

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
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October 2004

### **Pastor's Ponderings**

(The following is a reprint of Pastor Moeller's report on the 2004 LCMS Synodical Convention at the recent Circuit K Forum in Spencer.)

## **Convention Delegate Report: The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly**

By Rev. Robert E. Moeller, Jr.

Circuit K Forum

September 9, 2004

Greetings to you in the name of our Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Pastor Werner has already explained, along with Eldor Dubs, who has since gone on to be with our Lord, I had the privilege of representing this circuit at our Synodical convention in July. To say that there was much that happened would be an understatement. To say that the convention did not go that way that our circuit congregations and many, many other congregations, pastors, and laity had hoped, would be an even greater understatement.

I'm glad that you all have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet as a circuit and discuss the events of this convention and where we go from here. I think it is important for each of us to keep informed about what is happening in our Synod, district, and circuit. This is your church. You need to know what is taking place, both the good and the bad, and even the ugly. The future of our Synod depends upon it—upon its members knowing what is happening, what is at stake, and being willing to take godly action, all for the sake of the Church.

As I present my impressions and understanding about the convention, I will attempt to do so in light of Scripture. It's not my word or opinion that counts. Rather, it is God's holy Word and immutable will. Nothing else matters. In addition, I will try my best to put the current issues and situations facing our church in the context of our Lutheran Confessions, asking and reminding each of us, "What is it that we believe, teach, and confess.?"

The reason I have stated all of this is simply to say that before sharing with you in detail what took place at the convention and to be able to answer the very Lutheran question, "What does this mean?" I needed to let the dust settle (some of which we may very well want to shake off our sandals). So I took some time before I wrote this report to think things through, to turn to our Lord in prayer, and to consider His Word. I needed some time to see what others delegates to the convention were thinking about what happened. And, I wanted to hear what some of the other pastors from our circuit thought about the reports they received from the convention.

Now, six weeks later, I think I have a little bit better perspective of what happened at the convention and how I could present it to you as positively, but as honestly as possible. I also wanted to avoid having this report become too dry and boring. To do this, I decided to borrow my theme from the Clint Eastwood "spaghetti western" classic, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*.

### **THE "GOOD"**

First, the "good," the resolutions, overtures, and reports that I can proudly report to you or at least without hanging my head. I'm happy to say that in spite of many disputes and divisions within the Synod, the convention demonstrated remarkable unanimity on some matters that are hot-button issues in many other church bodies. For this Biblical stand we should be very thankful.

## **Biblical Marriage**

A resolution affirming the Biblical teaching that marriage is the life-long union of one man and one woman passed by an overwhelming majority. The resolution urges members of the Synod “to give a public witness from Scripture against the social acceptance and legal recognition of homosexual ‘marriage.’” The convention urged Synod members to “deal with sexual sins with the same love and concern as for all other sins, calling for repentance and offering forgiveness in the Good News of Jesus Christ when there is repentance.”

## **Creation/Evolution**

We passed a very good resolution affirming the Biblical account of creation and rejecting the theory of evolution. One of the strongest points in the resolution is the amended resolve that our synod will not **tolerate** the teaching of evolution as the explanation for the origin of the universe in our church universities. What remains to be seen is if this resolution will be enforced. Evolution is currently being taught in some of our Concordia Universities, not just as a theory, but as **the** explanation for the beginning of the universe.

In the “good” category, I would also include these actions and decisions:

## **The Lutheran Service Book**

The draft of a proposed new hymnal received clear approval from the convention as “an official service book and hymnal” for the Synod, with a 1,014 to 130 vote. Dr. Paul Grime, project director and executive director of the Commission on Worship, told delegates that after extensive input from the field, multiple doctrinal reviews, and opinion from the CTCR and field testing, the 280-page proposal for the hymnal had been sent to all of the convention delegates. It will now be published by Concordia Publishing House with only minor corrections for distribution by mid 2006. The resolution encourages “congregations and other entities of Synod” to participate in an introductory process for the new *Lutheran Service Book*.

## **Fellowship with Kenya**

The LCMS officially declared pulpit and altar fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. In order to enter into pulpit and altar fellowship with any church body, it must first be determined that we are in full doctrinal agreement. Church fellowship, the unity of the Body of Christ, requires doctrinal consensus. As St. Paul wrote: “I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought (1 Corinthians 1:10). President Kieschnick acknowledged that much of the work towards this new relationship with the church in Kenya a reality was done by Dr. Kurt Marquart and Rev. Daniel Preus.

