



Trinity Messenger

Volume 3, Issue 11

December 2006

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From Pastor Mech



BECAUSE GOD SAYS SO

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit...When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel commanded him' (Matthew 1:18-20, 24).

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

All the way back to our conception, we are sinners in need of a Savior. It is our inherited disease from Adam, passed down from Father to child, from one generation to the next. Everyone since Adam and Eve is conceived and born in the death of Adam. Everyone, except, of course, Jesus, who was not conceived like us, and so does not share the sin of Adam. Jesus is the sinless One who came to save sinners. He enters our history the same way we do, conceived in a mother, spending nine months in a mother's womb, and then is born. He embraces in His own humanity all of humanity. He is the second Adam, the new head of humanity, who came to save the entire human race. You might say that when Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, the whole human race was re-conceived in Him, restored to what God intended when He made the first Adam and Eve in His image. Jesus is God with us, God in our flesh dwelling among us, who takes our sin into His own sinlessness, who takes up our death into His death so that we might live perfected in Him.

As you, like Mary, ponder all of this in your heart this Christmas, think also of Joseph. Joseph believed the Word. He trusted what the angel said. He got up from his nap, tore up the divorce papers, and took his pregnant virgin fiancé into his home to be his wife. He did it with nothing more than the Word of God through an angel in a dream.

Joseph took God at His Word without so much as a shred of evidence, and did what he was given to do all because God said so. Christmas isn't about what we see or feel or even think. It is about trust in God's Word. Nothing is impossible with God. By the Word a virgin girl conceives a son. By the Word with water there is a "baptism that now saves you" (1 Peter 3:21). By the Word bread and wine



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
4-K thru 8th grade

From Pastor Mech, cont'



are the body and blood of Jesus. Sinners are forgiven and the dead rise to new life in Jesus – all because God says so. In Jesus Christ, you are blessed by God this Christmas and always. That's what God says, so go ahead, have a Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Share the **GOOD NEWS!**



Rev. Timothy J. Mech
Senior Pastor

NAVE AND BEYOND

- Please join us every Lord's Day and for the special services of Advent and Christmas. Dates and times of services and texts and themes of sermons are listed for you on the back page of this newsletter.
- Advent/Christmas invitations are available in the narthex and the church office for you to hand out to family, friends, and acquaintances. Please invite them to worship with you at Trinity!
- You may have noticed that the spirit of volunteerism is gaining ground at Trinity! Volunteers, with the help of our part-time custodian, are now taking care of the cleaning done in the Sanctuary, Lounge, Music Room, Kitchen, Fellowship Hall and Church Offices and Bathrooms. We could use more volunteers to help with these tasks. We are also looking for volunteers to help with snow removal, as needed, to keep costs down. If you are interested, please contact Al Pentek at 452-9442. Thanks!
- Please join us for Bible Class on Sunday morning. I am teaching a class on Christian Vocation in the Fellowship Hall. The remaining classes on this topic are the following: Sunday November 26th: "The Ethics of Vocation," Sunday December 3rd: "Bearing the Cross in Vocation," and Sunday December 10th: "Resting in Vocation." On Sunday December 17th there will be the annual Cookie Walk in the Fellowship Hall (see details inside this newsletter). My adult bible class will not meet the day of the Cookie Walk. The Sunday morning Bible Classes and Sunday School will not meet on Sunday December 24th or Sunday December 31st. Sunday School and Bible Classes will resume Sunday January 7th. My class in the Fellowship Hall starting January 7th is entitled, "Word: God Speaks to Us." Please join us in studying God's word! There have been some great discussions!
- You may now hear sermons on-line at Trinity's website. Simply click on "Worship" and proceed to the bottom of the page and click the play button.



