

Trinity Lutheran Church – *Messenger*

EMAIL: *Messenger* – you can contact the church office anytime to have the *Messenger* emailed to you!

Thank you to all who have been able to sign up for the *Messenger* via email. But please remember to check your church mailbox frequently. Other mail is distributed through that means.

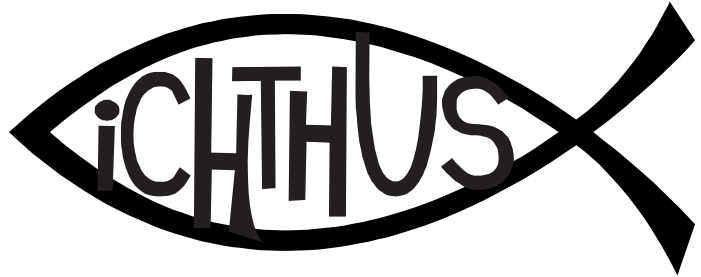
WEBSITE: Calendar - The church and school events are printed together on one calendar. This calendar is now available on our website: www.trinitybaycity.org

From: [WELS Evangelism Devotion Service: Daily Devotions](#)

You can receive a WELS daily devotion in your email by going to www.wels.net, clicking on the faith link, then the devotions link, and then the daily devotions link.

Over the next few months prayers written by our 7 & 8 grade catechism class will be published throughout the Messenger.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS - A new five-week Bible class course will begin Sunday, January 31, at 9:45 a.m., in the Parish Hall. It is entitled: POSITIVELY LUTHERAN. Sometimes even members of a confessional Lutheran church like Trinity find it difficult to describe fully what we believe. This course was written to help answer that question. It focuses on what we Lutheran Christians believe in our faith, worship, and mission: Jesus Christ, our only Savior. The course uses the ancient Christian fish symbol, which in Greek stands for “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior,” to invite us to learn what it means to believe and live as a confessional Lutheran Christian.



WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD— in the **Parish Hall** at **10 a.m.** or **7 p.m.** This course will conclude the week before Ash Wednesday and will be an excellent lead-in for the Lenten season.

Sunday School – We meet on Sundays, from 9:45 – 10:45 am.

Lenten Season – begins on Wednesday, February 17th. Services will be held at 1 pm and 7 pm. Soup supper will be served at 5:30 pm. The theme this year will be: *By His Stripe: Healing Wounded Relationships*.

Christianity is about relationships: Our relationship with God and our relationships with others. Follow Christ along his Lenten way and discover how he reclaims us and all our relationships in this exciting, hard-hitting series of services for Lent. Each sermon will bring a powerful message of God’s death-defying love directly into your family!

Feb. 17th – The Destructive Pattern of Escalation is seen as troops overtake Jesus in Gethsemane.

Feb. 24th – The Destructive Pattern of Invalidation is seen in the testimony against Jesus at his trial.

Mar. 3rd – The Destructive Pattern of Negative Interpretation is seen in the High Priest’s reaction to claims of the Christ.

Mar, 10th – The Destructive Pattern of Withdrawal is seen in Peter’s Denial of his Lord.

Mar. 17th – The Secret of Not Having Unrealistic Expectations is seen in Jesus’ willing sacrifice.

Mar. 24th – The Secret of Forgiveness and Absolution is seen in Jesus’ Opening of paradise to a sinner.

Soup Suppers: If your organization would like to host a soup supper please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Dear God, thank you for bringing us to school today. Help everyone their memory work and help us also in our Christmas service. Amen.

David Abraham, gr 8

School Open Dates – This year will be hosting several open house days at our school. Our desire is to invite interested parents to come visit our classrooms in February & March. We will open our classrooms from 8:30 – 10:30 am on Feb 15, 16, 22, 23; Mar 15,16, 22, 23. We need the help of the congregation to invite people you know to these open house dates. For more information or questions please contact the school (894-2092).

