

Trinity Lutheran Church

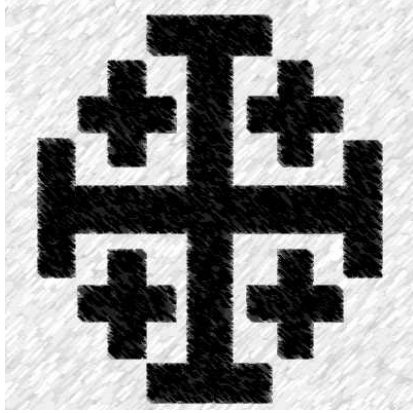
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April 2005



Dear Christian friends,

The cross to the left is called the Jerusalem Cross or Crusader's Cross. It is composed of four Tau (T) crosses that meet in the center. It is generally shown with four small Greek crosses in the four corners. For some, the five crosses signify the five wounds of Christ in His hands, His feet, and His side. For others, it represents the four quarters of old Jerusalem and the Sacred Temple section. For still others, Christ is represented by the central cross, surrounded by the four evangelists, represented by the four smaller crosses. Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word of God, is proclaimed through the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They would say the Gospel is likewise represented by the central cross,

surrounded by the four directions, represented by the four smaller crosses. The Gospel is proclaimed to the four corners of the earth, to the north, south, east and west.

For whatever combination of these reasons, the Christian Crusaders, intent on regaining the city of Jerusalem, adopted the Jerusalem Cross as their emblem. They were united in their mission by the Latin motto *Deus Vult*—"God wills it!" Because of this, the Jerusalem or Crusader's Cross is also known as the Mission Cross.

The Jerusalem Cross speaks to us of a mission that involves Jerusalem. During the recent season of Lent and Holy Week we have just completed our annual trek through the beginning of that mission. The triumphal entry of Palm Sunday, the peaceful communion of Maundy Thursday, the suffering and betrayal in Gethsemane, the solemn tragedy of Good Friday, the joyful rebirth of Easter—in following the cycle of the church year, we have relived once again the Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as it occurred nearly 2,000 years ago. Nothing would hinder Jesus or stop Him from completing His mission at Jerusalem because *Deus Vult*—"God wills it!" And now salvation is an accomplished fact.

But our mission received from Christ has just begun. On one occasion, when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection and before His ascension: "He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem'" (Luke 24:46-47). Beginning at home, the disciples were to pick up Christ's cross and carry on His mission of sharing the Gospel of forgiveness throughout the whole world.

As modern day disciples, we also follow the way of the cross. And today I am challenging you, Christ's people here at Trinity to embark on a new crusade, a mission of the cross. This crusade has to start with someone and so I am asking that it begin with you and me. It has to begin somewhere, and I suggest that like Jesus and His disciples, we begin at home and go out into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Look at the four crosses on the Crusader's Cross. Count them. Four! You have friends (F) here at Trinity, some of whom are not worshiping with us on a regular basis. You have relatives (R)—brother, sister, mother, father, son, daughter, spouse—who are members of Trinity but have not gathered with us recently. You have associates (A), people you work with, fellow members of Trinity—but you haven't seen them at this house of God for quite some time. And you have neighbors (N) who are members, but you have seen them here only occasionally.

Perhaps you yourself fall into one of these categories. If so, please don't be offended. It's not my intention to beat you up or point fingers of blame. There's plenty of fault to go around. Our sinful flesh is weak, the world and its busyness easily distract us from what is most important, and Satan works overtime on those who have been made children of God through the water and the Word. And to be honest, whatever the reason for your absence, the rest of the congregation, especially the elders and I, have failed in our responsibility for spiritual welfare as we've become emerged in our own self-centered busyness or simply by quietly accepting your absence from our assembly. Please forgive us!

Conversely, if by God's grace, you happen to not fall into one of these groups (FRAN), don't be too smug, either. It could happen to any of us, including me. There isn't one of us who isn't only about three Sundays of missing worship away from falling away from the Lord and His means of grace. I would like to think that if that should happen to me, someone would care enough to come and bring me back. That's why the author of Hebrews urges us Christians:

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:23-25).

