

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.

Christmas Worship Services – Thursday, Dec. 24th @ 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; Friday, Dec. 25th 10 am Christmas Day Festival Service; Dec. 31st 7 pm New Year's Eve.



**Come,
Lord Jesus!**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS, at 9:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall with Pastor Starr, will be a five week course, entitled, **Come, Lord Jesus!** The purpose of this course is to encourage us to realize and appreciate God's saving presence in all situations of life, particularly when one is aware that help is urgently needed, and to turn to him in prayer for assistance and strength. This is a course that applies God's Word in a practical way to the difficult times many of us are experiencing right now. Will resume January 3rd.

Come, When No One Loves Me—at look at the Ten Lepers, Luke 17:11-19
Come, When I Am Afraid—a look at Jesus Calming the Storm, Mark 4:35-41.



**The
GLORY^{of}
Living
under the
CROSS**

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD—The next course is entitled “The Glory of Living under the Cross.” With the cross at the center of our lives, we are confident that God loves us. We glory in everything we do and suffer for Christ, knowing that the church militant on earth will soon become the church triumphant in heaven. This course will help you live gloriously every day of your earthly life—even in humility and tribulation.

Join Pastor Starr for a six-week course of gospel study beginning **Wednesday, January 6, 2010**, 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.

Dear God, Thank you for keeping us safe and help my classmates and me to get good grades in school. In your name we pray. Amen.

Bradley Bender, gr 8

New Church Office Hours – Beginning January 2010 the church office will be closed on Fridays at noon.

New Life in Christ Class – The next session will begin January 12th from 6:30 - 8 pm. This course is for people in our community who want to know more about Christ and to prepare them for membership in our congregation. It is also a great refresher course for members. Contact the church office (892-5435) to register.

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 January – March. We will open our classrooms from 8:30 – 10:30 am on Jan 18, 19, 25, 26; 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).

Election Results: Vice President: Allan Ferrio; Secretary: Scott Heinz; Elders: Barry Schmidt (retention), Tom Peil (assimilation), Chuck Rogers (outreach); Trustees: Ken Blank, Dan Hauch, Kevin Martens, Joe Rechsteiner, EJ Schwanbeck; Education: Craig Rau, Tyler Culler
Installation will be in the 8:30 service on Sunday, January 10th.

Bulletin Inserts - We will go back to the previous way of doing Trinity News & Announcements. Very few people were taking the inserts home so they will be included in the bulletin until further notice.

2010 Offering Envelopes – Envelopes will be available beginning December 13 – January 10. Because they are in box form again they will be on tables in the Parish Hall. Stop by and pick them up. In your church mailbox is Church Law & Tax Report with information about contributions. The counters have a special plea for you to please use the envelope assigned to you. Each week it takes time to do the extra administration work involved in checks just dropped in the offering plate. It would be very much appreciated.

Small Group Bible Studies – Most of the groups will be starting up in January. Tom Peil's group starts the 10th at 6:30 pm at their home. Contact Pastor Schulz or Troy Yerks if you are interested in starting a small group or wish to join one. They will put you in contact with a leader.

Seniors (SCAT): The next activity will be on Thursday, January 14th at 1 pm in the Parish Hall. Sue Patchett will talk about the Saginaw Pregnancy Counseling Center. This is open to anyone interested in learning more about the center. Please join us.

Youth Group January Activities – January 9/10th a ski trip at Cadillac, MI. Information was sent to teens in the mail. Please return registration forms by Wednesday, January 6th. If you have questions contact Pastor Schulz at 892-5435.

Van – Handicapped Van – It was decided at the December Elder meeting that the handicapped van will be sold. Any money that was donated will go toward gas for the LES school bus.

God's People Helping God's People: The Trinity Food Pantry was able to help 30 families with food for a Christmas dinner as well as 2 referrals. Through a Sam's Club grant we helped 3 Trinity families. Through Heartland Healthcare workers we were able to help 5 Trinity families. John Duchaine again gave the candy for the children's gift bags. Rachel and Rollin Fawcett donated Beanie Babies to all the children. Begick Nursery supplied the plants at a discount and Randy and Kyle Cochran the wreaths. Thank you to all for your generosity. God is good!

