



Trinity Messenger

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 2006

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From the Pastors



Christian Apologetics

"In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Apologetics is the task of defending one's point of view or position on a given topic. A person is engaged in apologetics, for example, when entering into a debate, whether a formal one like we might witness among political candidates, or, something less formal such as talking with friends on various topics. Christian Apologetics is the task of defending one's faith. Since the Word of God is the source of our faith it is important for us to hear, read, study and discuss it. This prepares us not only to defend the faith but also to share this hope that we have with others. Saint Paul reminds us, "Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4). This is why you hear us stress the importance of attending church and Bible class every week with fellow Christians. It is why we have a school here at Trinity, and, together with other congregations, we support Lutheran High School. Take note of the theme of Trinity Lutheran School, "A Great Place to Grow - Developing Disciples" and of Lutheran High School, "Preparing Christian Leaders - One Student at a Time."

We need to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have "so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of teaching, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into...Christ" (Ephesians 4:14-15). Have you noticed the prevailing winds of teaching in our culture today promoted by such craftiness and deceitful schemes? How about the number one movie in America, "Brokeback Mountain," which, despite denials, promotes an alternative lifestyle contrary to the Christian faith and harmful to those engaging in that lifestyle? How about the "Da Vinci Code," a fictional book that attacks the truth of the Christian faith? In the preface of the book, the author, Dan Brown, states, "all descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate." He attacks the very foundations of the faith by calling into question the person of



Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
and School
824 Wisconsin Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Church Phone: 920-458-8246
School Phone: 920-458-8248
Fax: 920-458-8267
Web site: trinitysheboygan.org

Divine Services:
Sunday at 8:00 & 10:45 am
Monday at 6:00 pm
Family Education Hour 9:30 am

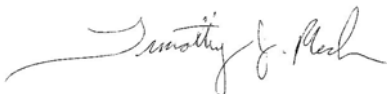
Bible Classes
(throughout the week)

Trinity Lutheran School
3-K thru 8th grade

Jesus Christ and the truth of the Holy Bible that points the way to Him. In addition, a movie on the Da Vinci Code, starring the gifted actor, Tom Hanks, will be coming out this summer which will also have the effect of making a compelling argument against the foundations of the faith. We invite you to join us in talking about these things on the basis of Scripture. On Sunday morning between services there is a topical Bible study in the Gym entitled, "What About...Homosexuality?" On Monday nights at 7:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall there is a study taking a look at the Da Vinci Code and its premises. Come learn how to respond to others when these issues are brought up in your workplace or with friends or neighbors.

Throughout the season of Epiphany the Word of God opens our eyes to see that the man, Jesus of Nazareth, is God and Lord. As His disciples, we become living epistles, bearers of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ for the sake of the people whom we meet. Becoming better "Christian Apologists" by anticipating what things from our pop culture might cause confusion for people is just one of the ways that the Lord is leading us to grow as His disciples. Remember, "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

In Christ,



Rev. Timothy J. Mech
Senior Pastor



Rev. Kevin R. Loughran
Associate Pastor

Nave & Beyond

- You should be receiving a new Trinity Church directory in the mail by the middle of February. If you do not, please contact the church office.
- Please plan on attending the information meeting that will take place in church on Sunday, February 12th between services and the Voters' Assembly Meeting that will take place Sunday, February 19th at noon in the gym. Lunch and child care will be provided at the Voters' Meeting.
- Please take time to welcome and introduce yourselves to our new members pictured on the insert of this newsletter.
- Ten old desks and 10 chairs from Trinity have been donated to St. John Lutheran School in New Orleans. Thank you to Tom Witt and a group from St. Paul, Sheboygan Falls for transporting these desks.

From the Principal



Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The second quarter has ended, report cards are in, middle school exams are over and we are now in the second half of the school year. I pray that all of the students, families, and teachers have as great a second half of the school year as they had in the first half (or even better).