2010 Offering Statements – Offering statements for 2009 are in your church mailbox.

Seniors (SCAT): The next activity will be on Thursday, February 11th at 1 pm. Carol Festerling will tell us about her trip to the wild west. Please join us.

SCAT Sponsored Trips – The group is sponsoring a trip on Sunday, May 2nd to see comedian Bill Cosby at the Stranahan Theater in Toledo, OH. The cost is \$95 per person. Deadline for booking trip is March 31st.

The other trip is to Turkeyville on Saturday, June 26th to see a theater production of “Church Basement Ladies II”. The cost is \$75 per person. Deadline for booking trip is May 25th.

More information is in your church mailbox and on the bulletin board. You do not have to be a senior to go on these trips.

Youth Group February Activities – February 13 & 14, cross country ski trip to Tawas City. On February 27 we will meet at church for a discussion and then go to a Saginaw Spirit hockey game.

Taped Services – The church service is now being taped on DVD. If anyone would like a copy of the service please contact the church office (892-5435).

Member Hospitalization - When a loved one goes into the hospital, please have a family member contact the church and let us know. One of the pastors will make a visit.

Be A Mentor

One of the biggest obstacles that a prisoner has to face when he is released from jail or prison, is going back into an environment where he might return to his old way of life. Friends come around who he used to hang out with in his drinking days. Loneliness crops up its ugly head, and may lead him to travel to a bar for conversation. Job opportunities remain scare, and are even scarcer when the employer finds out the candidate is a felon. These released inmates have 3 strikes against them before they even get started with a new life of freedom.

That is where a Christian male mentor can make a difference. A mentor is someone who is willing to be a friend to a newly released inmate. The mentor attempts to spend an hour a week with a released inmate, talking, and doing some activities together. A mentor gives a commitment for one year. That commitment may be made for a longer time, if the mentor decides to do so. A Christian mentor lets his light shine and is an example. As a result, these former inmates travel down a different road, a road that keeps them focused on Christ and the inner peace and joy one has in Him. If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Pastor Mark Schulz or Gerry Rexin at Trinity. They will tell you about the two hour training program, and how you would be matched with your new friend.

MLS Updates: As of January 8, we have thirty-eight applications for the freshmen class next year. That is significantly higher than we have had at this time in previous years. We are excited about that and thankful that the Lord is blessing us with such great interest. It is a sign that families are confident in our school as well. We have much to offer, but most importantly, the gospel is at work here every day. That’s the message we not only use here at MLS, but also train our students to share. Come join the fun!

Nine different states and five foreign countries are represented amidst our student body this year. It's a blessing to have a broad flavor like that.

Truth Behind the Cross Concert

Trinity will present a concert on Sunday April 25th, 6-8 pm. The choirs and various musical groups at Trinity, both church and school, will be involved. Watch for flyers and more details to follow.

Jr. Choir Festival

You are invited to a night of music and praise to our Lord provided by the Jr. Choirs of our schools in the Tri-City area. Each individual school will present individual numbers followed up by two numbers sung together by all schools. This year the children of the following schools are participating:

St. Bartholomew of Kawkawlin, St. John's of Bay City, St. Paul's of Saginaw, Trinity of Bay City.

We look forward to seeing you for a night of music and fellowship!

Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 7 pm. For 2010 the festival is being held at Trinity.

Treasurer's Reports: We do not publish it in the *Messenger* because of the cost of paper. However, one will be provided via your church mailbox if you contact the church office.

