



Trinity Messenger



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (Luke 2:14)

Volume 4, Issue 11

December 2007

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From the Pastors Study



Hosanna!

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9b).

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hosanna is a word that we want you to ponder and reflect on during this season of Advent and Christmas. It is a word that means, "save us now." Our world needs salvation. Our families need salvation. Our church needs salvation. You need salvation, and so do I! We are in peril and danger. The prayer for the first Sunday in Advent says it so succinctly, "Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and be saved by your mighty deliverance." As much as we may try and cover up the problems in our lives or hide them, they are still there. In fact, we are threatened by them. We are one heart beat away from death. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:22). This is the truth of the matter. We need a Savior because we are perishing.

We are surrounded by broken relationships. We are surrounded by mental and physical illness. We are surrounded by death. We cannot fix sin and death by ourselves. The greatest doctors and psychologists in the world cannot fix our problem of sin and death, either. This Advent and Christmas repent of your efforts of trying to save yourself. You cannot save yourself. You are helpless. I am helpless. This sin that we have will kill all of us. The greatest doctors in the world will die. We need someone greater than us to rescue us from our death sentence. We need someone to save us. We cry out in our helplessness and despair. We cry out in our brokenness and death! "Hosanna!" O Lord, "save us now!"

The fantastic news is that Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, has come in the flesh to save us from our sin, death and hell. It is not by accident that Advent and Christmas come this time of the year. It is in the bleakest, darkest and coldest time of the year that the Messiah is born. Jesus comes to you in the coldness of your broken lives. Jesus comes to save when our lives seem both cold and dead. He comes to rescue and redeem. He comes to breathe our poisoned air. He comes to you in your darkness and depression.

He comes to you by being conceived in the Virgin Mary's womb. He comes to you by being born in the most lowliest of all places - a barn. He is placed in a cattle trough. He comes to be bone of your bones and flesh of your flesh.



**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 the Pastors cont'



He knows every part of life that you go through from womb to tomb. He knows the secret and inward parts of our mother's womb. He knows what it is like to be a three year old. He knows what it is like to be a teenager. He knows what it means to suffer pain. He knows all of these things, and He comes.

He comes to you and dies a criminal's death. There on the cross in the flesh of Jesus Christ is your mighty deliverer. He comes to you and is buried in a borrowed grave. He comes to you to save each and every one of you from sin, death and hell. All of this seems like utter foolishness to the world. But this is the wisdom of God. Here in the flesh of Jesus Christ, born in a manger, nailed to the cross, buried in the tomb, is the wisdom of God. He is your life, your forgiveness, your salvation.

You cannot save yourself. But Jesus can and He does. In a few weeks, we will again hear the wonderful announcement at Christmas, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign for you: You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12). A baby comes to save you! Incredible! Miraculous! The psalmists declares, "Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants, God has perfected praise!" (Psalm 8:2). There lying in a manger in the flesh of a baby boy is your salvation. Come and adore Him during this Holy Season.

There are many things that will try and tear you apart from the one thing truly needful this holy Christmas season. Shopping, baking and parties, all of these things are good and salutary, but don't let them pull you away from what you really need, salvation. Come to the one thing that is truly needful. Set aside some time for prayer and meditation with your family during our midweek Advent Services on Wednesday mornings and evenings.

All of the "stuff" of the world will come and go. Jesus is the only one who can give you what you really need. Jesus has conquered sin and death. He still comes. He comes wrapped in the swaddling clothes of His Holy Word and in His body and blood, in, with, and under bread and wine of the Sacrament of the Altar. This is His gift for you! Here you are given the Medicine of Immortality. This is the only food and drink that will sustain your bodies and souls unto eternal life. Come to Him during these days of hustle and bustle! Come to the One who gives you what you really need, namely, forgiveness, life and salvation. Your Hosannas are heard. Your King comes to save you!

The Peace of the Lord be with you!

Rev. John M. Berg
Associate Pastor

Rev. Timothy J. Mech
Senior Pastor



Divine Services: Sunday 8 am and 10:45 am
Mondays: 6 pm

The Nave and Beyond

- Please join us every Lord's Day and for the special services of Advent and Christmas. All services and times are listed on the back page of this newsletter.
- Enjoy lunch and a time of fellowship following each Wednesday morning Advent Service. The lunch will be served in the Gym. See you there!
- Advent/Christmas invitations are available in the narthex and church office for you to hand out to family, friends, and acquaintances. Invite someone to church this Christmas season!

From the Principal



Trinity Lutheran School –Transforming Lives – Training in the Truth

Do you or I ever consider that we have attained perfection, reached the pinnacle of our careers, or become the best of the rest?

The apostle Paul could have answered that question in the affirmative. He fulfilled all of the requirements of being a faithful Hebrew and faultless Pharisee. Not many people could hold a candle to him. Yet, Paul stated in Philippians, Chapter 3: “But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. . . I consider [all of my accomplishments] rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ -- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. . . Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. . . [O]ur citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

After Christ converted Paul on the road to Damascus, he had a different goal than a perfect life on earth. His new goal was to be found in Christ and to attain the prize of eternal life in heaven with Christ. Notice who converted Paul and focused his life on the prize that matters: Jesus Christ did it!

Jesus Christ has done the same for you. He has made you His own. He has made you part of His body, the Church. He is preparing you to live with Him forever in heaven.

Pray that the students of Trinity Lutheran School are constantly focused on Christ and His work within their lives. Many competing earthly goals and temptations may entice these children to trust in themselves and their accomplishments. May they remember Jesus, the Truth, who will come again on the Last Day. Until then, may these children continue their training in righteousness that came to them through faith in Christ Jesus.

Training in the Truth during this Advent season,

Greg Becker

Mr. Becker
Principal

Tuesday, December 4th – Geography Bee, 1:30 pm in the gym



Wednesday, December 12th – Choral Candlelight Rehearsal at 7:00 pm for students in grades 3-8.

Sunday, December 16th – Choral Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 19th – Early Dismissal at 2:30 pm

Wednesday, December 19th – Children’s Christmas Service at The Weill Center

Thursday, December 20th – Early Dismissal at 12:00 pm – No Hot Lunch/No After School Care

Thursday, December 20th – SALSA Band Concert, 7:00 pm at Lutheran High



December 21st – January 1st – Christmas Break

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



Music Notes



The Sheboygan Pops Band will present their annual Christmas Concert at Trinity on Sunday, December 2. The concert begins at 1:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to visit our church.



Trinity's Handbell Choir will be playing at Blue Harbor on Friday, December 7 starting at 7 p.m. We invite you to stop by and enjoy the music.

This year's Choral Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday, December 16 at 6 p.m. We will sing many of the hymns of Paul Gerhardt as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of his birth. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to be part of a wonderful 59-year tradition at Trinity.

A **special rehearsal** for the Choral Candlelight Service will be held on Wednesday, December 12 at 7 p.m. for all members of Trinity's choirs, including students in grades 3 to 8. For students, the rehearsal will last approximately 30 minutes.

The children of Trinity will lead a Christmas service on Wednesday, December 19 at 6 p.m. at the Weill Center. The Christmas hymn "We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth" (LSB 382) will be featured at this service. 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.

Here is the upcoming music schedule at Trinity:

Dec. 2	8:00 a.m.	Handbells
	10:45 a.m.	Joy Choir
Dec. 5	10:00 a.m.	Joy Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Mixed Choir
Dec. 9	8:00 a.m.	Cherub Choir
	10:45 a.m.	Mixed Choir
	2:00 p.m.	School German Students
Dec. 12	10:00 a.m.	Cherub Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Mixed Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Choral Candlelight Rehearsal
Dec. 16	6:00 p.m.	Choral Candlelight Service
Dec. 19	6:00 p.m.	All Trinity Students
Dec. 25	10:00 a.m.	Mixed Choir

Previous Quiz Question: This hymn was originally called "After Harvest." The words were written by Dr. Henry Alford, a noted hymnologist and Greek scholar. The hymn was written to be used at harvest festivals (called Harvest Home) in villages throughout England. During the month of September, English churches would hold a thanksgiving service in which the harvest would be displayed in church and then distributed to the needy. What hymn is this? The answer is "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" LSB 892.

New Quiz Question: This hymn is one of the few popular vernacular songs used in Pre-Reformation church services. It is known as German *Leise* because it ended with "Kyrie eleison." Each stanza in our hymn today ends with Alleluia. Martin Luther added six stanzas to the original German one and first published this hymn around Christmas 1523. 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 8, 1963 - 12,000 sq. ft. area east of the school to be blacktopped.

September 11, 1963 - Teacher Marvin Hestemann to be acting Principal for the 1963-1964 school term.

After a lengthy discussion Lutheran Fund Raising Service to be engaged to meet our budget.

January 12, 1964 - Call extended to teacher Hestermann to be our principal.

Statistics for 1963: Souls - 2583; Baptisms - 21; Funerals - 26; Wedding - 20.

The Walther League Society is experiencing good growth.

June 17, 1964 - Teacher William Claybaker's letter of resignation to be effective August 15, 1964 was read. A letter of thanks to be sent to him for his 35 years of service to Trinity.

Donald Fenske of Hyattsville, MD and Clyde Gugel of Jacksonville, IL were called as teachers.

Watermarked Youth Retreat



8TH TO 12TH-GRADE YOUTH, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 25th – 27th Trinity & Higher Things is hosting a retreat for youth from all over the state of Wisconsin. The retreat will include a pizza party, break-out sessions to discuss a variety of topics, a brat fry, “stump the pastors”, games, Bible study, and fellowship with youth from around the state. Flyers and registration forms are available by the Youth bulletin board in the Lounge, and more information is available online. Just go to www.trinitysheboygan.org and click on the “Watermarked Retreat” tab on the left side. If you still have questions, call Pastor Berg at church, at 458-8246. **This is an awesome opportunity. Don't miss it!**



Library



During Advent we **watch** and **hope** for the birth of our Savior, Jesus. We **prepare** our hearts and homes and finally, we **behold** the Christ Child on Christmas.

Advent and Christmas books, videos and music are now on display in the Church Library. Feel free to check out any of these items.

Final reminder that library builder cards should be turned in by December 31st so they can be redeemed before they expire on January 31, 2008.

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS:

The Family Living section (section 2) features books on parenting and relationships between family members. Here you will find information on discipline, raising teenagers, marriage, caring for older parents, the special needs child and what makes a healthy home. Having God at the head of your family makes a difference!

...so take a moment to recall
How this season did begin.
And make your heart a quiet stable
Where the Lord may enter in.

(by Peggy Halderman)

From the President



I don't know which is going up faster, the price of a gallon of gas, the price of a gallon of milk, or my blood pressure. It costs more to drive to work, feed your family, heat your home. And don't even get me started on health costs. It seems any way you turn, there is more pressure being put on a family's budget. But, over the years, the Kelm household has found that through prayer, God has always blessed us with what we need to get us through.



Now I'm calling on our church family to join us in prayer. To pray for Trinity and it's needs. You see, the financial pressures that hit your family also hit your church. Just as it costs more to heat and light your home, it costs more to do the same to your church. It costs more to “feed your church family” as your pastors and teachers deserve annual raises. I've sat through a number of budgeting processes at Trinity, and I know that the church council has worked hard at trying to cut costs each year. Trying to find ways to get things accomplished for less. Through volunteer hours, we've done a lot of work that would otherwise cost the church a lot of money. We've actually been able to have very minor decreases in the total expenses from 2005 to 2006 and (it appears) to 2007. That's the good news.

