

Trinity Lutheran Church
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December 2004

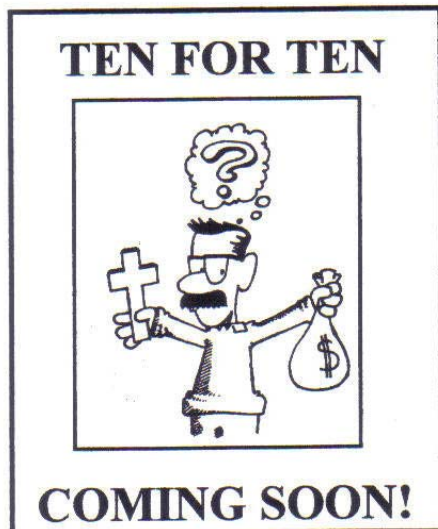
Pastor's Ponderings

The story is often told of a Colonel Davenport, Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. One day in 1789 the sky over Hartford grew very dark, and some of the representatives, glancing out the windows, feared that the end of the world was finally at hand. Many of the representatives asked for an immediate adjournment. Colonel Davenport rose and said, "The Day of Judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. Therefore, I wish that candles be brought."

During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. Though many may only have in mind, His first coming as a little baby in Bethlehem, and merely use this time to prepare for celebrating Christmas, the day of His birth, we realize there is much more to this season of Advent. We know that that the sweet baby Jesus who lay in the manger, grew up to be a man. Though fully human, facing all the temptations you and I do, He lived a perfect life of obedience to God and service to man. Jesus gave up His sinless body and holy, precious blood as an atoning sacrifice on the cross. There He suffered God's wrath and experienced the eternal separation from God that is the hell we deserve for our sins. His righteousness was exchanged for our sin.

Jesus' dead, battered body was laid in a borrowed tomb. Three days later He rose victoriously from the grave. Jesus spent the next forty days convincing His disciples that He was really alive and to give them further instruction about the kingdom of God and their mission in it. Then, in front of His disciples, Jesus ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of God.

Jesus has promised to return. On the Last Day, He will raise the bodies of all those who have died. They, along with all who are still living will be judged. Those who, by God's grace, have placed their faith in Him as their Savior will receive eternal life and will be taken to live with Jesus in the paradise of heaven forever. Those who have rejected Christ will, like Satan and his demons, be cast into the everlasting fires of hell.



That great and awe-full day could happen at any time. We must be prepared for it, by hearing God's Word of Law and Gospel, and carrying out the mission He has given us—to seek and to save the lost. While we wait for Christ to return, we, like Colonel Davenport, must choose to do our duty, serving God and our fellowman, sharing the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ with our family, friends, and neighbors so that they and we might be ready to meet Him too!

God's richest blessings!

Pastor Moeller

Stewardship December 2004

"When you care enough to send the very best" is the motto the Hallmark Greeting Card Company has used for a long time. The inference is that when you really want to impress someone you will send a Hallmark greeting card. This year Hallmark will probably once again sell millions of Christmas cards that people will send to their relatives, friends and acquaintances.

"When God cared enough to send His very best," He was not content to merely send a message to us. Yes, throughout Old Testament times God did speak to His people through prophets and other spokespersons. Sometimes He appeared to His people in visions and dreams. Other times He sent angel messengers to let people know what was in His heart and mind.

"But when God decided to send His very best," He came in person in His Son, Jesus the Christ, whose human birthday we celebrate this month. **"When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive full rights as sons."** (Galatians 4:4-5) That's what makes Christmas so special. That's what makes the name "Immanuel" so special because it literally means "God with us." Jesus is "God with us." He grew up as a true human being; He spent his life and ministry showing how much our Heavenly Father cares about us. He walked in our shoes and finally took upon Himself our sins and carried them with Him to the cross where he offered Himself as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. What a marvelous gift our Savior is! His coming to be with us was because of the grace--that is, the undeserved love--of God.

Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Sunday together change everything for us! Through these events **God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them."** (2 Corinthians 5:19) God could give us no greater Christmas gift than the gift of His only-begotten Son. Then, when His only-begotten Son sat down at His right hand in glory and majesty, God sent us His Holy Spirit to bring us to faith in Jesus and to equip us for doing the works of faith. That's what we call "sanctification" or "Christian stewardship." Our stewardship involves using all we are and have to bring glory to God and blessings to others. When we care enough to send our very best to someone else, how about following God's lead and, as we have opportunities, coming in person to give of our time, talents and resources. Taking time to personally be with someone else is often the best gift of all.

A blessed Christmas to you all! Strive for excellence in spreading the Christmas joy in every way you can!

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 call Alice at 731-2006 or Pat Reichert at 526-6225.

The Phaonmneal Pweor of the Hmuan Mnid

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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.

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. We have much to rejoice about. 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.

Life “Quotes from Lutherans For Life

“The fact that Jesus’ human life began when He was ‘conceived by the Holy Spirit’ affirms that human life is present at the moment of conception. Elizabeth and her unborn son John acknowledge Jesus as already existing within Mary (Luke 1:39-45). Since Mary left to visit Elizabeth immediately after the message from the angel, Jesus may not even have been implanted in her uterus when this encounter took place! To accomplish our salvation, Jesus shared in our humanity (Hebrews 2:14). He became like us in every respect except He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Since we are sinful from the moment of conception (Psalm 51:5), we are human beings in need of salvation from the moment of conception. Jesus had to begin as we did.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb*

Tithing Challenge

Faith empowers us to give generously. What we do with our pocketbooks is a reflection of the condition of our hearts. Our willingness to give is an indicator of where the priorities in our lives are. Tithing (giving 10 percent) is a statement of faith. If our hearts are filled with the love of Christ, His love will be visible in what we do and give. As Christians today we are motivated for stewardship by the gift of God’s grace through His Son. Our giving can have no greater foundation than the Gospel of forgiveness.