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.

Financial Peace University Offered for a Second Time! Trinity Lutheran Parish Hall

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a life-changing program that teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. More than 1 million families have attended FPU with amazing results. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever! 45 People took our fall class, and are giving rave reviews for what they have learned. On average, an FPU student pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in just 90 days. Financial stress is reduced. Couples begin to communicate about money priorities, goals and more. FPU strengthens members on how to handle their finances, enabling them to live like they never lived before. Imagine how grand life would be if you were debt free. Keep in mind this 13 week program would make a great wedding gift, high school graduation gift, college graduation gift, or Birthday gift.

If you would like to take the class or check out to see if you would be interested in the class, please come to a preview we have scheduled at Trinity Lutheran Church. The preview dates are either Tuesday January 5th at 7:00 P.M. or Thursday January 7th at 7:00 P.M. The preview takes approximately 1 hour. If you decide you want to take the class after viewing the preview, you will be asked to write out a check or give cash in the amount of \$99.00 to Pastor Mark Schulz. Please address all checks to Pastor Mark Schulz. The cost of \$99.00 is for one family unit. In other words, the cost is \$99.00 for a husband and wife. For this price you will receive a box of materials, which will include your workbook, envelope system, audio CD's, and other helpful materials. **The starting date for the first class will be on Sunday January 17th from 6:00-8:00 P.M. Babysitting service can be provided if you need it. The class will run every Sunday night for 13 weeks, skipping April 4th since it is Easter Sunday.** For more information, please contact Pastor Mark Schulz at 892-1498.

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 scarce, 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 Jerry Rexin at Trinity. They will tell you about the two hour training program, and how you would be matched with your new friend.



We want you to know that the sound system includes four special receivers for the hard of hearing. We have outside of the ear headphones available or you may wish to bring your own headphones. The receivers take a 1/8" (3.5mm) jack. Ask an usher if you would like to try one of these special Williams Sound System receivers.

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 November 2009 Fund Balances

General: \$(5,695) Missions: \$54,117 Building: \$60,582 Project Share: \$5,154

Thank you for this day in school and please help us do well in our school word. You are the most Holy God. Please give us good weather. In your name we pray. Amen.

Joe Davies, gr 7

Membership/Pastoral Activity

Baptisms: Maddsion Stevenson

Transfers: Jodi Virant from Trinity Lutheran Church, Caladonia, WI

Adult Confirmations: Martha Grant, Larry and Nancy Kratz, Yuri Stevenson, Mark Virant

Profession of Faith: Michelle Harris

Releases: Tenisha Maxwell, Tracey Dunn, Christina Goheen, Ashley Nalazek, Shelly Rytlewski, Abbey Rytlewski, Bailey Rytlewski, Marie Janczewski, Matthew Janczewski, Jacob Janczewski, Theresa Young, Raymond Smith, Michelle Jenkins & son, Todd Meyer, Jamie Meyer, Kimberly Welter & son

Communicants: 689

Souls: 868

Gifts & Memorials:

A gift from Advent Soup Supper Committee --- \$100 for General Fund

In memory of Ben Witkopp Sr from wife Leona and son Ben --- \$200 for the General Fund

ATTENDANCE	Early	Late	Mon.	Total
Nov 22	120	156	73	349
Thanksgiving				333
Nov 29	107	202	64	373
Dec 6	136	198	78	412
Dec 13	146	156	86	388

Schedules

Usher

Jan 3	Team #1	Team #2
Jan 10	Team #3	Team #4
Jan 17	Team #5	Team #6
Jan 24	Team #7	Team #8
Jan 31	Team #11	Team #12

Technicians

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

Mon. Jan 4	Barry Schmidt
Mon. Jan 11	George Hausmann
Mon. Jan 18	Earl Jacobs/Everett Jacobs
Mon. Jan 25	Dustin Gwizdala

M. Kaplenski
H. Howard
C. Festerling
C. Festerling

Greeters

Jan 3	Bob & Darlene Schulz
Jan 10	Barb McCray & Rob Robinson
Jan 17	Martha Grant & Carol Histed
Jan 24	Mark & Jodi Virant
Jan 31	Lois Peters & Nancy Pockrandt

Joan O'Hara & Pam Jaskiewicz
Joan Neal & Kathy Packard
Ken & Cheryl Blank
Amber Eauclaire & Kim Ewald
Amanda Sherry & Shannon Schulz

Mon. Jan 4 Dolores Guettler & Susan Howell

Mon. Jan 11 Deb Meyer
Mon. Jan 18 Lori Obermiller
Mon. Jan 25 Ellen Kasper

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 God, Thank you for giving us the opportunity to study your Word. We thank you for the nice weather today and the blessings you have given us. In your name we pray. Amen.