## **Missions**

One of the joys of this convention was the opportunity to celebrate God’s mission among us and to recognize the gifts that God has given and the achievements of His missionaries. We passed a number of resolutions affirming our mission. But I have to wonder if we were only offering lip service to missions, or will we be willing to put our money where our mouth is. While the passing of such resolutions was a joy, our actual practice as a church body is alarmingly the opposite. In the last couple of decades, the synod has gone from supporting the education of pastor 100% to barely above 0%! And, in the last two years, we have laid off and brought home over half of our overseas missionaries. All the pep rallies we did the week of the convention have not changed this.

In establishing *Ablaze!*, we resolved to raise \$100 million for missions, to start 2,000 congregations in North America, and to share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million people by the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, but no specific plan for how this would be accomplished was proposed. I sincerely hope that we are able to achieve these goals, but without more information I fear they are just feel good resolutions to make us feel like we are getting stuff done.

## **Human Care**

In the Human Care area, it was resolved to encourage members of the LCMS to support the Lutherans For Life with their prayers, energy, and contributions; to make compensation and health care of church workers a high priority, to provide for “Veterans of the Cross” (those who retired under the Pension Plan for Pastors and Teachers); to support refugee resettlement efforts; and to establish and/or support pregnancy care centers.

## **Delegate Representation for Future Conventions**

A resolution to appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to study and make recommendations regarding delegate representation was defeated. This was an attempt by the larger congregations to receive a larger number of voting delegates in order to achieve “a fair representation of the members and congregations of the Synod.” That of course, would decrease the influence of circuits and congregations like ours.

## **2007 Convention**

The 2007 Convention will be held in Houston, TX due to cost-saving considerations including complimentary convention center rental, lower hotel and airline rates, and savings on labor costs.

## **THE “BAD”**

The “bad” is a set of decisions that have generally negative connotations, but which, if we put the best construction on them may still prove to not be harmful to our Synod over the long run.

## **Relations with the ELCA**

We resolved to continue conversations with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I’m very much in favor of ecumenical dialogues. But to be faithful, the goal of such dialogues must be the reaching of doctrinal agreement. Our Lord demands it of us. Since the speeches I heard from the representatives from the LCMS and ELCA about these discussions glossed over our substantive disagreements, I won’t be holding my breath.

A related area that is becoming increasingly more complicated as the ELCA slides further away from the authority of Scriptures and guidance of the Lutheran Confessions is the cooperative efforts between our church bodies in the chaplaincy and human care programs. The resolution which was adopted directed the President of the Synod to “report to the next Synodical convention any recommendations concerning changes in joint activity with the ELCA.

## **Guidelines for Civic Events**

The convention voted 757-446 to commend the CTCR’s report “Guidelines for Participation in Civic Events. Committee Chairman Arleigh Lutz, attempting to avoid opening up old wounds, stressed, “This document deals with from now to the future. It does not deal with the past.” As I reviewed this document I did not see any additional guidelines that would have prevented the disagreement over President David Benke’s participation in the Yankee Stadium prayer service or any similar future events. As so often happens, it seems to me that our problem is not a lack of guidelines for such participation, but the willingness to follow the guidelines we already have from Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and other official positions of our Synod.

## **To Foster Peace, Harmony, and Trust Within Synod for Sake of Christ’s Mission**

While its stated goal “To Foster Peace, Harmony, and Trust Within Synod for Sake of Christ’s Mission” is laudable, I fear that Resolution 3-03A is another one of those “feel good” resolutions. It rightly points out the need for our Synod to work toward agreement in doctrine and practice on the basis of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. But I’m not sure how its adoption is going to bring that peace and concord. I dare say, virtually all of the members of our Synod wish for peace, harmony, and trust. But we aren’t all wishing for the same thing. Some just want an outward show of peace and trust. They’re willing to even ignore important differences in doctrine in order to say we have “peace, harmony, and trust.” But real peace and unity in the Church must be based upon full doctrinal agreement.

## **Funding and Stewardship**

As most of you know, funding the Synod's national and international work has been a problem for many years. In recent years, the number of missionaries overseas and church workers at the Synod's International Center have been reduced to deal with declining revenue. But in many ways, these budget problems are not so much about levels of giving but "models of funding." While overall giving to the Synod has gone up, increasingly more funds are being "designated" to specific missions, leaving a smaller part of the Synod budget for the Board of Directors to use to meet actual funding needs. This problem is only compounded when individual ministries and missions are forced to raise a higher percentage of their own funding.

In all actuality, rather than deal with the core issue, I think we just used one of our standard passing-the-buck techniques, by establishing a blue ribbon task force to bring recommendations to the 2007 convention.

Perhaps more helpful will be the resolution to promote "Stewardship Ablaze," a unified stewardship education initiative, beginning in 2006. It is intended to "raise awareness of faithful stewardship" in all LCMS congregations

## **THE "UGLY"**

The "ugly" are those decisions, which are a departure from our historical understanding according to Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Included, here are:

### **The Service of Women in the Church**

On the basis of Scripture (1 Timothy 2:12; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 3:2), the historic Christian church does not ordain women to the pastoral office. Our synod reconfirmed that is our position during this convention as well.

But the resolution that was narrowly passed "To affirm the Conclusions of the 1994 CTCR Report: *The Service of Women in Congregational and Synodical Offices*" did, for the first time, open the offices of elder and congregational president to women, "as long as the functions of these offices do not make them eligible to carry out 'official functions [that] would involve public accountability for the function of the pastoral office.'" Women have, in fact, been holding these offices in the LCMS for a long time, but now it is officially permitted.

A large number of delegates felt strong enough about this issue that they asked their negative votes be recorded by the Secretary. While I'm not happy with this resolution, I take some solace that those who favor women's ordination urged the delegation to vote against this resolution because it doesn't go far enough.

### **Power and Authority**

One of the most disturbing trends I witnessed in St. Louis was the growing trend to cede more and more power to fewer and fewer people. From its very beginnings, the LCMS has been a congregationally governed body. That is changing. We handed off more of our rights and responsibilities as congregations to our District Presidents and Synodical Presidents.

For instance, the convention weakened the Board of Directors, which is an elected body and it strengthened the Commission on Constitutional Matters, a body appointed by the Synodical President in Resolutions 7-02A and 7-21. At present, the Board of Directors holds a supervisory position above other boards, committees and commissions; this provides a central authority to monitor and control the finances of the synod.

The actions would make the Board of Directors equal to other Synodical boards—sort of a board in charge of properties; and it in turn, solidifies the argument that the Board of Directors must submit to all decisions of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, a commission appointed by the Synodical President.

This resolution was passed on the morning of the final day of the convention when there was a rush to get as much accomplished before the final gavel. When brought to the floor, only one speaker

commented on it before the question was called and the vote was taken. I believe that many delegates did not understand the effects of the resolution.

But in order for this to go into effect, Amendment A has to be passed with a 2/3 majority of the congregations of Synod who vote on the congregational ballot. I would urge you to give this matter prayerful consideration, and I would encourage you to vote against Amendment A.

Another resolution that should especially be a concern is Resolution 8-01a. It was a complex, complicated, convoluted resolution about how disputes in the synod should be handled. From the comments and discussion of the floor it seems that very few people really understand what they were voting for. In short, this resolution—which passed narrowly—takes power away from individual pastors and congregations and gives it to the District Presidents and Synodical President. It has to do with filing charges of false doctrine. Now, don't get me wrong, I have no wish or plan to file charges against anyone, but I believe that the members of our synod must be held accountable to each other, not merely to our "ecclesiastical supervisor. This resolution passed forbids an LCMS pastor from filing charges condemning the doctrine of any false teacher without the direct approval of his District President even when it is contrary to Scripture.

I saved the elections for last, not wishing to become personal with the good, bad, and ugly theme but rather let them stand without my personal commentary.

### **Elections**

President Gerald Kieschnick was re-elected as Synod President on the first ballot, receiving 653 votes—52.8 percent of those cast. First Vice President Daniel Preus received 391 votes; President Dean O. Wenthe of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN received 107; Dr. Kurt E. Marquart, associate professor of systematic theology at the Fort Wayne seminary, 77; and Oklahoma District President William R. Diekelman, 9.

