



Trinity Messenger



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

Volume 5, Issue 11

"Making Known the Love of Christ"

December 2008

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From The Pastors



The Festival of Christmas

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

For our newsletter article this month we share with you the following sermon preached by Pastor Chad Bird at Kramer Chapel, Concordia Theological Seminary in 2004. Christmas is a time to ponder. Take time to ponder this sermon and the gift of Christ it delivers.

"The heavens do not turn three shades of red when God is born a babe. They sing. Glory to God in the highest...whose birth room smells of manure and hay. 'With milk is fed the Lord of all / Who feeds the ravens when they call.' There lies the swaddled Creator, all wrapped up in the things of creation – infant holy yet infant lowly, a diapered divinity.

But you're wrong, you who suppose this is 'beneath God.' For this is not so much God-made-small as it is man-made-big. The God who made man in His own image outdoes Himself: He makes Himself into His own image and thereby exalts us. Jesus becomes what you are – a woman's child – that He might make you be what He is – sons of the Father. That's what this is all about. One small step for God, one giant leap for mankind. He becomes no less; we become infinitely more in Him. For within the womb of Mary something new happens under the sun. A woman is pregnant with God, by God. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, Jesus issues forth as the first man of a new race: those who call God 'Father,' and mean it. For in the fullness of time, He sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under Law, to redeem those under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

This is what you need: redemption, adoption. You don't need a god who strokes your ego with applause from on high when you 'do good.' You don't need a deadbeat deity who's so busy caring for his universe that he shows no concern as his children go astray. You need the God for whom nothing matters more than to save you, to adopt you as His own flesh and blood. You need the God who cares enough to tell you the truth, to say, 'Apart from Me, you are depraved, dead, damned. I love you. I want you. I desire you to be My child more than anything else. And I have done all and everything necessary for you to be Mine.'



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

From the Pastors, cont'



This is the God – the God-made-man – you need, the Lord you have. Giving purity to the depraved, life to the dead, salvation to you under hell's thumb. He did not come to save the trees or the spotted owl. He was not born to rid the world of hunger or stop the ravages of war. He came to be for every man what no man has been or could be for himself. Born under law, Jesus fulfills the law He Himself had given. He is the perfect infant, perfect teenager, perfect adult, bearing your flesh and blood to the cross, bearing your flesh and blood out of the grave - so that as He is, so it is credited to you. You – perfect infant; you-perfect teenager; you – perfect adult, all in Jesus. For God so loved the world, He strapped the world to the back of His Son, so that where He went and what He did, your went and did also.

So shout greatly, O daughter of Zion, for a virgin daughter of Israel has entered motherhood. Humble and mounted on a manger, Jesus rides into our world, and heaven follows after Him. Hosanna to the Son of David, born in David's town. Blessed is He who comes from the bosom of His Father to the bosom of His mother. He comes for all. Are you bruised and battered by the cares of this world? He comes for you, this Great Physician of soul and body. Are you betrayed and abused, divorced and lonely? His advent is for you, this faithful Bridegroom of the Church. Are you rich and happy, well-fed and comfortable? Yes, He comes for you, to show you that true riches and true happiness are found only in Him.

The infant Jesus: 'Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, / The cross be borne for me, for you.' That is why He came down from heaven, to let the earth have its way with Him that He might have His way with you. And His way is life. So be not afraid, for I bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born a Savior, God in the flesh, who fills you with life divine." Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Rev. Timothy J. Mech
Senior Pastor

Rev. John M. Berg
Associate Pastor



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 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 – Making Known the Love of Christ

Trust

In the 50s and 60s there was a daytime television show entitled, “Who do you **trust**?” Johnny Carson emceed the show before he went on to host the Tonight Show. From what I have read, a husband would need to answer a question or **trust** his wife to answer the question. Does he **trust** himself or his wife? Sound like a recipe for huge arguments.

Whom do you **trust**? Government? Wall Street Brokers? Meteorologists? Contestants on the reality TV show, Survivor? The BCS Committee as they choose the college football champion? The people just listed may or may not be worthy of our **trust**.

Whom can we **trust**? There is only one we can **trust**: Jesus Christ.

During this Christmas season we celebrate the gift of God given to us in Jesus, the Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ is love. He loved us sinners so much that He took the punishment of the cross that we deserved. His love saves us. Through faith, Jesus is the one we **trust**.



Our world is filled with people and situations that cause us to be **distrustful**. Let us continue to **make known the love of Christ** to our children and others so that they may put their **trust** in Jesus. Let us put our **trust** in Jesus because He cares for us.