VOTERS' HIGHLIGHTS - November 15, 2006

- Approved 2007 Work Program
- Set tuition and fees for Trinity Lutheran School for the 2007-2008 school year:
 - Tuition and fees for the 2007-2008 school year:
 - The name will be: "Tuition and Fees".
 - Increase for Trinity member families: 5K - 8 \$100 (total \$950) 4K- \$50 (total \$725)
 - Increase for other LCMS church member families: 5K - 8 \$200 (total \$1575) 4K – \$100 (total \$1300)
 - Increase for Non-LCMS families: 5K – 8 \$200 (total \$2975) 4K \$100 (total \$1600)
 - Registration fee: \$50
 - Late Registration fee: \$150
 - Stewardship Board reported 261 pledges of \$667,553 for the 2007 Work Program
 - Lance, Lana, Olivia, Spencer McTrusty, Harrison Coates, Jennifer Schwoerer and Kalen Lind were received as new members of Trinity. Please welcome them to the family of God at Trinity.

From Interim Principal, Greg Becker



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL – A GREAT PLACE TO GROW – TRANSFORMING LIVES

Families have entrusted 170 children to the care of Trinity Lutheran School for this school year. These children are precious to God, and the love of Jesus is shared with them everyday in this school setting.

These believing children are saints of God due to the faith that has been placed within them. That faith needs to be fed. Let's continue our commitment to bring up these precious children in a way that is pleasing to the Lord Jesus. What does this mean? We need to surround and fill these children with the Word of God through faithful church attendance, participation in educational opportunities (Sunday School and Trinity Lutheran School), and family devotions. In those settings they experience the benefits of being members of the Body of Christ. We think the children are worth this investment. They will be transformed into Christ's image and will one day enter into His presence in heaven. Let's all join together as the Body of Christ faithfully and regularly.

Your support of Trinity Lutheran School is critical and appreciated. You support us with your words, volunteer efforts, prayers, etc.. You also contribute financially for the payment of our faculty and staff, for the needed supplies, and for costs of operating the physical building. Thank you for your support in providing this excellent Christian education for our students

Your generous giving through the offering plate, matched gifts, and gracious donations will help us (1) to continue the valuable ministry our school provides in transforming the lives of these young people to be more and more like Jesus and (2) to reach more children and families who desire and need a Christian education. Thank you for your support in the past, and please continue to share the good news about how children are growing and being transformed at Trinity Lutheran School. Pray that all of our efforts will be guided and blessed by the one, true God. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

The transformation continues! To God be the glory!

Greg Becker

Greg Becker

THANK you!

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS



November 30th-December 3rd – Grade School Basketball Tournament at LHS.
Come cheer on Trinity's teams!



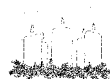
Friday, December 1st – Students will be performing at Festival of Trees at the Sheboygan Armory

Tuesday, December 5th – Geography Bee, 1:30 pm in the gym

Wednesday, December 13th – Choral Candlelight Rehearsal,
7:00 pm for students in grades 3-8.



Sunday, December 17th – Choral Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm



Wednesday, December 20th – Early Dismissal at 2:30 pm

Thursday, December 21st – SALSA Band Concert, 7:00 pm at LHS

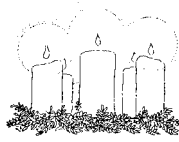
Check out Trinity's calendar on the web for listings of all activities and basketball games at www.trinitysheboygan.org/calendar

December 23rd – January 2nd – Christmas Break - **Merry Christmas!**

Music Notes



This year's Choral Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. Over 200 people are involved in Trinity's music program through vocal choirs, handbells, and other instruments. This is also a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to be part of a wonderful 58-year tradition at Trinity. We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child.



A **special rehearsal** for the Choral Candlelight Service will be held on **Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.** for all members of Trinity's choirs, including students in grades 3 to 8. This date and time has been changed from the one originally posted on the choir schedule printed at the beginning of the year.

The children of Trinity will lead a Christmas service on **Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Weill Center**. A number of beloved Christmas carols will also be featured at this service, with focus given to the hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." Please show your support for our children by attending this uplifting service as our children share portions of the Christmas Gospel through song and recitations.