Diekelman was elected as First Vice President on the second ballot, receiving 641 votes to 588 for incumbent Daniel Preus. A third nominee on that ballot, Second Vice President Wallace Schulz, received 12 votes.

In later balloting, delegates elected the remainder of the Praesidium: for Second Vice President, Dr. Paul L. Maier; Third Vice President, Dr. Deal L. Nadasdy; Fourth Vice President, Dr. Robert L. King; and for Fifth Vice President, Dr. David D. Buegeler.

Three incumbents were returned to the Synod's Board of Directors and three new members were elected. Returned to the Board are Dr. Betty Duda of Cocoa Beach, Fla., with 643 votes, and Theodore A. Kober of Billings, Mont., 621 votes. Both were elected on the first ballot for four lay-member seats. Also returned is Rev. Edward Balfour of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, who received 617 votes on the second ballot for two clergy seats on the Board. Duda and Kober will begin their second six-year terms. Balfour, who was appointed by the Board to a vacancy, will begin his first six-year term. Elected for the first time to the Board are Rev. Victor J. Belton of Atlanta; Walter F. Tesch of Milwaukee; and Julie Martinez of Pagosa Springs, Colo.

God's richest blessings!

*Pastor Robert E. Moeller, Jr.*

### **The Lifelines of Love**

The Couples Club will be getting together for supper on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Please contact Pastor Moeller to let him know if you are able to attend. Following the supper, we will continue our study and discussion of the third chapter of The Lifelines of Love, a wonderful review of to the fundamentals that form the foundation of a successful Christian marriage.

All couples of the congregation are invited to join us even if you haven't been able to attend before! If you haven't picked up your copy of The Lifelines of Love and your homework assignment, please speak to Pastor Moeller.

## **Monday Evening Bible Study**

On Monday evenings, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., we will meet to study various Bible lessons based upon the "Our Life in Christ" series. Those teaching Sunday School will find this study helpful in their preparation for teaching, as we carefully examine the coming week's lesson. But everyone else is invited to attend as well. Please consider taking part of this opportunity to grow in your Christian faith.

## **Fullness of Joy—A Sunday Morning Bible Study of the Lutheran Liturgy**

The word *liturgy* itself is a good conversation starter. Many simply have no idea what a *liturgy* is. Others take it for a collective term for everything that is not important in a service. In other congregations, members doggedly sing the *liturgy* on a weekly basis. However, if we are to ask them why, the answer too often is "We've always done it this way before."

As important as history and tradition is, "We've always done it this way before" is not an adequate reason for continuing what we've done in the past. With the *liturgy*, there is a far better reason. The liturgy teaches and rejoices in the outstanding truth that our crucified and risen Lord is present with His people in worship—present to serve us with the forgiveness of sins.

To learn more about the riches of the liturgy our Sunday morning adult Bible study group (10:30 – 11:45 a.m.) is looking at "Fullness of Joy: A Study of the Liturgy of the Church." Please join us!

## **Stewardship Thoughts**

***"Maturing stewards strive for excellence in all they do!"***

When Dr. Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517, he started what today is still known as "The Lutheran Reformation." These 95 Theses, or Sentences, provided a call to debate issues that were troubling the church of his day, chief among which was the selling and buying of indulgences, that is, letters of pardon purchased on behalf of the dead. As a committed Christian steward, Luther denounced this practice. He maintained that Christians must place their hope of salvation on the merit and righteousness of Jesus Christ and Him alone.

His first thesis is noteworthy for us Christian stewards. It reads: "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said *Poenitentiam agite* ["do penance"], willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance."

As Christian stewards we know that we are in the world, but not of the world. We acknowledge that God is the Owner of all things and we are privileged to be managers of a portion of that which really belongs to God. We recognize that we are saints and sinners at the very same time. These truths make living the Christian life challenging. It is so easy to lose sight of the truth that the Christian life is a life of repentance. This is especially true in the realm of Christian stewardship. It is tempting to think that we can gain God's favor by being good stewards of our time, talents and treasure. The truth is that we strive to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure precisely because we have already received God's favor and our maturing stewardship is a sign of daily repentance.

The Scriptures are clear in teaching that "by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast." [Ephesians 2:8-9] We Christian stewards are not saved by anything we do, but only because of what Christ has already done for us. But Ephesians 2:10 brings the Christian life full circle when it states: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Our stewardship is not yet what it should be, but, by God's grace, it is better than it used to be and, by His continuing grace, we strive for excellence in all we do because that is fruit worthy of repentance.

