

Trinity Lutheran Church – *Messenger*

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 - THE ODYSSEY OF ST. PAUL

PAUL—This eight-part video series will begin March 7 in our Sunday Morning Bible Class. The series is written and hosted by Dr. Paul L. Maier, a Lutheran professor at Western Michigan University. Aside from Jesus himself, humanly speaking, no one has had a greater influence on Christianity that Paul of Tarsus. Among his many achievements, three are of prime importance: 1) as a powerful, tireless, missionary, he spread the faith to Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy; 2) his Spirit-inspired letters, which form much of the New Testament, present the basic theology for Christianity; and 3) more than anyone else, God used Paul to bring the Gentiles into the early church, thus “universalizing” the Christian faith. It is good for us Christians today to learn about Paul and his times. Through the Word of God that Paul preached and taught, our faith will grow and become stronger as we view and better understand his conversion, his work, his faith, and his entrance into God’s kingdom of glory. Each week there will be thirty minutes of video and thirty minutes of discussion. Plan to join us and bring a friend.

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL



Lenten Season – Services are held at 1 pm and 7 pm. Soup supper will be served at 5:30 pm. The theme this year will be: **“By His Stripes”**

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!

March 3rd The Destructive Pattern of Negative Interpretation is seen in the High Priest’s reaction

to claims of the Christ.

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

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

March 24th The Secret of Forgiveness and Absolution is seen in Jesus’ Opening of paradise to a

sinner.

Holy Week & Easter Celebration Services - Please join us & invite a friend!

March 28/29th - Palm Sunday

April 1st - Maundy Thursday, 7 pm. Holy Communion
April 2nd - Good Friday, 1 pm & 7 pm
EASTER - 6:30, 8:30 & 11 am. Easter Breakfast served between services

Easter Breakfast – Check out the bulletin board to sign up for donations.

Easter for KIDS! – Saturday, March 27th (The 12 Eggs of Easter): A flyer is attached or extra flyers will be available on the table in the Narthex for those who receive email Messenger.

Still need helpers. Contact Mr Yerks as soon as possible.

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD— will resume after Easter.

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

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 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).

Seniors (SCAT): The next activity will be on Thursday, March 11th, at 1:30 pm. We will meet at the Heartland Health Care Center, 800 Mulholland. There will be a tour of the rehab center. We will also hear an attorney inform us about elder-law. Questions and answers will follow.

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 March Activities – Soup Supper on Wednesday, March 10th. Lock in is still a go. Look for more info soon.

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.

MLS Updates: The concert choir will be at Trinity on Sunday, March 14th at the 8:30 and 11 am services. NO communion on Sunday. There will be communion celebrated at the Monday service.

MLS will be hosting the Science and Fine Arts Fair on Saturday, March 6. Trinity LES students will be participating in science, art, forensics, music, spelling and math.

The play "Good News" will be presented on Saturday, March 27 at 7 pm and Sunday, March 28 at 2 pm in the chapel/auditorium. Tickets will be available March 1 at the business office or at the door.

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.

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

End of December 2009 Fund Balances

General: \$+19,239 Missions: \$5,718 Building: \$65,307 Project Share: \$5,686

Membership/Pastoral Activity

Transfers: Audra Spiekerman & daughter to St. John Lutheran Church, Bay City

Deaths: Virginia Sommerfield, Harold VanDriessche

Baptism: Grace Olivia Noyes

Releases: Anthony Kingry, Nicole Prentice, Sarah Meyer

Marriage: Richard Mahlon & Cassandra Janik

Communicants: 681

Souls: 867

Gifts & Memorials:

In memory of Cortland Hayes from grandparents Ed & Ruth Hayes --- \$100 the 7th & 8th grade room at the LES

In memory of Beth Loop from Bob & Darlene Schulz --- \$10 for the Mission Fund

In memory of Virginia Sommerfield from family & friends --- \$110 for the General Fund

In memory of Harold VanDriessche from family & friends --- \$1,370 for the General Fund

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the beautiful day and help Mr. Martens recover from his sickness. And help us all do well in our memory work today. In your name we pray. Amen.

Hannah Katt, gr7

ATTENDANCE	Early	Late	Mon.	Total
Jan 17	141	181	69	391
Jan 24	110	243	48	401
Jan 31	145	198	75	418
Feb 7	114	171	60	345
Feb 14	128	224	61	413
Ash Wednesday	63	241		304

Schedules Usher

Mar 7	Team #1	Team #2
Mar 14	Team #3	Team #4
Mar 21	Team #5	Team #6

Technicians

S. Heinz	C. French
A. Ferrio	R. Fawcett
J. Arrowsmith	P. Kolb

Mar 28	Team #7 Team #8	K. Baeckl	D. Bula
Mon. Mar 1	Barry Schmidt		M. Kaplenski
Mon. Mar 8	George Hausmann		H. Howard
Mon. Mar 15	Earl Jacobs/Everett Jacobs		C. Festerling
Mon. Mar 22	Dustin Gwizdala		C. Festerling
Mon. Mar 29	Dustin Gwizdala		
Lent (Wed)	1pm Jeff Katt	7 pm	Dustin Gwizdala

Greeters

Mar 7	Crystal Reisig/Charlotte Alcorn	Matt & Julie Stefaniak
Mar 14	Dan & Norma Felker	Bill & Lorie Ware
Mar 21	Jean Schutt/Carol Pudvan	Sherri Jozwiak/Helga Jenkins
Mar 28	Ralph & Mary Jo Schmidt	Silvia Paul/Jeanne Preston
Mon. Mar 1	Carol Florida	Mon. Mar 8
Mon. Mar 15	Bob & Carol Schoof	Mon. Mar 22
Mon. Mar 29	E J & Shannon Schwanbeck	Greg & Kelly Seafert

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 Lord, Thank you for bringing us all together in your name here today. Please help me and everyone else to listen to your word and pay attention for catechism class today and every day. Please help us to do everything we do in the glory of your name. In your name we pray, dear Lord God. Amen.

Wyatt Towne,
gr 8

February Reports

Administrative Report – Pastor Starr

TASKS ACCOMPLISHED BY GOD'S GRACE

1. Amazing Grace Bookstore—The store was closed for three days in January while the physical inventory is taken. The inventory was successful with very little loss reported. 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—Concluded Sunday morning class “Come, Lord Jesus,” and started the five-week course “Positively Lutheran.” Wednesdays in the Word Bible class this winter is “The Glory of Living under the Cross.” Join us!
3. Conducted “Mission/Vision Task Force Report” services on January 24 and 25 with the help of task force members. This was a result of the “Listening Sunday” services.
4. Counseling—Assisted several couples and individuals with problem areas in their lives, using God’s Word to give them direction and guidance. Made calls and/or sent letters to some long-term delinquent members with appropriate encouragements.
5. Conducted Christian funeral for Virginia Sommerfield on 2/3/10.
6. Conducted on February 6, the Pre-Marriage Counseling class, “Building the Christian Home,” for couples planning to be married at Trinity in 2010.
7. Installed a trial version on the balcony computer of new worship software, “Easy Worship,” thanks to Point of Power, the home business of Pastor and Jeanne Schulz.

8. Financial Situation—Twice in January we were able to show that our offerings had exceeded our needs. However, by the first of February, our General Fund offerings were about \$4,000 short of expectations.
9. 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>. Alan presented a Trinity Ministry Minute on Project Share at the end of January. Work continues on the River Cruise, setting up a separate checking account, involving the area youth in Bible study and activities, etc.

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, “The Odyssey of St. Paul,” a video presentation of the apostle Paul’s life, times, ministry, and message. Prepare during Lent for a new Wednesdays in the Word Bible class following Easter.
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. Learn and then train our volunteer technicians to use the new worship software, “Easy Worship.”

Lord, thank you for bringing us to school today and help those who are on the board to get their work done. And help others who are sick get better. In your name we pray. Amen.

Ryan Alvarado,

gr 7

Outreach Pastor Report – Pastor Mark Schulz

It is so very important in a church to have roles where members can use their spiritual gifts to serve their Savior. Recently, we created 69 new roles of service for greeters. These greeters would serve 4 times a year at a service of their choice. They would greet before the service and also mingle with guests after the service. I have been very pleased to see the involvement of 69 members of Trinity, many of them new faces. We started off with a few communication glitches but seemed to have worked through them, and now our greeters are doing a fine job in the welcoming process at Trinity.

Our Financial Peace University class has 17 participants who are taking the winter class. At the present time, we are working on setting up workable budgets and educating the participants on how to do the snowball effect on paying off debt, and dealing with creditors. I can't emphasize how practical and helpful this course is. I only wish more of our members would take this class. It is helpful for people of all ages. I have identified 2 families that are unchurched taking the class, and am hoping to follow-up on them soon.

Rustin Schisler has begun our Divorce Care group on Monday nights from 6:00-7:00 P.M. The class is 13 weeks and is video driven, with discussion and homework to do in the coming week. Four people were in attendance at the first class. If you know of anyone separated from their spouse or going through a divorce, this class is very helpful for dealing with anger issues, forgiveness, loneliness, finances, single sexuality, and other pertinent issues. There is also a weekly Bible study that each participant does during the week.

Nine teenagers gathered at Trinity for a study on the “Value of You” on Saturday ,January 23rd at 11:00 A.M. before leaving for City Forest in Midland where they did some

tobogganing. There are not many places with Toboggan runs anymore because of liability concerns. The teenagers seemed to enjoy themselves, and we came out of it with only one scraped up arm.

The teenagers are planning a Cross Country Ski Retreat to Tawas on February 27th and 28th. Plans are to leave on Saturday at 9:00 A.M. by church bus and return Sunday afternoon after church at Emanuel. A Study on Love and Dating, cross country skiing, basketball, bowling, and swimming are on the agenda. We have extended an invitation to the youth at St. John's Lutheran to join us. We are hopeful that several of them will join us for this activity.