During the following weeks, we will be challenging the membership at Trinity Lutheran Church to tithe or at least to increase our giving. Giving is an important part of our worship of Christ. The Apostle Paul said, *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income”* (1 Corinthians 16:2). Our giving gives our Lord honor and gratitude for Who He is and what He has done.

Tithing is giving to us as a benchmark for proportionate giving. As New Testament Christians, tithing is an expectation rather than a command. For some of us, tithing is already a reality and, through God’s grace, He may be setting a higher standard for us to achieve. For many others, the tithe will be a big leap forward and will be a big test of faith. Ephesians 3:20 promises that our faith in God to enable our giving is well-placed, for He is able to do more than we can ask or imagine.

Welcome to the Erikson's



We are the Erikson's – Leslie, Brenda, William, Daniel, and Patrick. We just moved to Humboldt in August. We lived in Parkston for 16 years. We have three dogs, Mac, a chocolate lab, Dakota, a black lab, and Harley, a beagle. Needless to say, we live in the country.

William is 20 years old. He attends school in Sioux Falls. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, anything outside.

Daniel is 17 years old. He is a junior at West Central High School. He enjoys playing football, when he is healthy. He also likes to hunt and fish.

Patrick is 13, and a 6th grader at West Central Middle School. He loves playing with his dog Harley. He also likes to fish, play with his friends, and help his Dad.

We want to thank our new “family” at Trinity for making us feel so welcome, and look forward to getting acquainted with more of the Trinity members.

December 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Please send your articles for the newsletter to tommyguns23@netzero.com </div>			1 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 6:00 pm Advent Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	2	3 11:30 am Chapel at Risen Savior Preschool	4 1:00 pm Stewardship Committee meeting
5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study 11:30 am Christmas program practice 7:30 pm Men's Club meeting	6 6:00 am Men's Bible study	7 9:00 am Chapel at Tieszen Home 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible St.	8 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 1:30 pm LWML meeting 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 6:00 pm Advent Supper 7:30 pm Worship	9	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study 11:30 am Christmas program practice 7:00 pm 125th Anniversary Comm. meeting	13 6:00 am Men's Bible study 6:30 pm LWML Festival of Tables	14 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible Study 8:15 pm Elders meeting	15 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 6:00 pm Advent Supper 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	16 9:30 am Circuit Pastor's meeting	17	18 3:00—9:00 pm Open House at parsonage
19 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am SS & Bible study 11:30 am Christmas program practice 6:30 pm Christmas program	20 6:00 am Men's Bible study	21 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible Study	22 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 6:00 pm Advent Supper 7:30 pm Worship	23 Deadline for newsletter	24 7:30 pm Worship Christmas Eve	25 9:30 am Worship w/communion Christmas Day
26 9:30 am Worship w/communion 10:30 am SS & Bible study 11:30 am Christmas program practice	27 6:00 am Men's Bible study	28 6:00 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Bible Study	29 9:30 am Lifelight Bible study 5:30 pm Confirmation classes 7:30 pm Worship w/communion	30 2:00 pm Chapel at Leisure Living	31 7:30 pm Worship New Year's Eve	

Cleaners, Greeters, Head Ushers, & Acolytes

Sunday, December 5

Cleaners: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt,
Lynda Wollmann, Melvin Matthies
 Greeters: Harvey & LaRaye Rehfeldt
 Head Usher: Bryan Kelley
 Acolyte: Patrick Erikson

Wednesday, December 8

Greeters: Melvin Matthies
 Head Usher: Lance Wollmann
 Acolyte: Lyndze Thompson

Sunday, December 12

Cleaners: Roger & Bert Carls, Lester & Jean Gregersen
 Greeters: Roger & Bert Carls
 Head Usher: Bryan Kelley
 Acolyte: Jennifer Muchow

Wednesday, December 15

Greeters: Lester & Jean Gregersen
 Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller
 Acolyte: Phillip Oligmueller

Sunday, December 19

Cleaners: Pastor & Aimee Moeller, Dawn Gomez
 Greeters: Mark & Sandra Kirschbaum
 Head Usher: Bryan Kelley
 Acolyte: Austin Eggebraaten

Wednesday, December 22

Greeters: Aimee Moeller, Dawn Gomez
 Head Usher: Talis Johnson
 Acolyte: Thomas Iverson

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Greeters: Lance & Cindy Wollmann
 Head Usher: Steve Oligmueller
 Acolyte: Aubrey Larson

Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day

Greeters: Ray & JoAnn Matthies
 Head Usher: Marlo Anderson
 Acolyte: Austin Wolfe

Sunday, December 26

Cleaners: Brad & Penny Eggebraaten, George & Donna Vogt,
 Greeters: Brad & Penny Eggebraaten
 Head Usher: Bryan Kelley
 Acolyte: Brady Eggebraaten

Wednesday, December 29

Greeters: George and Donna Vogt
 Head Usher: Talis Johnson
 Acolyte: Derek Johnson

Friday, December 31 New Year's Eve

Greeters: DeWane & Joyce Carls
 Head Usher: Melvin Matthies
 Acolyte: Austin Kirschbaum