

Trinity Lutheran Church

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



February 2008

Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Christian friends,

“It does a body good.” That’s how the dairy association promoted milk and other dairy products a few years ago. But did you know that the same thing might be said about the Sacrament of the Altar? In addition to the spiritual blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to us in Christ’s very body and blood, there are also physical blessings from this Holy Supper.

One of the early church fathers, Ignatius of Antioch (martyred during the reign of Trajan 98-117 A.D.) speaks of the Sacrament as a medicine that cures the sinner’s mortality and bestows immortality. The Sacrament is an antidote against death and the certainty for eternal life with Christ. And this is not just for the soul but also for the body.

Irenaeus of Lyons (died c. 200 A.D.) also confesses the bodily benefits of the Sacrament: “As we are [Christ’s] members, we are also nourished by means of the creation (and He Himself grants the creation to us, for He causes His sun to rise, and sends rain when He wills). He has acknowledged the cup (which is a part of the creation) as His own blood, from which He bedews our blood; and the bread (also a part of the creation) He has established as His own body, from which He gives increase to our bodies.”

Both Ignatius and Irenaeus confess that the body and blood of Jesus are the down payment that the communicant’s body will be raised on the Last Day for eternal life. The Sacrament is the medicine of immortality. It is the antidote in order that we should not die, but live forever in Jesus Christ.

This doctrine of the bodily benefits of the Sacrament was not just an academic exercise for Martin Luther. It was also a matter of highest pastoral care. In one of his funeral sermons, he not only extols the physical blessings of the Lord’s Supper, but points to this meal as special comfort to the mourners. He proclaims: “Since you know that your good friend departed himself as a Christian in this regard, not despising the eternal food so rich in grace, sought it, and partook of it, you should now be satisfied that as far as he is concerned, he will not remain in death. As St. Paul says, Christ will bring him with Himself on the Last Day and give him to you again just as her son was restored to the widow. And so the holy sacraments direct us to such a hope so that we may be certain and have no doubts at all.”

How the Sacrament can have such effects, the Bible does not tell us. But according to Holy Scripture not only the human soul, but also the human body, is the object of God’s redemption. Jesus is not only the Savior of souls, but also the Good Physician. His miracles of healing are part-and-parcel of His activity as Savior of the world. They accompanied His preaching, just as the preaching of the church is accompanied by the Sacraments. Like the Sacraments, they are an anticipation of the future redemption of the whole man—body and soul (Matthew 11:5; Luke 4:18; 1 Corinthians 15:42 ff; Revelation 21:4). Our bodies, too, participate in the grace that Christ gives through His Sacraments.

During our mid-week Lenten services, we will be focusing on the blessings of Holy Communion, as well as other important doctrine of the Lord’s Supper as explained in *Luther’s Small Catechism* under the theme “The Medicine of Immortality.” Please join us each Wednesday night, beginning February 6th. Worship services are at 7:30 p.m. For your convenience, various groups from the church will be serving a meal from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

In Christ!

Pastor Moeller

Stewardship Thoughts

February is the month when “Valentine’s Day” is celebrated and thus a month in which we think of “love.” A few short weeks ago we celebrated Christmas—the occasion that marked God’s great love gift to the world, His only-begotten Son. Jesus came into our world as a servant and took upon Himself our human flesh and form, as well as our sin, guilt and shame, and then offered His life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world. This act of sacrificial love caused the hymn writer to pen these words: “What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!” (LSB, 543).

The truth is that the love of Jesus is far more wondrous than we can ever describe or imagine, much less imitate and practice. The best that we can do is respond to that wondrous love with our free and joyous stewardship. True Christian stewardship is not something that we do because of laws, rules and commands. True Christian stewardship is always a response to the love of God for us. The Apostle John said it so well: “We love because He first loved us.”

So, during this month of February when “Valentine’s Day” reminds us of human love, we do well to pause and reflect on the divine love of Jesus. By the power and presence of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to show our love through deeds and words that support and encourage.

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Let your love show in your giving of time, talent and financial resources to God’s glory and the expansion of His kingdom.

TLC Bible Study

Pastor Moeller is leading a Bible study, which explores the weekly Bible stories the children will hear at Trinity Learning Center. While this is specifically intended to help the teachers and workers prepare, everyone from the congregation is invited to attend. Please join us each **Thursday at 5:30 p.m.**

Together In Missions



Amy (Hartwig) Kashenov, whose work in Kazakhstan we are supporting with our Together in Missions (T.I.M.) commitment sent this picture. Pictured with Amy are her husband, Marat, and son, Amanzhol. Please keep the Kashenovs in your prayers. Also remember that rather than taking a special offering for T.I.M. we will be paying our \$400 annual commitment from the general fund.

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.

