

Trinity Lutheran Church

46448 263rd St. Hartford, SD 57033

Pastor Robert E. Moeller, Jr.

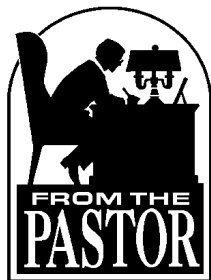
Home 526-3572 Office 526-3571

www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org



March 2008

Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Christian friends,

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.” So said the angel to the women who came to Jesus’ tomb on Easter morning in Matthew’s account of Christ’s resurrection (Matthew 28:5-6).

Psychologists will tell you that fear is a natural response to stress. But I submit to you that fear is not natural at all. It wasn’t part of God’s plan, at least in the negative sense. Certainly, as we learn from the *Small Catechism*, we are to “fear, love, and trust God above all things,” but that means “we revere Him alone as the highest being, honor Him with our lives.” That means “we cling to Him alone as our God and gladly devote our lives to His service.” That means “we commit our lives completely to His keeping and rely on Him for help in every need.” When the angel says, “Do not be afraid,” he’s obviously talking about fear in the negative sense. Fear, as Webster defines it is: “the anticipation of misfortune or pain; the state of being afraid.”

Fear is the result of sin. Think about it: When did fear first come into the world? It came as the first consequence of the fall into sin, back in the Garden of Eden. God came looking for Adam and Eve and they hid from Him. Why did they hide? Because they were afraid (Genesis 3:10). No longer innocent, they felt the shame of their sin. And with God’s pronouncement, “you will... return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return” (Genesis 3:19), Adam and Eve were introduced to what would be their greatest fear—death. As sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, it our greatest fear, too.

Fear, like death, is the result of sin. Because of sin we fear death. When sin is vanquished, fear is removed. When death is vanquished, fear is removed. “Do not be afraid.” That is the Gospel in a nutshell. That is the message of Easter. We no longer need be afraid. Jesus paid the price for our sin when He received the punishment we deserved because of sin—death on the cross. Through His resurrection from the dead, Jesus demonstrated His victory for us over death. Because He lives, we shall also live. Through faith in Jesus we look forward to eternal life with God in heaven.

One day, Christ will return to raise our bodies from the grave, and He will take us and all believers with Him. That is Good News! It’s a message that’s too good to keep to ourselves. There are millions of people out in the world living in fear, enslaved by sin, and facing the ultimate reality of death. What better time of the year than Easter to share the message of comfort and hope that we have through the grace of God and the merits of Jesus Christ? What better time to share the Easter angel’s greeting with your friends and family. “Do not be afraid...He is risen, just as He said.” He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ!

Pastor Moeller

P.S. Remember to invite them to our worship services:

Sundays ~ 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 20th ~ 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise ~ March 23rd ~ 6:30 a.m.

Wednesdays ~ 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday ~ March 21st ~ 7:30 p.m.

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

Stewardship Thoughts

In March we will celebrate a “new spring into our steps.” On March 20th we will welcome the season of spring. It is a reminder to us that the days are getting longer, the temperatures are getting warmer and the expectation is for the earth to once again be fruitful and provide food for all God’s creatures.

The 23rd day of March—Easter Sunday—will put an even greater “spring into our steps.” As we join with other Christians in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord we know that the best is yet to come. Because Jesus lives, we too shall live. Like the rest of nature in the springtime we will also produce Christian fruits. That is what Christian stewardship is all about—responding to God’s love in Christ and bringing forth the fruits of faith.

The resurrection of Jesus does a whole lot more than “simply putting a spring into our steps.” It gives us the assurance that we can live our daily lives with Easter hope and joy. We can say much the same as what St. Paul wrote about to the Philippians: “For to me to live, is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet, what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far, but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.” (1:21-26)

Paul knew for certain that because of his faith in the resurrection of our Lord he was a saved child of God. He was ready to leave this life with all its toil and labor and enter into everlasting peace and joy with all the communion of saints. But Paul recognized that Jesus left him here on earth to be His instrument to touch the lives of other people in a way that makes an eternal difference!

What an encouragement for us! Our lives do make a difference! We, like St. Paul, are also instruments in the hands of Jesus to touch the lives of others in a way that makes an eternal difference. Since we have the sure hope in the resurrection of the body unto life everlasting we know that while the best is yet to come, we must also remember that what we do here and now is important.

God blesses us so that we might bring glory to Him and good things for others. As we manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes we demonstrate that we are fruitful stewards. When we freely and generously give of our time, money and talents we show that our life is about more than having—it is about giving!

May the joy and victory of Easter be reflected in your stewardship!

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.

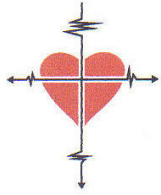
For more information, please speak with Pastor Moeller or Jessi Moeller.