End of December 2009 Fund Balances

General: \$+16,866 Missions: \$58,482 Building: \$62,804 Project Share: \$5,355

Communicants: 687

Souls: 866

Gifts & Memorials:

- A gift for Ed & Ruth Hayes 50th anniversary --- \$20 for the General Fund
- In memory of Ken and Pauline Fogelsonger from their children --- \$100 for LES Endowment Fund
- In memory of Nancy Mehnert from daughter Amy --- \$500 for the General Fund
- A gift from Ron & Betty Miller in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary --- \$100 for the Anniversary Fund
- A gift from Ed & Ruth Hayes in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary ---\$100 for the General Fund
- In memory of Cortland Hayes from grandparents Ed & Ruth Hayes --- \$50 for the General Fund
- In memory of Bill Raines from grand-daughter Gina Burke and her husband --- \$1,700 for a project to be determined at a later date.
- In memory of Beth Loop, sister of Jill Ferrio, from the staff at school --- \$80 for the school library

ATTENDANCE

	Early	Late	Mon.	Total
Dec 20	128	286	39	453
Christmas Eve				384
Christmas Day				186

Dec 27	96	170	40	306
New Year's Eve				95
Jan 3	105	238	60	403
Jan 10	113	202	33	348
Jan 17	141	181	69	391

Schedules

Usher

Feb 7	Team #1	Team #2
Feb 14	Team #3	Team #4
Feb 21	Team #5	Team #6
Feb 28	Team #7	Team #8

Technicians

S. Heinz	C. French
A. Ferrio	R. Fawcett
J. Arrowsmith	P. Kolb
K. Baeckl	D. Bula

Mon. Feb 1	Barry Schmidt	M. Kaplenski
Mon. Feb 8	George Hausmann	H. Howard
Mon. Feb 15	Earl Jacobs/Everett Jacobs	C. Festerling
Mon. Feb 22	Dustin Gwizdala	C. Festerling

Lent Feb 17	Jeff Katt (1pm)	Dustin Gwizdala (7pm)
Feb 24	Jeff Katt (1pm)	Dustin Gwizdala (7pm)

Greeters

Feb 7	Marion Bedard & Garnet Bognar	Tom & Ashley Billings
Feb 14	Kathy Konieczny & Lois Joitke	Mary Rogers & Peggy Rau
Feb 21	Jim & Sue Patchett	Katrina Middleton & Kelly Boyk
Feb 28	Vicki & Alana Heinz	Loretta Adams & Terry Gourneau

Mon. Feb 1	Ellen Kasper
Mon. Feb 8	Deb Meyer
Mon. Feb 15	Darcey Foret
Mon. Feb 22	Dolores Guettler
Mar. 1	Carol Florida

Nursery – The nursery is open for worship services. It will be staffed for the 11 am service only. STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS. Please check the poster sign-up sheet for open dates.

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for getting all of here safely today and help us to gladly hear and learn your Word. Please help those who are sick and heal them according to your will. May all praises be to you, Lord. Amen.
Bryanna Alvarado, gr 8

January Reports

Administrative Report – Pastor Starr

TASKS ACCOMPLISHED BY GOD'S GRACE

1. Amazing Grace Bookstore—More volunteers and day managers have come forward to serve our Savior in the bookstore. The store will be closed for three days in January while the physical inventory is taken. The annual report will come out following the inventory. Please tell your friends about our bookstore. Plan to hold a meeting at the bookstore.
2. Bible Studies—Sunday mornings currently feature the class “Come, Lord Jesus,” which focuses on how Christ is to be a part of every aspect of our daily lives. Wednesdays in the Word Bible class this winter is “The Glory of Living under the Cross.” Join us!
3. Prepared for sharing “Listening Sunday” results with the congregation in special services on January 24 and 25.
4. Counseling—Assisted several couples and individuals with problem areas in their lives, using God's Word to give them direction and guidance.

5. Financial Situation—Thanked God for such a wonderful outpouring of monetary gifts that allowed us to finish the year so well financially. The final figures are not yet in as I write this report, but it looks as though through generous gifts and careful spending throughout 2009, we did not add to the General Fund deficit, but actually reduced or erased it. Praise God!
6. Installed new board and church council members into their offices of responsibility and service. May God give them wisdom and strength to carry out their assigned tasks.
7. Project Share—Assisted with getting our new director, Alan Smith, up to speed on his duties and responsibilities. Alan has already put together a new website for Project Share. Check it out at <http://www.projectshare.webs.com>.