Greg Becker

Greg Becker



Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we **trust** in the name of the Lord our God.

Psalms 91:2 I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I **trust**.”

Psalms 112:7 He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, **trusting** in the Lord.

Psalms 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to **trust** in man.

Proverbs 3:5 **Trust** in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Isaiah 26:4 **Trust** in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Jeremiah 17:7 Blessed is the man who **trusts** in the Lord, whose **trust** is the Lord.

LSB 729 “I am **trusting** Thee, Lord Jesus, **trusting** only Thee; **trusting** Thee for full salvation, great and free. I am **trusting** Thee, Lord Jesus; never let me fall. I am **trusting** Thee forever and for all.”

Music Notes



December is an exciting month here at Trinity! There are many opportunities to invite your friends and neighbors to visit our church and school. Here are some highlights you won't want to miss:

Sunday, December 7 at 1:30 p.m.

German Service featuring many beloved Christmas Carols sung in German by the congregation and children of our school.

Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m.

60th Annual Choral Candlelight Service featuring the best Trinity's music program has to offer. Special music will reflect on this 60-year tradition at Trinity. Don't miss it!

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Service at the Weill Center led by the children of our congregation. This year's service will feature the hymn "Away in a Manger."

Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 p.m.

Sheboygan Pops Band Christmas Concert here at Trinity. Enjoy wonderful band music of the season. This year's concert will be in honor of Dr. Dave Bolgert.

Christmas at Concordia concerts this year will be on Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Please take note of the following choir schedule changes since the schedule was published at the beginning of the year:

- Mixed Choir will not sing on Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.
- German service is at 1:30 p.m. not 2:00 p.m.
- Choral Candlelight Rehearsal is on Monday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m., not Wednesday, Dec. 10
- Handbells will play for the 10 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, not the 6 p.m. service.
- Handbells will play at the 8 a.m. service on Jan. 18, not Jan. 25
- Cherub Choir will sing at the 10:45 a.m. service on Jan. 18, not Jan. 25
- The Lutheran High School band students will be here on Jan. 25, not Jan. 18

Here is the upcoming music schedule at Trinity:

| | | |
|--------|------------|------------------------------|
| Dec. 3 | 10:00 a.m. | School Grades 6-8 |
| Dec. 7 | 8:00 a.m. | Joy Choir |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Handbells |
| | 1:30 p.m. | School German Students |
| Dec. 8 | 7:30 p.m. | Choral Candlelight Rehearsal |

| | | |
|---------|------------|------------------------------|
| Dec. 10 | 10:00 a.m. | Cherub Choir (Gr. 1-2) |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Mixed Choir |
| Dec. 14 | 8:00 a.m. | Cherub Choir (Gr. 1-2) |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Choral Candlelight Service |
| Dec. 17 | 6:00 p.m. | Children's Christmas Service |
| Dec. 21 | 8:00 a.m. | Trinity Singers (Gr. 6-8) |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Handbells |
| Dec. 24 | 10:00 p.m. | Handbells |
| Dec. 25 | 10:00 a.m. | Mixed Choir |

Previous Quiz Question: This hymn first appeared in the November, 1779 issue of the *Gospel Magazine*, edited by Augustus Toplady, author of "Rock of Ages." It was written by Edward Perronet. Although he wrote many other hymns, he published most of them anonymously. This is his only known work to survive today. This hymn is often sung to the tune "Coronation" or "Diadem" in America, while the tune "Miles Lane" is popular in Great Britain. What hymn is this? The answer is "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" LSB 549.

Daily



Childcare



Making known the love of Christ starts early at Trinity! **Tell your friends and neighbors about our new Early Childhood Program at Trinity, including daily childcare!** For more information call or talk to Amy Janke, Kathy Gruben, or Lisa Menzer (458-8246).



Thrivent GivingPlus**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RECENTLY GIVEN TO THRIVENT'S GIVINGPLUS PROGRAM!**

As of November 1, 2008, \$45,550 has been received in matching funds from Thrivent. If you are a Thrivent member and have not yet participated in GivingPlus and would like information, please contact the church or school office (458-8246 or 458-8248). Thank you to:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Michael Altman | Richard Berg | Stacy Beyer |
| Chuck Carlson | Nathan Cassity | Carol Darling |
| Sharon Gerber | Jay Hess | Jennifer Jerdee |
| Jeff Jurss | Julie Jurss | Bea Kraatz |
| Kathy Livermore | Darlene Mech | Connie Rindt |
| Russ Rindt | Rob Senkbeil | Jerry Toerpe |
| Sue Toerpe | | |

From the President**Happy New Year!**

No, I'm not rushing the season. As we welcome in Advent, we start the new church year. During Advent, the coming of hope into a fallen world, we prepare for the coming of the Messiah, the Savior. In Wisconsin, as we look at the world in December, we see a world "closing up" for winter. But in church, Advent is the "springing up" of hope through the coming of Jesus.