We are privileged to host the Sheboygan Pops Band at Trinity on Sunday, December 3 for their annual Christmas Concert. The concert begins at 2 p.m. Trinity's Mixed Choir will sing during the intermission.

The annual Christmas at Concordia concerts will be held at Concordia University, Mequon on Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Here is a summary of this month's music schedule:

Dec. 3	8:00 a.m.	Joyful Ringers
	10:45 a.m.	Joy Choir (Gr. 5 - 6)
Dec. 6	10:00 a.m.	Joy Choir (Gr. 5 - 6)
	6:00 p.m.	Mixed Choir
Dec. 10	8:00 a.m.	Cherub Choir (Gr. 3 - 4)
	10:45 a.m.	Mixed Choir
	2:00 p.m.	School German Students
Dec. 13	10:00 a.m.	Cherub Choir (Gr. 3 - 4)
	6:00 p.m.	Mixed Choir
	7:00 p.m.	All Choirs (except Kinderchor)
Dec. 17	8:00 a.m.	Kinderchor (Gr. 1 - 2)
	6:00 p.m.	All Choirs (except Kinderchor)
Dec. 20	10:00 a.m.	Kinderchor (Gr. 1 - 2)
	6:00 p.m.	All Students 4K - Gr. 8
Dec. 24	10:00 a.m.	Joyful Ringers
Dec. 25	10:00 a.m.	Mixed Choir

Previous Quiz Question: This hymn by Henry van Dyke was inspired by the Berkshire Mountains. It was presented to President James Garfield at breakfast one morning when the author was on a preaching visit at Williams College. It is sung to a famous tune by Ludwig van Beethoven. What hymn is this? The answer is "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" LSB 803.

New Quiz Question: This hymn's melody is based on two movements from Handel's *Messiah*, "Glory to God in the Highest" and "Comfort Ye My People." Perhaps what is most interesting about this "Christmas hymn" is that it doesn't focus on the *birth* of the Savior, but instead celebrates the coming of our Lord to judge the world in righteousness. What hymn is this? The answer will be in next month's newsletter.

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.



November 10, 1954 - Voted to send a team of two, one teacher and one member of the School Board, to visit families not sending their children to our day school at present.

March 15, 1955 - Permission granted to purchase a new addressograph machine including a set of new name plates.

Authorized School Board to proceed with plan presented for school bus service next year.

German Ladies Aid and Ladies Auxiliary contributed necessary funds for equipping two classrooms with acoustic ceiling and new lighting fixtures.

May 11, 1955 - Pews at future Confirmation services to be reserved for parents and sponsors of Confirmants.

Fares for children riding the school bus to be 5 cents per ride with a ten-ride, weekly ticket to be available from the receptive teacher. Trustees to negotiate a contract with the Sheboygan City Lines.

Youth News



YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS



Mark your calendar! Starting in January of 2007, the Youth Group will have meetings in the Youth Room on the second Sunday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The first meeting will be held Sunday, January 14th. Check the church bulletin for additional information. Call Laura Herrmann, at 208-0341, if you have any questions.

YOUTH BOWLING NIGHT - Friday, December 15, at Odyssey Fun Center. Grades 6-8 are invited to bowl from 7 - 9 p.m. and grades 9-12 are invited to bowl from 9 - 11 p.m. The cost is \$4.50 which includes two games of bowling and shoe rental. Please fill out a permission slip and return it to the church office by December 11. Permission slips are located by the youth board in the church lounge.



Hope to see you there!

Social Ministry



LOVES COME DOWN: A Christmas tree will be placed in the lounge as a reminder for us to share our bounty with others in need at Christmas. Anyone interested in purchasing a gift for a youngster in the community who might not otherwise receive much, please take a number and place an ornament on our tree. There are also many shut-ins and nursing home residents who would enjoy a little gift and especially a visit during the holidays. These names will be available December 3 & 10.