Erich Dewald, gr 7

Year End Reports

Outreach Pastor Report – Pastor Mark Schulz

One of my primary focuses in 2009 was to look for ways to build bridges to the unchurched in our community. In order to accomplish this goal, there were several need based pre-evangelism programs that were put into effect. In the winter months, Trinity offered a Divorce Care group. The study involved a 30 minute video each week, discussion questions on the video, and a daily Scriptural study that the participants did during the week. Some of the topics discussed were: Anger, Depression, Loneliness, Financial Survival, Forgiveness, New Relationships, Kid care, and Single Sexuality.

Another opportunity to reach out to the unchurched and to assist our own members with an immediate need was by offering a financial class called, “Financial Peace University.” Financial Peace University is a 13 week, video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before. The class had 32 family units participating, with half of the participants being non-members. At the present time, I am working with 3 unchurched families that have come as a direct result of this class. In addition, our own members appreciated how the class helped them get their financial house in order.

We offered a 4 session “Mourning Has Broken”, grief support study, on Sunday mornings during coffee hour in 2009. This course was written a number of years ago by Linda French and myself to aid Christians who have suffered the loss of a loved one. We averaged 10 participants in the weekly class. There were 3 smaller children and 7 adults.

I spent two Wednesday nights a month talking to our teenagers on the phone. I felt that this was a way to show concern and to stay involved in their lives. It was also a chance to update our teens on our monthly youth activities. One of our winter activities was a cross country ski trip to Tawas. 26 of our teenagers joined the Tawas youth group in group Bible studies, skiing, basketball, bowling, and Sunday worship. Lock-ins, softball, swimming, parking cars at the State Fair, a hayride, raking leaves for the community, serving at the Easter breakfast, and listening to Dr. Kevin Peil speak on Evolution vs. creation were some of the other 2009 activities.

Our Monday night transition support group averaged 6 participants in 2009. We spent time discussing a recently completed study by our WELS Special Ministries called, “Water of Life”.

The Lord blessed us with 12 adult confirmations in 2009. I continue to spent time on Saturday afternoons making contact with the unchurched on our prospect file. We were presented with a golden opportunity in 2009 with 11-12 families in our pre-school and childcare center who have no church home. As a congregation we looked for ways to connect these people to other members of our congregation. A couple of Thursday night family nights at church, the Living Christmas card, the Financial Peace class, were a few ways we attempted to build a bridge to these people. In 2010, I plan to again have a regular group of people on our witness team.

We worked in the last few months of 2009 in setting up a new greeter program. 60 people have been recruited, and the program should be up and running in January 2010. Two evangelism callers were also recruited in 2009 to send out cards to our Sunday visitors within 36 hours after they visit us.

I was given the opportunity in 2009 to teach the Sunday Coffee hour class for 10 weeks. The study that I conducted was a PowerPoint study on the book of Revelation. I also used some of these sessions with my twice a month Sunday night small group ministry.

During 2009 we had a small group leader’s cookout and informational meeting at my house. 20

people came to the cookout. After having food and fellowship, curriculum ideas were shared to our small group leaders. The group leaders used some of this material with their groups. What a joy it is to serve at Trinity. A congregation always ready to reach out to the lost.

