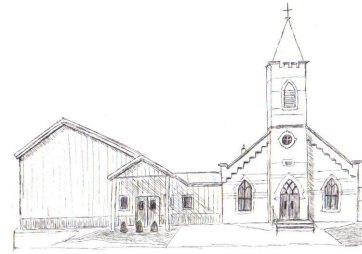


Trinity Lutheran Church

46448 263rd St. Hartford, SD 57033
Pastor Robert E. Moeller, Jr.
Home 526-3572 Office 526-3571
www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org



April 2008

Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Christian friends,

“After [Jesus] said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand there looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:9-11).

Jesus being taken up and hidden from their sight made it clear that the apostles must not expect Him to establish a political kingdom with visible glory. It brought home to them they must wait for the promised Spirit to empower them for their mission task. It signaled that Jesus would no longer appear and disappear as He had been doing during the 40 days since His resurrection.

The apostles did not see the resurrection, but they saw Jesus alive afterward. They did see the Ascension, but from now on Jesus would be hidden from their sight.

The apostles kept straining to see Jesus after the cloud hid Him from their sight. It was only the sudden appearance of the two angels that broke the spell. The angels' question reminded them that they had a mission to carry out and that they must not spend their life gazing at the sky. Jesus will be returning, and there is work to do before that.

The angels' words are also an answer to the disciples' question about the kingdom. No, Christ was not at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel. Jesus' kingdom is not of the world. The disciples would be workers in God's kingdom of grace, bringing His gracious rule into people's lives. The perfect fulfillment of that kingdom will occur when Jesus returns visibly.

The heaven to which Jesus ascended is not the realm of astronomers, the sky with its stars and planets. It is not a place where He is confined or to which He has retired. It is the state of glory in which He who shares our humanity enjoys all the power and glory that He had with the Father from eternity. God “raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way” (Ephesians 1:20-23). He fills the whole universe (Ephesians 4:10).

So, what does this mean to you and me? Besides being an historical event from Jesus' life why should we care about Jesus' ascension? It means He is still with us. No longer confined to one location, Jesus fills all things. He is present with us, not just figuratively and spiritually, but literally and physically. Our Savior did not retire when He ascended to heaven. He has not deserted us. He is involved and He is in charge. The apostles' acts and the church's work in every generation are His doing. This work is not only done **for** Him; it is done **by** Him. In His Word and Sacraments, He continues to bring you forgive you and strengthen you for service. As you serve your neighbor and share His Gospel, He goes along until the day He returns in the way that He left.

In Christ!

Pastor Moeller

P.S. We will be have a special Ascension Day service on Wednesday, April 30th at 7:30 p.m. Please make arrangements to join us in the celebration of this blessed day.

Stewardship Thoughts

April is that time of year where in most parts of our country the color green starts showing up in yards, gardens, orchards and fields. The color green in nature is another reminder of the goodness of God in providing for the physical needs of all His creatures. The color green also reminds us that God keeps His promises, such as this one recorded in Genesis 8:22 (NIV): “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

God also made this promise of His goodness to the children of Israel as they were in the process of moving into the Promised Land: “If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live safely in your land.” (Leviticus 26:3-5 NIV)

God is so good that He also provides for the physical needs of those who do not believe in or worship Him as the only true God. Dr. Martin Luther reminded us of this when he explained the petition “Give us this day our daily bread” in this way: “God gives daily bread indeed without our prayer, also to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.”

In Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV) we read these words: “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

This passage reminds us as God’s people that our God is both good and gracious. We see His goodness in meeting all our physical needs but we see His grace (undeserved love) in supplying all our spiritual needs. The Holy Spirit uses the reading, studying, preaching and teaching of God’s word to bring sinners to repentance and empower them to become the children of God. Children of God are His stewards who use everything at their disposal for God’s purposes. God’s stewards, like green plants, receive the necessary nourishment to grow in their faith and in producing good works, such as giving generously of the financial resources, time and unique abilities.

May all of us as God’s redeemed stewards, like plants on the earth, bud, blossom, mature and produce good fruit (words and actions) that brings glory to our good and gracious God and blessings to His people.

MS Walk

Put on your walking shoes! If you enjoy walking or are looking for a way to support a good cause, have we got an opportunity for you. On Saturday, April 12, the annual MS walk will be held in Sioux Falls. This year Trinity Lutheran Church will have a team participating in this event. If you are interested in becoming a member of the team (The Trinity Troupe) or would like more information about the event, please speak with Jessi Moeller.