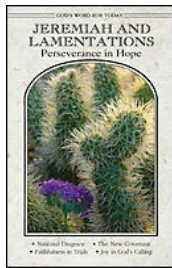
How to Become A Member Of Trinity Lutheran

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

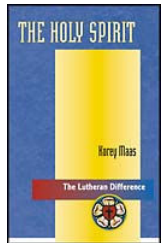


When the Book of Jeremiah first appeared, it was cut in pieces and burned. It was rewritten and is now more than twenty-five hundred years old. Jeremiah's prophecy is long, longer than all the biblical books except Psalms. Jeremiah's writings are difficult to study, for they have many passages of grief 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.

The Holy Spirit: The Lutheran Difference



“Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?”

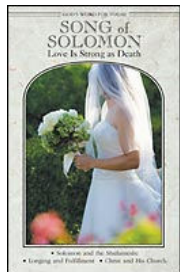
“Sure . . . well, aren't all Christians filled with the Holy Spirit?”

As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often find themselves struggling to explain their beliefs and practices.

The Lutheran Difference Bible study series will identify how Lutherans differ from other Christians and show from the Bible why Lutherans differ. These studies will prepare Lutherans to share their faith and help non-Lutherans understand the Lutheran difference.

All adults and high school students are invited to join us each Sunday at 10:45 a.m., as we discuss the work of the Holy Spirit.

Song of Solomon Bible Study



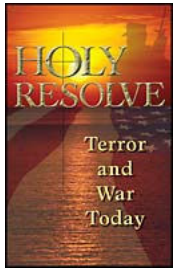
One of the most beautiful books in the Bible, Song of Solomon is also perhaps one of the most difficult to interpret for people of faith. However, the themes of love and longing, and expectation and fulfillment take on a wondrous hue when seen as a reflection of God's love for His people. Properly understood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

Men's Bible Study



Terrorism has changed the way we think about war. It will change the way we wage war. How does this affect us as Christians who resolve to follow God's holy will as revealed in His Word? Our next Men's Bible study, "Holy Resolve: Terror and War Today," will help us understand what the Bible teaches about war, justice, and peace as we pray about the current challenges facing our nation. It is designed to enable us to care for each other and wrestle with individual Scriptural passages and general scriptural teaching.

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

Hartford Nutrition Meals

The Hartford Senior Center, 119 N. Main Ave. is the site where Nutrition meals are served every weekday at 11:30 a.m. The meals are prepared at the Hartford American Legion. These meals are hot, tasty and nutritious. The cost is only \$3.00 for anyone over 60. You do not need to be a Senior Citizen or a member of Hartford Senior Citizens to take part in the nutrition program. Our goal is to provide a nutritious meal, a warm place to eat and visit with your friends. We believe you enjoy your meal more when you aren't eating alone. You are welcome to stay and visit a while or play a game of cards after lunch. The Nutrition Council which consists of a member from each church of the community, hosts seasonal parties with varied entertainment, through out the year.

Volunteers deliver meals to shut-ins who live in the Hartford city limits. Volunteers also help serve the meal at the Center. Each Church of the area and local organizations provide us with these volunteers. The volunteers are needed in order for Hartford to keep this good program available. Trinity helps serve the meals three days a month and we are always looking for volunteers. Your meal is free the day you help. If you have about an hour and 1/2 to share on February 20th, 28th or 29th, please call June Snyder at 526-6681. Thank you, so very much.

Have You Ever Wanted to Work in Television?

Main Street living is looking for a few people who would work in the production of their new children's program, "Kid's Crossing". We need set builders, equipment operators, writers, actors, and editors. Main Street Living is in the process of assembling a portable television studio to use in the production of the program. The program will be "shot" at Zion on Saturdays mornings. If you are interested in working with this exciting ministry please contact: Vic Rames at 338-3905

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend

Give your wife or husband a gift of love this year! A gift of love that will bless you year after year! What better gift to give your spouse, or to give each other, than the experience of a Lutheran 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 help 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." It is a series of presentations that touch on many aspects of marriage given by three lay couples and a clergy couple. After each presentation, the 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 7-9, 2008 in Sioux Falls, SD at the Good Samaritan Retreat Center. The cost is \$45 to register (this reserves your room and meals) and a freewill donation at the end of the weekend. If you want to know more, or to register, go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org or contact Pastor and Aimee Moeller.

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). VBS is a phenomenal ministry and opportunity to teach many children about their Savior and His great love for us.

Each year our numbers have grown increasing larger and with the expansion of our daycare we anticipate an even greater number this year. Unless we are able to find enough teachers and other support staff, we will have to limit the number of children that we allow to be in our program. Please prayerfully consider the ways in which you may be able to help us out.

We will be having a VBS brainstorming meeting on Monday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come. For more information, please speak with Pastor Moeller or Jessi Moeller.

Trinity Lutheran Voter’s Meeting

January 20, 2008

President Talis Johnson called the meeting to order. Pastor Moeller opened with prayer.

Secretary’s report was read. Tim Totton moved to accept minutes, seconded by Dale Snyder. m.c.

