



Trinity Messenger

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2007

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From Pastor Mech



WISE MEN ASK FOR DIRECTIONS

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him” (Matthew 2:1-2 ESV).

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

A stereotype about men is that they don't stop to ask for directions. Women tend to consider this trait unwise. There is now new technology that makes asking for directions easier than ever. One such new navigational system is called "Onstar" and it is as easy as one, two, three....four. Number one is to push. Push the blue Onstar button and you'll be connected to a live Onstar Advisor. Number two is to tell. Let the Onstar Advisor know where you need to go, and the Advisor will send turn-by-turn directions for your vehicle. Number three is to listen. Simply listen to the audio-based directions. You'll hear an early reminder and a "turn tone," giving you plenty of time to respond. Number four is to arrive at your destination.

You might say that the wise men of the text above had their own "Onstar" system. It was a peculiar star that rose in the east and lead them turn-by-turn to Jerusalem. However, when they got to step four and had arrived at Jerusalem He who was born king of the Jews was nowhere to be found. Wise men that they were, unlike many men finding themselves in this situation, instead of roaming around Jerusalem, they stopped by Herod's place and asked for directions.

The directions come not from Herod but from the word of the Lord. After assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, Herod inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. After they looked it up in the Scriptures, they told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel!’ (Micah 5:2).



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

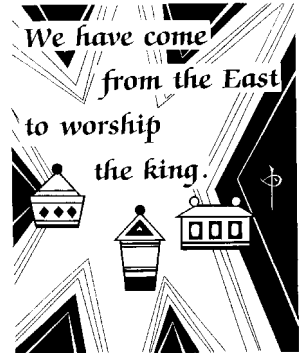


From Pastor Mech, cont'



The wise men listened to the word of the Lord and, as a result of following His directions, "saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him" (Matthew 2:11).

The Epiphany of our Lord teaches us that wise men and women get their direction not from themselves or from a fallen humanity, but from God through His word. The "Onstar" of God's word leads us first to the Christmas tree of the cross (Jerusalem) where Jesus won salvation and then to the Bethlehem of His church where He makes that salvation ours. God in the flesh is made manifest and wise men and women of every tribe, nation, and people fall down and worship Him. Have a blessed Epiphany!



In Christ,

Divine Services every Sunday at 8 am & 10:45 am/Mondays at 6 pm
Christian Education Hour at 9:30 am

Rev. Timothy J. Mech
Senior Pastor

The Nave and Beyond

- On behalf of myself, Darlene, Joshua, and Emily, I thank you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts you have given us at Christmas. Our family is truly blessed to be a part of the family of God at Trinity!
- Please help out at the Emmaus Meal at the Salvation Army, Saturday January 6th from 9 am – 1 pm. You may volunteer for the entire time or as your schedule allows. Please contact Susan Kilton (458-4563) for more information.

NEW MEMBERS:

Jerome, Chris & Morgan Warrens
Kyle & Matthew Biderwolf



Amy Molley & Jade Lehnhardt



Nalena Isabella Garcia, daughter of Zach Wolf & Kayla Garcia

From Interim Principal, Greg Becker



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

Happy New Year!

New shoes, new shirt, new slacks, new coat, new dress, new mittens, new boots, new car, new HDTV, new computer, new video gaming system, new jewelry, new gadgets, new calendar, new pet, new hair style, new appliances . . .

When we think of these **new** items we are excited and thankful. The smell, the feel, the look of **new** things is quite appealing. When students return to school after Christmas Break, they are eager to tell others of the **new** things they received as gifts for Christmas. **New** things are good news -- good news that we want to share.

Do you want to hear some more good news? You can and do have something **new** every day. In Baptism, we humans are given a **new** life. "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a **new** life." (Romans 6:4) The old life has been put to death. Each **new** day we live in Jesus and for Jesus. "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And [Jesus] died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for [Jesus] who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15)

Do you feel like you are living a **new** life every day? We live with many pressures and problems in our day-to-day lives. We're sinners, and we are surrounded by sinners. How can each day be **new**? The "**newness**" isn't up to us. The "**newness**" comes from Christ. He makes us **new** each day. Our baptism into Christ indicates "that the Old Adam in us should by *daily contrition and repentance* be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a **new** man should *daily emerge and arise* to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." (Luther's Small Catechism) Each day we will acknowledge our sins against God and repent. By God's grace and with His power we will live a righteous, **new** life before Him and among others each day.

Happy New Year! The **new** year has come, but the best news is that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; the old has gone, the **new** has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Share the good news!

The transformation continues! To God be the glory!