My request and challenge is this. Pick one or two of these people (**F**riend, **R**elative, **A**cquaintance, or **N**eighbor). (If you're one of them, that makes your job easier.) Contact them. Invite them. Bring them to this house of worship with you. Then follow through. Remember them in your daily prayers. Consider them your responsibility until they move far away, die, or tell you to get out of their lives, or by God's grace come back to the Lord. Do this as if their souls are at stake, for if they separate themselves from the Word and the House of God, that's exactly the way it is.

I have no doubts about God's commitment to all this. He wrote it in blood on Good Friday. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God wills it: God our Savior, “wants all men [all people] to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). God wills it: He is patient, “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). *Deus Vult*. God wills it! And as disciples of Christ, so do I... and so do you!

So that this Crusade does not lose momentum, I am asking each of you to make this your personal commitment for the next two years. The elders and I are asking you to join us as we each choose one or more of our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors and encourage them and one another to continue growing in our mission as Christ's disciples.

God's richest blessings in Christ!

Pastor Moeller

Rite of Confirmation

On Sunday, April 17th we will have the pleasure of welcoming five young men and women as communicant members through the rite of confirmation. Those completing their instruction from Luther's Small Catechism who will be making a public profession of their faith are: Derek Johnson, Austin Kirschbaum, Kimberly Kleba, Aubrey Larson, and Lyndze Thompson. There will be a reception for these confirmands following the 9:30 a.m. worship. Everyone in the congregation is invited!

Camp Minneboji 2005

KIDS IN GRADES 4-9: Camp Minneboji is coming! June 19-25 is the time. Camp Okoboji in northwest Iowa is the place. The camp features Bible study, mission presentations, music, crafts, sports, recreation, and the chance to meet new Christian friends. This year's camp theme is “*Courageous Faith: Bold Witness*.” The camp registration fee is \$210 (\$240 for 9th grade “Honors” Campers). Check out the camp Web site: www.minneboji.com or contact the Camp Dean, Rev. Scott Sailer (Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD), for more information (605/332-3401; scottsailer@aol.com).



Welcome to Shary Muchow

Shary Muchow (center of back row) is the wife of Trinity Lutheran Church member, Monte Muchow (right). They live at 306 Emma Drive, Hartford, SD. Monte is a letter carrier in Hartford and Shary is a U.S. Postal Service clerk at the Southwest Carrier Annex in Sioux Falls.

They have three children: Jared, 24, his wife, Shannon, and their baby girl, Mariah, live in Sioux Falls; James (left), 19, attends Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg, IA; and Jennifer (front center), 12, is a sixth grader at West Central Middle School in Hartford.

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.

Simply Giving

The Trinity Stewardship Committee would like to introduce a new program that could help you in your giving of your tithes and offerings. Through *Simply Giving*, your tithes and offering are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gifts—weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly—the option is yours. Your gift is deposited into the church's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

Simply Giving is a reliable, safe way from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to move your stewardship plan into action. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings. But you're not the only one that benefits. Our congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, and more efficient bookkeeping.

To participate, all you need to do is fill out a simple form that is available from the members of the Trinity Stewardship Committee (John Barber, Tim Totton, Mary Krizan, Aimee Moeller, or Amy Valdes). If you have any other questions they are willing to help you.

Attendance Awards for Trinity Lutheran Sunday School for the Winter 2004-2005

Faithful Attendance: Heather Totton, Abby Totton, Colin Kelley

Predestination—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 study—Predestination: The Lutheran Difference—will identify how Lutherans differ from other Christians and demonstrate from the Bible why Lutherans differ on predestination, one of the most misunderstood doctrines of the church. These studies will help you grow in your understanding and appreciation for your Baptism and help to prepare you to share your faith with others. Please join us!

SD District LCMS Youth Gathering

The South Dakota LCMS Youth Gathering will be held Monday, July 25th to Wednesday, July 27th at the Crossroads Hotel & Convention Center in Huron, SD. It is open to all youth entering the 9th grade in the fall of 2005 to those who will have graduated from high school in the spring of 2005. The theme for this year’s gathering is “Courageous Faith/Bold Witness,” the theme for the upcoming 100th anniversary of the South Dakota District. The main speaker will be the Rev. Terry Dittmer, who is in charge of youth ministry for the Synod. “Against All Odds,” a professional band from Minneapolis, will lead the music throughout the gathering and put on a concert Tuesday evening. Other scheduled activities included servant events, worship, the “junk-food potluck,” and games.