Treasurer’s report was given. Dale Snyder moved to accept report, seconded by Bert Carls. m.c.

Elder’s Reports

Christian Worship: Dale Snyder reported good participation for ushers, young people are very willing to be head ushers.

Stewardship: No report.

Evangelism: No report.

Christian Growth: Archie Wolfe reported working with the youth groups and TLC.

Trustees

Ray Matthies reported on all the projects completed this past year. The trustees will be checking into prices of replacing the roof of the church if case that is ever needed.

Pastor’s Report

Pastoral Activities:	Bible studies	77	Meetings	19
	Shut-in visits	10	Hospital visits	5
	Worship service	30	Counseling	9
	Friendship visits	34	Chapel services	14

Funeral: Lester Gregersen 10/27/2007

Midweek Lenten Services ~ 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 6th

Wednesday, Feb. 13th

Wednesday, Feb. 20th

Wednesday, Feb. 27th

Wednesday, March 5th

Wednesday, March 12th

Maundy Thursday, March 20th ~ 7:30

Good Friday, March 21st ~ 7:30

Easter Sunday, March 23rd ~6:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

Membership changes

Transfer of Stacy VanWesten to Memorial Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD.

Transter of David & Amy Larson,& Hadley to St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Wentworth, SD.

VBS will be June 2nd to June 6th.

Bryan Kelley moved, seconded by Tim Totton to accept member transfers. m.c.

LaRaye Rehfeldt reported for LWML on all the activities and projects completed in 2007.

Bob Moore reported for Men's Club. Pie sales brought in \$850.00, Volleyball tournament \$50.00. There will be a Valentine Dinner Theatre on February 17, 2008.

Talis Johnson reported the financial books have been audited, everything balanced.

Old Business

Dale Snyder reminded members of Wednesday evening service and encouraged members to attend.

Adel Valdes reminded members to continue to give to Together in Missions which now comes out of the current fund.

New Business

Ray Matthies moved, seconded by LaRaye Rehfeldt to replace the two lights on the west side of Fellowship Hall (same as on north side) as funds become available. m.c.

Ray Matthies moved, seconded by Adel Valdes to table plans for storage area above back hallway. m.c.

Ray Matthies moved, seconded by Susan Kelley to use cookbook money to purchase and install LCMS cross on south side of Fellowship Hall. m.c.

Connie Geide encouraged members to use the LWML Country Store, bring items to sell.

The council recommended a wage increase for TLC Director and pre-school teacher Jessi Moeller. Dale Snyder moved, seconded by Adel Valdes to accept wage increase. m.c.

Bob Moore moved, seconded by Adel Valdes to install 2 or 3 window air conditioners with money raised by the Men's Club. m.c.

Election of Officers

Elders: Ben Matthies and John Barber.

Secretary: Joanne Matthies

Financial Secretary: Mary Krizan

5th Member: Michelle Thompson

Trustee: Ray Matthies

John Barber moved, seconded by Louis Thompson to destroy ballots. m.c.

Orrin Geide moved, seconded by Tim Totton to adjourn the meeting. m.c.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
June Snyder, Secretary.

February 2008

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Head Elder: Joe Krizan

Sunday, February 3rd

Cleaners: Denny & Walt Plagman, Chuck &

Debbie Nelson

Greeters: Denny & Walt Plagman

Head Usher: Kim Kleba

Acolyte: Erik Krizan

Sunday, February 10th

Cleaners: Helen Wenzlaff, Pat Wenzlaff, Pastor &

Aimee Moeller

Greeters: Helen Wenzlaff, Pat Wenzlaff

Head Usher: Kim Kleba

Acolyte: Megan Eggebraaten

Sunday, February 17th

Cleaners: Orrin Geide, Earle & Connie Geide,

Matthew Anderson

Greeters: Earle & Connie Geide

Head Usher: Kim Kleba

Acolyte: Colin Kelley

Sunday, February 24th

Cleaners: Dwane & Audrey Matthies, Randy

Matthies, Ashley Matthies

Greeters: Randy Matthies, Ashley Matthies

Head Usher: Kim Kleba

Acolyte: Thad Johnson

Sunday, March 2nd

Cleaners: Rodney & Joy Hohn, Monte & Shary

Muchow

Greeters: Monte & Shary Muchow

Head Usher:

Acolyte: Travis Eggebraaten

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 12:00 noon Elders meeting 5:00 pm Super Bowl Party	4 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	5 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Bible study	6 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 6:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	7 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	1	2
10 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	11 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	12 7:00 pm Bible study	13 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML 6:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship	14 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	15 Olan Mills Pictorial Directory	16
17 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 12:00 noon Valentines Dinner Theatre	18 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service 7:00 pm VBS planning meeting	19 7:00 pm Bible study	20 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 6:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship	21 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study 9:30 am Circuit Pastors meeting at Clayton	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study	25 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	26 7:00 pm Bible study	27 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 6:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship	28 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	29	