

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2004

WELCOME

A special welcome to our guests worshipping with us this morning. We are glad you are here; we thank God for you! We pray that Jesus will touch your heart in some special way for being here. Please sign the guest book and fill out a visitor's card that you will find on the pad in your pew and place it in the offering plate during the service or hand it to one of the ushers, so we can thank you for joining us this week. If we can be of service to you, please let us know.

OFFERINGS AND TITHES

Offerings are our special gifts given to the Lord on special days or occasions or whenever we are moved to do so, for any reason.

Tithes are those monetary gifts we return to the Lord on a regular basis as first fruits because He asks us to do so, and to meet our spiritual need to give back to the One who has first given to us.

If you are a visitor today, feel free to give an offering to the Lord, but do not feel you need to do so. The members of Trinity support the work of the Lord here at Trinity by giving back to the Lord a portion of what He gives us. We pray that the Lord will continue to lead you to give your offerings and tithes unto your home congregation.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Everyone who has a special prayer request is invited to give those requests to Pastor Moeller. If you don't have a chance to do so before the service, write it down on one of the pads from the front of your pew and hand it to one of the ushers with the offering. Pastor will include those requests in our prayers for the day and, if you wish, the prayer chain.

PRAYER UPON ENTERING

Heavenly Father, we thank You for coming to us in the person of Your Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins. Enable us gracious Father, by the indwelling power of Your Holy Spirit, to keep our focus firmly on Jesus so that He will be the center of our lives and faith always—even unto everlasting life. In the name of Jesus. Amen!

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

SUNDAY ~ **Worship** ~ 9:30 am
 Sunday School/Bible study ~ 10:30 am
 S.S. Christmas program practice ~ 11:30

MONDAY ~ **Men's Club meeting** ~ 7:30 pm
 Men's Bible study ~ 6:00 am
 New member/adult information class ~ 5:30 pm
TUESDAY ~ **Choir practice** ~ 6:00 pm
 Bible study ~ 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY ~ **Lifelight Bible study** ~ 9:30 am
 LWML meeting ~ 1:30 pm
 Confirmation ~ 5:30 pm
 Advent Supper ~ 6:00 – 7:00 pm
 Midweek Advent Worship ~ 7:30 pm

COMING EVENTS

Sun., Dec. 12th ~ **Worship** ~ 9:30 am
 Sunday School/Bible Study ~ 10:30 am
 S. S. Christmas program practice ~ 11:30 am
 125th Anniversary Committee meeting ~ 7:00 pm
Sat., Dec. 18th ~ **Open House at parsonage** ~ 3:00 to 9:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 19th ~ **Sunday School Christmas program** ~ 6:30 pm

SHUT-INS

Please remember in your daily prayers the following shut-in members or those in nursing homes: Walt Wenzlaff, Bud Plagman, Vivian Dansman, Floyd Matthies, Bonnie Edgcomb, and Martha Westphal.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE : SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

Cleaners: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt, Lynda Wollmann, Melvin Matthies
Greeters: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt
Head Usher: Bryan Kelley
Acolyte: Patrick Erikson

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

Greeters: Melvin Matthies
Head Usher: Lance Wollmann
Acolyte: Lyndze Thompson

NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2004

Cleaners: Roger & Bert Carls, Lester and Jean Gregersen
Greeters: Roger & Bert Carls
Head Usher: Bryan Kelley
Acolyte: Jennifer Muchow

WORSHIP SERVICE, NOVEMBER 24, 2004

Attendance: 48

WORSHIP SERVICE, NOVEMBER 28, 2004

Attendance:	78	Communion:	60
Offering:	Current		\$1,175.00
	Loose Offering		66.00
	Building Fund		200.00
	Mission		50.00
	Future Church Worker		10.00

First Sunday Special Offerings go to Campus Ministry
Third Sunday Special Offerings go to Amy Kashenov

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN

We extend the Sacrament of Baptism to all who have not been baptized—infants, children, youth, and adults. We invite those adults who are looking for a church home to come to one of our New Member Orientation classes. A new class will begin soon. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Moeller as soon as possible.

Upon completion of this class you may join Trinity Lutheran Church in one of the following ways:

- The Rite of Confirmation for those who have never been confirmed in the Lutheran Church.
- A Letter of Transfer is gladly accepted if you wish to transfer your membership from another Lutheran congregation.
- Reaffirmation of faith is for those who have been confirmed in a Lutheran church but have not been active in their former church.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

At this time of year, we stop and give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He bestows upon us. We have gracious God who loves us so much that He reaches out to us through His Son with the free gift of eternal life which we receive through faith in Christ's atoning death and victorious resurrection. We have much to rejoice about. Investors in Church Extension rejoice in being part of a ministry that helps provide facilities where the Gospel of Jesus is taught and preached.

Our South Dakota District Church Extension Fund (CEF) is offering Term Certificates to our LC-MS members, currently paying interest rates at between 1.9% and 4.0%. Be part of this ministry to build churches through investments, make an investment today. For more information and to invest, see the brochures on the greeting stand or contact SD Church Extension Fund at PO Box 89110, Sioux Falls, SD 57109 or call CEF's toll free number 1-888-385-7330.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee is looking for members who would be interested in helping out in the area of evangelism. This would include things such as delivering service bulletins and tapes to shut-ins, making homemade gifts for visitors. Anyone who is interested may speak to Pastor Moeller or Joe Krizan.

DIGITAL CAMERA AVAILABLE

Thanks to a generous donation, we have a digital camera available for all groups of the church to use to record their activities. This will be nice to use for updating our website, writing articles for the newspaper and newsletter, and chronicling each group's activities. If your group has an activity scheduled please contact Pastor Moeller so you can use it.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

2nd Sunday in Advent ~ Romans 15:4-13: God provides encouragement and endurance to help maturing stewards grow together in a spirit of unity. Growing together in Christ and encouraging one another are important marks of Christian stewards.

OUTREACH THEMES FROM OUR READINGS

2nd Sunday in Advent ~ Matthew 3:1-12: In this Advent season we, like John the Baptist, still have the privilege of being God's messengers to call sinners to repentance and new life in Jesus. Life in Jesus is really the only fruitful life and thus the only life worth living.

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

All High School-aged students are invited to come to the parsonage each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for a Bible study. We are studying "The Authority of Scriptures," a youth seminar designed to outline some of the assaults on the authority of Scripture that Christians face today and how to respond to them. Joe Krizan is leading.

LSS REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS

With cold weather upon us, the LSS Refugee and Immigration programs are in need of winter clothing for refugees so they can attend school and English classes, go to work, and do the many things required to support a family.

Clothing is needed for men, women, and children. They are accepting used coats, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, and boots in good clean condition.

Donations may be brought to LSS Refugee and Immigration Programs at 620 W. 18th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57104. For more information please call Alice at 731-2006 or Pat Reichert at 526-6225.

PRAYER CHAIN > PRAYER LINK

To insure better communication, the prayer chain will now operate using email. If you want to be included in the Prayer Link, send your email address to Pat Reichert at mmreichert@msn.com. When prayers are requested, you will be sent an email including the prayer request. There will be no need to forward or pass on the information; everyone in the link will be contacted as a group. If you do not have email but want to be contacted when prayers are requested just call Pat at 526-6225 and you will be put on the list to call.

Everyone is encouraged to contact Pat Reichert or Pastor Moeller with prayer requests. St. Paul encourages us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Divine Service

Hymn of Invocation..... #63
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"
The Order of Morning Service p. 5-6
The Introit.....

P: Restore us, O God;
C: make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.
P: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock;
C: you who sit enthroned between the cherubim.
P: You brought a vine out of Egypt;
C: and it took root and filled the land.
P: Restore us, O God Almighty;
C: make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Gloria Patri, Kyrie p. 6-9
The Salutation, Collect p. 9
The Readings Back of bulletin
The Apostles' Creed..... p. 12
The Sermon Hymn #66
"Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"
The Sermon.....
The Offertory p. 12
The Prayers
The Hymn #75
"Ye Sons of Men, Oh Harken"
The Collect, Benediction..... p. 14
The Closing Hymn #645
"Behold, a Branch Is Growing"

LIFE QUOTES" FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“Today’s textbooks still indoctrinate our kids with the evolutionary faith statement that abiogenesis is the only ‘scientific’ explanation for life’s origin. The Bible states that God alone is the author and sustainer of Life. That’s why we can’t create it. It is given by God. ‘In Him we live and move and have our being’ (Acts 17:28). Jesus said, ‘I am the Resurrection and the Life.’ Only God can bridge the infinite gulf between life and nonlife.” *Dr. Dan Korow*, Alpha Omega Institute

A MILE OF PENNIES

The High School Youth Group is sponsoring “A Mile of Pennies” Fundraiser. Members are invited to donate their pennies and other spare change into the jar on the table by the entrance to the church nave. Other monetary donations will be accepted as well (\$1.00 = 100 pennies). The proceeds will be used to purchase a big screen television set for the new building addition. Our goal is to accumulate 84,480 pennies (\$844.80), which placed side by side would stretch 1 mile. Thank you for your support.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

On **Tuesday** evenings, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., we will meet to study various Bible lessons based upon the “Our Life in Christ” series. Those teaching Sunday School will find this study helpful in their preparation for teaching, as we carefully examine the coming week’s lesson. But everyone else is invited to attend as well. Please consider taking part of this opportunity to grow in your faith.

KEEPSAKE COOKBOOK

We need your favorite recipes! The 125th anniversary committee is printing a keepsake cookbook as part of our celebration of proclaiming the Word of God in this place for those many years. There are forms available at the back of the church. Please return at least 5 recipes (more if you like) by **December 12, 2004**, so we can start to categorize them. You may also submit recipes in memory of a friend or loved one.

On those forms, we would also like to have you tell us **how many** you would like to buy so we can get some idea of the quantity we will need to print. Please return the completed forms to the box that is on the table near the greeting stand.

PARKING DURING CONSTRUCTION

During construction, parking places will near the church will be at a premium. We ask that you leave the parking spaces closest to the entrance of the church for those unable to get around as easily as you can.

Gary Miles has given permission to park in his driveway, which is located directly south of the church. We suggest everyone parallel park on the west side of the driveway and that way everyone will be able to drive up by the house and turn around.

We also ask that you do not park near the road on the south side. The edge of the road is very narrow and with the all the traffic that goes by, this can be very dangerous.

When the weather is dry an alternative parking place would be on the lawn of the cemetery grounds. Perhaps someone arriving early could open the gate, and the last one who leaves could close it again.

UNDERSTANDING STEM CELLS AND CLONING

With the recent deaths of President Ronald Reagan and actor Christopher Reeves, stem cell research has been in the news a lot lately. Unfortunately there has been much misinformation, even propaganda, or the subject.

Lutherans For Life has published a short paper on the biological and Biblical basics of stem cell research and cloning. The Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb has written this informative piece in language that can be understood by those of us who are not research scientists. Pastor Moeller has a copy of this paper posted on the bulletin board, which anyone is welcome to borrow. If you would like your own copy you may copy it or go on the internet at www.lutheransforlife.org

LIFE MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Thank you to Amy Valdes who has volunteered to be our congregation’s Life Ministry Coordinator. She will work with Pastor to help keep our congregation informed on sanctity of human life issues. If you are interested in information on life issues, please call Amy at 361-4455.

MAIN STREET LIVING

Main Street Living, a televised worship service sponsored by the SD District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod can be seen each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. on KDLT.

JEFF & CARLA KALB

The Kalb’s just sent a Thanksgiving card, which is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. You can also see Jeff’s picture on the calendar also posted there. They would love to hear from you. Their address is: 8006 Leesburg Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46818. Their telephone number is (260) 625-5567 and their email address is kalb1@earthlink.net.

Please remember that our congregation has been asked to contribute \$2,000 per year for a portion of Jeff’s seminary instruction. If you would like to help you may give your contributions in your weekly offerings by giving a portion to the Future Church Worker fund.

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DAILY PRAYER—THE LUTHERAN DIFFERENCE

As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often find themselves struggling to explain their beliefs and practices. Although many Lutherans have learned the “what” of the doctrines of the church, they do not always have a full scriptural foundation to share the “why.” Because of insecurities about explaining particular doctrines or practices, some Lutherans may avoid opportunities to share what they have learned from Christ and His Word, including our understanding of prayer.

Our Lifelight Bible study group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in people’s homes. Our upcoming —Daily Prayer: The Lutheran Difference—will identify how Lutherans differ from other Christians and demonstrate from the Bible why Lutherans differ. These studies will help you grow in your own prayer life and prepare you to share your faith with others. Please join us!

For more information please speak to Pastor Moeller.

TITHING IN SCRIPTURE

Have you ever asked, “How much should I give to God each Sunday? What is a fair amount of my income to give to God?”

God does not tell us the exact amount to give, but throughout Scripture He does suggest a proportional amount of 10% —the tithe. Regarding the tithe:

Abraham commenced it: Genesis 14:18-20

Jacob continued it: Genesis 28:20-22

Moses confirmed it: Leviticus 27:30

Malachi commanded it: Malachi 3:10

Jesus commended it: Matthew 23:23

St. Paul concurred with it: 1 Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 7:4-8

FIT FOR LIFE

Why is the world so messed up? Why does God let bad things happen to good people? If we all use the same Bible why are there so many different denominations? Does God still speak to us today? Is His Word reliable? Is it relevant for today?

If these are questions that you have asked, please plan to attend “Fit For Life in Christ,” an exciting course in Christian growth that presents the Word of God in new and meaningful ways. It is a course for those who are interested in membership in our church, or for anyone who wants to know what it really means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We currently have two classes going. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Moeller soon, letting him know a day and time that would work well for you and/or your friends.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

The Stewardship Committee is collecting e-mail addresses for those would like to receive our monthly newsletter electronically rather than through the mail. Those who choose this method will be able to receive their newsletter more quickly and save the cost of postage as well. If you are interest in this option please send your request to pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

FULLNESS OF JOY—A SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY OF THE LUTHERAN LITURGY

The word *liturgy* itself is a good conversation starter. Many simply have no idea what a *liturgy* is. Others take it for a collective term for everything that is not important in a service. In other congregations, members doggedly sing the *liturgy* on a weekly basis. However, if we are to ask them why, the answer too often is “We’ve always done it this way before.”

As important as history and tradition is, “We’ve always done it this way before” is not an adequate reason for continuing what we’ve done in the past. With the *liturgy*, there is a far better reason. The liturgy teaches and rejoices in the outstanding truth that our crucified and risen Lord is present with His people in worship—present to serve us with the forgiveness of sins.

In order to learn more about the riches of the liturgy our Sunday morning adult Bible study group (10:30 – 11:45 a.m.) is looking at “Fullness of Joy: A Study of the Liturgy of the Church.” Please join us!