is no “post-holiday” weight gain. And, I haven’t had that “mid-trip a-hah” of what ever I happened to have forgotten to bring or to do. On this side of 2006, everything is a clean slate. On this side of 2006, there is hope for a better day.

I wonder if this is something like being Mary and Joseph as they looked at baby Jesus. What relief and wonder and amazement and hope. Everything is ahead. As parents, I think we share that common experience. No reprimanding a toddler for dumping toys in the toilet or catching him or her before there is a fall off of the back of the sofa. No speeding tickets or



pink slips. No broken homes or broken hearts. None of that, yet. I find comfort that even when “stuff happens” on any given day (or week, or year) that God still sees us as if we were just born - a look full of love and hope.

I’m looking that way to 2006. So much is ahead. We all will be welcoming a new senior pastor. We will be enhancing our ministries in many ways, especially our social action ministry. I’ll be looking at colleges with my eldest daughter and preparing to send her (let her go) in another year.



This in-between time has me pondering a quote from the Ted Loder book *Tracks in the Straw: Tales Spun from the Manger*, “God does something everywhere, but doesn’t do everything anywhere.”

Where are you? Waiting? Making or breaking “New Year’s Resolutions”? Witnessing the star that calls us to check on that baby in the manger? Take a look...I’ll bet he’ll smile at you.

Looking ahead, with wonder,  
*Pastor Laura*

**Adult Education Classes in January:**

1. Religions of India with Dr. Rachel Magdalene: back again, Dr. Magdalene will share her insights on the major religions of India garnered while she lived there.
2. Positioning Paul (Geographically and Theologically) is a 4-session look at Paul's travels and writings, led by Craig Tigerman. We will pay special attention to the development of Paul's theology and discuss some of the more controversial statements he made.
3. Special Forums: Check the bulletin announcements and the signs around the building for special forum opportunities on Sunday morning

*Adult Retreat—January 28, 2006*

Join us in the Multipurpose Room from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for an adult retreat focusing on our spiritual gifts and how we can use our gifts to make our community, including Trinity a better place! The retreat will be lead by Kristin Glass, the associate director of the Center for Vocational Reflection at Augsburg College. We will share lunch together—potluck style. More information will be available in Founders Hall during fellowship time in January.

*Sign up in Founders Hall during fellowship time in January!*

Trinity Facility Policies

At its November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Church Council approved a Continuing Resolution concerning Facility Policies. The resolution establishes written policies to govern the use of Trinity's buildings, grounds and equipment. The policy document has sections covering: eligible usage, permits, rules and regulations, scheduling, funerals, weddings, equipment and fees. The facilities are available for church activities, funerals, weddings and rentals. All groups wishing to use any area of the buildings and grounds must reserve the space in advance - application must be made through the Church Office. Copies of the Facility Policies are available in the Church Office and will be added as a reference on the Trinity website.

**Blessed Beginnings Preschool****Friendship Friday**

Come and share God's love with His little children by participating with our 4 year olds on our special "Friendship Fridays." Make crafts, sing songs and enjoy a snack.

Session times: **10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Morning and afternoon sessions available on these dates:

**January 13, February 10, March 10, and April 21**

Call Mrs. Hayz at the Preschool at 764-7220 with questions

**OK Walkers!** It's time to lace up those shoes and get walking again! We're well on our way to New Orleans. By mid-December we had made it to the Mexican border at Ciudad Juarez/El Paso, Texas. We still have a little over 1200 miles to go. In addition to walking, we will be asking the congregation to match' dollars to miles' during the month of January. The money raised will then be sent to the New Orleans Synod to help pastors and church workers with their on-going task of supporting and rebuilding their homes, churches and cities, devastated by the hurricanes last fall.

Now is a great time to get back into your walking routine – you will not only lose a few of those extra holiday pounds, but you'll help yourself to stay healthy against colds, flu and the winter blahs that so many of us experience. Plus . . . you'll be helping our brothers and sisters in New Orleans with your energy and support. Look for us in Founders Hall the next few Sundays – and don't forget to report your miles.

Happy New Year! The Health/Wellness Ministry Team

**LIBRARY LINES**

When God Whispers Your Name by Max Lucado 248.4 is a collection of stories about people who have heard God's call. Some are Biblical personalities, and some are true-life stories. One humorous episode relates how Gabriel felt when God called him to deliver the message to Mary. This is a quick, easy to read book that helps you think about the way you are living your life and gives some suggestions on ways to improve. It also contains a discussion guide that can be used for a Bible study. It might be a good read to begin the New Year.