Preparing for Death

Preparing people for death (their own or a loved one’s), is among the most important work a pastor does. It is at the time of death when we each try to ask those “why” questions that may not have a satisfying answer and try to make sense out of what *does not make sense*. At such times our faith is tested the most. But properly prepared, it can be the time in which our Christian witness is the most effective, where we may have unique opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, who has defeated death and transformed it into the gate to eternal life. We might say, that if we are better prepared for our death, we are better prepared for life.

Over 400 years ago, a relatively unknown Lutheran pastor in Germany, Rev. Martin Möller, wrote a small book, *Heilige Sterbekunst*, which dealt with “the holy art of dying.” Although a book of this kind can never outgrow its usefulness, it was not available in English until Pastor Arthur E. Schulz translated it in 1974. We are examining this small book, *Preparing for Death* in our Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.) adult Bible study. We encourage all adults of the congregation to attend. Those who do, will find a very helpful companion and resource to use for many years in the future, as they face the death of their loved ones and their own inevitable death. *Preparing for Death* gets the message straight and gets the message of God’s love out. Please plan on joining us!

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 are beginning a new class soon. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Moeller, letting him know a time that would work well for you and/or your friends.

Photos! Photos! Photos!

We are sorting through 300 to 400 photos taken by our unsalaried church photographer, Ray Matthies. The photos cover most of the activities that have occurred in the last 20 years at Trinity. There are pictures of pastor's installations, church anniversaries, VBS, Men's Club, LWML, AAL, church building renovations, etc. We are using appropriate photos to be on display at the 125th anniversary. The rest will be returned to each of you, personally, if you are the lead person in the picture. So within the next 6 weeks you will get a picture or many pictures of your involvement at Trinity. Thank you to Ray and JoAnn Matthies for the dedication of taking these pictures, for the film, and the development of them.

Lutherans For Life Leadership/Speaker Training Seminar

Lutherans For Life Executive Director Rev. Dr. James Lamb and Ed Szeto, LFL director of outreach, will present a one-day seminar designed for those who want to learn how to speak on life issues in their congregations, communities, and schools. The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, June 25th, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, SD.

The seminar cost is \$50 for a single registration (includes one manual/CD) or \$60 for husband/wife registration (includes one manual/CD). Scholarship money is available through LFL of SD, which will be disbursed at the LFL of SD's discretion. Class size is limited, so register early. If you have any questions or wish to register, please speak to Pastor Moeller.



State Dartball Tourney

Congratulations to the Trinity Men's Club on their 3rd place finish at the 49th annual South Dakota District LLL dartball tournament, which was held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Watertown, SD.

Thanks to Coach Bob Moore for arranging practice games throughout the year.

(Leslie Erikson is shown taking an "at bat" in a practice game against the team from Hardwick, MN)

LIFE Quest 2005

LIFE Quest 2005, an adventure race, is being promoted and directed by Dakota Extreme Events of Sioux Falls, an organization that works to further the sport of adventure racing, promote healthy living, and generate funds for local charitable organizations. With this in mind, Dakota Extreme Events will donate any money after costs from LIFE Quest 2005 to the Alpha Center. The LIFE Quest adventure race will take place May 20-21 at Inspiration Hills near Canton, SD.

During the race, four-person co-ed and two-person open teams will work together to conquer an established course, which will include elements like mountain biking, running/hiking, canoeing, rope skills, map and compass navigation, and some surprises. The LIFE Quest 50- to 60- mile course with a time limit of about 12 hours will challenge participants' skills and endurance.

Participants, volunteers, and sponsors are needed to make the event a success. Contact Adel Valdes (605) 201-7733 and check out the website: www.dakotaextremeevents.com

TRINITY LWML

Trinity LWML met at the church March 9, with LaRaye Rehfeldt hosting. Ruth Ahrends, Donna Bowden, Connie Geide, Aimee Moeller, Walt Plagman, LaRaye Rehfeldt, Pat Reichert, Clarice Wixon and Pastor Moeller attended. Brenda Erickson was a guest. Pastor Moeller continued "The Robe" Bible study.

