

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

46448 263RD ST. HARTFORD, SD 57033

www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

PASTOR ROBERT E. MOELLER, JR.

HOME 526-3572 OFFICE 526-3571

pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005

WELCOME

A special welcome to our guests worshiping 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 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 to 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/or 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 service ~ 9:30 am
Sunday School and Bible study ~ 10:30 am
Sunday School Christmas program ~ 6:30 pm

MONDAY ~ Men's Bible Study ~ 6:00 am

TUESDAY ~ Bible study ~ 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY ~ Lifelight Bible study ~ 9:30 am
Confirmation class ~ 5:30 pm
Advent supper ~ 6:00 pm
Choir practice ~ 6:30 pm
Midweek Advent worship service ~ 7:30 pm

SATURDAY ~ Christmas Eve worship ~ 9:30-11:00 am

COMING EVENTS

Sun., Dec. 25th ~ Christmas worship service w/communion ~ 9:30 am
Sunday School and Bible study ~ 10:30 am

Sat., Dec. 31st ~ New Year's Eve worship service ~ 7:30 pm

Sun., Jan. 22nd ~ Annual Voters meeting ~ 1:00 pm
SESD Lutherans For Life Soup Supper at Trinity-Hartford ~ 6:00 pm

SERVING THIS WEEK: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005

Cleaners: DeWane & Joyce Carls, Ben & Michelle Matthies
Greeters: Ben & Michelle Matthies
Head Usher: Orrin Geide **Acolyte:** Austin Eggebraaten

MIDWEEK ADVENT: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

Greeters: DeWane & Joyce Carls
Head Usher: Daniel Erickson **Acolyte:** Austin Wolfe

CHRISTMAS EVE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2005

Greeters: Earle & Connie Geide
Head Usher: Bryan Kelley **Acolyte:** Brady Eggebraaten

NEXT WEEK: CHRISTMAS DAY: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2005

Cleaners: Richard & Donna Bowden, Loren & Marsha Letsche
Greeters: Loren & Marsha Letsche
Head Usher: Orrin Geide **Acolyte:** Jenny Eggebraaten

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2005

Worship Attendance: 49 **Current offering:** \$ 82.00
Loose offering: \$ 11.25

WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005

Worship Attendance: 89 **Adult Bible study:** 11
Communed: 67
Current offering: \$1,379.00 **Loose offering:** \$ 12.00
Mission offering: 76.00 **Building fund:** 485.00
Future Church Worker: 10.00 **Tuckpointing:** 60.00

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.

MAIN STREET LIVING

Main Street Living is facing a major barrier. Thrivent has granted Main Street a Giving Plus account. This means that when a Thrivent member contributes money to Main Street Living, Thrivent will match \$1 for every \$2 donation. Main Street’s ID number is 514006670. The program continues to be available on KDLT-NBC at 10:00 a.m. and on PAX at 11:00 a.m.

December 25, 2005. “Best Supporting Role.” A story about surviving failure. An insurance agent’s marriage comes into jeopardy as he becomes frustrated by his failing business. The featured speaker is Rev. Vernon Schindler, President of the SD District LCMS. The sermon theme is “Changed by a Baby.”

OUTREACH THEMES FROM OUR READINGS

Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ Luke 1:26-38: An angel was sent to Mary to announce that she would be the mother of the long awaited Savior of the world. What great good news for Mary and the whole world! Now we who have been touched by the Savior are God’s messengers [angels] to share the good news of Jesus with people who desperately need to hear some good news.

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY – EVOLUTION

The High School Bible study class is examining “Evolution: God’s Amazing Creation” and video series “Journeys to the Edge of Creation” to better understand how the remarkable universe and the creatures all around us are proof of intelligent, divine design. All High School aged students are invited to join teachers Joe Krizan and Archie Wolfe in exploring this fascinating topic each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Invite your friends!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Romans 16:25-27: One of the ways that God’s stewards give glory to God is by using their gifts of time, talent and financial resources to help proclaim the good news of Jesus so that others may have the same hope and joy we have because of that Christmas baby Who grew up to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

TUESDAY EVENING 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 joining this opportunity to grow in your Christian faith.

LIFELIGHT STUDY OF JOB

Here is a puzzle: How can a kind and loving God allow terrible things to happen to a good and faithful person? That was Job’s problem. He couldn’t figure out God. But that is not just Job’s problem. It is a problem whenever suffering strikes any of God’s faithful people. For many of us Job’s story will hit very close to home.

To help answer these questions, our Lifelight Bible study group will study the Old Testament book of Job each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Pastor Moeller.

BIBLE STUDY OF THE PSALMS

From the worship of the ancient children of Israel to the house gatherings of the early church, from the writings of Martin Lutheran to the newly published hymns and praise songs of today, the psalms have played a central role in the worship life of God’s people. Yet to many people, the psalms seem inaccessible and foreign. The language is at times so far removed from our everyday speech that we are left wondering exactly what the writer is trying to say. Many passages inspire comfort, but others seem so harsh that one wonders why they are in the Bible at all.

Over the next couple of months we will study a sample of the Psalms in our Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.) adult Bible study. This Bible study will introduce you to the language, teachings, and history of the psalms so that this treasure chest of God’s riches will not remain inaccessible, but will be opened to you and enrich your worship, personal devotions, and life. All adults are invited to join us each week!

SHUT-INS

Please remember in your daily prayers the following shut-in members: Bud Plagman, Vivian Dansman, Bonnie Edgecomb, and Martha Westphal.

Divine Service

Opening Hymn #59
“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”
 The Order of Matins..... p. 32-34
 The Psalmody.....

