

Trinity Lutheran Church

46448 263rd St. Hartford, SD 57033
Pastor Robert E. Moeller, Jr.
Home 526-3572 Office 526-3571
www.trinitylutheran-hartfordsd.org



November 2006

Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Christian friends.

What are you thankful for? Though Scriptures tells us to “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18), the month of November is a particularly fitting time to give “thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am thankful to God the Father for giving me a loving, supportive wife. Aimee is a true example of the “wife of noble character” described in Proverbs 31 who “is worth far more than rubies” (v. 10). She is industrious, multi-talented, and ambitious, and watches over our household even when I get distracted with other duties of the ministry.

I am thankful for my children: Jessi, Katie, Logan, and Marissa. It is a great joy to watch them grow up, establishing their own lives, and developing the many talents and gifts that God has given them (Proverbs 10:1). They have taught me much about unconditional love and forgiveness, and being willing to accept responsibility and admit your mistakes.

I am thankful to God for calling me to be your pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. I can join with St. Paul in saying, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:3-6).

I have many other things for which I thank God, but most of all, I thank God for His love, goodness, and mercy in Christ Jesus. He has given us victory over sin and death through His Son. Christ has given each of us the blessings of forgiveness, justification, a new life, and an eternal hope. Because of His bountiful blessings, we should be compelled to show our gratitude. Do we? Could we, at times, be taking all that we receive for granted?

If Christ were to come into our homes in physical form, certainly we would express our thanks in tangible ways. We would make Him comfortable, run errands for Him, offer our best food, and give Him our time and attention. However, we don't have that opportunity, so we show our gratitude in different ways.

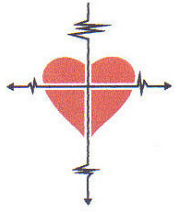
One way that we express our gratitude is to give thanks throughout the day in our prayers and thoughts. When we see life and its blessings as gifts, we are prepared to offer our thanks. Our thanksgiving is expressed when we use the faith God has given us to live in obedience to His Word. God hears and sees our gratitude through the lives we live. When we generously share our time and money with others in Christian love, we show our thanksgiving for our gifts. Our giving reflects Christ's love in us. We extend our thanks to our heavenly Father when we give Him praise and glory in weekly worship and privately throughout each day.

As stewards, we find that our gratitude to God opens our hearts to receive more of God's love which enables us to be more faithful with our time, talents, and treasures. In response to God's love and grace, we give ourselves and our resources. When we acknowledge God as the creator and owner of all, we will serve the Lord faithfully out of gratitude for all His gifts to us. Our gratefulness to God will enable us to give thanks even during bad times because God promises to comfort and sustain us in all things.

In Christ!

Pastor Moeller

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.

Trinity Altar Guild

An altar guild is being formed that would take care of the altar paraments, banners, candles, plants, and many other services in preparation for the worship. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact Aimee Moeller or Mary Krizan.

Simply Giving

The Stewardship Committee at Trinity Lutheran Church invites you to consider a new way of implementing your giving of tithes and offering. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has developed an automated giving program called *Simply Giving* to assist congregations and their members. Our church council and voters assembly have examined the program and found it a good option for members who regularly use automatic withdrawals from their bank accounts. Responses from those at Trinity who have been using this program have been very positive.

Both our members and the ministry of our church benefit with this program. For those who choose to participate, withdrawing the pledged or specified amount from your bank account is truly giving the Biblical “first fruits.” It also eliminates the minor frustrations of writing frequent checks or forgetting the checkbook. For the church, the advantages are related to a consistent, predictable income. The seasonal fluctuations in giving patterns are lessened. Thrivent Financial offers this service to benefit congregations. They pay all of the cost for this service.

You can implement this plan by asking for an enrollment form, completing it, and sending it and the appropriate bank information to the church office.

Wanted

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our prayer chain. Internet access would be beneficial. If you are interested in helping out with this please contact Pastor Moeller.

STEWARDSHIP DEVOTION

“Give Thanks”

Scripture Readings:

“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you” (Deuteronomy 8:10).

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness” (Colossians 2:6-7).

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).



Thoughts:

This is the time of year when our nation as a whole commemorates a day of thanksgiving. We know the history of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans setting aside time to gather together for feasting and giving thanks for the abundant harvest they were enjoying. They fulfilled the command Moses gave to the people of Israel as their years of wandering in the desert were almost over. How many grateful hearts in our country still gather together after they *“have eaten and are satisfied”* to thank *“God for the good land He has given”* them?