- President Connie opened the meeting with prayer.
- The Secretary's Report was approved as read. The Treasurer's Report, approved as read, showed a balance of \$307.20.
- Pat handed out Mite Box Calendars to remind us to put money in the box and to perk up our giving. We are very close to our goal, over \$1.4 million to date.
- A letter from the Furniture Mission asking for funds to purchase a new building was read. We sent them \$50 last month.

Unfinished Business:

- Walt Plagman will call to remind cleaners and greeters in April.
Pastor handed out the new calling list.
Connie urged members to fill out their 2007 convention volunteer forms and return to Pat as soon as possible.

New Business:

- MSC to welcome Brenda Erickson as a new member.
- District Retreat, April 1 & 2 – Connie, Brenda and Pat will be going. MSC to reimburse Connie for mileage @ .25 and registration (\$20). Pat and Brenda's expenses will be paid by the District.
- Clarice updated us on plans for the Pampered Chef Fundraiser for a dishwasher for the new kitchen. She will be preparing vegetables on Saturday morning and would like help then.
- A farewell for Roy and Gerry Ruud will be May 15, 2005. The Anniversary Committee will be in charge, but we are asked to help if necessary.
- MSC to send a \$5 donation to mites instead of buying a gift for the confirmands. Pastor Moeller will compose a card explaining our mites and missions.
- Pat volunteered to update the serving list, last done in 2003.
- The next meeting will be April 13 at Pat's home.
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.

Pat Reichert, Secretary

News Articles

Help to publicize your group and the work it does at our church. Pat Reichert and Marty Reichert are willing to submit articles to the newspaper of our activities. You can write your own article or just send them the details at mmreichert@msncom or Pat Reichert, 26373 463rd Ave., Hartford, SD 57033.

Remember, we also have a digital camera that is available for the use of any group or committee here at the church. If you have any questions, please call Pat (526-6225).

Sermon Audio Tapes

The Trinity Lutheran Church Evangelism Committee has audio tapes of each Sunday sermon available. These are great for use by the homebound, shut-in, nursing home residents, or to give to your unchurched neighbor or family member. If you or someone you know would be interested in receiving these tapes through the mail on a weekly basis, please contact Brenda Erikson (363-3444) or Connie Geide (526-3840).

Notes about Life...

Speaking with folks lately, everyone is anticipating spring. According to the calendar it is already here!! Spring seems to bring out the best in people because it proves there is life after all the snow and cold. The world around us looks new and feels new again. We need to remember that this newness comes from God just as the gift of life is from God. As Christians we need to celebrate life daily. From the baby in its mother's womb to the individual dying, life is something to celebrate and protect. We all work hard to protect the work he had created. God gave us eternal life! He protected us when we couldn't. This why it is so important for us to speak and protect those who can't do it for themselves, just as Christ did it for us. As the song goes:

Choose life, that you might live
The life that He gives, He gives you forever
Choose life, the way that is true
From the one who chose you, your Father in Heaven
Chose life.

Life issues are difficult for many. With God's help, we can be advocates for celebrating life! To help celebrate life, Trinity Lutheran will be hosting a diaper derby! Yes, we will be collecting diapers to help mother's in need. It will begin in May, around Mother's Day and end in June around Father's Day. Look for the collection box and more information to come!!!

God's blessings to you!
Amy Valdes
Life Ministry Coordinator

Stewardship Thought

On Sunday, April 3, we will be reminded to move our clocks one hour ahead as we begin daylight savings time. Time is one of the most precious commodities that we have. In fact, as we begin daylight savings time some people bemoan the loss of an hour which is not regained until the end of October when we switch back to standard time.

Time is a precious gift of God. The Bible teaches us that our times are in God's hand and he has allotted the amount of time all of us will spend in this earthly life. The Bible also teaches us to use time wisely. Part of good management or stewardship of time involves letting go of the past which is done and gone already. It is useless and wasteful to dwell on the past, especially the mistakes of the past, and be robbed of the opportunities to use the present to full advantage. Indeed, we should learn from the experiences of the past, but not try to relive it.