Dear Jesus, thank you for keeping us safe on our way to school today. Please help our friend, Desi, to overcome her sickness. And help us do well in our memory work today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
Hannah Katt, gr 7

Staff Minister Report – Mr Troy Yerks

Tasks accomplished with the Grace of God:

- ✚ Teaching Music, preparing choirs
- ✚ Play for worship services
- ✚ Arranged music for Praise Band and conducted rehearsals
- ✚ Assisted Nicki with Jr. Choir
- ✚ Teach first/second grade Sunday School
- ✚ Accompanied chapel services at school
- ✚ Planned Epiphany season services; incorporating Christian Worship Supplement
- ✚ Conducted Children's Christmas Service; incorporated piano students, and two musicians
- ✚ Caroled at Sheffield Bay with Praise Band
- ✚ Teach Sunday School
- ✚ Organist at three funerals
- ✚ Prepared school to sing in midweek lent service
- ✚ Planned Lent services
- ✚ Held informational meeting for Lutheran Pioneers
- ✚ Planned Lent services
- ✚ Worked with boys soloing for Good Friday Services
- ✚ Prepared survey regarding Pioneer Program
- ✚ Coordinated different music groups for Easter services
- ✚ Helping with the musical for grades 1-4
- ✚ Planned worship services for the Sundays of Easter
- ✚ Attended Spring Pastor's Conference
- ✚ Attended National Staff Minister's Conference in Falls Church, VA
- ✚ Prepared Handbells for final service this spring
- ✚ Planned Pentecost services
- ✚ Planned for Vacation Bible School
- ✚ Changed organist's schedule to assist in general fund situation
- ✚ Coordinated with Jill Yambrick to hold a piano recital with Trinity students
- ✚ Two hospital visits, one counseling session with an individual looking for employment
- ✚ Attended an Anniversary Committee meeting
- ✚ Held Vacation Bible School
- ✚ Assisted with Music during Soccer Bible Camp
- ✚ Planned for July and Aug. rehearsals with Praise Band; now on Tuesday evenings for Summer
- ✚ Attended Michigan District Convention June 9-11
- ✚ Assisted in planning of Paint 'n Pride
- ✚ Assisted NPH with New Music Workshop held at Trinity
- ✚ Organist for wedding at Trinity; June 20th
- ✚ Prepared Praise Band for WELS Kingdom Workers dinner
- ✚ Began Sunday School; Penny Story is assisting with recruitment of teachers and students
- ✚ Planned services for October
- ✚ Attended Michigan District Teachers Conference; Oct. 7-9
- ✚ Arranged a selection for handbells for Christmas
- ✚ Finalized plans for school singing times
- ✚ Planned special children's service for Christ the King Sunday

- ✚ Planned Children's Christmas service with Nikki Hill
- ✚ Planned for Adult Choir rehearsals
- ✚ Began Boy Pioneer program; meeting after school – Jim Schlosser is assisting
- ✚ Conducted "Hymn-sing" service at Sheffield Bay
- ✚ Planned services for November; began planning for Advent
- ✚ Began practicing of Children's Christmas service with school
- ✚ Boy Pioneer program is meeting after school – Jim Schlosser is assisting; off to great start! Watch for our project to be on display.
- ✚ Began handbells – preparing for our own services, but also for regional festival
- ✚ Introduced three new hymns from Christian Worship Supplement
- ✚ Boy Pioneer program is growing 16 boys – First project was on display
- ✚ Handbells are preparing for Christmas Eve
- ✚ Began Girl Pioneer program
- ✚ Assist Nikki Hill with Children's Service rehearsals
- ✚ Assisted Boy and Girl Pioneers in collecting, organizing, and packing boxes to send off to military members.
- ✚ Coordinated Sam's Club gift program with Trinity
- ✚ Held Christmas for Kids; Jodi Virant assisted
- ✚ Involved Praise Band in a regular Sunday Service

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/keyboard
- ✚ Continue to Investigate possibility of acquiring handchimes to use with children