Holy Land Tour

Pastor Nabil Nour is leading another tour to the Holy Land. If you are interested please visit with Pastor Nour. The date of departure is May 15th. The price is \$3,200.00 per person for an 11-day trip leaving out of MN. The price is inclusive of all expenses except your noon meal. Time is getting close. To sign up contact Pastor Nour at 605-724-2489 (office), 605-724-2722 (home), or 605-201-6998 (cell).

redemarmour@unitelsd.com

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.

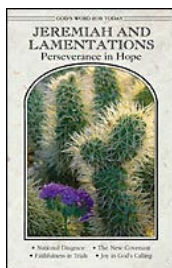
How to Become A Member Of Trinity Lutheran

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

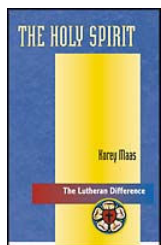


When the Book of Jeremiah first appeared, it was cut in pieces and burned. It was rewritten and is now more than twenty-five hundred years old. Jeremiah’s prophecy is long, longer than all the biblical books except Psalms. Jeremiah’s writings are difficult to study, for they have many passages of grief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

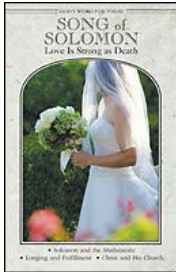
“Sure . . . well, aren’t all Christians filled with the Holy Spirit?”

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

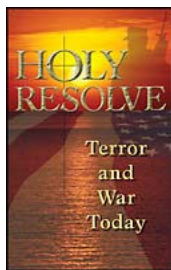


One of the most beautiful books in the Bible, Song of Solomon is also perhaps one of the most difficult to interpret for people of faith. However, the themes of love and longing, and expectation and fulfillment take on a wondrous hue when seen as a reflection of God's love for His people. Properly understood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

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.



Request from Choir

The choir is looking for someone to play the flute with them. If you are interested, please contact Susan Kelley (528-3812).

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 will be mailed directly to last year's campers and in bulk to the congregations by April 1st. 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).

Fellowship Hall Cleaning

Volunteers are needed for cleaning the fellowship hall throughout the year. If you would be willing to help, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hall.

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 Saturday mornings. If you are interested in working with this exciting ministry please contact: Vic Rames at 338-3905

Thank You!! Thank You!! Thank You!!

A big thank you to all who donated pennies for the "Watch Me Grow" campaign. If you missed it we raised \$77.12 for the Fleet for Feet ultrasound. We figured that was about 1 and ¾ baby (according to the US Census Bureau!!). If you didn't get your pennies in for this mission, hold on to them! The Bike for Life is approaching and will be collecting pennies again!! Look for the collection bucket coming soon! The Bike for Life will be happening again in September and any and all interested parties are encouraged to ride along, tag along as support, or just come to see what it's all about!! So as the warm weather begins to approach please keep this mission in your prayers and prayerfully consider riding along!

National Lutheran Schools Week

March 2nd through the 8th is National Lutheran Schools Week. Please remember in your prayers all our Lutheran Schools. Remember especially the 18 Early Childhood Centers spread throughout the state (including our own Trinity Learning Center), and our three elementary schools in Hot Springs, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls. Pray also for the groups working to establish two Lutheran High Schools, one in Rapid City and one in Sioux Falls.

In these schools, children—members and non-members alike—learn about this wonderful world in which God has placed us. Their education flows from the center of their lives and our lives—Jesus our Lord and Savior and touches all of us in so many ways. Many of our current professional church workers—pastors, teachers, deaconesses, and DCE's—are products of Lutheran Schools, including our own Jessi Moeller and Brenda Paulsel who both attended St. Paul Lutheran Day School in Freeman.

In honor of National Lutheran Schools Week, Trinity Learning Center invites you to the fellowship hall for coffee and snacks following the worship service on March 2nd.

Life Initiative Petition

By now you are undoubtedly aware that a petition is being circulated to bring a proposed law concerning life issues to the voters of South Dakota this fall. The title of the initiative is: *"An Act to Protect the Lives of Unborn Children, and the Health of Pregnant Mothers, by Prohibiting Abortions Except in Cases Where the Mother's Life or Health Is at Risk, and in Cases of Rape and Incest."* I have carefully reviewed the wording of the proposed law and feel that it deserves the promotion and support by us who understand the matter of the sanctity of human life. I have also asked Pastor Robert Moeller, Jr., the Pastoral Advisor of Lutherans For Life of South Dakota to review the wording of the proposed law and write a statement to the pastors of the South Dakota District for consideration and distribution.

Pastor Moeller has written a letter both included in this Newsletter, but also sent to all of the district pastors via President On Line. Please read his letter and give due consideration to his words. I would also encourage you to consider becoming actively involved either by making a petition available or by having one or more people in your congregation help gain signatures. And, of course, I would encourage you to ask for support this fall if this initiative comes to the ballot.

