

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

46448 263RD ST. HARTFORD, SD 57033

www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

PASTOR ROBERT E. MOELLER, JR.

HOME 526-3572 OFFICE 526-3571

pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

Elders:	Joe Krizan	363-3309	Tim Totton	528-3849
	Dale Snyder	526-6681	Archie Wolfe	363-3558
	Keith Rueter	528-7249	Louis Thompson	526-3539

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2007

WELCOME

A special welcome to our guests worshiping with us this morning. We are glad you are here and pray that Jesus will touch your heart in some special way for being here. Please fill out a visitor's card that you will find on the pad in your pew and place it in the offering plate during the service or hand it to one of the ushers, so we can thank you for joining us this week. If we can be of service to you, please let us know.

OFFERINGS AND TITHES

Offerings are our special gifts given to the Lord on special days or occasions or whenever we are moved to do so, for any reason. *Tithes* are those monetary gifts we return to the Lord on a regular basis as first fruits because He asks us to do so, and to meet our spiritual need to give back to the One who has first given to us. If you are a visitor today, feel free to give an offering to the Lord, but do not feel you need to do so. The members of Trinity support the work of the Lord here by giving back to the Lord a portion of what He gives us. We pray that the Lord will continue to lead you to give your offerings and tithes to your home congregation.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In order to be able to prepare for worship, we ask that everyone in the church nave would quietly find his or her seat a few minutes before the service is to begin. You might take this time to reflect on the blessings you will be receiving and pray this short prayer before the service begins.

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!

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.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

SUNDAY ~ Worship ~ 9:30 am
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study ~ 10:30 am
State Dartball Tournament at Delmont
Lutheran Marriage Encounter Renewal ~ 2:00 pm

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

TUESDAY ~ Bible study ~ 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY ~ Lifelight Bible study ~ 9:30 am
Confirmation classes ~ 5:30 pm
Lenten Supper (scalloped potatoes & ham) ~ 6:00 pm
Midweek Lenten worship ~ 7:30 pm

THURSDAY ~ Circuit Pastor's meeting at Menno ~ 9:30 am
"Fit for Life" ~ 7:00 pm

FRIDAY ~ TLC Bible study ~ 9:00 am

COMING EVENTS

Sun., Mar. 18th ~ Worship w/communion ~ 9:30 am
Sunday School & Adult Bible study ~ 10:30 am

Mon., Apr. 2nd ~ Opening Day of Trinity Learning Center

June 4th to 8th ~ Vacation Bible School ~ 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

SERVING THIS WEEK: SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2007

Cleaners: John & Carlene Barber, Marilyn Matthies, Candace Nelson
Greeters: John & Carlene Barber
Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller **Acolyte:** Kylee Thompson

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

Greeters: Marilyn Matthies, Candace Nelson
Head Usher: Jessi Moeller **Acolyte:** Thad Johnson

NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007

Cleaners: Leslie & Brenda Erikson, Keith & Sherry Rueter
Greeters: Keith & Sherry Rueter
Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller **Acolyte:** Ashley Matthies

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2007

Greeters: Leslie & Brenda Erikson
Head Usher: Jessi Moeller **Acolyte:** Colin Kelley

WORSHIP SERVICE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

Worship Attendance: 57 **Mission Offering:** \$ 119.00

WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2007

Worship Attendance: 78 **Communion:** 55
Current offering: \$ 1,240.00 **Loose offering:** \$ 31.00
Building fund: 170.00 **Mission Offering:** 100.00
Future Church Worker: 10.00

First Sunday Special Offerings go to Campus Ministry

Third Sunday Special Offerings go to Amy Kashenov

LET THE CHILDREN COME . . .

Trinity Learning Center Daycare is proud to announce the opening of their doors on Monday, April 2nd. The purpose of Trinity Learning Center is to provide a caring atmosphere for young children in which they can experience the love of God and His people. Our primary mission is to extend the Gospel to young children through a quality, Christ-centered learning environment. The Center is committed to excellence in its programs, offering children a healthy, loving, Christian environment in which to learn and develop creatively and mature emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Applications for registration can be picked up at Trinity Lutheran Church (46448 263rd St.), beginning March 19th.

Beginning April 2nd, we will also start to take registration forms for Trinity Learning Center Preschool for the 2007-2008 school year.

Please contact Trinity Learning Center Director/Teacher, Jessi Moeller, via e-mail at tlc@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org or call Trinity Lutheran Church at (605) 526-3571 with any questions.



TRINITY DRAMA TROUPE



The Trinity Drama Troupe is looking for aspiring actors and actresses to help with chancel dramas in our midweek Lenten services. No previous experience is necessary; we are willing to train. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Moeller.

CAMP MINNEBOJI 2007 IS COMING!



Camp week is June 24-30 at Camp Okoboji in northwest Iowa. The camp, for kids in grades 4-9, features Bible study, mission presentations, music, crafts, sports, recreation, and the chance to meet new Christian friends. This year's camp theme is "Twisting Tales: Tremendous Tales from the Teacher," dealing with Jesus' parables. The camp registration fee is \$215. (\$245 for 9th grade "Honors" Campers). Registration booklets will be mailed in late March. Contact the camp Dean, Rev. Scott Sailer, scottsailer@aol.com, for more information, or check out the camp web site: www.minneboji.com.