All of us benefit from God’s goodness. *“He cause His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous”* (Matthew 5:45) We who are His children, however, realize that we are not deserving of this goodness. We don’t enjoy His blessings because we have earned them, but because God loves us so much He can’t stop giving to us. We above all people should have hearts filled with gratitude for all we’ve received. We who have *“received Christ Jesus as Lord”* ought to be *“overflowing with thankfulness,”* as St. Paul exhorts his readers. We should be filled with gratitude regardless of our circumstances. Maybe it’s been a year of reversals: the new business has gone bankrupt; the spouse has filed for divorce; the parent has died; the child quit college. St. Paul tells us to give thanks *“in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks and trust God that our lives are in His capable loving care.

Discussion Thoughts:

For what are you the most thankful?

How can we give thanks when affliction strikes?

How can we make this Thanksgiving a true day of thanksgiving and not just a gathering of family and friends?

Prayer: Dear Lord, You know our weaknesses and our fears and our lack of faith. Forgive us and help us to thank You even though our hearts are trembling. Work in us real gratitude for all You have given us and have done for us. Through Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

Cold Weather! Warm Clothing!

LSS Refugee and Immigration Programs in Sioux Falls provide a wide range of services for refugees who have been forced to flee from their homes due to persecution. They usually leave with little warning; with only what they can carry and endure great hardships and trauma during their flight to safety. One of the items most do not have upon arrival to Sioux Falls is warm winter clothing. We are accepting used coats, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens and boots in **good, clean condition**. Donations may be brought to the Refugee and Immigration Programs office at 1609 W. 11th St., Sioux Falls. At the present time we are unable to accept general clothing donations, could us sofas, chairs, blankets and quilts for full size beds.

LWML National Convention

The months are counting down until Lutheran Women in Mission gather to **ROCK!** and learn to **Rest On Christ the King** at the 2007 convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Dr. Mary Manz Simon, best-selling author and well-known speaker, is the Bible study leader, who will share with us her insight of God's Word.

The city boasts an ideal setting to experience our theme. In beautiful Falls Park, the river cascades over rare, spectacular pink quartzite rock, which is the second-hardest rock next to diamonds. As a fantastic piece of God's creation, the stone illustrates perfectly how solid our **ROCK** is.

Mark June 21–24 on your calendar now for the 32nd LWML Biennial Convention. Watch for more convention information and registration forms in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Tour information will be sent separately to your LWML District President. You won't want to miss the Corn Palace and the Black Hills, which are great for family fun or a busload of convention goers. See www.lwml.org for more details.

Stewardship Thoughts

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

In November we in the Christian Church celebrate two noteworthy events—All Saints Day and Thanksgiving Day. The Bible holds up many saints and encourages us to follow their examples in faith and in action. Hebrews 11 lists a number of those saints of God who lived out their faith in very special ways. That list includes names like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses' parents, Moses and Rahab. The author of Hebrews indicates that, if time permitted, other saints like Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets could also be mentioned. All these saints were commended for their faith which prompted them to do many special things by faith.

Among the many things that we give thanks for is the witness of the saints of God who lived out their faith with many good works. Hebrews 12 speaks to us and states that *since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we are to throw off everything that hinders and the sin which so easily entangles, and run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us. In that process we are to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross and rose victorious from the dead as our Savior and King. As we modern day saints consider all that Jesus endured for us, we are encouraged to not grow weary and lose heart.*

There are undoubtedly other saints in our lives who have been an encouragement to us. These include grandparents, parents and other family members and friends who lived by faith and provided good examples for us to follow. We give thanks for them as well.

“Living out our faith” is what Christian stewardship is all about. A Lutheran leader of the past century said that *“Stewardship is everything I do after I say I believe.”* How true and what a strong reminder for us to live by faith in Jesus Christ so that we may also do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all we do. The way in which we manage all the gifts of God—including time, talents and money--will serve as encouragement for our children and others who are influenced by our Christian examples. Surely we are to give thanks always to God whose Holy Spirit has worked saving faith in our hearts and enables us to do those things which are pleasing to God and beneficial for others around us.

Celebrate All Saints Day with joy and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the saints of God who lived out their faith in acts of love and obedience to encourage us to also be faithful, modern day saints of God.

High School Bible Study

All High School students are invited to join teacher Joe Krizan each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for Bible study. They are studying “The Robe,” a short story of the life of a Christian here on earth. Please plan to join us!

125th Anniversary Mementos

The 125th Anniversary Committee still has some things for sale to help commemorate this event.

- An all-purpose card with a brief history of the church and pictures of the church buildings.
- Four etched glass ornaments of the church and altar.
- Cookbooks that would make wonderful gifts for Christmas, birthdays and other occasions.

There are also 8” by 10” prints of the church, which were copied from the original paintings by JoAnn Matthies available for \$10.00. Proceeds from these prints will go towards Trinity Learning Center, the daycare and preschool scheduled to open in 2007.

The Sunday School also has a few commemorative coffee mugs available for \$1.00 each.

Worship: The Lutheran Difference

“I’m having trouble understanding you Lutherans.”

