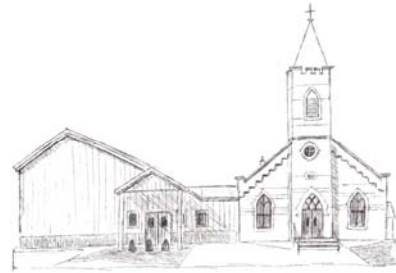


Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pastor Robert E. Moeller, Jr.
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www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org



March 2007

Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Christian friends,

We are in the midst of Lent, a time of focusing on the suffering and humiliation of Christ, culminating in His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins. At the time, of course, those who have placed their hopes in Christ were devastated and most of them deserted Him—but not all. St. Matthew wrote, “Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for His needs” (Matthew 27:55).

So many events are recorded for us in the Gospels that we almost overlook this small tidbit of information and its significance. Think about that day, the preceding night, and the political circumstances of the time. Remember, also, that Easter had not yet occurred. No one had really grasped the meaning of

Jesus' words regarding His resurrection.

“Many women were there.” Watching, sorrowing, anguishing over the death of the One Who had given them hope, Who had healed their diseases, physical and spiritual, Who had promised, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die” (John 11:25-26). They were there to give back to the Giver all they had to give—their presence, their care for His needs. Some of these women went to the tomb with their spices to anoint the Savior's body on Easter morning. Earthquakes didn't deter them (Matthew 27:51), corpses, come back to life and walking around, didn't frighten them away (Matthew 27:52), and Roman soldiers couldn't intimidate them (Matthew 27:65-66). They were at the cross; they were at the tomb.

What a lesson we can learn from these women! We have many things that might get in the way of our coming to the cross or coming to the open tomb. Perhaps it has been so long since we've come to a worship service, we're afraid of what everyone might think. Maybe someone hurt us a long while ago and we still haven't gotten over it. Perhaps we think that no one seems to have really missed us. Maybe we've been too busy, or maybe we've just gotten careless in our Christian walk and have failed to come the only true place of healing and rest. When you think about it, most of those reasons and excuses seem rather small in comparison to the dangers and calamities those brave women overcame. None of them need to continue to keep us from the one place God promises to meet us with His grace—the worship service where He brings us His gifts of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

Wherever you are coming from this Lenten season, I would invite you to join us at the cross and tomb of Jesus Christ, as we gather to receive His life-giving Word and Sacraments. We who are on the other side of the tomb, daily experience to the full all the gifts of our Redeemer. Unlike the brave women at the cross, we have the benefit of knowing the end of the story, and the end is victory! Please join us Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to hear the Good News of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

God's richest blessings in Christ!

Pastor Moeller

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 St. 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, February 28th ~ LWML serving roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy

Wednesday, March 7th ~125th Anniversary Committee serving

Wednesday, March 14th ~ LWML serving scalloped potatoes and ham

Wednesday, March 21st ~ 125th Anniversary Committee serving

Wednesday, March 28th ~ LWML serving

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).



Volleyball Tournament

The Men’s Club is sponsoring a coed, multi-age volleyball tournament on Sunday, March 11th. There will be a lunch of hotdogs and chips. If you are interested in putting a team together, please speak to Ray Matthies (528-3457).

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.

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 Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Martha Westphal's 104th Birthday

Martha Westphal celebrated her 104th birthday on January 22nd. Martha is a life-long member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Connie and Earle Geide brought a number of cards that were sent from members of our congregation. Congratulations!



Nutrition Meals

Trinity Lutheran is scheduled to serve Hartford Nutrition Meals on March 22, 23, and 28, at the Senior Center. If you are able to help, please contact June Snyder (526-6681).