In Christ,
Pastor Dale L. Sattgast
President, SD District LC-MS

Protect the Lives of Unborn Children

Dear brothers in Christ:

VoteYesForLife.com is currently circulating an initiative petition to enact a law that seeks to stop abortion from being used for birth control in South Dakota. Over a dozen attorneys came together, including Larry Long, South Dakota Attorney General, to write this act to ensure the strongest language that would be protected in the court of law. The title of this proposed law sums up its scope and substance:

An Act to Protect the Lives of Unborn Children, and the Health of Pregnant Mothers, by Prohibiting Abortions Except in Cases Where the Mother's Life or Health Is at Risk, and in Cases of Rape and Incest

In order to place this proposed law on the ballot for the South Dakota general election on November 4, 2008 at least 18,000 qualified signatures are needed. This initiative is not the same as the referred law in 2006, which banned abortions in all cases. This proposed law contains the following exceptions:

- 1) Life of the Mother
- 2) Health of the Mother
- 3) Rape of the Mother
- 4) Incest

At the suggestion of President Sattgast and on behalf of the Lutherans For Life of South Dakota, I have reviewed this proposed law. I find that it is in keeping with our theological and moral understanding of the sanctity of all human life. To be sure, it is not a perfect law, but it is a good law. While it grants some exceptions to a total ban on abortions, it does speak clearly on the sanctity of human life, including life in its earliest stages. In no way does it suggest that the exceptions do not end a human life or that human life has greater or lesser value based on the circumstances of that life's beginning.

Some would say these exceptions make the initiative petition impossible to support. Using the same logic, we would not be able to support any legislation that only limits abortion, but does not totally outlaw it. Taking this argument to an extreme, we would not be able to support legislation outlawing late-term partial birth abortions, because it doesn't deal with all abortions. If passed this initiative would apply to well over 90% of the abortions that are currently performed in South Dakota.

I urge you to check out this initiative petition for yourself. A full copy of this proposed law may be found at <http://www.voteyesforlife.com/Petition.pdf>. If you also find that you agree with this initiative, I would ask you to join in the petition drive, and encourage the members of your congregation to do the same. Feel free to share this information in the way you deem best in your location. I know that with Lent, you are very busy now, but time is of the essence, so please don't delay.

For more information you may contact:

VoteYesForLife.com
605-553-8427 or 605-271-7581
3500 S. Louise
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
info@voteyesforlife.com

In Christ's service,

Rev. Robert E. Moeller, Jr.
Pastoral Advisor
Lutherans For Life of South Dakota

Note from Pastor Moeller: Amy Valdes will have copies of this petition available for you to sign in the Trinity Lutheran Church fellowship hall. Please prayerfully consider joining in this important effort to uphold the sanctity of all human life. If you want, you can even pick up your own petitions from VoteYesForLife.com at the above address.

March 2008

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Head Elder: John Barber

Sunday, March 2nd

Cleaners: Rodney & Joy Hohn, Monte & Shary Muchow

Greeters: Monte & Shary Muchow

Head Usher: Jennifer Muchow

Acolyte: Travis Eggebraaten

Sunday, March 9th

Cleaners: Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller, Chris & Brenda Paulsel

Greeters: Chris & Brenda Paulsel

Head Usher: Jennifer Muchow

Acolyte: Kylee Thompson

Sunday, March 16th

Cleaners: Merle & Barb Muchow, John & Wanda Barnhart

Greeters: Merle & Barb Muchow

Head Usher: Jennifer Muchow

Acolyte: Eric Wolfe

Sunday, March 23rd

Cleaners: Marlo Anderson, Mike Anderson, Janie Schauff

Greeters: Marlo Anderson, Mike Anderson

Head Usher: Jennifer Muchow

Acolyte: Eric Krizan

Sunday, March 30th

Cleaners: Ray & Jo Ann Matthies, Bryan & Susan Kelley

Greeters: Bryan & Susan Kelley

Head Usher: Jennifer Muchow

Acolyte: Dustin Kleba

Sunday, April 6th

Cleaners: Dale & June Snyder, Adel & Amy Valdes

Greeters: Dale & June Snyder

Head Usher:

Acolyte: Megan Eggebraaten

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm LWML Prayer service 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	3 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	4 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Bible study	5 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship	6 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study		1
9 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study	10 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	11 7:00 pm Bible study	12 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Supper 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Worship	13 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study	17 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	18	19 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir	20 6:00 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship Maundy Thursday	21 7:30 pm Worship	22
Palm Sunday	24 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	25 7:00 pm Bible study	26 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	27 9:30 am Circuit Pastors meeting at Menno 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	Good Friday	29
23 6:30 am Sunrise worship service 7:30 am Breakfast 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study	24 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	25 7:00 pm Bible study	26 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	27 9:30 am Circuit Pastors meeting at Menno 5:30 pm TLC Bible Study	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am S.S. & Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Circuit K Forum at Menno	31 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch					