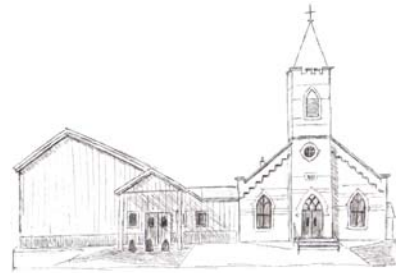


## Trinity Lutheran Church

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



September 2006

### Pastor's Ponderings



Dear brothers and sisters in the family of Christ,

An anniversary—whether a birthday, wedding, confirmation, or that of a congregation, as we are observing this month—gives us a very special opportunity to reflect, to recall, to reminisce, and to **look back**. Look back how far? Five years, ten, twenty, fifty, or seventy-five years when we were privileged to join this congregation? Or perhaps, we should go back to the establishment of our congregation back in 1881?

We must look even farther back than that. In faith, we must look back all the way to Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Gethsemane, and to Calvary. It was back then and there that the holy Lord God made it possible for us “to be His own and to live under Him in His kingdom, and to serve Him.” It was back then and there that the Lord made it possible for some German immigrants to begin services here 125 years ago, and to organize a Christian congregation in this place.

We cannot speak of a Christian congregation without speaking of that which is absolutely necessary to establish and to maintain a Christian congregation—namely, the Word of the Lord our God.

What a glorious heritage we have in this Word! As we look back with heartfelt appreciation for the privilege of having this Word, and the added privilege of being able to teach it, preach it, spread it, share it—and thus to draw all the rich blessings and benefits from it here in this place for the past 125 years.

But it is not enough that we merely look back. We must also **look about**. Looking about, we are certainly much aware of accomplishments, victories, and successes recorded by the mercy of God during this congregation's 125 year history. However, looking about, one also sees that many dreams, hopes, and fond ambitions did not materialize. Looking about, one is certainly aware of failures—one's own individual failures and also congregational failures. And, of course, it doesn't take us very long to realize that because of our own personal, individual failures we experience congregational failures. After all, no congregation can rise above the individuals who make it up. This congregation is but the extension of us—its members. We give its personality and its character. We each bring our own individual talents and skills, and we each bring our own baggage of sin.

Looking about, I am certain that you see that there are times when we did not always “stand up for Jesus”; not always did we faithfully witness to His most holy name; not always did we take advantage of the opportunities to promote His glorious cause; not always did we give the Lord Jesus the number one place in our lives; not always did we “fear, love, and trust in God above all things”; not always did we “put the best construction on everything”; not always did we search the Scriptures faithfully and pray fervently. Many opportunities to “serve the Lord with gladness” were not grasped. As we look about, we see all that and much more.

Fortunately, the Lord is still the Lord of the church. He works through us despite our shortcomings, our sin and selfishness. Prompted by God's Holy Spirit, we confess our sins and receive the assurance that those sins are forgiven; they are removed “as far as the east is from the west.” Because of the forgiveness, which we have in Christ the Savior, we also have the blessed assurance of life and salvation. We are strengthened for further service in His kingdom, here in this place and at this time. All this is made possible because of the goodness of God.

And because of the goodness of God, we can **look ahead** with joyful anticipation. Because of the goodness of God, we can come to possess wonderful determination to go onward and forward in the Lord, with the Lord, and for the Lord, certain that He is there, leading and guiding us.

Anniversary time is a time to look back, look about, and look ahead. As we **look back** over the 125 years that God has been serving His people here at Trinity we thank for His many blessings. As we **look about** our own actions, plans, and motives, we thank God for the talents and skills He has given each of us. We confess our faults and failures and rest in His forgiveness. As we **look ahead**, we pray for God's leadership and guidance, that we might fulfill His mission here in this place in the years to come. Most of all we look ahead to the time when Christ will come to gather all of His children to live with His Father in heaven for eternity. As we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, may we all keep looking to the Lord God for our guidance and leadership.

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.

