

## Trinity Lutheran Church

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May 2007

### Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Christian friends,

If you look at the last four verses of the Gospel according to St. Luke, you find that Acts begins precisely where Luke's first book ended—the ascension (Luke 24:50-53). This repetition shows that this event is very important. In fact, in the early church, the Ascension of Our Lord was considered so important, it was celebrated along with Easter and Pentecost as one of the three most important festivals of the church.

At His ascension, Jesus was lifted up from the earth. When the apostles could no longer see Him, two angels told them that He would come back in the same way they had seen Him go (Acts 1:9-11). As we say in the Apostles' Creed, "He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty."

Unfortunately, there is a great deal of misunderstanding about Jesus' ascension. Many people think that since Jesus has ascended into heaven, He is no longer present with us. Just before His ascension Jesus made it clear that this is not the case. He gave His disciples the Great Commission and then He promised: "Surely I am with you always to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Although the ascended Lord is not visibly present anywhere on earth, He is invisibly present with us everywhere. St. Paul makes this clear in his letter to the Ephesians:

[God] seated him [Christ] at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:20-23)

In truth, Jesus can be present with us everywhere, even according to His human nature. Christ's divine and human natures are so closely united that the human nature receives divine powers from the divine nature.

Why is this so important? The Lutheran reformers explained in the *Formula of Concord*. They write that

... "according to and with this same assumed human nature of His, Christ can be and is present wherever He will, and in particular that He is present with His church and community on earth as mediator, head, king, and high priest. Not part or only one-half of the person of Christ, but the entire person to which both natures, the divine and human, belong is present. He is present not only according to His deity, but also according to and with His assumed human nature, according to which He is our brother and we flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone (Ephesians 5:30). To make certainty and assurance doubly sure on this point, He instituted His Holy Supper that He might be present with us, dwell in us, work and be mighty in us according to that nature, too, according to which He has flesh and blood. (*Tappert, pp. 606-607; FC SD VIII 78-79*)

Christ is not an absentee Lord but a Jesus who is very much present with and active in His church. He is the Christ who promised His people that

not only His unveiled deity, which to us poor sinners is like a consuming fire on dry stubble, will be with them, but that He, He the man who has spoken with them, who has tasted every tribulation in His assumed human nature, and who can therefore sympathize with us as with men and our brethren, He wills to be with us in all our troubles also according to that nature by which He is our brother and we are flesh of His flesh. (*Tappert, p. 608, emphasis added; FC SD VIII 87*).

When a great leader or a close friend dies, we often hear people say that the person is gone but not forgotten. As we celebrate Ascension Day, we find that the ascended Christ is not forgotten by His church nor is He gone. This is as true and comforting for us today as it was for Jesus' first disciples. It gives us comfort and courage in life and also when we face the loss of a loved one in death. Thanks be to God for Christ's ascension to His right hand and His presence with us every day!

God's richest blessings in Christ!

*Pastor Moeller*

### **Stewardship Thoughts**

The "M" month "May" also features a couple of other "M-days," namely Mother's Day and Memorial Day. A godly mother is one of the best gifts of God. We do well to honor our mothers and thank God for them. On or before Memorial Day we customarily visit the graves of our loved ones and place flowers or wreaths in their memory. We also take time to give God thanks for those who have given their lives in defense of our freedom.

Some tombstones have inscriptions on them. Those include such messages as dear mother, father, child, grandfather or grandmother. Obituaries for our loved ones normally include references to things that were so special to us. That raises an interesting question: How would you like to be remembered by your loved ones?

The eighth Biblical Stewardship Principle states that God's stewards live with an awareness of the present and future, of time and eternity. This means that God's stewards live intentionally in the light of God's eternal purpose while being firmly committed to His rule in the here and now.

Now, what does that mean? It means that we as Christian stewards can remember that we are involved in something bigger than life and encourage other stewards to also remember that there are eternal dimensions involved with all we decide to do or not do. It is special to be able to rejoice in knowing that what we do now can have lasting benefits.

As a result, we are encouraged to remember that we are not to be so intent on the here and now that we neglect the possibilities for extending the kingdom after our death or to become so intent on plans for the future that the possibilities for extending the kingdom here and now are neglected.