Re-enrollment time is coming very soon for our returning students. Right after the Voters' Meeting in February (Sunday, February 19th) re-enrollment forms will be mailed to you. The tuition and fees will be approved at this meeting, so please plan on attending this meeting to get first hand knowledge of what these charges will be. Also, if your child(ren) do(es) not attend Trinity Lutheran School, an Application for Admission will be mailed to you. If you know of anyone who is not a Trinity Lutheran Church member who is not taking advantage of a wonderful, Christian education, please tell them about our school and encourage them to contact me, or, let me know and I would be more than happy to contact them. Our enrollment continues to rise and our training of young people continues to be successful (thanks be to God). Therefore, the more we can bring in to hear the wonderful Gospel message along side and incorporated into the general curriculum, the better.

I ask that you continue to keep Trinity Lutheran School and all who are affiliated with it in your prayers. Over the next few months important decisions will be made that could have an impact on our school. I ask that you pray for guidance in our decision making that what is decided is connected to our mission and purpose and in line with God's will. To that end we move forward in the Light of Christ, seeking to point others to Him in all that we do.

Yours in Christ,

Rick Schneider
Principal

School Programs



MCDONALDS' RECEIPTS: With your help in collecting McDonalds' Receipts we have ordered and received Whisperphones at no cost to the students or the school. Whisperphones are used by students to help aid in oral reading – they can hear themselves, but do not disturb their neighbors. Thank you to all who have been collecting receipts! Please keep saving them; we are still collecting receipts for other items!

MILK MOOLA: Trinity Lutheran School has received a check from Milk Moola for \$65.30. This is from families collecting their Kwik Trip and Milk Moola bag tops and caps. Trinity has also received a check for \$10.88 from Ink Cartridge recycling. Simply bring in your used printer ink cartridges and place them in the box across from the office. Thank you and keep collecting!

WE CARE PROGRAM: Pick 'N Save's *We Care Program* is very simple and easy. Register *Trinity Lutheran School* as the recipient of *We Care Program* funds on your saver's club card at the store's customer service department. Every time you shop at Pick 'N Save and use your saver's club card, Trinity will receive a profit from your total purchases.

Music Notes



Thank you to the Lutheran High School students who shared their musical talents during the services on January 15 and 16. We are grateful for their willingness to be a part of our worship.

Students at Trinity Lutheran School will soon be preparing for the SALSA Music Festival on Monday, March 6 at St. Mark Lutheran Church. The music festival is open to the public, so all are invited to attend. More information will be in future editions of the school LINK.

The choir schedule for this month:

Feb. 5	8:00 a.m.	Cherub and Handbells
Feb. 12	10:45 a.m.	Kinderchor
Feb. 19	8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Trinity Singers 3K, 4K, Kindergarten
Feb. 26	8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Mixed Choir, Handbells Mixed Choir, Handbells
March 1	6:00 p.m.	Cherub, Joy Choir

The complete choir schedule is available online at www.trinitysheboygan.org/schedule.htm.

This Month's Quiz Question: This hymn, based on Psalm 45, is believed to have been written in 1597 by Philipp Nicolai. The original seven stanzas formed an acrostic. The opening letters of the stanzas (in German) are W, E, G, U, H, Z, and W, referring to *Wilhelm Ernst, Graf und Herr zu Waldeck*, a former student of the author. While this hymn was often used at weddings early on, today it is primarily sung during the Epiphany season. What hymn is this? The answer will be in next month's newsletter.

Last Month's Quiz Question: This hymn has its tune named after the author of the hymn's text; however, he did not write the tune. In fact, he disliked it being sung to his words. In the original words, line 2 of stanza 2 (To that lowly manger bed) is not quite in line with the Biblical account of Matthew 2:11. What hymn is this? The answer is "As with Gladness Men of Old," LW 75.

Trinity History



Much of the story of Trinity is contained in the minutes of the Voters' meetings of our congregation. The contents of these minutes are very interesting and offer an opportunity to learn of the colorful past of our beloved Trinity Church.