Lent and Springtime

How are Lent and spring related? Well, both occur in March, but that is not the main thing they have in common. Lent reminds us of the journey of Christ to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and then to the cross on Good Friday. Lent is a solemn season—a season of reflection and repentance. Lent is a season of “dying” to the things of this world and giving something up, or perhaps adding something new, to underscore the deeply spiritual nature of this season. Some people give up certain foods or activities to remind themselves of more important spiritual things. Others prefer to add spiritual things during Lent, like more prayer, devotion and reflection time. Perhaps you can remember other ways that you and your family have observed Lent in the past.

In many parts of our country the time before spring can be rather gloomy. Trees and other plants appear withered and dead. The air and ground are both cold. Overall, things look pretty lifeless, and then spring comes. The days grow longer, the earth warms up, and new growth takes place. It is a time of renewed hope. Lent can also seem gloomy and lifeless. We are reminded more deeply of our sins and shortcomings. We are saddened that it was our sin that drove Jesus to His agonizing death on the cross. Lent ends with Good Friday and Silent Saturday and then the burst of new life and hope comes with the trumpets, songs, flowers and joyful celebration of Easter!

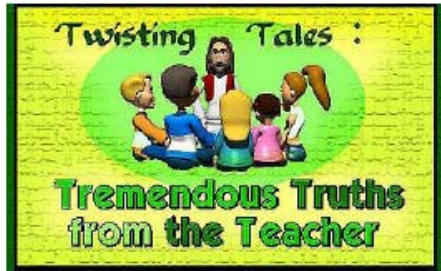
Both spring and Easter bring new hope for the future. Spring's hope lasts only for a season, perhaps two, but the hope of Easter will last forever. As Christian stewards we live in that hope and it encourages us to think about the things of this life—including money and material possessions—in a new and different way. By God's grace we see ourselves as managers, not owners, of life and life's resources. There is quite a bit of difference between an owner and a manager. An owner uses possessions for her or his own benefit; a manager uses possessions according to the will of the owner. What a vivid reminder that we, as maturing stewards, strive by the Spirit's power to use all we are and have to the glory of God and the benefit of others.

In Christ we are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). Take some time during Lent to read this verse as well as the verses before and after to refresh your memory on what life in Christ is really all about. Spring brings an end to winter and new life and growth, but Easter brings a triumphant end to Lent and a joy that will last forever! Perk up, Christian stewards, the best is yet to come!

LWML National Convention

Registration for the 2007 LWML convention and hotels opened March 1. Send those forms in as soon as possible to receive your first choice. Only four months to go! Did you know our song leader for the convention will be Dina Vendetti, an energetic and exciting Lutheran School principal and teacher? The Prairies will ring with song, so come join in. “ROCK! Rest On Christ the King.” The place to be June 21-24 is Sioux Falls, South Dakota. See you there! For more information, visit www.lwml.org

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.

YES Group Lock-in

The Trinity YES Group will be holding a lock-in at the church fellowship hall on Friday, March 9th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All students from the 5th through the 8th grade are invited. You may also bring a friend. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, snacks, and a beverage to drink.

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.

South Dakota District Newsletter

The South Dakota District LC-MS newsletter is available by email. If you would be interested in receiving this valuable resource, which includes upcoming district events and letters from our missionaries, please contact Pastor Moeller at pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls

The Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls Planning Committee is at work to carefully bring a plan for a new Lutheran High School in Sioux Falls. But to do this, we need your input and prayers. The Planning Committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at Sioux Falls Lutheran School. They would like at least one member from Trinity to participate. For more information, or if you would be interested in attending, please contact Pastor Moeller.

High School Bible Study

The High School Bible Study is currently studying “Going Out, Getting Dumped, and Playing Mini Golf on the First Date.” This engaging book contains solid, biblically based advice on dating, sexuality, and marriage. The author, Rev. Tim Pauls, treats this subject with honesty, clarity, and a good bit of humor, providing plenty of opportunity for thought and discussion. All high school students are invited to attend this study each Sunday at 10:45 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. Although many Lutherans have learned the “what” of Lutheran doctrines, they do not always understand the “why.” 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 us each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., as we study this interesting and important topic.