What would you like to have included in your obituary? Wouldn't it be something that indicates how important your life was to someone else, especially family and friends? How about this one from Revelation 14:13: Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow [with] them."

What we do right now does make an eternal difference! So we do well to heed our Lord's counsel to "work while it is day before the night comes when no one can work." (John 9:4).

What an encouragement to know that what we do now is an investment in something eternal. It's just another reminder that God's stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do!

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> through June 8<sup>th</sup>, 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).

Send in your registration in as soon as possible!

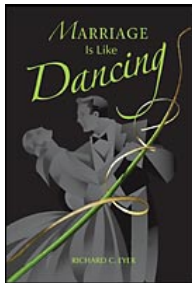
## LWML National Convention

This month, our last before the LWML convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, let us join in prayer for the Host Committee and Convention Programming Committee as they finalize all the details for the June 21-24 gathering. Let us pray for President Linda Reiser as she prepares to conduct the business of the convention and for the speakers and proclaimers as they lead us in understanding “**ROCK! Rest On Christ the King.**” And let us pray that each of our hearts will be open to new experiences and friendships. As final preparations are made, we give thanks for the opportunities this convention presents for each attendee. Visit [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for more information.

## 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.

## “Marriage Is Like Dancing”



*Marriage Is Like Dancing* uses the biblical themes of the image of God and the mystery of the one flesh union of marriage to assert that marriage is not whatever we choose to make of it, but it is what God has made it to be. Readers will identify with the sometimes humorous, sometimes difficult, nature of dancing that parallels the humorous and difficult nature of marriage.

This is not a book on how to fix a bad marriage, but how to support a good marriage. Newlyweds who want to get started in building a good marriage will also find this book useful. The author, Dr. Richard C. Eyer, shares personal illustrations from his own marriage and offers a discussion guide for couples.

Each chapter opens with a short story about dancing which leads into a discussion on marriage.

- Chapter One defines the biblical one flesh union between husband and wife.
- Chapter Two addresses the issue of leadership in marriage.
- Chapter Three addresses conflict in marriage.
- Chapter Four confronts the sensuality between husband and wife.
- Chapter Five explores spiritual connections between husband and wife.
- Chapter Six speaks of the necessity of making time for each other.
- Chapter Seven discusses aging well together.
- Chapter Eight explores the topic of parenting.

This exciting new book is available from Concordia Publishing House. You may order it online at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or speak to Pastor Moeller.

## Nutrition Meals

Trinity Lutheran is scheduled to serve Hartford Nutrition Meals on May 23, 25, and 30, at the Senior Center. If you are able to help, please contact June Snyder (526-6681).

## 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.

## High School Bible Study

Since its first publication in 1950, C.S. Lewis’ *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* has delighted both children and adults with its magical world of talking beasts, mythical creatures, high adventure, and a clear demarcation between Good and Evil in the delightful and lively world of Narnia.

In his Bible study, *Aslan’s World*, respected author and professor Angus Menuge draws out and highlights the biblical allusions found in this classic book and recent motion picture. He does so in such a way that it not only engages Bible study participants, but also leads us deeper into the Scriptures. There we hear not the voice of the great lion, Aslan, in the world of Narnia, but rather his counterpart in our own. It was He who said, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (Luke 24:46-47).

## Christian Vocation Bible Study

Today, Christians are pressed from every side to limit the role of faith in their life. Christians can express their faith in worship, but often see little connection between faith and their work life.

What is missing from the discussion is an understanding of *vocation*, or calling. God provides each Christian layperson with gifts and circumstances that define a station in life. The purpose of this station is to serve our neighbors, to play a part in God’s providential care of humanity. This means that even the work with low worldly status is something God calls us to do.

In our age, intense spiritual experience is exalted as a sign of God’s favor. Ordinary work is often seen as a spiritually dead, practical necessity. But God did not save humankind with spectacular displays of power but through the crucifixion of Jesus. God does not call us to revel in private spiritual gifts, but to take up our crosses and to do His work. It is here that we find what Gene Edward Veith calls the “spirituality of ordinary life.”

