

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

46448 263RD ST. HARTFORD, SD 57033

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PASTOR ROBERT E. MOELLER, JR.

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FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26, 2004

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 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 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 w/communion** ~ 9:30 am
 Sunday School/Bible study ~ 10:30 am

MONDAY ~ **Men's Bible study** ~ 6:00 am

TUESDAY ~ **Choir practice** ~ 6:00 pm
 Bible study ~ 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY ~ **Lifelight Bible study** ~ 9:30 am
 Confirmation ~ 5:30 pm
 Advent Supper ~ 6:00 – 7:00 pm
 Midweek worship service ~ 7:30 pm

THURSDAY ~ **Chapel at Leisure Living** ~ 2:00 pm

FRIDAY ~ **New Year's Eve service** ~ 7:30 pm

COMING EVENTS

Sun., Jan. 2nd ~ Worship communion ~ 9:30 am
 Sunday School/Bible Study ~ 10:30 am

Sun., Jan. 9th ~ Church Council meeting ~ 7:30 pm

Sun., Jan. 16th ~ Potluck dinner ~ 11:30 am
 Annual Voters' meeting ~ 12:30 pm

Sat., Jan. 29th ~ SD District Lay Enrichment Conference at Our Redeemer-
 Sioux Falls ~ 9:30 am

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE : SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2004

Cleaners: Brad & Penny Eggebraaten, George & Donna Vogt

Greeters: Brad & Penny Eggebraaten

Head Usher: Bryan Kelley

Acolyte: Brady Eggebraaten

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2004

Greeters: George & Donna Vogt

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Derek Johnson

NEW YEAR'S EVE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2004

Greeters: DeWane & Joyce Carls

Head Usher: Melvin Matthies

Acolyte: Austin Kirschbaum

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2005

Cleaners: Joe & Mary Krizan, Lorna Regnier, Judy Larson

Greeters: Lorna Regnier, Judy Larson

Head Usher: Harvey Rehfeldt

Acolyte: Jenny Eggebraaten

WORSHIP SERVICE, DECEMBER 15, 2004

Attendance: 61 **Communion:** 32

Offering: Current \$ 435.00

Loose Offering 29.00

Building Fund 10.00

WORSHIP SERVICE, DECEMBER 19, 2004

Attendance: 106 **S.S. Christmas Program** 139

Offering: Current \$ 679.00

Loose Offering 29.85

Building Fund 170.00

Mission 40.00

Future Church Worker 10.00

Memorial – Sylvia Kleba 60.00

Amy Kashenov 20.45

Improvement Fund 25.00

First Sunday Special Offerings go to Campus Ministry

Third Sunday Special Offerings go to Amy Kashenov

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. 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).



THANK YOU

Thank you to Casey Barber and Thomas Iverson for sharing their musical talents with us at last week's service.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Sunday School Christmas program a wonderful telling of the Good News of our Savior's birth.

Thank you to Logan Moeller for getting the Christmas sacks ready this year.

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.

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.

SESD LUTHERAN FOR LIFE SOUP SUPPER

The Southeast South Dakota Lutherans For Life will be holding their annual soup supper at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 23, 2005 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 225 W. Juniper, Menno, SD.

Ed Szeto, Director of Outreach for National Lutherans For Life, will speak on "Biotechnology 101," a basic introduction to the four main biotechnologies that touch our lives: in-vitro fertilization, stem cell research, cloning, and genetic engineering. A good discussion starter for the age-old question, "Just because we can do something, does that mean we should?"

We will also hear from a representative from Alpha Center, a crisis pregnancy center in Sioux Falls. Southeast South Dakota Lutherans For Life raised over \$10,000 in this year's "Bike for Life" to be used for the cost of operating the ultrasound at the Alpha Center. We will hear an update of how God is using the free ultrasound service at the Alpha Center to save the lives of babies and their mothers.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

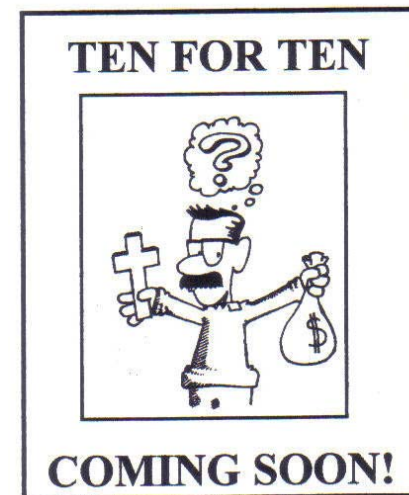
The Evangelism Committee is looking for members who would be interested in helping out in the area of evangelism. This would include things such as delivering service bulletins and tapes to shut-ins, making homemade gifts for visitors. Anyone who is interested may speak to Pastor Moeller or Joe Krizan.

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.

LIFE MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Amy Valdes is our congregation's Life Ministry Coordinator. She works 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.



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.

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.

OUTREACH THEMES FROM OUR READINGS

1st Sunday after Christmas ~ Galatians 4:4-7: At precisely the right time God kept his promise and sent forth his Son to be born on that first Christmas as the Savior of the world. Christian stewards rejoice in Jesus, their Savior, and gladly share this good news of a Savior as part of their faithful stewardship.

The giving of 10% goes all the way back to the time of Abraham. Tithing is a guide for us as faithful stewards.

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income . . .” (1 Corinthians 16:2).