## **Fellowship Hall Wish List**

### **Pastor's Office**

- File cabinet

### **Fellowship Area**

- Tables
- Chairs

### **Hallway**

- Large bulletin board
- Display case
- Mail boxes

### **Outside**

- Stairs to door

### **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

# STEWARDSHIP DEVOTION

## “Stewards of the Gospel”

### Scripture Readings:

*“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).*

*“And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19).*

*“... continue in what you have learned... the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:14, 15)*



### Thoughts:

The Word of God is the main means through which the Holy Spirit works to instill faith and sustain it in the heart of the believer. As stewards of the Gospel, it is our duty to read, study, and digest this Word of God and to convey its importance to those around us. In addition to being the Truth by which we are saved, it provides wisdom for how we are to live on this earth. Stewards of the Gospel will urge fellow believers to turn to that Word to keep our ways God’s ways.

In these days of frustration and uncertainty, we are encouraged by the Word of God which is a “light shining in a dark place.” It tells us Who the winner is! We remember that our enemies of sin, death, and Satan have been defeated. As stewards, we must continue to speak the Gospel message for it alone fulfills all our needs for life on earth and for eternal life in heaven.

### Discussion Thoughts:

1. Read and meditate on Isaiah 30:19-21. What important points do these verses make?
2. Examine your daily devotional life. How precious to you are the words of life that the Word of God brings? How can you convey its worth to others?

**Prayer:** Dear Father in heaven, thank You for those You have chosen and inspired to write Your Word. Thank you for Your Word which never changes. Forgive me for my coldness of heart and my apathy and disinterest at times. I ask in the words of David: *“Create in me a pure heart... renew a steadfast spirit within me... restore to me the joy of Your salvation... then I will teach transgressors Your ways...”* Thank You for calling me to be a steward of Your Gospel and for enabling me to spread its life-giving message. Through Christ Jesus, Amen..

### 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.

## **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

On September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The following is a partial listing of activities:

### **Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

A special service will be held at 6:00 pm and done partially in German to recognize the heritage of the founders of our church. Pastor Robert Moeller will be assisted by the Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler.

An ice cream and cake social will follow the service. We will have our beard and costume judging contest at this time and there will be Mr. Twister (the balloon guy) and face painting to entertain the children. We will also ask our former Pastors to tell us what they have been doing since they left Trinity.

### **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

At 9:30 a.m. a celebratory worship service will be held with former Pastor Thomas Wenndt preaching. Immediately following the service a group picture will be taken of everyone present for the service to help commemorate the day.

A noon meal will be prepared for everyone by the Sioux Falls Area Ministry Action Team. A drum line called *Sheltered Reality* will perform after the meal. *Sheltered Reality* is a non-profit, youth oriented program which was begun in 1997. They use music to reach out the audiences motivating them to advocate for those in need, especially children. Following the concert there will be time to renew acquaintances and games will be available for “kids” young and old.

## **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Keepsakes**

The 125th Anniversary Committee has some things for sale to help commemorate this event. We have printed an all-purpose card with a brief history of the church and pictures of the church buildings that have been built. It can be used for any occasion. We also have three different etched glass ornaments that can be purchased that are very lovely. The proceeds from these things will go toward the expenses of our celebration. We will be taking orders for the etched glass and would appreciate it if you could pay for them as you order them.

## **Anniversary Thankoffering**

As our District celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a goal was set at \$100,000 for a special Anniversary Thankoffering. 75% of the Thankoffering will be used to assist in building seminary facilities for our sister Lutheran Church in Ghana, and 25% will be used to help fund our District Church Worker's Assistance/Scholarship Fund.

The Voters' Assembly of Trinity Lutheran decided that we would take a special mission offering at our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to give to this important project, you may use one of the enclosed envelopes or mark your check “Anniversary Thankoffering.”

## **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 this fall. For more information speak to Penny Eggebraaten (351-0054).

## **Trinity Altar Guild**

The elders are planning to develop an altar guild 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 Pastor Moeller or one of the elders.

## **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?”

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.” When confronted with different doctrines, they cannot clearly state their faith, much less understand the differences between denominations.

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. The Lutheran Difference Bible study series will identify how Lutherans differ from other Christians and demonstrate from the Bible why Lutherans differ. 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. Although covering a time span of only about thirty years, 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., beginning July 31<sup>st</sup>, our Men’s Bible study will study this interesting and challenging book of the Bible in a study entitled: “Joshua: The Lord’s Promise Fulfilled.” In this study we will learn:

- the importance of the land promised to Abraham and its connection to and fulfillment in the coming Messiah;
- the seriousness of sin as exemplified by the destruction of the great city of Jericho and of the inhabitants of Canaan;
- the sweetness of God’s grace as shown to those finding sanctuary in the cities of refuge and especially to Rahab and her family

All men of the congregation are invited to join us at the church each week!