The life-changing implications of this perspective are the focus of our Bible study, “Christian Vocation: The Lutheran Difference.” Please join us each Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. as we explore this fascinating topic. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Moeller, so we can have study materials available.

### **Trinity LWML Meeting**

The Trinity LWML met in the church fellowship hall with Lois Mielke as the hostess. Ruth, Mary, Lois, LaRaye, June, and Clarice were present. Pat Reichert and Marilyn Matthies were in attendance as guests. President LaRaye opened with prayer, then led the lesson entitled, "Do You See What I See?" by Rev. Vernon Schindler.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was given. A gift of \$500.00 from Brad and Teresa Matthies and \$800.00 from Thrivent will be used for the dining room serving window door, brought the balance to 3,024.77. The door can now be purchased. Brad Eggebraaten will donate the labor of installation.

Old Business: Ruth, LaRaye, and Clarice reported on the Retreat in Flandreau. The topic was planning a Christian burial, speaker was Pastor Jonathan Watt. It was decided to invite Pastor Watt to Trinity on April 29, 2007. We will pay him \$100.00.

LaRaye thanked everyone for all the work and food donated for Lenten suppers.

New Business: Lois moved, Ruth seconded to purchase \$100.00 worth of towel sets and \$100.00 worth of sheet sets to be given to Children's Inn. MC. They are to be brought to the convention.

Clarice moved, Lois seconded to give \$100.00 to the LWML 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary thank offering, which will be given to seminary students. MC.

Clarice moved, Ruth seconded to give \$85.00 to Trinity Learning Center. Mary volunteered to go yard sale shopping. MC.

Mary moved, Ruth seconded to order the window covering in pale brown. MC.

LaRaye and Clarice volunteered to update the children's Sunday service activity bags.

The LWML will clean the fellowship hall in July.

Walt will host the May meeting. Ruth will call cleaners and greeters in May.

Clarice moved, Ruth seconded to adjourn the meeting. MC.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.

Respectfully submitted by June Snyder, Secretary.

### **A Note from Your Missionaries**

Just a note to say thank you for your support and prayers, and to let you know how things are going here. Things here continue to go pretty well. There has been so much trouble in our communities that people are beginning to look for spiritual help. In Parmelee things have really been picking up. We pray that it will continue. The situations that come up sometimes are almost beyond belief, and yet it is only God's Word and the Lord of our Lord Jesus that can help. Forgiveness changes more things than we will ever know. In Rosebud our Lenten season is always good. More people come to church, both on Sundays and our midweek classes. We have been having around 30 people each week so that is good. We have soup suppers for our midweek classes and that is always enjoyable as well. There are several kids I have coming to a confirmation class in Parmelee. I am excited that these kids come, I have about 5 teenagers. I can't seem to get them all there at the same time, but I keep trying. One of the kids was paging through the catechism, getting to the place in the 10 commandments where we were studying. He put his finger to mark a page, so I asked him what it said. He said, "It says what is sin? And I wanted to know." So there is a lot of teaching to take place yet. I did have a great opportunity to speak both of sin and forgiveness in Jesus. Thank you again for all you do for us. Keep praying, and may the Lord bless the ministry where you are!

In Christ,  
Reverend Andrew Utecht

### **Jeff Kalb's Vicarage Placement**

On Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jeff Kalb received his vicarage assignment to Immanuel Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church in Spencer and Lynch, Nebraska. We pray God's richest blessings on Jeff and his family as they move and he continues his preparation for the pastoral ministry. You may send a card or note to them at: 8006 Leesburg Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46818 or give them a call at (260) 625-5567.