The new year is a time for resolutions, things you are going to change in your life. Maybe we should consider some new year resolutions for our church year. Look for a new way to serve God and your church.

Bible Studies**Sunday Adult Bible Class at 9:30 am -**

December: "The Songs of Christmas"

Classroom: Gym

Teacher: Pastor Berg

New Member Class at 9:30 am

Classroom: Trinity School Computer Lab

Teacher: Pastor Mech

Tuesday Women's' Bible Study at 1:30 pm (Speak the Truth in Love)

Classroom: TLMC

Teacher: Laura Carriveau

Wednesdays at 8:15 am (Book of Acts)

Classroom: TLMC

Teacher: Pastor Berg

Wednesdays at 9 am (Topical Bible Study)

Classroom: TLMC

Teacher: Mr. Roger Buck

Thursday Women's' Bible Study at 9 am (Topical)

Classroom: TLMC

Teacher: Stephanie Jablonski, Mary Ann Miller

Friday Women' Bible Study (Fear/Confidence)

Classroom: TLMC

Teachers: Mrs. Marlene Fors, Mrs. Eileen Mockert

Friday Men's' Bible Study at 7 am (Lutheran Spirituality: Community)

Classroom: TLMC

Teacher: Pastor Mech

Maybe this is the year you'll take that short-term mission trip you've been meaning to take. Maybe you'll sign up to usher during the church services, or finally join the choir. How about attending one of the many Bible study opportunities that Trinity offers. One servant event that has a definite need is Trinity's prison ministry. Trinity goes to the Kettle Moraine prison a couple of times a year to present the Sunday Chapel services, and we have been short of people the last couple of times. This is a very moving experience for those men who have attended. Please contact myself or Roger Buck for more information about this servant opportunity. There are many different ways you can serve your church, let us help you find the opportunity that fits.

Trinity has such an opportunity for growth. The new "extended care" program and 3K/4K programs offer us a chance to bring new people to Trinity. Our school attendance is down, which should inspire us to spread the word about the great opportunities available through Trinity school. The most important opportunity being teaching our young people about the love of God through His gift of Jesus as our Savior. Talk to our principal about ways that you can help serve our school.

Advent is the start of a new church year, let's work together to make this a great year, a year of serving God in new and exciting ways.

God's blessings,
Jeff Kelm

*Merry
Christmas*

Youth Retreat



News & Notes



This is the Feast

A Youth Retreat

January 23 – 25, 2009

At Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheboygan, WI

Sponsored by Higher Things and Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheboygan and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Last year's "**Watermarked**" retreat at Trinity was a huge success, and "**This is the Feast**" promises to be even better. We are bringing back the Coffee Bar, "Stump the Pastors", and some awesome speakers. We are talking about the Lord's Supper at this retreat. We are going to whet your appetite from the Scriptures, Catechism, and Liturgy. This is the Feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

The featured speaker is Pastor Cwirla, of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hacienda Heights, CA. He is the President of Higher Things, and a featured conference speaker and teacher. Born and raised in Chicago, Pr. Cwirla is a devoted follower of "Da Bears", although he has been known to root for the Packers when "Da Bears" are not involved.

Erin Bode Concert

During the weekend of the youth retreat, on Saturday, Jan. 24th, we are pleased to present **Erin Bode and the Bode Group** in concert at the Stephanie H. Weill Center in Sheboygan. Erin grew up in Wayzata, MN. By the age of 5 she was singing in her church choir at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Erin has a degree in music and foreign languages from Webster University. After releasing her first album "Requests", in 2001 she was signed by the Max Jazz label. Her music style is categorized as adult contemporary and jazz-oriented. Erin has been compared to Norah Jones and Eva Cassidy. She has recently released her fourth CD, "The Little Garden". Everyone is invited to attend this concert. Proceeds will benefit LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

Tickets to the concert are included with your registration for the retreat. Concert tickets can also be purchased separately, through the Weill Center box office. Proceeds from the concert will benefit LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

For more information about this retreat and concert, please contact Chris Melcher at retreats@trinitysheboygan.org or (920)458-8246.