TASKS PLANNED FOR NEXT MONTH ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

1. Amazing Grace Bookstore—procure a new advertising grant from Thrivent for 2010.
2. Bible studies—prepare for new Sunday morning Bible class, “Positively Lutheran—A Simple Statement of What Lutherans Believe.” All too often we focus on the negative aspects of faith—“We can’t do this; we can’t do that.” This course will help us focus on the positive aspects of our faith, helping us to find ways to say “Yes” with the gospel.
3. Help train new board members and church council members for their service to our Savior and us.
4. Continue counseling with several people who need help from God’s Word.
5. Prepare more informational and motivational materials on finances.
6. Procure a new software program for the presentation of our worship services since our current one is becoming obsolete. Pastor and Jeanne Schulz are making one available through their business, Point of Power. Learn and then train our volunteer technicians to use the new software.

LONG TERM GOALS ACCORDING TO GOD'S GUIDANCE

1. Writing book on homosexuality for NPH with co-authors, Scott Barefoot & Suzie Neas.

Outreach Pastor Report – Pastor Mark Schulz

Our new greeter program is up and running. We have 69 members of Trinity who have agreed to serve as a greeter 4 times in 2010. We have two greeters for our early and late services and one greeter coordinated for Monday nights. The greeters on Sundays will be located at the front entrance and near the door by the steps to the balcony. Thus, they can meet everyone who comes into our church. As our congregation sings the last hymn on a Sunday, the two greeters will leave early to focus in on welcoming the departing guests. The pastor who is not officiating will point out to the greeters who the guests are. The greeters will then provide the guests with a guest packet and seek to obtain their names for further follow-up. I am encouraged by the large number of Trinity members who agreed to serve their Savior by welcoming those who join us for worship.

We had 14 teens participate in our Cadillac Ski retreat weekend on January 9th and 10th. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Crown of Life members on Saturday night as they served us a nice dinner. We spent some recreational time at the YMCA, participated in a Bible study entitled, “Materialism Mayhem”, and slept on the soft carpeting at Crown of Life. Sunday morning we attended Bible class and church before heading out to the ski slopes of Caberfae. We received a professional ski lesson, and had great fun skiing on some of the moderate to easy slopes of Caberfae. We returned safely to Bay City on Sunday night.

We had two previews for our next Financial Peace University class beginning on January 17th. It looks like we will have about 10 participants in this 13 week class. The class will be held on Sunday nights from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at the church. FPU does a great job in helping people break bad behaviors in the handling of their finances, teaching them how to manage a budget, save, get out and stay out of debt, and be well educated in areas such as insurance, real estate, and investing. It is a great feeling to have a plan for the income the Lord blesses us with, know where that money is going, and be able to give generously to help spread the message of our Savior to others. FPU will be a great blessing to our congregation. It is my hope that many of families see the value and importance of this class.

Rusty Schisler has agreed to serve as our Divorce Care coordinator. This video based study helps

individuals who are separated from their spouse or have been recently divorced. It deals with issues such as anger, forgiveness, depression, loneliness, financial survival, new relationships, single sexuality, reconciliation, growing closer to God, and other pertinent issues.

The class is for 13 weeks and will start on February 1st from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

On Wednesday nights until Lent begins, I am making calls on our backsliding members. Twice a month, Jim Schlosser is joining me in making these calls. The idea is to make short contact calls with as many people as possible in an hour ½ time frame. These visits are made without calling the person first. If it is a bad time for the member, we try to schedule a date and time with them for a future visit.

I have visited 23 of 25 shut-ins already this month, and am actively teaching the day school and public school confirmation classes. We have a great group of kids this year in both classes. Our next 13 week New Life in Christ class begins on February 12th from 6:30 to 8 P.M.

Dear Lord, Thank you for bringing everyone here safely. Thank you also for helping the "A" girls do relay well in the tournament and taking second place. In your name we pray. Amen.