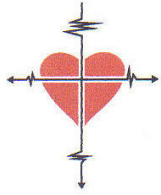


Camp Minneboji – June 22-28, 2008!

“Don’t Forget His Lyrics” is the theme of Camp Minneboji this summer (June 22-28). God’s people have been remembering the great deeds of God through Psalms, hymns, and songs for centuries. Our Bible studies and other aspects of camp will be built on this theme, as the campers will especially be led by way of the Psalms to remember what God has done for them through Jesus.

Camp Minneboji is for those who are currently in grades 4 through 9. The camp, located at Camp Okoboji in northwest Iowa, features Bible study, mission presentations, crafts, music time, sports, and recreation. Cost is \$225 for 4th-8th graders and \$255 for 9th graders. Camp registration booklets are available on the cabinet in the church sanctuary. For more information, check out the camp’s Website: www.minneboji.com, or contact the Camp Dean, Rev. Scott Sailer (scottsailer@aol.com 605/332-3401).

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, about a time that would work well for you and/or your friends.

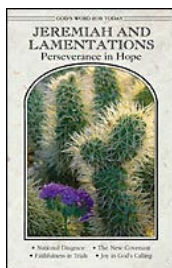
How to Become A Member Of Trinity Lutheran

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.

Lifelight Bible Study

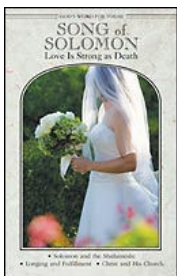


When the Book of Jeremiah first appeared, it was cut in pieces and burned. It was rewritten and is now more than twenty-five hundred years old. Jeremiah's prophecy is long, longer than all the biblical books except Psalms. Jeremiah's writings are difficult to study, for they have many passages of grief and tragedy. Yet, God wants you to study these books and treasure their message. As you study the writings of Jeremiah—his prophecy and his lament—may the Lord richly bless you.

There are about forty direct and indirect references to Jeremiah's writings in the New Testament. Half of them occur in the Revelation to St. John, which compares the Old Testament kingdom of Babylon with the kingdom of Satan. Special passages in this study will help you see Jeremiah's influence on the New Testament and his relationship to the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

Please join the Lifelight Bible study each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., as we study portions of these two important Old Testament books.

Song of Solomon Bible Study



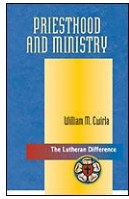
One of the most beautiful books in the Bible, Song of Solomon is also perhaps one of the most difficult to interpret for people of faith. However, the themes of love and longing, and expectation and fulfillment take on a wondrous hue when seen as a reflection of God's love for His people. Properly understood this book will teach you about:

- the power and beauty of physical love within the clearly defined boundaries that God has established.
- the reflection of Christ's love for His Church, through faithful, human marriage.
- the consummation of God's love for us in Christ, to be celebrated at the marriage

feast of the Lamb.

Please join us for this interesting and informative Bible study each Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

Priesthood and Ministry



“So, what’s the deal? You Lutherans say that every Christian is a priest to God, but you have ministers dressed up in fancy robes who speak on behalf of God.”

“That’s true. Our pastors speak in the stead and by the command of Jesus Christ.”

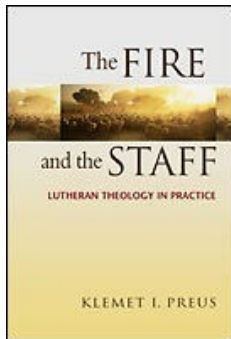
“But doesn’t every Christian do that? I just don’t get it.”

As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often find themselves struggling to explain their beliefs and practices. The Lutheran Difference Bible study series helps identify how Lutherans differ from other Christians and show from the Bible why Lutherans differ.

Our Sunday morning Bible study is exploring the biblical teaching of the priesthood of all believers and the office of the Holy Ministry. We will look at the distinction between these two wonderful gifts that God has given to the church the unique, but corresponding roles that He gives to both pastor and people in His plan to bring salvation to the world through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All adults and high school students are invited to join us each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. as we explore this important issue.

The Fire and the Staff



“Why do we sing all those same old hymns from the hymnal instead of the new songs they’re singing in many other churches?”

“Why does our church still insist on the practice of ‘closed communion’?”