Another part of good time management is to keep the future in its proper perspective. We have to wait for the future to become the present before we can actually do anything about it. And yet, good stewardship involves good planning. It is right and good to plan and prepare for the future but not to fret and stew about it so much that we lose sight of the importance of living the present to its fullness.

Managing time wisely is one of the tensions of life we all face. St. Paul had a good attitude toward the past, present and future. In Philippians 3:13b-14 he wrote: *"One thing I do: 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."* Paul left the past in the past and focused his energy, efforts and faith on living the present with clear direction and purpose, because he was enabled to place his future into the hands of his Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ's full and complete forgiveness frees us from our past and enables us to live fully in the present while looking forward to the future with joy and confidence. ***"When it comes to managing time well and living life in its fullness, maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do!"***

Serving Groups 2005

Group 1		Group 2	
Marlo Anderson	526-3564	Dwayne & Mary Anderson	339-4788
John & Carlene Barber	528-7380	Michael Anderson	526-6240
Matt Anderson	528-3600	John & Wanda Barnhart	336-6695
Arnold & Ruth Arends	526-3953	Jennifer Bauer	528-3705
Loren & Heather Bowden	528-7261	Richard & Donna Bowden	334-2156
Kellie Callies	528-6201	DeWane & Joyce Carls	526-6195
Kim Carls	526-6455	Diane Dansman	339-4013
Roger & Bert Carls	526-6455	Henry Dansman	528-3259
Thom & Maria DeWald	526-4474	Fred & Carol Dieters	528-3874
Leslie & Brenda Erikson	363-3444	Penny Eggebraaten	351-0054
Brad Eggebraaten	528-7240	Frank Fryer	526-6749
Ernest & Kristi Fryer	528-6399	Lester & Jean Gregersen	528-3555
Valerie Gascoigne	338-4414	David & Faye Gilderhus	363-3420
Earle & Connie Geide	526-3840	Rodney & Joy Hohn	526-2448
Orrin Geide	526-3840	Bryan & Susan Kelley	528-3812
Talis & Laura Johnson	528-7260	Joe & Mary Krizan	363-3309
David & Kim Jorgenson	363-5302	Melvin Letsche	361-8092
Mark & Sandra Kirschbaum	363-3389	Greg Matthies	543-6835
Ken & Robin Kleba	528-3893	Judy Larson	528-3751
Melvin Matthies	331-0454	Loren & Marsha Letsche	526-6324
Randy Matthies	528-3221	Shana Letsche	363-3322
Kerry & Doreen Loudenslager	528-3904	Ray & JoAnn Matthies	528-3457
Ben & Michelle Matthies	528-3457	Dwane & Audrey Matthies	528-3221
Jim Mielke	526-3430	Rodger Matthies	335-1206
Wilbur & Lois Mielke	526-6168	Marvin Mielke	526-3611
Merle & Barb Muchow	526-3573	Paul & Monte Rae Mielke	526-4331
Monte & Shary Muchow	528-6617	Steve Mielke	526-6177
Jodi Nelson	526-6354	Pastor & Aimee Moeller	526-3572
Josh & Heidi Nyreen	323-1708	Bob & Ruth Moore	526-6633
Tracy Oligmueller	528-6748	Chuck & Debbie Nelson	526-6354
Denny & Walt Plagman	526-3936	Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller	528-6748
Lorna Regnier	528-3423	Steve Plagman	526-3936
Don & Pat Reichert	526-6225	Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt	361-3715
Matthew Reichert	274-0849	Marshall Reichert	357-9527
Keith & Sherry Rueter	528-7249	Myron & Paula Semrau	526-3921
Jerrad & Cheryl Snyder	940-4363	Dale & June Snyder	526-6681
Louis & Michelle Thompson	526-3539	Paul & Linn Suttle	543-6919
Tim & Kathy Totton	528-3849	Adel & Amy Valdes	361-4455
Tim Vilhauer	363-3735	Helen Wenzlaff	526-6156
Tara Valdez	526-4253	George & Donna Vogt	528-6667
Clarice Wixon	526-6371	Patricia Wenzlaff	526-3506
Archie & Lisa Wolfe	361-1558	Lynda Wollmann	357-0068
Lance & Cindy Wollmann	528-6581		

3/23/2005