A LEGENDARY JOURNEY...



At *Quest for Truth* VBS, kids join Dakota Joe and his faithful dog, Digger, as they tackle daily challenges to unearth the Keeper of the Truth Artifact. Kids will love their journey through the Holy Land as they collect Gospel Glyphs and discover important truths about Jesus!

Quest for Truth Vacation Bible School will be held on June 4th through June 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please keep this date in mind as you schedule your summer activities.

Look for information on a special planning meeting. If you are interested in teaching or helping in any other way, please contact Jessi Moeller (321-1642).

LWML CONVENTION

It's March. Listen for your phone, watch your email and look in your mailbox. Volunteers will be receiving their committee assignments from the Host Committee soon! You haven't volunteered yet? It's not too late. Just fill out the Call for Workers form at the SD District website: http://debneb.midstatesd.net/SDLWML_2007_Convention.htm

Are you concerned about what talents you have? Check out hymn 855 in the Lutheran Service Book: "for All the Faithful Women." A variety of backgrounds, but each served our Lord with the talents He gave them. So can you!

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN

We extend the Sacrament of Baptism to all who have not been baptized—infants, children, youth, and adults. We invite those adults who are looking for a church home to come to one of our New Member Orientation classes. A new class will begin soon. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Moeller as soon as possible.

Upon completion of this class you may join Trinity Lutheran Church in one of the following ways:

- The Rite of Confirmation for those who have never been confirmed in the Lutheran Church.
- A Letter of Transfer is gladly accepted if you wish to transfer your membership from another Lutheran congregation.
- Reaffirmation of faith is for those who have been confirmed in a Lutheran church but have not been active in their former church.

MAIN STREET LIVING

Main Street Living’s mission is to produce a quality Christian program, designed to bring the message of Jesus Christ to the homebound individuals of South Dakota and the adjacent states. Main Street Living is supported entirely by the churches of the area and its viewers. Please continue to remember this mission outreach in your daily prayers.

Main Street Living may be seen on KDLT-NBC at 10:00 a.m.

March 25, 2007. First Steps. “The Puzzle Cub Easter Adventure – Springtime brings a challenging case and more adventure for those three clever detectives of The Puzzle Club – Christopher, Korina, and Alex. The featured speaker is Rev. Tim Rynearson of Peace Lutheran Church in Brookings, SD.

LIFE QUOTES" FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“This generation must be determined to voice the truth of Life—to protect all human life from conception until natural death, with no exceptions, no compromise, and no apologies. We must stand on the truth that Jesus is our strength. We cannot sit silently as another generation is killed.” *Grace Kern, Director, Word of Hope, 888-217-8679. www.lutheransforlife.org / 888-364-LIFE*

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

The key point of today’s Sunday School lesson was that, in our sin, we are lost from God and doomed to die, but God, in His love, sought and found us and keeps us with Him forever. The Bible story was about Jesus seeking the lost as recorded by St. Luke (Luke 15). In your family discussions, talk about how God keeps us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Word and the Sacraments. In the catechism, review the explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed. How does this fit with the Bible story?

OUTREACH THOUGHTS

4th Sunday in Lent ~ Luke 15:1-3; 11-32: What good news it is to hear that Jesus loves sinners and welcomes them just as the father in our Gospel reading for today welcomed his prodigal son. What a great story we as God’s “reclaimed sinners” have to share with others who are still living in spiritual darkness because of their unforgiven sins.

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 several classes. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Moeller.

TLC BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Moeller is leading a Bible study, which will explore 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 Friday at 9:00 a.m.

THE LUTHERAN DIFFERENCE: ANGELS AND DEMONS

Cherubim. Angel of the Lord. Satan. Demons. Seraphim. So many opinions. What do you believe? As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often struggle to explain their beliefs and practices. Based on God’s Word as faithfully reflected in the Lutheran Confessions, this study will help you state clearly what you believe.

Among the topics discussed will be:

- Angels and their beginning
- Ranks and numbers of angels (demons)
- What do evil angels do?
- What do good angels do?

Please join the Lifelight Bible study each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., as we study this interesting and important topic.

SHUT-INS

Please remember Martha Westphal in your prayers.

Divine Service

Opening Hymn #149
“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”
 The Order of Matins..... p. 32-34
 The Psalmody.....

P: Wait for the Lord;
C: be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.
 P: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
C: to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.
 P: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
C: he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.
 P: At his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy;
C: I will sing and make music to the Lord.
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Readings Back of the bulletin
 The Sermon Hymn #245
“God Loved the World So That He Gave”
 The Sermon.... “Letters from a Loving Father”
 Offering.....
 Hymn #279
“Today Thy Mercy Calls Us”
 The Prayers
 The Kyrie
 Salutation, Collect..... p. 40
 Benediction
 The Closing Hymn #154
“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is a season where we feel the encompassing arms of Jesus around our brokenness and our broken world. It is not a time to feel rotten, or to have to give something up as we journey to the cross and beyond the empty tomb, but rather to celebrate the joy and love of Christ for us, who gave up all things—His life—for our redemption and restoration.