## **Sunday School Begins**

Sunday School will be beginning its new year on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Classes for students from 3-years-old through High School will run from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. each week. If you are interested in teaching (team teaching or as a substitute), please speak to Laura Johnson (528-7260) or Pastor Moeller.

## **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.

## **LWML National Convention**

Prairie schooners probably won't get you there, but you should be booking planes and automobiles (and definitely chartered buses) to attend the LWML convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 21–24, 2007! Plans to carry out the theme “ROCK! Rest On Christ the King” are solidly moving forward with on-site servant activities for the King’s Servants for Thursday, June 21. At the opening Communion Worship Service on Thursday evening, Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, LCMS 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Sr. Pastor at Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury, Minnesota, will serve as worship proclaimer. Stay tuned for more and visit [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

## **Stewardship Thoughts**

September is a time of “new starts” because, for many congregations, the regular ongoing ministries pick up again after a summer break. Children and young people are back in school, Rally Day Services will be taking place, and the congregational leaders start putting their plans into action.

“New starts” are very helpful for Christian stewards. The best “new start” for Christian stewards is that, because of the forgiveness of sins and failures in Christ, we have the opportunity to start with a clean slate. In Christ the past is over and done with. We do not have to be nagged with the baggage of the past, but have the opportunity for a fresh start each new day. Besides, we cannot change the past even if we tried to.

The present is here and is really the only time we can actually take action steps. As St. Paul encourages us, “Let us make the most of every opportunity because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16) and “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

The future provides us with another opportunity for planning and dreaming, but the future is beyond our reach. “Tomorrow I will do better” is often only an excuse for doing nothing today. At best it is procrastination and at worst it is laziness.

As mentioned before, “new starts” are truly important for Christian stewards. They provide us with the opportunity to put our plans into action. We can forget about those “what ifs,” “that didn’t work because we tried it before” or “we’ve never done it that way before.” The “new starts” can take many shapes. Perhaps we have wanted to be more generous when it comes to the giving of our time, talents and treasure for the work of Christ’s church! Perhaps we have intended to participate in this or that ministry or activity. Now is the time to seize the moment and go to work in a fresh and different way. Putting it off to the future will only add another negative day to the past.

“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.” Today is the ideal time to put those nice sounding words into practice!

## **Lutherans For Life**

My how the summer has flown by! Before we say good-bye to summer and fall we need to say hello to life! The bike for life. This annual event is being held September 23. Anyone who is up for the ride can jump in anywhere along the route from Armour to the Alpha Center. Funds raised from this event will go towards the ultrasound machine, a vital machine in showing women the beauty of life during their pregnancy. For more information on this event you may speak with Pastor, Amy Valdes or by contacting Pastor Nour of Armour. A big belated thank you to everyone who donated diapers, wipes and blankets for the Alpha Center. The items were greatly appreciated! We collected 298 diapers, a large box of wipes and 2 receiving blankets! I have not yet heard what the total collection was but it is wonderful to know that we were able to contribute to this cause!

## **You Are Invited to the Wedding of Kim Carls and Russ Brick**

We, Kim Carls and Russ Brick, would like to invite all members of Trinity to our wedding on October 7, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Reception will be in the church fellowship hall, with a dance to follow at the Hartford American Legion at 8:00 p.m.

## **Confirmation Meeting**

There will be a meeting to plan for this year's confirmation classes on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. All students in the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and their parents are encouraged to attend. Confirmation classes will begin Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **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." Such a title is misleading, at best—for although their small size may hardly compare to larger prophetic works such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, the prophecies they contain continue to have major import for God's people. Written during a time span of perhaps three hundred years, during which both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms collapsed, the little books brought a message of repentance and restoration to the people of Judah (Obadiah and Micah), and to the people of Israel (Jonah).

The Lifelight Bible study, which meets each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., is beginning a new study on the books from these three "minor prophets" on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the church. Everyone is invited to join us each week. Please speak to Pastor Moeller if you are interested in attending, so he can have enough study materials for the class.