Now the bad news, Trinity's income is down again. Weekly offerings are down 4% and matching funds from the Thrivent program are down significantly. We are currently projecting a \$35,000 deficit in 2007. If the weekly offerings had just matched last year, we would be projecting a break even year. Just as we need to budget more to meet family expenses each year, we must remember to budget more to meet our church family expenses as well.

Looking ahead to 2008 and the work program before us, we will probably have to budget for some slightly higher expenses, just like you do in your family budget. But the giving trend of the past year makes it very hard to forecast a raise in church offerings. This will make it very hard to present a balanced budget to the voters of Trinity. So here is where our prayers are needed. Just as God continues to bless our family each year to ensure our needs are met, he will bless our church in the same way. So, pray with us that God will help us find a way to continue to do the work that he has set before us.

Trinity continues to be faithful in presenting God's Word to us. Through worship services and Bible classes and school, God's Word is brought to bear on our lives. Please pray that we find the means to continue doing God's work in this community.

God's blessings,
Jeff Kelm

Human Care News



DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING - Trinity's faculty and staff have recently been re-certified for CPR and also trained in using a defibrillator. We would like to offer defibrillator training to any **CPR certified** member regularly attending worship. This might include any doctors, nurses, church ushers or other members. Please contact Roger Buck to have your name added to this list for one-hour training. You will be notified when the training will be scheduled.

ADVENT LUNCHEONS - Please join your Trinity family for a luncheon after the morning Advent Services on December 5, 12 and 19. We will be eating in the gym rather than the Fellowship Hall because of the school using the Fellowship Hall for its regular lunch room.

LOVE COMES DOWN - The Love Comes Down tree is up and ready in the Lounge. You may pick the name of a Trinity shut-in or nursing home resident and deliver a gift directly to them or you may anonymously pick a child's number and purchase a gift to be placed under the tree by December 16.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS - Food baskets will be packed on Friday, December 14, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We need to be done in time for noon school lunch.

Stewardship



Being Rich Toward God

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15).

The society in which we live tells us that more is better. We're told that in order to be happy we must have the newest and best things. People foolishly believe that money provides a lifetime of security, so they spend their time and resources chasing after it. Unfortunately, even if they are successful in their pursuit, their lives are often filled with loneliness and despair.

In the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus warns us about the problem of greed. In this parable, Jesus tells about a wealthy and successful farmer who produced such a big crop that he made plans to tear down his existing barns and build bigger ones to store his abundant harvest. Basking in his success, he had no worries about his future as he looked forward to an

easy retirement of eating, drinking, and being merry. We might admire him for his success, but God called him a fool, because God saw him as selfish and greedy. He ignored God as well as his neighbors, and God called him to account for his greed. The Rich Fool forfeited his life. "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God" (verse 21), Jesus said. Jesus did not condemn the rich farmer because he had wealth, but because of his greed and failure to use his wealth properly. Rather than being rich toward money, our Lord wants you to be "rich toward God." In order for you to be "rich toward God" with your money, you need to acknowledge that God is the source of all that you have. You must come to understand that money is to be used rather than hoarded. Your primary goal is not to amass more money for personal use and enjoyment, but instead to glorify God through the use of your money. You can use it in ways to glorify God by leading others to Christ. In this way, you will be "rich toward God."

LWR Health Kits



LWML will be putting together "Health Kits" for Lutheran World Relief. The following items are needed for each kit:

One hand towel, dark color recommended



One washcloth, dark color recommended

One bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping



One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging



One 5-t oz. squeeze tube of toothpaste with remaining shelf life of at least 12 months, remove packaging



One comb, wide tooth preferred, remove packaging

One metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging (do not substitute cardboard emery boards for the file)

Six Band-Aids® (or similar brand), preferably 1/2" to 3/4"; secure together with a rubber band



If you do like to shop, monetary donations are needed for shipping costs. Please bring items to the barrel by the church office door in the Lounge.