Study of the Formula of Concord

Martin Luther died on February 18, 1546. A year later, in the short-lived Smalcald War, Lutheran princes were defeated by Catholic forces. As if Luther’s death and a military defeat were not enough for the Lutherans to contend with, they 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 decades, if not centuries to come.

The Formula of Concord, published in 1577, helped the Lutheran Church deal with the previous three decades of internal conflicts. So did the publishing, in 1580, of the entire set of Lutheran Confessional documents in the Book of Concord. 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.

Those of you who recently purchased a copy of *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* will find this study a helpful introduction to the book, but it is not necessary to have a copy of *Concordia* to participate in the study. All adults of the congregation are invited to join us each Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Men’s Bible Study

The three letters by Paul—1 & 2 Timothy and Titus—are often called the Pastoral Epistles because they address issues concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry or the pastoral office. 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.

Laypeople may be tempted to think that these letters do not concern them. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Understanding just what the will of our Lord is regarding the work of ministers will help them to not only be humble and grateful recipients of their pastors’ service, but genuinely useful assistants and friends to them. In addition, St. Paul provides much practical advice for the role men, women, and children in the church and within their own families.

The Men’s Bible study will meet 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.

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.

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, written at the end of 1527 and the beginning of 1528 addresses the issues raised by the pastors 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.

New Mailboxes



Roy Ruud made the new mailboxes for our hallway. Everyone should remember to check their own mailbox regularly for newsletters, offering envelopes and giving statements, and other correspondence.

There are also special slots on the bottom for Pastor, Treasurer, Trinity Learning Center, Christian Education, Trustees, and President. If you have any mail you want to pass on to these groups and individuals, feel free to use them. Thank you, Roy!

2nd Annual Super Bowl Party

About thirty people gathered in the fellowship hall for our 2nd annual Super Bowl party. As everyone cheered for their favorite time, they enjoyed a wide variety of snacks, sandwiches, and desserts (see photo on the right).



Lutherans For Life of SD, Inc. Website

The Lutherans For Life of SD, Inc. have a new website. It highlights upcoming and past events of the SD LFL, and includes articles by Pastor Moeller, the federation’s pastoral advisor. You can link to it through the SD District website: http://sd.lcms.org/new_page_1.htm

Valentine's Dinner Theater



The Men's Club held a Valentine's Dinner Theater on Sunday, February 18th. Though obviously over-hyped in its early promotions as "world-renowned" and "famous," the men gamely acted out a number of short comedy skits and sang a few songs to entertain the assembled crowd. The more talented youth group and Denny Plagman (both pictured below) graciously shared their acting and organ playing skills as well. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. Over \$400 was raised for the Men's Club sidewalk and retaining wall project.



Archie Wolfe, Talis Johnson, Louis Thompson, and Dale Snyder take a Black Hills elk hunting trip (pictured above).



Life Sunday Birthday Party



We celebrated Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 27th with a party for everyone who has a birthday this year (that would be everybody). Thank you to Amy Valdes for bringing the cake and decorating the fellowship hall.

Trinity LWML News

Trinity LWML met on February 14, 2007 at the church fellowship hall, with Connie Geide as hostess. Members present. Pastor Moeller, Connie, Clarice, LaRaye, Walt, Ruth, Aimee, and June.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer and a Bible study lesson.

President LaRaye called the meeting to order with prayer.

Roll call was taken.

Secretary Report was read and approved.

Treasurers Report was given. \$150.00 to purchase children's lunch trays and cups for TLC. Balance in the General fund is \$1,060.20.

Connie moved, seconded by Ruth, to continue ordering the same amount of Quarterlies. mc.

Old Business:

The National Convention was discussed. Registrations for Convention is accepted between March 1 and May 18, 2007.

LaRaye reported on information from Building Supply Company on blinds for the dinning room serving window, she will have more prices in March.