“Why shouldn’t we make a few changes so our worship service would be more “dynamic” and “exciting.”

These are common questions that are asked today all across the country and even in our congregation. At its core, each one of these questions touches upon the relationship between doctrine and practice, between teaching and customs and tradition.

In his book, *The Fire and the Staff: Lutheran Theology in Practice*, Klemet I. Preus explores this relationship. Through stories of his own pastoral experiences, reflections on the Lutheran Confessions, the writings of Martin Luther, and Scripture itself, Preus explores the impact of the American Evangelical and Church Growth Movements on the modern Lutheran Church. Preus provides critical feedback to help fellow Lutherans evaluate the importance of unity of practice for our walk together as a church. He reminds readers that practice and doctrine are inextricably linked for those who are the body of Christ.

Pastor Moeller and the elders of Trinity Lutheran Church invite everyone to join them in reading, studying, and discussing this important book. It deals with many challenges and controversies facing our synod and congregation today and to discover from Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions how we can best walk together as God’s people gathered around His Word and Sacraments, sharing the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ with our neighbors and the world.

Each Wednesday night, beginning April 23rd, we will meet at the church from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. to discuss a chapter of this book. A light supper will be provided. Our regular Wednesday worship service will follow at 7:30 p.m.

We are asking each participant (or couple) to donate the cost of purchasing his or her own book (\$29.99). If you would like Pastor Moeller to order a copy of this book for you, please do so by April 13th so you have a chance to read the first chapter before our first session.

SESD Lutherans For Life Meeting

The SESD Lutheran For Life will be holding their next meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18th at Trinity Lutheran Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

2008 State Dartball Tournament



The Trinity Men's Club traveled to Ethan for the 2008 State Dartball Tournament sponsored by the SD LLL on Sunday, March 9th. Fighting their way back through the loser's bracket, Trinity ended up with second place, falling to six-time state champion Dimock in the finals. Congratulations!

Pictured upper row, left to right: Roger Carls, Bob Moore, Melvin Matthies, John Barber, Derek Johnson, and George Vogt. Lower row, left to right: Adel Valdes, Austin Wolfe, Derek Johnson, and Dale Snyder.

With the addition of two rookies (Derek and Austin) and promising rookies in the farm system, Coach Talis Johnson reportedly vows to dethrown Dimock next year and bring home the championship trophy.

Taste of Cultures Benefit Dinner

Lutheran Social Services Refugee and Immigration Programs hosts its 13th Annual *Taste of Cultures Benefit Dinner* and *Treasures of the World Silent Auction*, **Saturday, April 12, 2008**. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 601 N. Cliff Avenue, Sioux Falls. If you have any questions, would like to purchase tickets for the *Taste of Cultures* benefit dinner, be a sponsor, or donate an item, please call 339-4601.

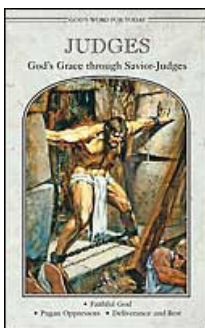
Fly Into Spring

Sunday, April 6th the Men's Club is sponsoring a time of fun and games following Bible study. We will be setting up a flight simulator on the projector for anyone to try their hand at flying an airplane. There will also be dartball set up and beanbag toss for those waiting to fly an airplane. Bring your lunch and be ready for a fun afternoon as we FLY INTO SPRING!!!

Vacation Bible School Planning

It is once again that time of year when we begin planning for our Vacation Bible School Program (June 2nd – 6th). Each year our numbers have grown increasing larger and with the expansion of our daycare we anticipate an even greater number this year. Please prayerfully consider the ways in which you may be able to help us out. For more information, please speak with Jessi Moeller (321-1642).

Men's Bible Study on Judges



As "salvation history," the book of Judges is summed up in the book's last verse: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit" (21:25). Despite Israel's disobedience and apostasy, God was faithful to Israel. Following the death of Joshua and before the rise of Israel's monarchy, God preserved His people from being absorbed by pagan cultures through the ministry of savior-judges. Although immanently human and sometimes exceedingly wicked, God's gracious work through these men and women foreshadows His greater work of deliverance through the true and perfect Savior-Judge, Jesus Christ.

All men of the congregation are invited to join us in the fellowship hall each Monday at 6:00 a.m. for breakfast and Bible study.