Official Acts



2007-2008 Trinity Faculty & Staff

Rev. Timothy J. Mech, Senior Pastor
 Rev. John M. Berg, Associate Pastor
 Greg Becker, Principal
 Roger Buck, Director of Human Care & Outreach
 Brian Heinlein, Director of Music
 Ken Howard, Teacher Grade Eight
 Melissa Hauch, Teacher Grade Seven
 Terry Stenklyft, Teacher Grade Six/A.D.
 Anne Wickboldt, Teacher Grade Five
 Chelsea Durk, 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
 Tammy Schaefer, Spanish Teacher
 Marilyn LeClair, Education Assistant
 Chris Melcher, Church Office Manager
 Colleen Rindt, School Secretary
 Billy Free, Part-time Custodian
 Mark Wilkens, Part-time Custodian
 Sue Leibham, Hot Lunch Coordinator
 Mary Niesing, Before & After School Care

2007-2008 Trinity Church Council

Jeff Kelm, President
 Joe Hoem, Vice President
 Pete Leibham, Treasurer
 Sheri Griesbach, Secretary
 Jeff Jurss, Christian Day School
 Rachel Clark, Christian Education
 Jeff Maletzke, Elders
 Donna Petzold, Evangelism
 Ken Leibham, Finance
 Al Pentek, Properties
 Allen VanDeLoo, Social Ministry
 Allan Voss, Stewardship
 Laura Herrmann, Youth
 Barb Dodge, At Large
 Andy Rindt, At Large

TRANSFER IN:

Emily Moore Our Redeemer, Sheboygan WI

TRANSFER OUT:

Kym & Mary Davis Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Church, Gilbert AZ
 Matt & Katie Schaefer Carmel Lutheran Church, Carmel IN


RELEASE:

Brain & Jeanine Menzer
 Taylor and Bailey First Congregational Church, Sheboygan WI

FUNERALS:

Richard Ehlert died on November 16th and a funeral was held at Trinity on November 20th.

SENIOR BREAKFAST



The **Trinity Seniors** will meet Monday, December 17th, 8:30 am at Fountain Park Family Restaurant. Robert Harker, Executive Director of the Sheboygan County Historical Museum will speak about several programs offered by the Museum. They include the full-day education program for grade school students, the "Third Saturday" program and the "Holiday Memories" animated display. Come and join us!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is also a member of:

 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ "Preparing Christian Leaders - One Student At A Time" ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

YTD (October 31, 2007) RECEIPTS: \$990,912
 YTD (October 31, 2007) EXPENDITURES: \$1,061,331
 Deficit (October 31, 2007): \$70,419

THE SHEBOYGAN AREA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Philippians 4:8

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

December 2007



Return Service Requested



Wed. December 5

10 a.m./6 p.m.
"The Day Is At Hand"
Romans 13:11-14

Sun. December 9/10

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./ Mon 6 p.m.
"Are You Prepared?"
Matthew 3:1-12

Sun. December 9 - 2 p.m.

German Christmas Service

Mon. December 10 - 7 p.m.

LHS Christmas @Weill Center

Wed. December 12

10 a.m./6 p.m.
"The Light of Life Is Coming"
John 1:1-13

Sun. December 16/17

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./ Mon 6 p.m.
"Beyond a Shadow of a Doubt"
Matthew 11:2-15

Advent and Christmas Services

Sun. December 16 - 6 p.m.

Choral Candlelight Service
Service of Lessons & Carols

Wed. December 19 - 10 a.m.

"Come To the Light"
John 3:19-21

Wed. December 19

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

Sun. December 23

8 a.m./10:45 a.m.
"God's Presence For You!"
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 - Christmas Eve

4 p.m./6p.m.
"Pious Mirth"
Luke 2:1-20

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service
10 p.m.
"What The Sign Says"
Luke 2:1-20

December 25 - Christmas Day

10 a.m.
"Something Worth Saying"
John 1:1-18

Sun. December 30

8 a.m./10:45 a.m.
"The Cross In Christmas"
Matthew 2:18-23

December 31 - New Year's Eve

6 p.m.
"Be Watchful!"
Luke 12:35-40

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Senkbeil

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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.