Kayla Polsinelli, gr 7

Staff Minister Report – Mr Troy Yerks

Tasks accomplished with the Grace of God:

- ✚ Teaching Music, preparing choirs
- ✚ Teaching Sunday School
- ✚ Play for worship services
- ✚ Arranged music for Praise Band and conducted rehearsals; back to Sunday afternoons
- ✚ Begin Girl Pioneer program
- ✚ Assisted Boy and Girl Pioneers in collecting, organizing, and packing boxes to send off to military members.
- ✚ Planned for Pioneer Spring activities – Pinewood Derby is right around the corner! Girls will also make a car.
- ✚ Introduced a second new hymn from CWS to the congregation this next month
- ✚ Enjoyed family trip to Florida visiting my sister
- ✚ Packed 20 care packages with boy and girl pioneers for our military men and women

Tasks planned with the Lord's Guidance:

- ✚ Prepare services for Sunday
- ✚ Teach music at school
- ✚ Continue to contact families to enliven cradle roll
- ✚ Continue search for appropriate music source for Praise Band
- ✚ Continue to secure more shelving for church-owned organ music in office.
- ✚ Assist the Anniversary committee where needed, especially coordinating music and service plans
- ✚ Prepare for Jr. Choir Festival; Feb. 28th, 7pm at Trinity this year
- ✚ Introduce Pinewood Derby cars to boys and girls new to the Pioneer program
- ✚ Plan more times for youth pianists to be involved in service
- ✚ Prepare choir to introduce a third new CWS hymn to congregation

Long range plans through the Grace of God:

- ✚ Develop musical talents in youth and adults
- ✚ Develop Praise Band for contemporary services
- ✚ Strengthen our fellow members through the study of God's Word
- ✚ Complete Synod Certification; 2 courses down, **10 to go**
- ✚ Investigate Graduate degree
- ✚ Continue education of voice/keyboards
- ✚ Continue to Investigate possibility of acquiring handchimes to use with children

Trinity Lutheran Preschool and Child Care Report – Melissa Leslie, director Preschool:

- We will be going on a field trip to the Temple Theatre in Saginaw, MI on Jan. 12th to see a play titled, "Pigeon Party" based on the Caldecott Honor books written by Mo Willems. A special thanks to Mr. Majesky for driving the bus for our trip.
- On January 12th, I will be meeting with a family who is interested in our Preschool and Child Care program (as well as Kindergarten next year) for their 5 year old daughter, Abby.
- On January 24th, the Preschool & Kindergarten rooms will be singing in Church during the 11 A.M. service.
- During the second semester we will have a student teacher in our classroom. Her name is Theresa Gwizdala. She is currently a student at Delta College and is a staff member at We Are Family Child Care Center. She is studying to become an Early Childhood teacher. I met with her last week to go through our discipline policy and to discuss the routines and procedures carried out in our room. She will begin her observation next week.
- We're looking forward to our Open House dates in January-March. Our first dates in January are January 18, 19, 25, and 26th from 8:30-10:30 A.M.
- On February 11th, our next Preschool-2nd Grade family event will take place at school. Dana Schwabe, a former Preschool teacher at Good Shepherd in Midland, will make a presentation about the role of parents in the home and provide encouragement for appropriate activities that stimulate and develop the love of learning in their child. We will discuss disciplinary techniques, positive/negative reinforcement, and stages of growth and development. Child Care will be provided for the families in attendance from 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Child Care:

- We have two new children that began our Child Care Program this week: Kyle Krohn (age 3) and Carly Krohn (age 4).
- Our Preschool and Child Care license is up for renewal. In my phone call with our licensing consultant, Marcia Demski, she mentioned that she has been very busy and will be stopping in for her review either this week or next.
- Our next Child Care Staff meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, after the 11:00 A.M. Church service to discuss upcoming plans for the new year and to schedule our staff evaluations.