Mission Churches

“[God] wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth.” – 1 Tim. 2:4 (GOD’S WORD)

The Sioux Falls area continues to expand, becoming filled with more and more people that God desires to be saved and to learn the truth. Already since the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of the City of Sioux Falls has increased from 123,975 to an estimated 142,396 as of July 1, 2006 (according to the U.S. Census Bureau quoted in Wikipedia). The metropolitan area of Sioux Falls is estimated to have 223,000 people.

Many people come to our community hungry to find a Christian church home and eagerly seek out a place to worship, grow, and serve our Lord. However, many in our community are not connected to such a church home. According to The Barna Group, 28% of Midwest residence in 2006 could be considered unchurched (individuals not having attended church in the past 6 months). That would mean that 62,440 people in our Sioux Falls area could be considered unchurched. Other research has indicated that 31% of people in our communities either do not believe that Jesus is their Savior or are uncommitted in that relationship to Him.

Think of the number – 62,500 living within 10 miles of any one of us who are not connected to our Lord Jesus. How do we reach these people with the Good News of Jesus that has made all the difference in our lives? Sioux Falls area Christian individuals and congregations will continue to wrestle with this question and consider how it presents opportunities before us.

One approach for reaching the lost being encouraged by pastors of the Sioux Falls area LCMS churches is to plant new gatherings of Christians in population growth areas with the intention that these mission plants become LCMS congregations in the near future. We have already identified the northern Lincoln County / southern Sioux Falls (including Harrisburg) area as one location, and Northwest Sioux Falls as a second location for beginning these new mission plants.

The next step in the process is to identify and gather mission-minded individuals and families from our existing LCMS congregations who would begin Christian fellowship home groups in the locations indicated above with the purpose of building relationships with one another and with people of the local community. These fellowship groups would develop into worshipping communities and congregations intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus in as many ways possible with people of the surrounding area.

Beginning in the Easter season 2008, our Sioux Falls area congregations will announce our intention and begin seeking individuals who are interested in becoming part of this mission endeavor. If you have a heart for being part of this outreach, please speak with your pastor.

The pastors and Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations of the Sioux Falls area:

- Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church – Brandon
- Christ Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls
- Faith Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls
- Memorial Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls
- Resurrection Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls
- Risen Savior Lutheran Church – Tea
- Trinity Lutheran Church – Hartford
- Trinity Deaf Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls
- Zion Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls

Note from Pastor Moeller: If you are interested in being part of this church planting mission outreach, please speak to me. We are currently gathering names to begin a core group for the northwest Sioux Falls area.

April 2008

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Head Elder: Archie Wolfe

Sunday, April 6th

Cleaners: Dale & June Snyder, Adel & Amy Valdes

Greeters: Dale & June Snyder

Head Usher: Brady Eggebraaten

Acolyte: Megan Eggebraaten

Sunday, April 13th

Cleaners: Roger & Bert Carls, Henry Dansman, Jr., Dianne Dansman

Greeters: Henry Dansman, Jr., Dianne Dansman

Head Usher: Brady Eggebraaten

Acolyte: Colin Kelley

Sunday, April 20th

Cleaners: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt, Melvin Matthies

Greeters: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt

Head Usher: Brady Eggebraaten

Acolyte: Eric Wolfe

Sunday, April 27th

Cleaners: George & Donna Vogt, Jean Gregersen, Amber Connolly

Greeters: George & Donna Vogt

Head Usher: Brady Eggebraaten

Acolyte: Eric Krizan

Sunday, May 4th

Cleaners: Joe & Mary Krizan,

Greeters: Joe & Mary Krizan

Head Usher: Lyndzee Thompson

Acolyte: Travis Eggebraaten

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Church Council	7 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	1 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Bible study	2 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	3 6:30 pm Elders meeting	4	5 8:30 am—4:00 pm Vine and Branches Conference at Windom, MN
13 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 1:00 pm Voters meeting 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	14 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">SD District Pastors Conference</div>	9 1:30 pm LWML 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	10	11	12 MS Walk
20 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study	21 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	15 7:00 pm Bible study	16 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	17	18 7:00 pm SESD LFL meeting at Trinity, Hartford	19
27 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study	28 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	22 7:00 pm Bible study	23 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 6:00 pm Fire & Staff study 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship	24	25	26
29 9:30 am Men's Bible study Chapel service	30 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 6:00 pm Fire & Staff study 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship Ascension Day	29				