ADVENT LUNCHEONS: Again this year lunches will be served after the morning midweek Advent Services at approximately 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy the Christian fellowship. Volunteers who wish to help make soup for the luncheons are asked to contact Roger Buck.



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL is collecting Christmas gifts for Trinity's shut-ins and Bridgeway residents. Donations will be accepted now through December 16th and may be placed in a box in the lounge.



Pieces of Eden



"PIECE OF EDEN" PLANT SALE"



Do you like to build or craft? Do you have a "way with wood?" Trinity will be hosting their first annual "Piece of Eden" plant sale on May 19, 2007 with proceeds to benefit the general landscaping fund of both the Church and Ministry Center grounds. We are seeking donations of homemade birdfeeders and birdhouses to sell along with the plants and herbs. If you enjoy building crafts, if you have time and interest on your hands, or if you have materials such as barn wood available, WE NEED YOU! Winter is a great time to get started on these projects so we'll have many items available for sale in the spring. Be creative and have fun! Please contact Gary Melcher (458-4795) or Darlene Mech (467-1724) for questions or donations! Thank you!

Senior Breakfast



December 18, 2006

8:30 am

Fountain Park Family Restaurant

Join our seniors for breakfast, fellowship and an informative program this month. Watch the weekly bulletin for program information.

Library



The countdown to Christmas has begun with much of our time occupied with gift wrapping and decorating our homes. We can easily get caught up in the excitement of the season and forget what we are really preparing for. To help you and your family remember the true meaning of Christmas, a variety of Advent devotionals and Christmas books, videos and music are now on display.

IT'S HERE - THE NEWEST VEGGIE TALES DVD!
Now available: "Gideon Tuba Warrior"

Also new is the book "Stories of the Heart & Home" by Dr. James Dobson

Official Acts



2006-2007 Trinity Faculty & Staff

Rev. Timothy J. Mech, Senior Pastor
 Greg Becker, Interim Principal, Teacher Grade 5
 Roger Buck, Director of Human Care & Outreach
 Brian Heinlein, Director of Music, Technology
 Ken Howard, Teacher Grade Eight
 Melissa Hauch, Teacher Grade Seven
 Terry Stenklyft, Teacher Grade Six/A.D.
 Robin Larkin, Teacher Grade 5, Spanish
 Katie Schafer, Teacher Grade Four
 Karen Howard, Teacher Grade Three
 Carla Becker, Teacher Grade Two
 Ruth Hering, Teacher Grade One
 Lisa Menzer, Teacher Grade One
 Jeanette Foster, Teacher Kindergarten
 Kathy Kirst, Teacher 4K, Resource Teacher
 Christel Miske, German Teacher
 Marilyn LeClair, Education Assistant
 Chris Melcher, Church Office Manager
 Colleen Rindt, School Secretary
 Tim Lutze, Head Custodian
 Billy Free, Part-time Custodian
 Sue Leibham, Hot Lunch Coordinator
 Mary Niesing, Before & After School Care
 Rev. Dana Loney, 7th grade Confirmation,
 Shut-in Visitation

2006-2007 Trinity Church Council

Larry Thompson, President
 Jeff Kelm, Vice President
 Pete Leibham, Treasurer
 Sheri Griesbach, Secretary
 Jeff Jurs, Christian Day School
 Tim Livermore, Christian Education
 Jeff Maletzke, Elders
 Donna Petzold, Evangelism
 Ken Leibham, Finance
 Al Pentek, Properties
 Carol Bukovic, Social Ministry
 Jon Dolson, Stewardship
 Laura Herrmann, Youth
 Barb Dodge, At Large
 John Rodewald, At Large