## **Campus Ministry Information**

The District Office is asking all congregations to provide contact information on all their members who are attending colleges or universities this year. If you or your son or daughter are heading off for college or university, please let Pastor Moeller know their name, the post-secondary school they will be attending, the student's school address and phone number, and e-mail address.

## **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.

## **High School Bible Study**

All High School aged students are invited for Bible Study each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.. Please join us and invite your friends!

## Trinity Learning Center Wish List

- Crayola Markers (Fat and Skinny)
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Watercolors
- Nap Mats
- Pom Poms (Various Colors)
- Coloring Books
- Paper (White, Colored, and Construction)
- Books
- Puzzles
- Popsicle Sticks (Fat and Skinny)
- Tissue Paper (Various Colors)
- Tape (Scotch, Masking and Multicolored Electrical Tape)
- Glue (Bottles and Sticks)
- Pipe Cleaners (Various Colors)
- Wiggle Eyes (Various Sizes)
- Yarn (Various Colors)
- Washable Paints (Various Colors)
- Stamps (Various Shapes and Sizes)
- Washable Ink Pads (Various Single Color Pads)
- Dry Erase Markers (Various Colors)
- Permanent Markers (Various Colors)
- Stickers
- Finger Paints
- Envelopes (Various Sizes)
- Play Food and Dishes
- Play Tools
- Jump Ropes
- Kickballs
- Footballs
- Dolls
- Blocks (All Shapes and Sizes)
- Buttons
- Socks (Tube Socks)
- Elastic (Cord)
- Muffin Tins
- Play Doh Toys
- Dress up clothes (e.g. old Halloween Costumes)
- Cars
- Tractors
- Animals (Various Types and Sizes)
- Mr. and Mrs. Potato Heads
- Batteries (All Sizes)
- Alphabet Magnets
- Number Magnets
- Small Dry Erase Boards
- Bubbles
- Barbies and Accessories
- Beads (Various Colors and Styles)
- Storage Totes/Containers (Large and Medium)

# September 2006

## Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am Bible Study	<b>4</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm FPU Graduation	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Circuit Pastor's meeting at Parker 7:00 pm 125th Anniversary Committee	8	9
<b>10</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Bible Study  <b>125th Anniversary</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>13</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML at Clarice Wixon's 5:30 pm Confirmation meeting	<b>14</b> 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living	15	16
<b>17</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation	<b>21</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	22	23
<b>24</b> 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am S.S. & Bible Study 7:30 pm Circuit K Forum at Emery	<b>25</b> 6:00 am Men's Bible study	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Bible study	<b>27</b> 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation	28	29	30

### Sunday, September 3rd

Cleaners: Roger & Bert Carls, Henry Dansman, Jr., Dianne Dansman

Greeters: Henry Dansman, Jr., Dianne Dansman

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Ashley Matthies

### Saturday, September 9th

Greeters: Roger & Bert Carls

Head Usher: Dale Snyder

Acolyte: Patrick Erikson

### Sunday, September 10th

Cleaners: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt, Melvin Matthies

Greeters: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Jennifer Muchow

### Sunday, September 17th

Cleaners: George & Donna Vogt, Lester & Jean Gregersen

Greeters: George & Donna Vogt

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Jenny Eggebraaten

### Sunday, September 24th

Cleaners: Joe & Mary Krizan, Judy Larson

Greeters: Mark & Sandra Kirschbaum

Head Usher: Talis Johnson

Acolyte: Eric Krizan

### Sunday, October 1st

Cleaners: Bob & Ruth Moore, Louis & Michelle Thompson

Greeters: Arnold & Ruth Arends

Head Usher: Melvin Matthies

Acolyte: Jennifer Muchow

### Sunday, October 8th

Cleaners: DeWane & Joyce Carls, Ben & Michelle Matthies

Greeters: Ben & Michelle Matthies

Head Usher: Melvin Matthies

Acolyte: Eric Wolfe

### Sunday, October 15th

Cleaners: Richard & Donna Bowden, Loren & Marsha Letsche

Greeters: Richard & Donna Bowden

Head Usher: Melvin Matthies

Acolyte: Kylee Thompson