May 7, 1947— A film strip projector to be purchased for the school. Three missions in the Sheboygan area were approved and our pastors may serve them as time permits; Black River southwest area, G.I. Barracks, and the territory north of North High School (now Urban). Blacktopping between sidewalk and curb on North 9th Street was approved if price is in line with similar work on Wisconsin Avenue. More information to be requested from the H.C. Prange Co. and Conrad Schmidt Studios about church re-decorating; the Post War Improvement Committee and Board to decide between the two.

July 9, 1947— Pastor Brauer was granted permission to serve Immanuel congregation as their vacancy pastor. He was also given permission to be in low a the

first Sunday in August as guest speaker of his former charge. Thanks to Trilling Hardware Company for the used washing machine donated to the school.

Nov. 12, 1947— Mr. Kuhlmann to be reimbursed for money paid out to boys who helped Saturday mornings while the church was re-decorated. Two 20 minute periods were granted for a tonette band in the 4th grade.

Hispanic Outreach

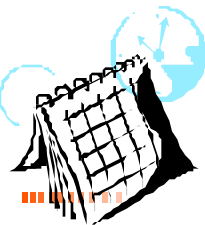


The Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach committee will sponsor bilingual worship services at Immanuel Lutheran Church Sunday afternoons beginning in January at 3:30 pm. We will have guest bilingual preachers from the area leading services. Pastor Pedro Lopez from Racine will lead the first service. It is helpful to have English-speaking worshippers attend along with our Hispanic neighbors in order to foster the unity we seek as Christians. Please join us.



Important Dates

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Financial Review Committee has been meeting to work through the deficit issues facing our congregation. An informational meeting to discuss its recommendations will be held in the church on Sunday, February 12th between services.



VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING: There will be a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, February 19th at noon in the gym. At that meeting, lunch and childcare will be provided. Please put this important date on your calendar and plan to attend!

BOARD MEETINGS: Boards will meet February 1st with a joint opening in church at 7 pm.

COUNCIL MEETING: Council will meet February 8th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall

FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE: Will meet Wednesday, February 8th and Wednesday, February 22nd at noon in the Luther Room.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Personnel Committee will meet Tuesday, February 21st at 4 pm in the Luther Room.

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all of the students in grades four through eight who participated in our annual Spelling Bee. They all did a great job. A special congratulations goes out to Beatrice Jentsch

(Gr. 6) who was our runner up, and Steven Wheeler (Gr. 8) who was this year's champion. Thank you to our reader Mrs. Nimmer and to our judges Mr. Stenklyft, Mr. Heinlein, and Miss Nennig. Steven will go on to compete in the CESA Spelling Bee in February. The top 10 spellers from our spelling bee competed in the SALSA Spelling Bee held at Lutheran High School on Monday, January 30th. Those who competed in this are: Steven, Wheeler, Beatrice Jentsch, Reid Schmideler, Joshua Wallrich, George Nimmer, Jacob Wheeler, Davis Dolson, Karl Nimmer, Anne Bolgert, Joel Janke. The alternates were Alexa Schaffer, Brianna Alsteen and Rebekah Yurk. Congratulations to all!



Giving Plus 2005

Thank you to all who have recently given to Thrivent's GivingPlus Program!

\$2,625 in matching funds was received in January!

Karen Carlson
Shirley Honold
Ed Livermore
Marlene Mallow
Eldon Rahn
Mary Yurk

Marlene Fors
Jerome Katte
Julie Lutze
Waldemar Menzer
Joann Stenklyft
Florence Zabel

Trinity Lutheran Church and School would like to thank all who participated in the Giving Plus program in 2005. This is a reminder that you may again participate for the 2006 calendar year. If you are a Thrivent member and would like more information on how to be involved in this important program that financially supports our school, please contact the church office. It is an easy way to support the ministry of Trinity Lutheran School!

