

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Pastor Robert E. Moeller, Jr.
Home 526-3572 Office 526-3571
www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

January 2005

Pastor's Ponderings

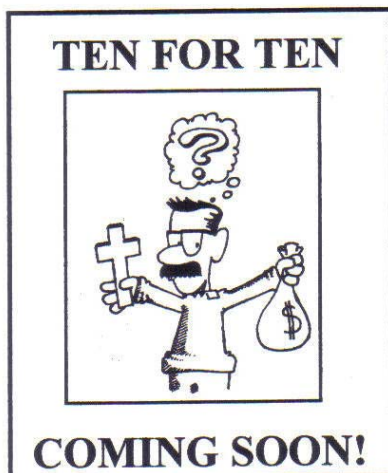
Greetings to you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ!

We begin another new year, some of us in anticipation, many of us with a sense apprehension. Though none of us know what lies ahead in the year ahead, we can take comfort that there is one who does—our all-knowing Triune God. Not only does He know what is going to happen, nothing happens that is not under His almighty power and control. Even better, we know that for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice we are forgiven of our sins and through Baptism have been adopted as God's children. We have an all-knowing, almighty Father, who loves us and wants the very best for us, and has promised to work all things for our good.

Remember this throughout the year. In your good times, remember to include your Savior who has reconciled you with God. Remember to thank your Father for His gracious provision each day. Remember the work of the Holy Spirit who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies you and the whole Christian Church. Remember to come to the place where God has promised to make His presence among us in His Word and Sacrament.

In the difficult and troubling times, remember that you have a loving heavenly Father who listens to your prayers and promises to answer them. Your brother, Jesus Christ, knows and understands everything that you go through because He was like us in every way, yet without sin. You have the Holy Spirit who brings you understanding of God's holy Word and intercedes for you with groans when you don't even know what to pray for. And God has placed you in a body, whose members are willing to share your burdens, dry your tears, and bring you hope and healing. Whatever happens this year, we are not alone. God has made us His own, and He has given us each other.

As you partake in God's gifts of Word and Sacraments may you grow in your faith this year. May your increased love be shared with your family, friends, and neighbors daily.



God's richest blessings in Christ!

Pastor Moeller

Life “Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“Lord God, You give strength to the weak, hope to the despairing, light to those in darkness. You are both the Author, Perfecter, and Giver of life. You created life – in all its complexity, intricacy, and beauty. We praise You because we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Stir up our hearts to praise and honor You, to hallow Your name in our midst.

You love life. Your love covers all people. Engender in us that same love for others that we might cherish, protect, value, respect and care for every life You have created. You have redeemed us with the gift of Your Son offered up for us on the cross. You rescued us from the slavery of sin, the bondage of death, and the power of the Evil One.

Empower us for service in Your name. Go before us. Reveal Your power to the nations. Expose the lies and distortions that dilute the light of Your truth. Help us to foster a culture of life. Turn the hearts of those who deny You and shun Your will. Defeat the forces of darkness that would deny the sanctity of life. And may You, who are the God of Peace, who brought forth from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do Your will; working in us that which is pleasing in Your sight. To Jesus Christ be glory, forever and ever, Amen.” *Rev. Ron Rall*

Giving of Our Firstfruits

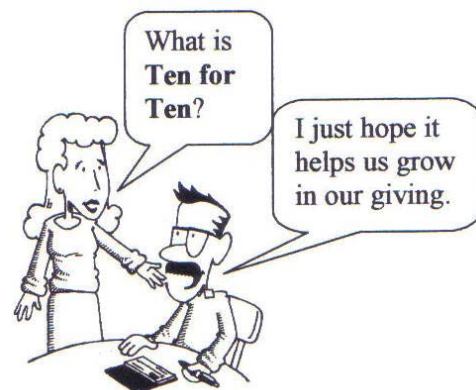


The principle of firstfruits giving, established by God in the Old Testament, continues to be strongly advised, although not expressly commanded, throughout the New Testament. God directed His people to give Him the firstborn of their sons, as well as of their cattle and sheep (Exodus 22:29-30). The firstfruits of the grain, new wine and oil, as well as the first wool from the shearing of their sheep were to be shared with the priest who ministered to them in the Lord’s name (Deuteronomy 18:4). God commanded, “*Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God*” (Exodus 23:19).