ADVENT LUNCHEONS - Please join your Trinity family for a luncheon after the morning Advent Services on December 3, 10 and 17. 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 19.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS - Food baskets will be packed on Friday, December 19, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We need to be done in time for



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, 2009.

Official Acts



2008-2009 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.
 Barbara Paape, Teacher Grade Five
 Chelsea Sagissor, Teacher Grade Four
 Karen Howard, Teacher Grade Three
 Carla Becker, Teacher Grade Two
 Ruth Hering, Teacher Grade One
 Kathy Kirst, Teacher Grade One, Resource
 Lisa Menzer, Teacher Kindergarten
 Kathy Gruben, Teacher 3K & 4K
 Amy Janke, Pre-School Director
 Christel Miske, German Teacher
 Tammy Schaefer, Spanish Teacher
 Marilyn LeClair, Education Assistant
 Christine Melcher, Church Office Manager
 Colleen Rindt, School Secretary
 Billy Free, Part-time Custodian
 Sue Leibham, Hot Lunch Coordinator
 Mary Niesing, Before & After School Care

2008-2009 Trinity Church Council

Jeff Kelm, President
 Jon Dolson, Vice-President
 Pete Leibham, Treasurer
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 Jeff Jurss, Christian Day School
 Rachel Clark, Christian Education
 Dennis Barrow, Elders
 Erin Mueller, Evangelism
 Ken Leibham, Finance
 Al Pentek, Properties
 Donna Petzold, Human Care
 Allan Voss, Stewardship
 Mary Dittmar, Youth

Profession of Faith:

Edward & Diane Unger

Adult Confirmation:

Chris Burke

Transfer Out:

John, Kathy, Sara & Sean Schrank
 Nick Pena
 Anne Wickboldt

Bethlehem, Sheboygan WI
 St. Paul, Sheboygan WI
 Bethany, Chicago IL

Release:

Marge Farmer

West Cannon Baptist Church

Baptisms:

Oliver James, son of Jim & Holly Leibham, was baptized on November 2, 2008
 Ava RaeAnn, daughter of Robert & Cheriece Karl, was baptized on November 16, 2008
 William Joseph, son of Joe & Heather Leibham, was baptized on November 30, 2008

Funerals:

Marie Ahrens died on November 8 and a funeral was held on November 12
 Al Bruesehoff died on November 10 and a funeral was held on November 13

Senior Breakfast
December 15, 2008
 8:30 am
 Fountain Park Family
 Restaurant

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

"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

YTD (October 31, 2008) RECEIPTS: \$1,017,807
 YTD (October 31, 2008) EXPENDITURES: \$1,130,294
 Deficit (October 31, 2008): \$112,487

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS:

Vision: Making Known the Love of Christ
Mission: Trinity is dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ within and through its church and school.

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

Trinity Lutheran Church
824 Wisconsin Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081
December 2008



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Sheboygan, WI 53081

Return Service Requested

Advent and Christmas Services at Trinity

Wed. December 3

10 a.m./6 p.m.
"The Tree of Knowledge"
Genesis 3:1-24

Sun. December 7/8

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./Mon. 6:00 p.m.
"Desert Springs"
Mark 1:1-8

Sun. December 7

1:30 p.m.
German Christmas Service

Wed. December 10

10 a.m./ 6 p.m.
"The Tree of the Cross"
Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:16-21

Sun. December 14/15

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./ Mon 6 p.m.
"Mama's Don't Want Their Babies to
Grow Up to be John the Baptist"
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mon. December 15

7 p.m.
LHS Christmas @ Weill Center

Wed. December 17

10 a.m.
"The Tree of Life"
Revelation 22:1-7

Wed. December 17

6 p.m. (at the Weill Center)
"Away in a Manger"
Children's Christmas Service (N-8)

Sun. December 21/22

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./ Mon 6 p.m.
"First Response"
Luke 1:26-38

December 24 - Christmas Eve

4 p.m./6 p.m.
"Birth Announcement"
Luke 2:1-14

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service
10 p.m.
"The Ironies of Christmas"
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25 - Christmas Day

10 a.m.
"Light and Life Christ Brings to All"
John 1:1-14

Sun. December 28/29

8 a.m./10:45 a.m./ Mon 6 p.m.
"Two Turtle Doves and a
Partridge in a Pear Tree"
Luke 2:22-40

December 31 - New Year's Eve

6 p.m.
"Back to the Future"
Luke 12:35-40

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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.