### **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 **Saturday at 8:30 a.m.**

### **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.

### **Cross: We Suffer with Jesus**

Martin Luther noticed a discrepancy in his day: On one hand, Scripture is filled with passages about the necessary suffering of the saints in the world as they follow their crucified Lord in their daily vocations. On the other hand, the teaching and practice of many seemed to be about avoiding this God-sent cross at all costs. There were those who paid significant sums of money to avoid the rather demanding forms of repentance. There were others who subjected themselves to a rigorous discipline of prayer, fasting, chastity, and poverty. In each and every case, Luther found self-chosen, controlled forms of "suffering" were sought as spiritual paths—only to get around the "real deal" sent by God in His way and at His time. And today? Is Christianity promoted as a way to avoid "bad stuff" and to achieve worldly success? Or is Christianity taught as a life under the cross? Popular titles like the 2004's *Your Best Life Now* by Joel Osteen suggest the former. Being "religious" is widely seen as a path to freedom from pain and failure. Suffering is seen as but an invigorating "challenge" on the road to reaching one's "full potential." "Spiritual disciplines" are observed, often at the expense of our God-given vocations and their trials, to achieve personal fulfillment, even salvation.

Lutherans faithful to God's Word have held out a different vision of Christianity and spirituality, one that is shaped by the cross of Christ and daily flows from Baptism. In our **Lifelight Bible study, which meets every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.**, we will study this unique and life-giving biblical topic in "Cross: We Suffer with Jesus," a part of the Lutheran Spirituality series. Everyone is invited to join us!

### **Study of the Formula of Concord**

Martin Luther died on February 18, 1546. 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 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.

## World's Largest Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt



The Trinity Sunday School sponsored “The World’s Largest Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt” on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Over 60 children hunted for Easter Eggs, played games, sang, had refreshments, and heard the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection.



## Welcome to Our New Members



Welcome to Terry Steineke and his sons Dakotah and Tanner! Terry was received as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church through adult confirmation. We pray that the Steineke’s time at Trinity will be a blessing for them and our congregation.

## Midweek Worship Service

We will be holding mid-week services each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m., beginning on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will give an opportunity for those who are unable to worship here on Sundays, whether because of work schedules or weekend travel plans. Each week we will have a light meal from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. If your family or group would like to serve one of these meals, please contact Dale Snyder or Pastor Moeller.



## Registration is free!

Just fill out the attached form and send it in!

One form per child, please



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Just fill out the attached form and send it in!

One form per child, please

### VBS Registration Card

(One form per child, please.)

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade completed \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. phone \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies or other medical concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Family doctor \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings attending VBS (names and ages)

Church affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Church membership at \_\_\_\_\_

Brought by \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation needed? Y          N

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(One form per child, please.)

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade completed \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. phone \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies or other medical concerns \_\_\_\_\_

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Church membership at \_\_\_\_\_

Brought by \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation needed? Y          N

If you have any questions or need more registration forms, contact VBS director Jessi Moeller at:

Office (605) 526-3571 or Cell (605) 321-1642

[www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org](http://www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org)

or email us at: [pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org](mailto:pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org)

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# May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Christian Education meeting 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	<b>3</b> 6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Letsche/Hinks Wedding	<b>5</b> 8:30 am TLC Bible Study 10:00 am Stewardship Committee
<b>6</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	<b>7</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Circuit Pastors meeting at Trinity-Spencer	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:30 am TLC Bible Study
<b>13</b> 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study  <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>14</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8:30 am TLC Bible Study
<b>20</b> 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study	<b>21</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study 9:30 am TLC Chapel service	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 11:00 am Hartford Nutrition Meals 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	<b>24</b> 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00 am Hartford Nutrition Meals	<b>26</b> 8:30 am TLC Bible Study
<b>27</b> 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:45 am Bible Study	<b>28</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study  <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>30</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 11:00 am Hartford Nutrition Meals 6:30 pm Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	<b>31</b>		

## Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

### Sunday, May 6th

Cleaners: Dwane & Audrey Matthies, Randy Matthies

Greeters: Lester & Jean Gregersen

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Travis Eggebraaten

### Sunday, May 13th

Cleaners: Rodney & Joy Hohn, Monte & Shary Muchow

Greeters: Monte & Shary Muchow

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Patrick Erickson

### Sunday, May 20th

Cleaners: Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller, Josh & Heidi Nyreen

Greeters: Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Thad Johnson

### Sunday, May 27th

Cleaners: Merle & Barb Muchow, John & Wanda Barnhart

Greeters: John & Wanda Barnhart

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Kylee Thompson