P: You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down.
C: Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up.
 P: The heavens declare the glory of God;
C: the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
 P: In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,
C: which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
 P: It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;
C: nothing is hidden from its heat.
 P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
C: and to the Holy Spirit;
 P: as it was in the beginning,
C: is now, and will be forever. Amen
 P: You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down.
C: Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up.

The ReadingsBack of the bulletin
 The Sermon Hymn #74
“Once He Came in Blessing”
 The Sermon.....“The Lord Is with You”
 Hymn of Praise.....#250
“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”
 The Prayers (insert)
 The Kyrie p. 39
 The Lord’s Prayer p. 39
 Salutation, Collect..... p. 40
 Benediction
 The Closing Hymn #62
“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

LIFE QUOTES" FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“A Gospel (Luke 1:39-45) that introduces us to Jesus as an embryo-God and that depicts John the fetus as rejoicing in the presence of his Lord leaves no room to doubt the humanity and the personhood of the unborn child. There are some Christians, it is true, who are confused about whether the unborn are as completely human as the rest of us. If an embryo just a few days after conception can be God, and a fetus prior to viability can rejoice in the presence of that God, then it is impossible to pretend that the Bible is in the slightest degree unclear about the matter.” *Michael Schwartz, Vice President for Government Relations for Concerned Women of America*
www.lutheransforlife.org / 888-364-LIFE

HISTORICAL FACTS OF SD DISTRICT

In 1898, St. Peter's congregation of Clayton accepted an acre of land as a gift from Johann and Anna Langle. At the same time they purchased an additional acre in the same section for the sum of \$15

GOD AND OUR FAMILY IN ADVENT

It has often been said that the family is the basic building block of society. Families provide the setting for learning essential values and skills. In families we learn how to love, share, forgive and care for others. No matter, what the status of your own family, I'm sure you would agree that families are very important.

But as important as families are to you and me, there is someone to whom families are even more important. God cares so much for our human families that He entered into one Himself—as a little baby born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph. We celebrate that Incarnation each Advent and Christmas. But God didn't stop there. The Father gave up His own Son on the cross that we might have forgiveness of our sins and that our family might become part of His family forever.

Please join us as we celebrate “God and Our Family”!
Midweek Advent Services ~ Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

For your convenience the 125th Anniversary Committee will be serving supper from 6:00-7:00 p.m.



LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

A gift that will bless you year after year! What better gift to give your spouse, or to give each other, than the experience of a Marriage Encounter Weekend?



What is Marriage Encounter? In a nutshell, it is a weekend away from the daily pressures of life and responsibilities. It is an opportunity to focus on each other. It is an opportunity to improve our communication in a relaxed and private setting. It is for couples with “good” marriages who want to enrich what they already have. There are NO “group discussions.” The weekend is a series of presentations that touch on many aspects of marriage. The talks are given by three lay couples and a clergy couple. After each presentation, each couple has time, in the privacy of their own room for personal sharing, using the communication techniques learned on the weekend.

The next opportunity for a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is **March 3-5, 2006 in Sioux Falls, SD** at the Country Inn and Suites. The cost is \$45 to register. This reserves your room and meals at the motel. A freewill donation is taken at the end of the weekend. Questions? Register? Contact one of these:

Vernon and Karen Harrington 712-533-6221

giblem@frontier.net

Milton and Donna Kaufman 605-651-3231

miltkauf@tnics.com

Pastor Bob and Aimee Moeller 605-526-3572

seelsorge8@aol.com

Pastor Jim and Rita Wiese 605-432-9555

elcpastor@tnics.com

Have you already attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend years ago? Many couples appreciate another weekend as much or more than the first one. We invite you to return for an updated version of the weekend that still concentrates on communication. To learn more about Lutheran Marriage Encounter you can call 1-800-235-1010 or visit the web site at <http://www.ilme.org>.

MEN'S MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Each Monday morning at 6:00 a.m. a group of men from Trinity gather at Sunshine Foods in Hartford for Bible study. We are beginning a study of Leviticus, perhaps one of the least understood and appreciated books of the Bible. During the coming weeks, we will examine how Leviticus points to the efforts of the thrice-holy God in dealing with human sin through offerings and feasts, priesthood and blood atonement. Truly what one reads in Leviticus is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Yet the richness of His person and work can be more fully appreciated through the study of the types, symbols, and shadows found in Moses' third book. All men of the congregation are invited to join us!

TODAY IN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Today our Sunday School students explore the Christmas story, Luke 2:1–20. Parents might talk about how we face surprises that challenge us. In review of the lesson, parents might ask: What might have made life difficult for Mary and Joseph? What does God's fulfillment of His promise to love us by sending a Savior mean when life is hard?

ACTIVITY BAGS

Activity bags provided by the LWML are available for all the young children who join in our worship services at Trinity. You can pick up a bag from those that are hanging in the coatroom. The children are welcome to keep their artwork by please return the bag and its other contents to the hooks where you find them.

Fourth Sunday In Advent – December 18th, 2005 A.D.

P: O great King forever, the only wise God, powerful most high Lord, for whom nothing is impossible, we come in prayer before You, in thanksgiving and praise. For Your great love shown to King David, to Mary, to all Your saints, and even now to us, in the sending of Your Son, Jesus Christ,

C: we praise You, O God.

P: As we remember Your many blessings to us, Your kingdom's presence in our hearts, Your favor, Your forgiveness,

C: we thank You, O God.

P: For the needs of our congregations and communities . . . for protection of those who travel, for support for our ministers during this busy time, for hearts that offer loving service,

C: we implore You, O God.

P: O Great King, forever bless this day the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran in Scotland. We beseech You, O God.

C: Amen.

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