The fact that God is the giver of our gifts and deserves our first and best is still true today. When we give of our firstfruits, we recognize God as our Creator and ourselves as His possessions. Therefore, He has a claim on us and all that we have. While we honor God with our first and best, we are to consecrate the portion we keep for ourselves to His glory as well. The Apostle Paul reminded the Romans, “*If the part of dough offered as firstfruits is holy, the whole batch is holy; if the roots is holy, so are the branches*” (Romans 11:16).

Giving is our response to God’s love and grace. We give willingly and cheerfully out of thanksgiving to God. We give our firstfruits, because we want to honor God with our best, not just what is left over after we satisfy our own needs and wants. Giving our firstfruits is being obedient to God’s word. Proverbs 3:9 commands, “*Honor the Lord with all your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.*” Firstfruits giving of all we have is given to God in recognition that He is the giver and that all we have is to serve Him.

May God bless us as a congregation during our **Ten for Ten** emphasis as we honor the Lord with our firstfruits giving.



A Mile of Pennies

The High School Youth Group is sponsoring "A Mile of Pennies" Fundraiser. Members are invited to donate their pennies and other spare change into the jar on the table by the entrance to the church nave. Other monetary donations will be accepted as well (\$1.00 = 100 pennies). The proceeds will be used to purchase a big screen television set for the new building addition. Our goal is to accumulate 84,480 pennies (\$844.80). Thank you for your support.

Stewardship Thoughts

Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do.

In January many people make resolutions they believe will improve their lives, relationships and work. The beginning of a new year is a good time to reflect on the past and make plans for the future, especially for a "preferred" future. Managing diet, exercise, time and stress are among the most popular resolutions.

The beginning of a new year is also a good time for Christian stewards to reflect on the past and make plans or resolutions for a "preferred" future. The second of our eight LCMS Biblical Stewardship Principles states that "Christian stewards are managers, not owners." This is a reminder that God is the rightful Owner of all things and has entrusted to His stewards life and life's resources to manage wisely and well for His purposes. However, since God's stewards are at the same time saints and sinners, good stewardship is a challenge. The "saint" part of our nature loves God and His will and wants always to do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all we think, speak and do. The "sinner" part of our nature causes us to think the things we surround ourselves with belong to us to use in any way we see fit. We like to think that somehow we have worked for and earned all these things. The truth is that God is the Owner and Giver and we are the managers and receivers.

Perhaps our first stewardship resolution should be to remind ourselves daily that all we are and have are gifts from God. Then some other appropriate resolutions are in order. These may include offering more of our time for worship, Bible study, prayer and volunteer ministry. These may also include offering our talents and skills for the greater benefit of our church and community. These may also include resolving to make our giving more Christ-like by doing it in a firstfruit, proportionate and sacrificial way.

A happy New Year to you all and may you resolve always to do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all you do because, as St. Paul reminds us, "your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58b)

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 currently have two classes going. If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Moeller soon, letting him know a day and time that would work well for you and/or your friends.

Main Street Living

Main Street Living, a televised worship service sponsored by the SD District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod can be seen each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. on KDLT.

E-Mail Addresses for the Newsletter

The Stewardship Committee is collecting e-mail addresses for those would like to receive our monthly newsletter electronically rather than through the mail. Those who choose this method will be able to receive their newsletter more quickly and save the cost of postage as well. If you are interest in this option please send your request to pastor@trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org

Prayer Chain > Prayer link

To insure better communication, the prayer chain will now operate using email. If you want to be included in the Prayer Link, send your email address to Pat Reichert at mmreichert@msn.com . When prayers are requested, you will be sent an email including the prayer request. If you do not have email but want to be contacted when prayers are requested just call Pat at 526-6225 and you will be put on the list to call.

Everyone is encouraged to contact Pat Reichert or Pastor Moeller with prayer requests. St. Paul encourages us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Church Extension Fund

At this time of year, we stop and give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He bestows upon us. We have gracious God who loves us so much that He reaches out to us through His Son with the free gift of eternal life which we receive through faith in Christ's atoning death and victorious resurrection.

Investors in Church Extension rejoice in being part of a ministry that helps provide facilities where the Gospel of Jesus is taught and preached.