Greg Becker

Greg Becker

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS



PTL Pizza Ranch Fundraiser, Wednesday, January 3rd



Hot Shot night @ LHS, Saturday, January 6th



Spelling bee, Tuesday, January 9th, 1:30 pm



Early Dismissal, Wednesday, January 17th, 2:30 pm

End of 2nd Quarter, Friday, January 19th

No School, Monday, January 22nd



Music Notes



Thank you to all of the instrumentalists, singers, and musicians who shared their talents in leading services this past Christmas season. Your dedication to rehearsals and practices helped us proclaim "Gloria in excelsis deo!" Countless hours of behind-the-scenes work went into planning and preparing these services, and the dedication of all involved is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to you, the members of Trinity Congregation, for attending the Choral Candlelight and children's services and joining us in celebration of the coming of the Christ child.

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

Jan. 7	8:00 a.m.	Trinity Singers (Gr. 7-8)
Jan. 14	8:00 a.m.	Joy Choir (Gr. 5-6)
	10:45 a.m.	Praise Ringers
Jan. 21	8:00 a.m.	LHS Band
	10:45 a.m.	LHS Band
Jan. 28	8:00 a.m.	Mixed Choir
	10:45 a.m.	Cherub Choir (Gr. 3-4)

Previous 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 is "Joy to the World" LSB 387.

New Quiz Question: This hymn was written by Edmund Sears while he was minister to the Unitarian congregation in Wayland, Massachusetts. The poem was first published in a magazine in 1849. The hymn reflects the emphasis of Unitarianism of the time and focuses on the angels' song of "peace on earth." Like many other hymns of the mid-1800s, it calls people to live well, to be at peace, and to honor God. Peace was on the minds of many people when Sears wrote this hymn, as it was the period of the Fugitive Slave Law, the forty-niner gold rush to California, and tensions were rising in America, leading toward the Civil War. 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.

May 11, 1955 - A special Baccalaureate service to take place Sunday, June 5 for Trinity High School graduates. Later it was decided to make this an annual event.



Church steeple to be painted at a cost of \$325. Contractor also painted the flagpole on the school free of charge.

July 18, 1955 - The new boiler and oil tank have been delivered and installation is assured prior to school opening.

September 14, 1955 - Voted to give the city the option to purchase the alley property presently occupied by the custodian for \$13,000.

November 20, 1955 - Pledged \$25,000 to missions in 1956.

An additional amount of \$900 was included in the 1956 budget for subsidizing the school bus program.

An Organ Fund was established to handle the eventual overhaul of our organ; future collections from the Candlelight Services to be allotted to this fund.

June 22, 1956 - Voted to engage a full-time church secretary, preferably a woman. (This was Miss Larvelle Vogel)

Youth News



NATIONAL LUTHERAN YOUTH GATHERING MEETING



All youth participants and adult leaders meet Sunday evening, January 7, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Youth Group will have regular meetings, on the second Sunday of each month, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, in the Youth Room. **The first Youth Group meeting will be January 14th.** We will play board games, so bring your favorite games. Call Laura Herrmann at 208-0341 with any questions.

Library



Start the new year off right by checking out the church library if you have never done so. There are 10 sections containing a variety of topics:

- Fiction
- Children's
- Family living
- Christian Living
- Social Issues
- Education/Art/History
- Devotions
- Biography
- Youth
- Theology
- Mission/Stewardship/Evangelism/Art
- Large Print

There is also a wide variety of videos for adults and children and a growing collection of CD's. You can also find the Bible and music on cassettes as well as children's stories with both book and cassette.

Each month, beginning with February, a different section will be described in detail.

LIBRARY BUILDER CARDS need to be turned in by December 31, 2006. They expire January 31, 2007.

NEW DVD's: "Love's Long Journey" and "Love's Abiding Joy" based on the books by Janette Oke.

Videos of Trinity's Christmas services will be available throughout the month of January.

Happy New Year and may you enjoy many pleasant hours of reading.

Thrivent Builds



THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Lutherans helped build one home every 28 hours! Through Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, 313 families realized the dream of homeownership.

Thanks to Lutheran like you, 313 homes were built this year across the country with families in need of simple, decent, affordable housing. That's about one home every 28 hours made possible by Thrivent Financials for Lutheran members and other Lutheran volunteers!

You can help 355 families in need of affordable housing in 2007 - including 1 in our community!



From the first nail to the last, building a home through Thrivent Builds is a profound experience. It's not just concrete and wood, its tears and smiles, born of hard work and faith. And it's the knowledge that you've helped changes lives.

To get involved, call Dennis McGinley at (920)284-6793 or visit www.thriventbuilds.com.