This year, we are going to travel with the Apostle John and allow him to preach to us on the wonderful words of Jesus' "I Am" statements. From Jesus' words, we will grow in our understanding of our precious Savior, His love for us, and we in faith, grow in our love for the Savior! When that love dwells in us, we are moved by the Spirit of God to brag about our Lord to others.

You are all invited to join us each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. to listen to John as he speaks to you about Your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—the Great I AM.

Please invite a friend and come and sit and let the Spirit of God fill your heart, head and home with the love of Jesus—a love that says, I AM Your God and Lord.

Schedule of meals:

Wednesday, March 21st ~ Chandelier committee
serving baked potatoes

Wednesday, March 28th ~ LWML serving

STUDY OF THE FORMULA OF CONCORD

Martin Luther died on February 18, 1546. A year later, in the Smalcald War, Lutheran princes were defeated by Catholic forces. The Lutherans all too quickly fell to squabbling about doctrine. How such contentiousness and which doctrinal viewpoints would be affirmed would mark the future of the Church for centuries to come.

The Formula of Concord, published in 1577, helped the Lutheran Church deal with the previous three decades of internal conflicts. Perhaps the Lutheran Church would not have survived the sixteenth-century doctrinal wars without the Formula of Concord. This study will help us to discover anew how the Formula of Concord helps the Church today with theological, doctrinal, and daily life issues. All adults of the congregation are invited to join us each Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

In order to prepare for next week's worship service you may study the assigned readings for The Annunciation of Our Lord, March 25, 2007:

Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-14

Epistle: Hebrews 10:4-7

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

4th Sunday in Lent ~ 2 Corinthians 5:16-21: These beautiful words of St. Paul remind us that because we are in Christ we are new creations! As God's stewards we rejoice in this newness and remind fellow Christians that they are also new creations with new opportunities each day to demonstrate generous Christian stewardship.

DID MY BAPTISM COUNT?

"Why should I baptize my baby?" "Should I wait until my child knows what is going on before I have him baptized?" "Should my relative, who is joining a new church, allow herself to be baptized—even though she was baptized as an infant?" These three questions have, somewhat unfortunately, become common nowadays within Lutheran congregations. Cultural changes and the rise of Evangelicalism have influenced our understanding of the blessed sacrament. Sadly, it seems, we Lutherans have failed to teach the value of baptism and the blessings it brings.

Fortunately, Martin Luther addressed this issue almost 500 years ago when two pastors sent him a letter asking him about the practice of baptizing a Christian a second time. Luther's response addresses the issues, and in so doing, provides a nice summary of the theology of baptism in general, and infant baptism in particular. Recently, Luther's letter has been translated and published in a useful booklet entitled, "*Did My Baptism Count?*"

All members of the congregation are invited to join us each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. as we review the blessings of baptism in our daily life.

WANTED

We need volunteers to clean the fellowship hall for each month of 2007. If you are able to help with one or more months, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

BROOKINGS-SIOUX FALLS ZONE LWML RETREAT

The Brookings and Sioux Falls LWML Zone will hold a joint retreat at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Flandreau, SD on Monday, March 16th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone should be a dish to share for the potluck lunch, a Bible, and coffee mug. The members from Hartford are responsible for helping with lunch cleanup.

WANTED: DATA ENTRY

We are looking for a volunteer or volunteers, who would be willing to help update our membership records on a computer database. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Moeller.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus—are often called the Pastoral Epistles because they address issues concerning the pastoral office (or ministry). Paul is aware that his ministry is coming to a close and is concerned about the future of the Church. He is led by the Holy Spirit to give divine counsel to those who will succeed him in order that the Gospel and its ministry will continue just as he received them from the Lord. And through these divinely inspired words, he prepares every generation that follows to maintain faithfulness to the Lord and keep the faith.

The Men's Bible study is meeting each Monday at 6:00 a.m. to study *1 & 2 Timothy, Titus: Keeping the Faith*. All men of the congregation are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Pastor Moeller so he can get the appropriate materials for you.

THE DAY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

A sign in the Holy Land reads, "Here the Word became flesh." You will not find this sign in Bethlehem, but in Nazareth. There the angel announced to Mary, not just that she would bear a son, but also that she would conceive a son. By the power of the Holy Spirit, through the words of the angel spoken in Mary's ear, the Son of God took on human flesh as a tiny embryo. This Scriptural truth is part of our confession. "We believe that the Son of man according to His human nature is really exalted to the right hand of God because He was assumed into God when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in His mother's womb and His human nature was personally united with the Son of the Most High."ⁱ The path to Calvary began, not in a manger, but in Mary's fallopian tube and womb! The Word of God, incarnate as an embryo, gives value to all embryos! Today, nine months before Christmas, we contemplate the beginning of our Savior's humiliation.

ⁱ The Book of Concord, Theodore G. Tappert, Ed. *Epitome*, Art. 8 p. 488.