Our South Dakota District Church Extension Fund (CEF) is offering Term Certificates to our LC-MS members, currently paying interest rates at between 1.9% and 4.0%. Be part of this ministry to build churches through investments, make an investment today. For more information and to invest, see the brochures on the greeting stand or contact SD Church Extension Fund at PO Box 89110, Sioux Falls, SD 57109 or call CEF's toll free number 1-888-385-7330.

SESD Lutheran For Life Soup Supper

The Southeast South Dakota Lutherans For Life will be holding their annual soup supper at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 23, 2005 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 225 W. Juniper, Menno, SD.

Ed Szeto, Director of Outreach for National Lutherans For Life, will speak on "Biotechnology 101," a basic introduction to the four main biotechnologies that touch our lives: in-vitro fertilization, stem cell research, cloning, and genetic engineering. A good discussion starter for the age-old question, "Just because we can do something, does that mean we should?"

We will also hear from a representative from Alpha Center, a crisis pregnancy center in Sioux Falls. Southeast South Dakota Lutherans For Life raised over \$10,000 in this year's "Bike for Life" to be used for the cost of operating the ultrasound a the Alpha Center. We will hear an update of how God is using the free ultrasound service at the Alpha Center to save the lives of babies and their mothers.

Jeff & Carla Kalb

The Kalb's just sent a Thanksgiving card, which is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. You can also see Jeff's picture on the calendar also posted there. They would love to hear from you. Their address is: 8006 Leesburg Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46818. Their telephone number is (260) 625-5567 and their email address is kalb1@earthlink.net.

Please remember that our congregation has been asked to contribute \$2,000 per year for a portion of Jeff's seminary instruction. If you would like to help you may give your contributions in your weekly offerings by giving a portion to the Future Church Worker fund.

LSS Refugee and Immigration Programs

With cold weather upon us, the LSS Refugee and Immigration programs are in need of winter clothing for refugees so they can attend school and English classes, go to work, and do the many things required to support a family. Clothing is needed for men, women, and children. They are accepting used coats, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, and boots in good clean condition.

Donations may be brought to LSS Refugee and Immigration Programs at 620 W. 18th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57104. For more information please call Alice at 731-2006 or Pat Reichert at 526-6225.

Employment Opportunity – LC-MS District Office

South Dakota District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod invites applications for the position of Bookkeeper. Applicant should have bookkeeping and payroll experience. For additional information and an application form contact Randy Gayken, Business Manager, at SD District LC-MS Office, 3501 S. Gateway Blvd., Sioux Falls, SD 57106; (605) 361-1514; email: rgayken@midco.net Application deadline is January 7, 2005.

Daily Prayer—The Lutheran Difference

As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often find themselves struggling to explain their beliefs and practices. Although many Lutherans have learned the “what” of the doctrines of the church, they do not always have a full scriptural foundation to share the “why.” Because of insecurities about explaining particular doctrines or practices, some Lutherans may avoid opportunities to share what they have learned from Christ and His Word, including our understanding of prayer.

Our Lifelight Bible study group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in people's homes. Our study—Daily Prayer: The Lutheran Difference—will identify how Lutherans differ from other Christians and demonstrate from the Bible why Lutherans differ. These studies will help you grow in your prayer life and prepare you to share your faith with others. Please join us!

For more information please speak to Pastor Moeller.

Keepsake Cookbook

We need your favorite recipes! The 125th anniversary committee is printing a keepsake cookbook as part of our celebration of proclaiming the Word of God in this place for those many years. There are forms available at the back of the church. Please return at least 5 recipes (more if you like) by **January 16, 2005** so we can start to categorize them. You may also submit recipes in memory of a friend or loved one.

Please indicate **how many** you would like to buy so we can get some idea of the quantity we will need to print. Please return the completed forms to the box that is on the table near the greeting stand.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend in South Dakota will be March 4-6, 2005, in Sioux Falls. The main emphasis of the weekend is to improve communication between you and your spouse. Plan to attend.

For more information or for a registration form, contact Pastor Bob and Aimee Moeller, (605) 526-3572, seelsorge8@aol.com; Milton and Donna Kaufman, (605) 651-3231, miltkauf@tnics.com; or Vern and Karen Harrington, (712) 546-7381, giblem@frontiernet.net

Parking During Construction

During construction, parking places near the church will be at a premium. We ask that you leave the parking spaces closest to the entrance of the church for those unable to get around as easily as you.