The Good Book Club meets Monday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.

**THE TLC BOOK CLUB**

The TLC Book Club will meet January 26 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss Angels & Demons by Dan Brown. A kit with multiple copies of the book is available in the library for check out. Future dates and books are:

February 16—Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers

March 16—East of Eden by John Steinbeck

April 20—Shadow Baby by Alison McGhee

All meetings are held in Trinity's lounge at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussions. Hope to see you there!





The LYO Youth want to thank all of you for your generous support during 2005. Your interest, support, help and encouragement were the key to all of the successful fundraisers during 2005: Easter breakfast, carwash, pre-WOW dinners, apple pie sales, 1st

Annual Trivia Night, Annual Pastabilities and other ongoing activities. We were also blessed with individual and group donations. 2005 has been a difficult year for all of us following the death of our beloved Jim Graham in February. However, your love and support have sustained us during 2005. We look forward to 2006. Thank you and God's Peace and Blessing to all of you. Trinity LYO Youth

*I wanted to take a moment after the hustle and bustle of the holidays to thank you for your generous support of the **Sweat Shirts for Ericsson Program**. In a few short weeks, you combined efforts to create an overwhelming supply of "warmth" for these children. A special thank you to Dave Tews and The Cary Francis Group for their donation of 85 sweatshirts and to Judy Rullman, and Thrivent Financial who donated \$400 dollars towards the endeavor. We had over 40 people involved in this service project! Right before Christmas break, we were able to deliver 120 sweatshirts to Ericsson. With such a generous outpouring, we had to put some shirts aside for another "paint date". Please join us, if you can, in February.*  
*Deb Slothower and the Sarah Unit*

A special Thank You to all those who stepped up and helped out on Sunday, January 1st. Thanks for all your help!  
 Anne Williams

### Lenten Devotional and Study

It may be just the new year, but Lent starts in March. This year we will be writing our own Trinity Lenten Devotional Book and doing a Lenten Study on Wednesday evenings before worship. Check Founders Hall for sign-up information for the Devotional Book in January as well as more information about our study.

### SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

8:30 AM	January 8th	11:00 AM
ACOLYTES: Jenna Bender, Sarah Althaus	ACOLYTES: Trevor Brown, Kullan Buckrop	
READER: Karen Decker	READER: Michael Dechert	
COMM. ASST: Marlis Beechamp	ASST. MSTER: Michael Carson	
ASST. MSTR: Jack Meyer	GREETERS: Tom & Cindy Ribbeck, Lori & Carolyn Doroba	
GREETERS: Lloyd & Katherine Cutrer, Phyllis Rannals, Brian Mumma	USHERS: Chris Anderson, Al Hansen, Carl Bengston, Jim Rylander	
W.E. PRSTR: Karen Zurn		
USHERS: Tom Scott, Tom White, Alan Struss, Lu Hage		

8:30 AM	January 15th	11:00 AM
ACOLYTES: Carly Christianson, Stephanie Eckhardt	ACOLYTES: Kiah Barnes, Ashely DeVolder	
READER: Joyce Ford	READER: Patricia Fox	
COMM. ASST: Dona Dungan	COMM.ASST: Judy Blad, Jan Peterson, Dawn Simmons	
ASST. MSTR: Lynnette Meredith	ASST. MSTER: Mary Palomaki	
GREETERS: Nancy DeVilder, Lois Meredith, Quint & Joyce Ford	GREETERS: Rod & Betty Johnson, Dick & Solveig Riddell	
W.E. PRSTR: Dick & Marie Liljeberg	W.E. PRSTR: The Tom Ribbeck Family	
USHERS: Tom Scott, Tom White, Alan Struss, Lu Hage	USHERS: Chris Anderson, Al Hansen, Carl Bengston, Jim Rylander	

8:30 AM	January 22nd	11:00 AM
ACOLYTES: Aaron Ford, Nicholas Hoefpner	ACOLYTES: Kelsey Cavins, Sarah Buckles	
READER: Bob Hibbert	READER: Ashley Hartson	
COMM. ASST: Chris Ford	ASST. MSTER: Justin Tigerman	
ASST. MSTR: Rick Meredith	GREETERS: Jedy & Dave Dwyer, Dick & Sheryl Eckermann	
GREETERS: Stan & Donna Rynott, Henry & Maxine Neels	USHERS: Chris Anderson, Al Hansen, Carl Bengston, Jim Rylander	
W.E. PRSTR: Kathy Meyer		
USHERS: Tom Scott, Tom White, Alan Struss, Lu Hage		