Social Ministry



PRISON MINISTRY - Trinity will lead services at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institute on Sunday, January 28. Any men who would like to help with these services are invited to contact Roger Buck before January 17 to complete necessary forms to receive clearance before attending.



EMMAUS MEAL - The first Emmaus Meal of 2007 will be Saturday, January 6th from 9 am to 1 pm at the Salvation Army. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal, make desserts, serve the meal and clean up afterwards. What a wonderful family opportunity! Please contact Sue Kilton at 458-4356 for more information.



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
 Jim Rindt, 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 Jurss, 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

BAPTISMS:

† Summer Margaret Mudroch, daughter of David and Sabrina Mudroch
 † Nalena Isabella Garcia, daughter of Zach Wolf & Kayla Garcia
 † Madisyn Ruth Johnson, daughter of Michael & Darcy (Lindelof) Johnson
 † Eden Andrew Boje, son of Nicole Boje
 † Morgan Warrens
 † Kyle Biederwolf

ADULT CONFIRMATION:

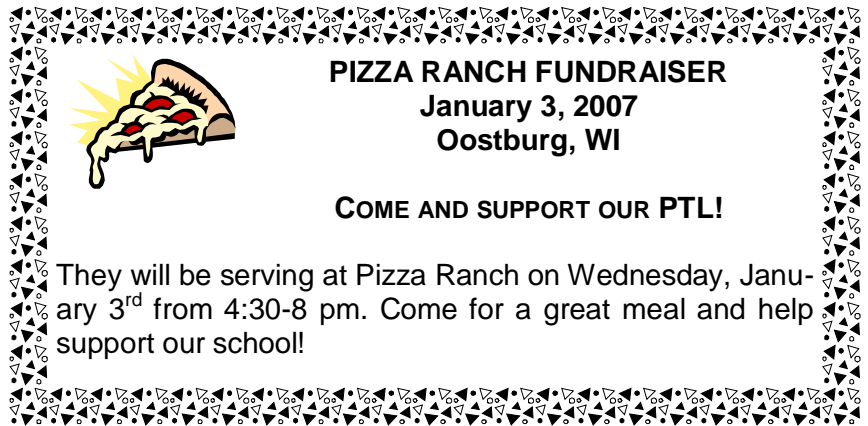
† Amy Molley
 † Jerome & Chris Warrens, Matthew Biderwolf


TRANSFER OUT:

Elsie Witt St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls
 Gary Witt Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sheboygan

FUNERALS:

† Lillian Seipel died on November 26th and a funeral was held November 30, 2006
 † Elda Witthuhn died on December 11th and a funeral was held December 15th, 2006
 † Ralph Junge died on December 13th and a funeral was held on December 18, 2006





PIZZA RANCH FUNDRAISER
January 3, 2007
Oostburg, WI

COME AND SUPPORT OUR PTL!

They will be serving at Pizza Ranch on Wednesday, January 3rd from 4:30-8 pm. Come for a great meal and help support our school!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 is also a member of:

**THE SHEBOYGAN AREA LUTHERAN
 HIGH SCHOOL
 ASSOCIATION**

★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ **“We are God’s** ★
 ★ **Workmanship”** ★
 ★ Ephesians 2:10 ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★

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

YTD (November 30, 2006) RECEIPTS: \$416,863
 YTD (November 30, 2006) EXPENDITURES: \$405,691
 DEFICIT (November 30, 2006): \$11,172

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

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Sheboygan, WI 53081

January 2007



Return Service Requested

NEW SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Beginning **Sunday January 7th at 9:30 am Pastor Mech will be teaching a Bible Study entitled, "Word: God Speaks to Us" in the Fellowship Hall.** Our God is a speaking God. Unlike idols made of mute stone or crafted by the imaginations of the faithless heart, the living God has a voice. He speaks and His words are "spirit and life" (John 6:63). This study is designed as a hearing aid. That is, it is the purpose of this study to assist you not only in understanding what God's Word is and how it functions, but also to sharpen your skills in listening to our Lord as He speaks in His Scriptures and in preaching that is governed by the Scriptures.

Also beginning **Sunday January 7th at 9:30 am Roger Buck will be teaching a new Bible Study entitled, "According to Plan" in the Gym.** In this study you will get an overview of the Bible and its main themes. It will help you to see the main points in the story of God and His people, and how they all fit together in God's plan. You will explore the Bible to see more clearly how God carried out His plan, stage by stage. You will join in discussing what God is doing, and talk about what this means for God's people today.

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The Rindt Family Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Senkbeil

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Elenore Kaiser

If you would like to become a *Messenger* sponsor you are invited to join at the following levels:

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

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