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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – LC-MS DISTRICT OFFICE

South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod invites applications for the position of Bookkeeper. Applicant should have bookkeeping and payroll experience. For additional information and an application form contact Randy Gayken, Business Manager, at SD District LC-MS Office, 3501 S. Gateway Blvd., Sioux Falls, SD 57106; (605) 361-1514; email: rgayken@midco.net Application deadline is January 7, 2005.

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. We have just gone over half way to our goal of accumulating 84,480 pennies (\$844.80), which placed side by side would stretch 1 mile. Thank you for your support.

LIFE QUOTES" FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“When the angel announced His coming to Mary and Joseph, they were certainly taken by surprise, but they adjusted plans and put their trust in the Almighty. On the other hand, when the innkeeper was invited to welcome the Savior of the world, he replied, ‘There is no room in my inn.’ If only he would have rearranged a bit! If only he would have trusted! But, because he didn’t think there was room, he missed the most wondrous opportunity he would ever know.” *Linda D. Bartlett*

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.

Divine Service

Hymn of Invocation..... #102
“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”
 The Order of Holy Communion..... p. 15-16
 The Introit.....

P: For to us a child is born,
C: to us a son is given.
 P: And he will be called
C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.
 P: Sing to the Lord a new song,
C: for he has done marvelous things;
 P: his right hand and his holy arm
C: have worked salvation for him.
 P: He has remembered his love
C: and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
 P: all the ends of the earth have seen
C: the salvation of our God.
 P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
C: shout for joy before the Lord, the King.
 P: For to us a child is born,
C: to us a son is given.
 P: And he will be called
C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

Gloria Patri, Kyrie.....p. 16-17
 The Salutation, The Collect for the Day.. p.19
 The Readings Back of bulletin
 The Nicene Creed p. 22
 The Sermon Hymn #98
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
 The Sermon
 The Offertory p. 22
 The Prayers
 The Service of Communionp. 24-30
 The Distribution Hymns
 #105 *“Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men”*
 #87 *“Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come”*
 The Collect, Benediction..... p. 31
 The Closing Hymn #94
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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 study—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 prayer life and prepare you to share your faith with others. Please join us!

For more information please speak to Pastor Moeller.

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 **January 16, 2005** so we can start to categorize them. You may also submit recipes in memory of a friend or loved one.

Please indicate **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.

LUTHERAN MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend in South Dakota will be March 4-6, 2005, in Sioux Falls. The main emphasis of the weekend is to improve communication between you and your spouse. Plan to attend.

For more information or for a registration form, contact Pastor Bob and Aimee Moeller, (605) 526-3572, seelsorge8@aol.com; Milton and Donna Kaufman, (605) 651-3231, miltkauf@tnics.com; or Vern and Karen Harrington, (712) 546-7381. giblem@frontiernet.net

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.

Gary Miles has given permission to park in his driveway, directly south of the church. We suggest everyone parallel park on the west side of the driveway and turn around by the house.

Please 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.

THE TRUST TEST

Tithing is not an issue of money; it is an issue of trust. God knows that perhaps the most difficult area for us to turn over to Him is our finances. Martin Luther said that we must have three conversions: The mind, the heart, and the purse. God says to us through the prophet Malachi: *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me now in this.” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it”* (3:10).

Ten for Ten: Tithing: A Leap of Faith is a stewardship emphasis we will be conducting, starting Sunday, January 9, 2005, that will teach us more about this tithe that God uses to bless us.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Galatians 4:4-7: At precisely the right time God kept his promise and sent forth his Son to be born on that first Christmas as the Savior of the world. Christian stewards rejoice in Jesus, their Savior, and gladly share this good news of a Savior as part of their faithful stewardship.

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 Edgecomb, and Martha Westphal.

THE CONFESSION DECLARED AT COMMUNION

The New Testament Church *continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread* (Communion) *and in the prayers* (Acts 2:42). The Sacrament of the Altar is a confession of oneness in doctrine – that those attending believe, teach and confess what Trinity Lutheran Church believes, teaches and confesses. Those attending the Lord's Supper are baptized Christians who have been instructed in the Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine: The Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession, and The Sacrament of the Altar.

Those attending the Lord's Supper have been formally admitted to the fellowship of the Altar and continue in that fellowship as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church or sister congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod committed to rightly teaching the Word of God and administering the Sacraments according to Christ's institution. (Even children of Trinity congregation only come to the Sacrament after they have confirmed the confession of faith.)

While we acknowledge and appreciate the oneness of the Church which crosses denominational lines, we practice a confessional communion because attendance at the Altar is a declaration of oneness in doctrine. We would not want you to make that declaration without an opportunity of explaining what we believe, teach and confess. Therefore we ask that if you are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation that you would refrain from receiving the Sacrament before first speaking with Pastor.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNION PREPARATION

Q: Do you believe you are a sinner?

A: Yes, I believe it; I have failed God and others in my life. I am a sinner.

Q: Are you sorry for your sins?

A: Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

Q: Do you need God's forgiveness?

A: Yes, I need the gift of life He gives through Jesus Christ.

Q: What has Christ done for you?

A: He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.

Q: How do you know this?

A: From the holy Gospel and the words of the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

Q: Do you believe that in communion you receive the true body and blood of Christ with the bread and the wine?

A: Yes, I believe it because of His Word and promises.

Approach the altar with joy and thanksgiving as you receive Christ for your forgiveness and strength.