New Business:

LWML will be serving lunch for the Sqaure Dance Festival to be held at the Center for Active Generations on February 16, and 17, 2007. The menu includes barbeques, chips, pie and ice cream and root beer floats. Each member is asked to bring two homemade pies.

LWML will serve Lenten suppers on February 28. The menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, buns and bars. Also on March 14 and March 28. The menu for March 14. Ham, scalloped potatoes, salads, buns and bars. The menu for March 28, will be planned at the March LWML meeting.

Caller for cleaners and greeters for March is June Snyder.

Walt moved, seconded by Clarice to accept the slate of officers presented. mc.

President: LaRaye

Vice-President: Lois

Secretary: June

Treasurer: Walt

Christian Growth: Connie

Archivist and Historian: Lois

Other Business:

A prayer service will be held at Blessed Redeemer in Brandon on February 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. the theme is Between a Rock and a Hard Place. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Aimee moved, seconded by Ruth to adjourn. mc. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

June Snyder, Secretary.

KFUO Radio

If you're looking for a great Lutheran talk radio station, you might try KFUO, which is owned and operated by the LC-MS in St. Louis. Due to the marvels of modern technology you can listen by going to their website at www.kfu.org and clicking on to the audio stream icon. KFUO provides a wide variety of Bible studies, devotions, and discussions on a wide number of cultural and doctrinal issues.

March 2007

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Sunday, March 4th

Cleaners: DeWane & Joyce Carls, Ben & Michelle Matthies

Greeters: Ben & Michelle Matthies

Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller

Acolyte: Travis Eggebraaten

Wednesday, March 7th

Greeters: DeWane & Joyce Carls

Head Usher: Jessi Moeller

Acolyte: Patrick Erikson

Sunday, March 11th

Cleaners: Richard & Donna Bowden, Loren & Marsha Letsche

Greeters: Richard & Donna Bowden

Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller

Acolyte: Thad Johnson

Wednesday, March 14th

Greeters: Clarice Wixon

Head Usher: Jessi Moeller

Acolyte: Austin Wolfe

Sunday, March 18th

Cleaners: John & Carlene Barber, Marilyn Matthies, Candace Nelson

Greeters: John & Carlene Barber

Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller

Acolyte: Kylee Thompson

Wednesday, March 21st

Greeters: John & Carlene Barber

Head Usher: Jessi Moeller

Acolyte: Colin Kelley

Sunday, March 25th

Cleaners: Leslie & Brenda Erikson, Keith & Sherry Rueter

Greeters: Keith & Sherry Rueter

Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller

Acolyte: Ashley Matthies

Wednesday, March 28th

Greeters: Leslie & Brenda Erikson

Head Usher: Jessi Moeller

Acolyte: Colin Kelley

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living 7:00 pm Fit for Life	2 9:00 am TLC Bible Study	3 10:00 am Stewardship Committee
4 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study 12:00 noon Elders meeting 6:00 pm Decoding the DaVinci Code 7:30 pm Men's Club	5 6:00 am Men's Bible study 7:00 pm Fit for Life	6 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Bible study	7 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	8 7:00 pm Fit for Life	9 9:00 am TLC Bible Study 7:00 pm YES Lock-in	10
11 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study	12 6:00 am Men's Bible study	13 7:00 pm Bible study	14 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	15 9:30 am Circuit Pastors meeting at Menno 7:00 pm Fit for Life	16 9:00 am TLC Bible Study	17
18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study 12:00 noon Men's Club Volleyball Tournament	19 6:00 am Men's Bible study	20 7:00 pm Bible study	21 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	22 11:00 am Hartford Nutrition Meals 7:00 pm Fit for Life Deadline for Newsletter	23 9:00 am TLC Bible Study 11:00 am Hartford Nutrition Meals	24
25 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study	26 6:00 am Men's Bible study	27 7:00 pm Bible study	28 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 11:00 am Hartford Nutrition Meals 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	29 7:00 pm Fit for Life	30 9:00 am TLC Bible Study	31