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 one-year anniversary was celebrated in September. A special "Teachers' Week" was held. The bookstore has contributed its portion of utilities and LACE loan payments throughout 2009. Sales were slow in the summer and fall. Please tell your friends about our bookstore. Do your gift-shopping at our bookstore. In this way, share the Word of God with others.
2. Bible Studies—Sunday mornings taught 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 fall was a study and review of Luther's Small Catechism.
3. Held "Listening Sunday" for the congregation to participate in helping us determine direction of the congregation in the coming years. Participated in several meetings with the committee to compile the information and formulate a vision for our congregation in the years ahead. The consensus is that we are doing many things well, that we should continue to do them well, and improve all our current ministries.
4. Continuing Education—Attended the excellent Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Symposium on Congregational Health. Healthy Christian congregations have their members in regular Bible study. That is why we offer so many Bible study opportunities in various formats at Trinity.
5. Counseling—Assisted several couples and individuals with problem areas in their lives, using God's Word to give them direction and guidance.
6. Financial Situation—Thanked God for such a good financial summer, a time that often sees a drastic reduction in weekly offerings. This summer we actually reduced our General Fund deficit instead of increasing it! Overall giving increased by 5% in 2009! Several special gifts have also

been received with gratitude. Praise God! All the boards have kept spending at a severe minimum. The Trustees can put off scheduled maintenance only so long without it costing us more money in the long run. We began 2009 with a \$15,500 deficit in our General Fund; I am confident that we will not add to that deficit as we close 2009. I have been investigating other options for our property and liability insurance, making sure that we are getting the best deal for our costs.

7. Garden—Enjoyed participating in this church family activity and eating the produce. God blessed us with a truly bountiful harvest of tomatoes!
8. Project Share—Welcomed two new counselors to Project Share, both members of our sister congregation, St. John, Bay City. They both became aware of Project Share through a presentation by my son, David, this summer, who served as the administrator. One of those counselors, Stacy Burzynski, is trying to generate interest in area youth group activity to foster more fellowship and cooperation among our WELS churches in Bay City. The other counselor, Alan Smith, is now serving as the Project Share administrator and is getting acclimated to his new duties.
9. Special Services—In an effort to reduce spending, no special guest speakers were brought in during the second half of 2009. However, four weekend Advent services featured Pastor Schulz and Pastor Starr portraying men of the Christmas story. We dressed in costume and delivered “first-person” sermons.
10. Technology—Thank you to Mike Priebe who is now serving as our Trinity webmaster and is doing a great job at keeping our website up-to-date. If you have items of interest or suggestions for the website, please contact Mike or the church office.
11. Youth Catechism—taught first semester to the LES and public school Catechism classes. There are 21 LES students and 6 public school students in 7th & 8th grade Catechism classes. Huge thank you to Susan Patchett for teaching a special needs Catechism class for teaching the public school fifth and sixth grade Bible history class.

TASKS PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL

1. Amazing Grace Bookstore—procure a new advertising grant from Thrivent for 2010; more volunteers and day managers and another executive manager; continue to provide good Christian materials to our congregation, area WELS and ELS churches, the Christian churches of the area, and to the unchurched.
2. Bible studies—prepare for new Sunday morning Bible classes and Wednesdays in the Word classes for 2010. The new Wednesdays in the Word course for January 2010 is “Living in Glory under the Cross.” It is a study that helps us Christians live triumphantly while we live in this sinful world.
3. Present the work of the Mission/Vision Task Force to the congregation in a special worship service on the weekend of January 24, 2010.
4. Help train new board members and church council members for their service to our Savior and us.
5. Continue counseling with several people who need help from God’s Word.
6. Prepare more informational and motivational materials on finances.
7. Visit and commune shut-ins.
8. Procure a new software program for the presentation of our worship services since our current one is becoming obsolete. Learn and then train our volunteer technicians to use the new software.
9. Personal note: Due to the graduation of my son, David, from Martin Luther College on the same weekend as our Youth Confirmation, I will not be in attendance for our Youth Confirmation. My prayer is that each of our youth confirmands take their vows seriously and that the Holy Spirit will keep them strong and active Christians through their faithful use of the Means of Grace—the Gospel in the Word and Sacraments.

LONG TERM GOALS ACCORDING TO GOD’S GUIDANCE

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

Thank you to God and to the members of Trinity for the privilege of serving him and you at Trinity. What a comfort and joy it is to be members of our victorious Savior's family in difficult times like these!

Dear Lord God, heavenly Father, Thank you for today, for leading us to school safely. Please allow school to go well today. Also, please allow the basketball girls to play a good game tomorrow in Frankentrost. We praise you for all of our blessings that you have given to us. In Jesus' heavenly name. Amen.

Dani Guettler, gr 7

Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year

From the Staff of
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School