PROFESSION OF FAITH

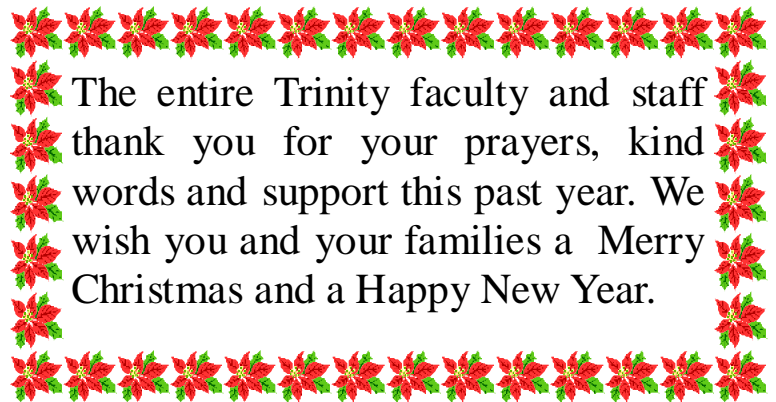
Jennifer Schworer
 Kalen Lind

BAPTISMS:

† Cale Thomas , son of Rick and Ann-Marie (Balnaitis) Buboltz
 † Miles Haven, son of Naothasinh and Lisa Phantharath

FUNERALS:

† Erik Gustafson died on October 19 and a funeral was held October 26, 2006
 † Frieda Schmidt died on November 9 and a funeral was held November 11, 2006
 † Elda Neuber died on November 16 and a funeral was held November 20, 2006



The entire Trinity faculty and staff thank you for your prayers, kind words and support this past year. We wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The church office will be closed:
 December 25th & 26th and January 1st & 2nd

The school office will be closed:
 December 25th - January 1st

YTD (October 31, 2006) RECEIPTS: \$312,200
 YTD (October 31, 2006) EXPENDITURES: \$316,810
 DEFICIT (October 31, 2006): \$4,610

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 is also a member of:

**THE SHEBOYGAN AREA LUTHERAN
 HIGH SCHOOL
 ASSOCIATION**

Lutheran High School
 3323 University Dr.
 Sheboygan, WI 53081
 452-3323

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ "We are God's Workmanship" ★
 ★ Ephesians 2:10 ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

Trinity Lutheran Church
824 Wisconsin Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Nonprofit Organization
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Permit No. 686
Sheboygan, WI 53081

December 2006



Return Service Requested



Sun. December 3/4

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./Mon. 6:00 p.m.
"Big Entrance, Big Expectations"
Luke 19:28-40

Wed. December 6

10 a.m./6 p.m.
"Hannah's Expecting"
1 Samuel 1:1-20

Sun. December 10/11

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./ Mon 6 p.m.
"John the Baptist: The Model Pastor"
Luke 3:1-14

Sun. December 10

2 p.m.
German Christmas Service

Wed. December 13

10 a.m./ 6 p.m.
"Elizabeth and Mary are Expecting"
Luke 1:39-56

Sun. December 17/18

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./ Mon 6 p.m.
"Should We Expect Someone Else?"
Luke 7:18-28

Sun. December 17

6 p.m.
Choral Candlelight Service
Service of Lessons & Carols

Mon. December 18

7 p.m.
LHS Christmas @Weill Center

Wed. December 20

10 a.m.
"The Church Is Expecting"
Revelation 12:1-17

Wed. December 20

6 p.m. (at the Weill Center)
Children's Service (N-8)

Sun. December 24

10 a.m.
"God Is With His People"
Luke 1:39-56

Sun. December 24

4 p.m./6 p.m.
"A Diapered Divinity"
Luke 2:1-20

Sun. December 24

Candlelight Service
10 p.m.
"A Diapered Divinity"
Luke 2:1-20

Mon. December 25

10 a.m.
"God Has Spoken to Us"
Hebrews 1:1-6

Sun. December 31

8 a.m./10:45 a.m.
"Depart In Peace"
Luke 2:22-40

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Senkbeil

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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.