Adult Bible Studies

Pastor Loughran's February Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study: The Friday morning Men's Bible Study meets at 7:00 AM at St. Nicholas Hospital. Our study is the Gospel of Matthew. The study is open to any man interested in studying God's word – including those outside of Trinity Congregation.

Monday Night Bible Study: Monday nights at 7:15p in Trinity Fellowship Hall. We are examining the suppositions made in *The Da Vinci Code*.

Men's Lunch with the Word: Is doing a study on the book of Hebrews and meets Tuesday at noon in the Luther Room.

Pastor Mech's February Bible Studies

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class: During the month of January the following topics will be discussed:

What about...Homosexuality? February 5

What about...The Jehovah's Witnesses?

February 19

What about...Mormonism? February 26

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Class: The class will continue with the Sunday Scripture Readings study in the Fellowship Hall at 8:15 am.

Senior Breakfast



Trinity Seniors will meet on Monday, February 20, at 8:30 AM for breakfast at Fountain Park Family Restaurant. The program will be presented by Leif Gigstad, from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls. He is the trip coordinator of the group that travels to the New Orleans area



to assist in clean up projects as a result of Katrina. A group of 40 volunteers worked there during the week after Christmas, and is making plans to go back February 10 to 19. Leif will attend our breakfast the day after they get back to share with us the work experiences they had working in restoring several Lutheran churches and in the clean-up of homes in the area. The busload of people going will be both skilled and unskilled volunteers. Leif plans to share first-hand experiences there as well as what is needed to help in the work. We encourage all to attend this presentation of what needs to be done to help those who "lost it all".

Library



February 14th has been set aside to remind family and friends how much they mean to us by giving valentines, candy, flowers and other token gifts. Because of God's love, we have received the ultimate valentine - His beloved Son, Jesus, "that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." The focus of this month's display will be on God's love for us and the love we are to show one another.

Among the new items acquired through donations and library builder cards:

VIDEOS by Feature Films for Families

"Alan and Naomi"

"Gallavants"

"The Butter Cream Gang"

BOOKS

Children:

"The Guardian" by Nancy Rue

Adults

"The Way They Learn" - How to discover and teach to your child's strengths by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias

"When Bad Things Happen" by Kay Arthur

"The Covenant" by Beverly Lew is

(Abram's Daughters series #1)



150th Award



Awards for significant contributions to Lutheran History were presented by the Concordia Historical Institute at the 31st Annual Awards banquet held at St. Louis Seminary on November 3, 2005.

The CPI Awards committee selected 16 outstanding contributions from the many submitted in 2004. Awards ranged from the Distinguished Service Award presented to Dr. Karl Barth to three major publications, eight journal articles, four congregational histories and one youth award.

Among those honored was our 150th Anniversary Committee for our 150th anniversary book: *Changing Times - 1853 - 2003 - Unchanging Love*. The Institute said the book was "a nicely assembled and comprehensive collection of historical facts and photographs for the sesquicentennial of Trinity congregation, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, that provides good local color and excellent coverage of laity and clergy alike."

The book was put together by Emma Thieme, Colleen Rindt and Brian Heinlein. Jim and Colleen Rindt were present to accept the award for Trinity.

Feel free to view the award on display in the Lounge along with the winter 2005 issue of *Historical Footnotes*, published by the Institute, which contains the above picture and descriptions of the various recipients. You may also view the entire publication at <http://chi.lcms.org/publications/HF-winter-2005.pdf>.



Copies of *Changing Times - 1853 - 2003 - Unchanging Love* are

available and may be purchased in the church office. The cost is \$25 (cost to publish).