## **Life Ministry Coordinator Needed**

Our congregation is in need of a Life Ministry Coordinator. This person would work with Pastor on sanctity of human life issues and help to keep our congregation informed. If interested, or if you'd like more information, please speak to Pastor Moeller.

## **Life "Quotes" from Lutherans For Life**

“‘Life’ in the Bible is defined as a regained relationship with God, a reconciliation with Him, which we could never have effected on our own. It was purchased at horrendous cost, the blood of God’s own Son. This Life is not dependent upon external circumstances and is not equated with ease, good times, or convenience. It is ours, even in the midst of suffering and crisis, for it is ‘eternal life’ and transcends all temporary experiences. When the Church abandons this Scriptural perspective and adopts instead the popular secular pro-death view, it ceases to be ‘salt’ and ‘light.’ Recognizing this, the Lutherans For Life ‘Statement of Philosophy’ identifies ‘the crisis of our times’ as ‘the repudiation of God’s Word.’ Thus, in this ministry we seek to stem the invasion of flawed secular thinking into the church by boldly declaring from God’s Word His views on all matters of life and death.” *Cynthia Chapa*, President, LFL of Texas

## **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.

## **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.

A new session of this course will begin soon. 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.

## **Evangelism Committee**

The Evangelism Committee is looking for members who would be interested in helping out in the area of evangelism. This would include things such as delivering service bulletins and tapes to shut-ins, making homemade gifts for visitors. Anyone who is interested may speak to Pastor Moeller or Joe Krizan.

## **High School Bible Study**

All High School-aged students are invited to come to the parsonage each Sunday from 10:30-11:45 a.m. for a Bible study. This year, we will be studying the “The Authority of Scripture” a Biblical look at the importance and authority of Scripture and the three main styles of challenges to Scripture throughout history. Joe Krizan and Archie Wolfe will be leading.

## **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting**

The committee that is planning for our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2006 will be meeting on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in helping is welcome to attend.

## **LSS Refugee and Immigration Programs**

We URGENTLY NEED furniture and household items to furnish the apartments of newly arriving refugees. Couches, dressers, lamps, beds, pillows, single bed sheets, blankets, kitchen tables, chairs, towels, pots/pans, mixing bowls, laundry detergent, laundry baskets, and any other household items used to set up a kitchen.

Donations may be brought to LSS Refugee and Immigration Programs at 620 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57104. For information or pickup please call Alice at 731-2006.

## **L.W.M.L**

Nine months and counting! You'll need to start making plans to attend the LWML 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention in sunny Tampa, Florida. Here's what you can do in the first month: Block off June 16 – 19, 2005 (or a whole week) as vacation for you and for your family! Children (ages 6 months to 17 years) will enjoy *Camp Joy Child/Youth Care* while you are learning how to **Live Joyfully as Salt and Light!** Stay tuned for more details and visit [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

## **Rev. Erwin E. Vaudt**

Erwin Vaudt was born in Whittemore, Iowa, on August 20, 1920, baptized on September 12, 1920, and confirmed on March 25, 1934 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in that community. He attended the Lutheran school there through the eighth grade. He attended Concordia Academy and Concordia College, both located in St. Paul, Minnesota. From 1940 through graduation in January 1945, Vaudt was a student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, during which time he served one year as Vicar in Ramona Park, Missouri.

The 24-year-old Erwin Vaudt was ordained in the Lutheran Ministry by Pastor Walter H. Discher of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Whittemore, Iowa. A week before the ordination, the young Vaudt had been married by the Rev. Discher in the same church, his bride being Ella Braatz, also from Whittemore.

During his ministry Pastor Vaudt served parishes in Benson and Grace Township, Aitkin, Crosby, Iron-Hub, and Ada, Minnesota, Spring Fountain, Iowa, Hartford, South Dakota, Mahanomen and Rural Gary, Minnesota and retired from parishes in Foley and Popple Creek, Minnesota in 1985.

Following his retirement, he served as an interim pastor at St. Peter in rural Gibbon, MN. For the past 14 years he has lived in Elmore, Minnesota and has been a member at Trinity Lutheran Church. He passed away on Tuesday, April 20, 2004 at St. Luke's Lutheran Care Center in Blue Earth, MN.