“Why’s that?”

“Well, you preach and pray like Baptists but your worship services are just like the Roman Catholics.”

“I’ve always thought our worship tradition was unique.”

“Well, why should tradition matter at all? Shouldn’t we just follow the Bible?”

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. These studies will prepare Lutherans to share their faith and help non-Lutherans understand the Lutheran difference. Join us each Sunday at the Adult Bible study (10:45 a.m.) as we discuss this timely topic.

Joshua Bible Study

Behind the historical details and the epic battles recorded in the Book of Joshua lies a covenant of grace, God’s promise that He made with Abraham and his descendents forever. The Book of Joshua points forward in time to another Joshua—Jesus of Nazareth—whose coming is significant forever. In both rite and event, Joshua both anticipates the fulfillment of Abraham’s promise in Christ.

Each Monday morning at 6:00 a.m., our Men’s Bible study is studying this interesting and challenging book of the Bible at the church each week!

Bible Study on Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah

Obadiah, Jonah, and Micah are three of the twelve prophetic books frequently referred to as “The Minor Prophets” because of their length. Written during a time in which both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms collapsed, the little books brought a message of repentance and restoration to the people of Israel. The Lifelight Bible study, which meets each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. is studying these three “minor prophets.” Everyone is invited to join us!

Financial Peace University

The stewardship committee is sponsoring Financial Peace University, a life-changing 13-week program on personal finance. It is designed to empower people to manage their money better, eliminate debt and build wealth. All material is biblically based and taught via entertaining video by Dave Ramsey. Find out how to:

- Make a budget that you will understand and use.
- Get out of debt and stay that way.
- Gain control of your money.
- Communicate with your spouse about finances.
- Invest with confidence.
- Change your financial future.

New classes will begin in November. For more information speak to Penny Eggebraaten (351-0054).

Proverbs Bible Study

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” So says the author of Proverbs in chapter 1, verse 7. He goes on to tell us that the wisdom of the Lord is more precious than any worldly wealth, and God wants to give it to all.

Where does one find such wisdom? Through faith strengthened by the Holy Spirit working through His Word, God provides wisdom. In fact, the book of Proverbs is a treasure chest filled with wisdom and practical advice on Christian living.

To help in this search for wisdom, we will examine the Book of Proverbs each Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. Everyone—young and old, experienced and beginners—are invited to join us.

125th Anniversary Mementos

The 125th Anniversary Committee still has some things for sale to help commemorate this event.

- An all-purpose card with a brief history of the church and pictures of the church buildings.
- Four etched glass ornaments of the church and altar.
- Cookbooks that would make wonderful gifts for Christmas, birthdays and other occasions.

The Sunday School also has a few commemorative coffee mugs available for \$1.00 each.

The glass etchings that have been ordered should be here this week. The lady that makes them was involved in some other projects and it took awhile to get them done. She tells us that she can do them in two weeks, so if you want some more for Christmas or other things, we will take orders for these until Thanksgiving.

JoAnn has some 8” by 10” prints of the church pictures she painted and we will have copies of the photo that Joe took the Sunday morning of our celebration.

The proceeds from these prints and photos will go towards Trinity Learning Center, the daycare and preschool scheduled to open in 2007. Ask JoAnn or Ray if you are interested.

LWML Minutes

On October 11th, Trinity LWML met in the fellowship hall, with Mary Anderson hosting. Six members and Pastor were present: Clarice Wixon, LaRaye Rehfeldt, Ruth Arends, Walt Plagman, Mary Anderson, and Connie Geide.

Pastor led us in studying “What Is a Miracle?”

President LaRaye began the business meeting with a prayer for guidance.

Treasurer Walt gave her report.

LaRaye reported very favorable on our fundraising project with Mid-West Golf on Sept. 27th.

We were reminded to send our “Call for Workers” form to work at the 2007 LWML Convention by October 15th.

Connie, Mary, and LaRaye reported on the Zone Rally held in Alcester on October 1st. The topic that afternoon was “Women’s Prison Ministry.”

Discussion was held on purchasing a serving window covering in the fellowship hall. Mary Anderson will check with St. John’s Lutheran, Sioux Falls to see where they purchased their window covering.

Also discussed was the purchase of a large coffee maker. It was agreed there is no immediate need for one at the present time.

Donna Bowden will serve the November meeting.

Submitted by Connie Geide, acting secretary.

I Love Jesus; That's Why I Love Lutheranism!