2005-2006 Trinity Faculty & Staff

Rev. Timothy J. Mech, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Kevin R. Loughran, Associate Pastor
 Rick Schneider, Principal
 Roger Buck, Director of Human Care & Outreach
 Brian Heinlein, Director of Music, Music Teacher
 Rev. Thomas Fleischmann, Visitation Pastor
 Ken Howard, Teacher Grade Eight
 Melissa Nennig, Teacher Grade Seven
 Terry Stenklyft, Teacher Grade Six/A.D.
 Greg Becker, Teacher Grade Five/Tech. Coord.
 Katie Schafer, Teacher Grade Four
 Karen Howard, Teacher Grade Three
 Carla Becker, Teacher Grade Two
 Ruth Hering, Teacher Grade One
 Jeanette Foster, Teacher Kindergarten
 Sarah Jagler, 3K/4K Teacher
 Kathy Kirst, Resource Teacher
 Christel Miske, German Teacher
 Tammy Schaefer, Spanish Teacher
 Lisa Menzer, Part-time Teacher
 Marilyn LeClair, Education Assistant
 Chris Melcher, Church Office Manager
 Judy Schmidt, Part-time Church Secretary
 Colleen Rindt, School Secretary
 Tim Lutze, Head Custodian
 Cristy Nennig, Part-time School Custodian
 Billy Free, Part-time School Custodian
 Lori Konkell, Part-time Church Custodian
 Mary Niesing, Before & After School Care

2005-2006 Trinity Church Council

Larry Thompson, President
 Tom Yurk, Vice President
 Pete Leibham, Treasurer
 Stacy Beyer, Secretary
 Steve Risler, Christian Day School
 Tim Livemore, Christian Education
 Jeff Maletzke, Elders
 Donna Petzold, Evangelism
 Ken Leibham, Finance
 Richard Thieme, Properties
 Carol Bukovic, Social Ministry
 Mike Mallow, Stewardship
 James Bolgert, Youth
 Nancy Fischer, At Large
 John Rodewald, At Large

Official Acts



TRANSFER IN:

David & Teag Kohlwey Immanuel, Sheboygan WI
 Robert & Toni Schommer
 Michael, Noel & Christian St. Mark, Belgium WI

ADULT CONFIRMATION:

Sarah Leibham
 Krystal Dang
 Eric Dang

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

Michael Erdmann

TRANSFER OUT:

Michael & Susan Markworth St. Paul Lutheran, Cascade, WI
 Corbin & Wyatt Bunge Our Redeemer Lutheran, Baytown, TX

PEACEFUL RELEASE:

Brenda Bauer

BAPTISM:

† Wyatt Lynn-Henry Bunge, son of Daniel and Lisa (DeKarske) Bunge was baptized on January 8

FUNERAL:

† Marie Nennig died on December 31, 2005 and a funeral was held on January 5, 2006
 † Winnie Martin died on January 19, 2006 and a funeral was held January 24

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of Trinity Lutheran Church is to glorify God and share Jesus' love through Word and Sacrament to strengthen believers and to reach unbelievers.

This newsletter is also available online at:
www.trinitysheboygan.org

YTD (December 31, 2005) RECEIPTS: \$538,034.37
 YTD (December 31, 2005) EXPENDITURES: \$590,892.76
 DEFICIT (December 31, 2005): \$52,858.39

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 is also a member of:

**THE SHEBOYGAN
 AREA LUTHERAN
 HIGH SCHOOL ASSO-
 CIATION**

Lutheran High School
 3323 University Dr.
 Sheboygan, WI 53081



Trinity Lutheran Church
824 Wisconsin Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 686
Sheboygan, WI 53081

January 2006



Return Service Requested

CONGREGATION INFORMATION MEETING

The Financial Review Committee has been meeting to work through the deficit issues facing our congregation. An informational meeting to discuss its recommendations will be held in the church on Sunday, **February 12th** between services.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING

There will be a Voters' Meeting on Sunday, **February 19th** at noon in the gym. At that meeting lunch and childcare will be provided. Please put this important date on your calendar and plan to attend!

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***Patron (\$500);
Sponsor (\$300);
Sustaining Sponsor (\$100);
Contributing Sponsor (\$50)***

Other donations welcome.
Please call the church office
at 458-8246 for details.