Survivors include his wife Ella, five children and ten grandchildren: Steven (Eileen) Vaudt, Aaron, Amanda, Andrew and Adam, White Lake, WI; Beck (Craig) Telander, Matthew, Kiersten and Marc, Hazelwood, MO; Cathy (Duane) Wolter, Beth and Meghan, Ronneby (Foley), MN; Thomas (Suzie) Vaudt and Gretchen St. Cloud, MN; and Jonathon (Bonnie) Vaudt of Prescott, AZ.

## **Future Facilities Update**

Construction has begun on the new addition at Trinity. The fellowship hall, Sunday school rooms, church offices, kitchen, and restrooms will be on one level, with a walk way into the current church. The new facility will provide opportunities for growth in our Sunday school, a fellowship hall to accommodate large gatherings, a designated area for high school and adult Bible study, a private office and counseling room for the Pastor, a library, accessible restrooms, display areas for all church groups and storage space.

A mortgage has been signed and money borrowed from the SD District LC-MS Church Extension Fund. Thanks to those who have returned commitment forms and continue to make their contributions. Your investment in the future of God's work here at Trinity is appreciated. If you have not had the opportunity to make a commitment, a form is included in this newsletter.

Please prayerfully consider your contribution to this project and if you have not already done so, fill out the commitment form and return it to Future Facilities Committee Chairman, Don Reichert. All commitments will be kept confidential. This project will be a way for our church to reach out to our growing community and advance God's kingdom through ministry and fellowship.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit...* Matthew 28:19

**My/Our Annual Commitment\*  
To the Future Facilities of  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hartford, SD**

Weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*This is an annual commitment until the facility is debt free.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*“Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.”* 2 Corinthians 8:11-12

# October 2004

## Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00 am Stewardship Committee meeting
3 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study 1:30 pm LWML Fall Rally at Zion 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	4 Pastor Moeller at SD District Pastor's Conference in Rapid City	5	6 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study 7:00 pm 125th Anniversary Comm. meeting	11 6:00 am Men's Bible study	12 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:15 pm Elders' meeting	13 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	14	15	16 6:30 pm Couples Club
17 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study 7:30 pm Church Council meeting	18 6:00 am Men's Bible study	19 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible Study	20 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	21 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living  <b>Deadline for Newsletter</b>	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study 7:30 pm Voters meeting	25 6:00 am Men's Bible study	26 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible Study	27 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study  <b>Reformation Day</b>						

### Oct. 3

Cleaners: Dwane & Audrey Matthies, Randy Matthies  
Greeters: Dwane & Audrey Matthies  
Head Usher: Tim Totton  
Acolyte: Thomas Iverson

### Oct. 6

Greeters: Tim Vilhauer  
Usher: Steve Oligmueller  
Acolyte: Philip Oligmueller

### Oct. 10

Cleaners: Rodney & Joy Hohn, Thom & Maria DeWald  
Greeters: Rodney & Joy Hohn  
Head Usher: Tim Totton  
Acolyte: Emily Krizan

### Oct. 13

Greeters: Thom & Maria DeWald  
Head Usher: Melvin Matthies  
Acolyte: Austin Wolfe

### Oct. 17

Cleaners: Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller, Josh & Heidi Nyreen  
Greeters: Steve & LeAnna Oligmueller  
Head Usher: Tim Totton  
Acolyte: Lyndze Thompson

### Oct. 20

Greeters: Josh & Heidi Nyreen  
Head Usher: Melvin Matthies  
Acolyte: Aubrey Larson

### Oct. 24

Cleaners: Merle & Barb Muchow, John & Wanda Barnhart  
Greeters: John & Wanda Barnhart  
Head Usher: Tim Totton  
Acolyte: Kimberly Kleba

### Oct. 27

Greeters: Merle & Barb Muchow  
Head Usher: Melvin Matthies  
Acolyte: Derek Johnson

### Oct. 31

Cleaners: Marlo Anderson, Mike Anderson, Matthew Anderson  
Greeters: Marlo Anderson, Mike Anderson  
Ushers: Tim Totton  
Acolyte: Austin Kirschbaum

**Elder for October: DeWane Carls 526-6195**