Reprinted with permission of its author, Pastor Paul T. McCain



I love Jesus. I love His Word. I love doctrine. In short, I love the Gospel. That is why I love Lutheranism. I don't get Jesus and His Word and His doctrine anywhere else like I do in Lutheranism. I don't get nearly enough of the Gospel in Romanism, or Orthodoxy, or in Calvinism, or in Arminianism. There is not enough Gospel in the papal infallibility or "holy tradition" or "limited atonement" or in "decisions for Jesus." I don't get it enough in the Charismatic movement with tongue-speaking emotionalistic clap-trap. I surely don't get enough "Evangel" in Evangelism, that's for sure, with hand-waving nonsense and endless legalisms. I'm not saying the Gospel is not to be found in these places, I just don't get enough of the Gospel from these sources. I don't get enough of the water of life and the

bread of life in those place. Don't waste my time trying to convince me that, "You just don't understand, the Gospel is really at the heart of these confessions." Baloney! I've seen enough of all of these to know. I want Jesus. I want the Gospel. I want pure doctrine. That's why I want Lutheranism.

I can almost hear some people saying, "But doesn't Lutheranism have problems?" Of course it does. Welcome to life in this fallen world folks! Welcome to the result of the fall into sin. The last time I checked the church is full of people who are just like you and like me. You know, full of people like who us who are poor, miserable sinners. We make mistakes. Sometimes incredibly stupid mistakes. Indeed, more than mistakes, we daily sin much and are in need of forgiveness. When I talk about Lutheranism, I'm talking about the real deal, the good stuff, the 100% proof, unvarnished, unfiltered, raw, pure Lutheranism as we find it so powerfully confessed in the Bo0k of Concord and in the many wonderful teachings of Orthodox Lutheran fathers.

I know the Lutheran Church has problems. I know The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has problems. And no amount of task force reports, or synodical structural reshuffling ,or new vision statements and mission statements, or legal motions is going to change this. Yes, we have problems! Of course we have problems! What are we supposed to do? Run away? Sit in a corner and cry and suck our thumbs and wish the problems away? Go run off and start who knows how many different little sects? Go try to reprimatinate some "golden age of Lutheranism from 1932, or 1632? No, I do not see any of these things as solutions. I see no point either in running from one fad to another. And I certainly see no solution in the idea that goes like this: Lutheranism has problems, therefore we will leave it and become X, Y or Z.

In spite of our hand-wringing anxiety, or cynical detachment, there is is always burning the blazing hot, glowing fire of Lutheranism, in all its spectacular glory and truth, the truth of the very Word of God itself, the Gospel of Jesus.

I was reading in a newly published collection of essays by Robert Preus titled "Doctrine is Life: Essays on Justification and the Lutheran Confessions." Preus provides a powerfully beautiful quotation from Johannes Quenstedt, the great Orthodox Lutheran dogmatician. Quenstedt is buried on the grounds of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, where precisely is now unknown, but on the wall, faded and almost unrecognizable, on the northeast corner of the church, is a large memorial stone, and in the Luther House in Wittenberg, now the world's greatest Luther museum, you can enter the room used as a lecture hall when the house was converted into a seminary, and you will find there a portrait of Quenstedt, staring out at you with all seriousness.



Here is that quote. Quenstedt was commenting on 1 John 3:16: "This is how we know love: that Christ laid down His life for us."

This is the love of God; rather than banish men eternally from heaven He removed Himself from heaven, clothed Himself with flesh, became the Creature of a creature, enclosed Himself in the womb of the virgin, was wrapped in rags, laid in hay and housed in a barn. Nor does His love stop here; but after a life spent in poverty and adversities this love drives Christ to the ground on Olivet, binds Him in chains, delivers Him to jailers, cuts Him with the lash, crowns Him with thorns, fastens Him with nails to the Cross, and gives Him to drink the cup of bitterness. And finally this love compels Him to die, to die for adversaries and enemies (Rom. 5:6). Continuously and in these sundry ways Christ, who thirsts so greatly for our salvation, declares His love and mercy toward the human race. (p. 44).

This is what preaching Jesus is all about. If you want something other than Jesus, then go somewhere else. If you want as much of Jesus as He gives to you, then Lutheranism is where you need to be. I love Jesus. I love His Word and His doctrine. That's why I love Lutheranism. And I believe you will too, my friend. God grant it! Amen.

Fellowship Hall Wish List

Pastor's Office

- File cabinet

Fellowship Area

- Tables
- Chairs

Hallway

- Large bulletin board
- Display case

Good News Magazine

If you are looking for an interesting and easy-to-read magazine which will help you understand key teachings of the Bible; if you want to learn more about God's good news and His strength for living each new day, for a complimentary copy or to subscribe write to:

GOOD NEWS
973 Chippewa Street
St. Louis, MO 63109-3061

Ordination & Installation of Jenina Gatnoor

After much work and study, and having graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, Vicar Jenina Gatnoor is ready for Ordination in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

On Sunday, November 5th, at 2:00 P.M., a service of Ordination and Installation shall take place at Zion Lutheran Church, 1400 S. Duluth, Sioux Falls, SD.