Gary Miles has given permission to park in his driveway, directly south of the church. We suggest everyone parallel park on the west side of the driveway and turn around by the house.

Please do not park near the road on the south side. The edge of the road is very narrow and with all the traffic that goes by, this can be very dangerous. When the weather is dry an alternative parking place would be on the lawn of the cemetery grounds. Perhaps someone arriving early could open the gate, and the last one who leaves could close it again.

Church Council and Voter's Meetings

The Church Council will be meeting on Sunday, January 9th at 7:30 p.m. All committees, boards, and groups are asked to have their annual reports turned into Secretary, June Snyder by that day.

The annual voter's meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 16th. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Included on the agenda will be the election of officers.

The 125th Anniversary Committee will be providing a meal before the meeting. Free will donations will be used to defray expenses for the upcoming 125th anniversary celebration, including defraying the expenses of former pastors who will be attending. Everyone from the congregation is invited to attend this dinner. You need not bring anything!

Welcome to Shayne Aerin Luzmoor

Shayne Aerin Luzmoor, the infant daughter of Patrick and Stacy (Letsche) Luzmoor was baptized on Sunday, December 12, 2004. Witnesses were Shana Letsche and Joel Luzmoor. Grandparents from Trinity are Loren and Marsha Letsche. Please welcome Shayne into our family here at Trinity and pray God's continued blessings upon our little sister in Christ.



January 2005

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please send your articles for the newsletter to tommyguns23@netzero.com						1
2 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	3 6:00 am Men's Bible study	4 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible St.	5 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	6	7	8 9:00 am Stewardship Committee meeting 1:00 pm Annual meeting LFL of SD at Mitchell
9 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study 6:30 pm 125th Ann. Comm. mtg. 7:30 pm Church Council meeting	10 6:00 am Men's Bible study	11 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible St.	12 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	13	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study 11:30 am Dinner 12:30 pm Annual Voters meeting	17 6:00 am Men's Bible study	18 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible St.	19 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	20 Deadline for newsletter	21	22 6:00 pm Couples Club
23 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study 4:00 pm SESD LFL meeting 6:00 pm LFL Soup Supper at Menno	24 6:00 am Men's Bible study	25 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible St.	26 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	27 9:30 am Circuit Pastor's meeting at Spencer	28	29 9:30 am Lay Enrichment Conference at Our Redeemer, S.F.
30 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study	31 6:00 am Men's Bible study					

Sunday, January 2, 2005

Cleaners: Joe & Mary Krizan, Lorna Regnier, Judy Larson

Greeters: Lorna Regnier, Judy Larson

Head Usher: Harvey Rehfeldt

Acolyte: Jenny Eggebraaten

Wednesday, January 5, 2005

Greeters: Joe & Mary Krizan

Head Usher: Daniel Erikson

Acolyte: Kimberly Kleba

Sunday, January 9, 2005

Cleaners: Bob & Ruth Moore, Louis & Michelle Thompson

Greeters: Arnold & Ruth Arends

Head Usher: Harvey Rehfeldt

Acolyte: Holly Kelley

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Greeters: Louis & Michelle Thompson

Head Usher: Daniel Erikson

Acolyte: Thad Johnson

Sunday, January 16, 2005

Cleaners: DeWane & Joyce Carls, Ben & Michelle Matthies

Greeters: Ben & Michelle Matthies

Head Usher: Harvey Rehfeldt

Acolyte: Megan Eggebraaten

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

Greeters: DeWane & Joyce Carls

Head Usher: Daniel Erikson

Acolyte: Colin Kelley

Sunday, January 23, 2005

Cleaners: Richard & Donna Bowden, Loren & Marsha Letsche

Greeters: Loren & Marsha Letsche

Head Usher: Harvey Rehfeldt

Acolyte: Dustin Kleba

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Greeters: Richard & Donna Bowden

Head Usher: Daniel Erikson

Acolyte: Courtney Iverson

Sunday, January 30, 2005

Cleaners: John & Carlene Barber, Carmen Barber, Casey Barber

Greeters: Clarice Wixon, Stacy VanWesten

Head Usher: Harvey Rehfeldt

Acolyte: Ashley Matthies