8:30 AM	January 15th	11:00 AM
ACOLYTES: Adrian Keller, Brian Doroba	ACOLYTES: Mila Ribbeck, Shannon Fox	
READER: Judy Johnson	READER: Dawn Simmons	
COMM. ASST: Doug Hultquist	COMM.ASST: Judy Dwyer, Tom Ribbeck, JoAnn Stribling	
ASST. MSTR: Jim Scott	ASST. MSTER: Mary Carson	
GREETERS: Chuck & Kay Allen, Bill Gustafson, Karleen Young	GREETERS: Olaf & Caran Johnson, Mary Kruse, Cindy Wildermuth	
W.E. PRSTR: Bruce & Jan Peterson	W.E. PRSTR: Helen Brandt, Joe Urbain	
USHERS: Tom Scott, Tom White, Alan Struss, Lu Hage	USHERS: Chris Anderson, Al Hansen, Carl Bengston, Jim Rylander	

## January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 am-Fellowship 10:00 am-Learning for all Ages 11:00 am-Worship w/Holy Communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 pm-Member Care Cards 6:30 pm-Blessed Beginnings Epiphany Program 7:00 pm-1st Tuesday</p>	<p>4 <b>No Up 'N Adam, Eve</b></p> <p>4:30 pm-Celebration Ringers 5:00 pm-LYO Pre-WOW Dinner 5:15 pm-Alleluia Ringers 6:00 pm-Praise Ensemble 6:30 pm-WOW 6:30 pm-Faith Builders Confirmation 7:30 pm-Children's Education Ministry 7:30 pm-LYO 7:30 pm-Trinity Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 noon-Ruth Unit 6:30 pm-Finance Team 6:30 pm-Blessed Beginnings Epiphany Program 6:30 pm-Nominating Team</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 am-Fellowship 10:00 am-Learning for all Ages 11:00 am-Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4:00 pm-Call Committee 6:30 pm-Befrienders</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm-Church Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00 pm-Wednesdays@One 4:30 pm-Celebration Ringers 5:15 p,-Alleluia Ringers 6:00 pm-Praise Ensemble 6:30 pm-WOW Rehearsal 6:30 pm-Faith Builders Confirmation 7:30 pm-LYO Progressive Dinner 7:30 pm-Trinity Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00-9:00 pm-Illova Worship Leaders Workshop w/Pr. Barb Melaas-Swanson</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 am-9:00 pm-Illova Worship Leaders Workshop w/Pr. Barb Melaas-Swanson</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 am-3:00 pm-Illova Worship Leaders Workshop w/Pr. Barb Melaas-Swanson Faith Builders Lock-In</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 am-Fellowship 10:00 am-Learning for all Ages 10:00 am-2006 Budget Forum 11:00 am-Worship w/Holy Communion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day <b>No Blessed Beginnings</b></p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 pm-Human Recourses 6:30 pm-Blessed Beginnings Board Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:30 pm-Celebration Ringers 5:15 p,-Alleluia Ringers 6:00 pm-Praise Ensemble 6:30 pm-WOW 6:30 pm-Faith Builders Confirmation 7:30 pm-LYO 7:30 pm-Trinity Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Ben Ingelson Preaching</p> <p>8:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 am-Fellowship 10:00 am-Learning for all Ages 10:00 am-2006 Budget Forum 11:00 am-Worship 4:00 pm-LYO Bowl-A-Thon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30 pm-Good Book Club</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm-Mutual Ministries</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4:30 pm-Celebration Ringers 5:15 p,-Alleluia Ringers 6:00 pm-Praise Ensemble 6:30 pm-WOW Rehearsal 6:30 pm-Faith Builders Confirmation 7:30 pm-LYO 7:30 pm-Trinity Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:00 pm-TLC Book Club 6:30 pm-Grief Workshop</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am-3:00 pm-Spiritual Gifts Adult Retreat 10:30 am-Chronic Pain</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 am-Fellowship 10:00 am-Learning for all Ages 11:00 am-Worship w/Holy Communion 12:15 pm-Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				