I gave a presentation on February 4th on my recent trip to Egypt to some of the members from ST. John's at the Amazing Grace bookstore. I dressed up in my Egyptian outfit, and show slides and talked of my travels. Several positive comments were made about the presentation. It was also great for the members of St. John's to see the inside of our bookstore. I feel that the whole activity was a great one to promote our bookstore to other WELS churches in our area.

On one Wednesday evening in January, Jim Schlosser and I made calls on some of our week and wounded members at Trinity. Jim and I have plans to continue doing these visits in the weeks ahead, but will probably have to switch the day to Thursday or Saturday afternoons during Lent.

There are 10 people taking our Tuesday night New Life in Christ class. It looks like six of these participants have plans to join our congregation upon completion of the class. I have made six evangelism calls the past month, on people who are on our prospect file.

I continue to teach our day school and public school confirmation classes, and do the opening devotion and discussion at our Monday night transition support group. During the next month, I am hoping to get a few individuals recruited to make evangelism calls with me.

Staff Minister Report – Mr Troy Yerks

Tasks accomplished with the Grace of God:

- ✚ Added three new member to the praise band group
- ✚ Ordered more Cradle Roll packets
- ✚ Assisted Boy and Girl Pioneers in collecting, organizing, and packing boxes to send off to military members.
- ✚ Planned for Pioneer Spring activities – working on Pinewood Derby cars; Jim Schlosser cut out shapes for us
- ✚ Working on Junior Choir Festival: promotion, refreshments after (Nikki Hill)
- ✚ Registered Handbell choir for festival in St. Joseph, MI
- ✚ Attended Pastor/Teacher conference in Vassar

Tasks planned with the Lord's Guidance:

- ✚ Prepare for Jr. Choir Festival; Feb. 28th, 7pm at Trinity this year
- ✚ Continue work with Pinewood Derby
- ✚ 3rd & 4th grades will begin learning the recorder this month
- ✚ Recruit helpers for Easter for KIDS! Need 12-14

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for getting everyone here safely this morning. Help us with our Christmas service that everyone knows their parts and that during this catechism class we focus on you and your word. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Jaeland Sayles, gr 7

Trinity Lutheran School Report – Mr Rayn Hill, principal

- ✚ If you are a WELS/ELS business owner and are looking for some inexpensive advertising space we are initiating a project to use our gym walls for just that. Contact

our school office (894-2092) or Craig Rau (671-9323) for more details. All money raised through this project will go into our LES Financial Aid Fund.

- ✚ Our remaining Open House dates will be in February and March. Our desire is to invite our congregation members, community, and friends, into our school to visit our classrooms in session. We have sent, through direct mail, a postcard to targeted families. Pray God blesses us with more families with whom to share the Gospel.
- ✚ Our Home and School Society will host our annual Chili Cook-off after second service on March 7th in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend. There will be sign-up sheets available after worship service.
- ✚ Our winter Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for February 25 & 26. These meetings are a great opportunity for parents and teachers to strengthen the spiritual and educational team for the benefit of the children in our school.
- ✚ Well known children's author and brother in the faith, Jeff Schatzer, will be teaching writing assemblies at our school on February 15th. He has presentations and hands on activities that will benefit children from pre-school up to 8th grade. We are looking forward to having Mr. Schatzer in our school to share his knowledge and experience about being an author.
- ✚ We will have our 4th Family Night of the school year on February 11th at 6 pm. The night will focus on parents as our children's first and best teachers and is geared toward pre-school through 2nd grade.

Surprise !!!

I dreamed death came the other night and heaven's gate swung wide.

With kindly grace an angel ushered me inside

and there to my astonishment, stood folks I'd known on earth.

Some I'd judged or labeled as unfit or little worth.

Indignant words rose to my lips but never were set free.

For every face showed stunned surprise. No one expected me!

Such is the grace of our God! Not one of us is excluded from his
redeeming love. Even miserable sinners like you and me are saved by Jesus!

Congregational Statistics for 2009 TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH [Year organized 1886]

Communicant Membership

Children confirmed	10	Deaths	7
Adults confirmed	14	Transferred <u>to</u> sister congregations	5
Received by profession of faith	3	Released to other Christian churches	
	19		
Transferred <u>from</u> sister congregation	2	Removed or excommunicated	4
Total communicants gained	29	Total communicants lost	
	35		

Ministrations

Communicant members end of 2008		6
95		
Net gain or loss of communicants		-
6		
Communicant members end of 2009		6
89		

Baptized membership at end of 2009	864
Average weekly worship attendance	366
Baptisms – children	21
Baptisms – adult	2
Marriages	5
Burials	7
Total children in congregation (ages 5-13)	109

Education

Sunday School	
Total number of children enrolled	12
Total number of teachers each week	2

Vacation Bible School	
Total number of children enrolled	42
Total number of teachers each class	4

Early Childhood Ministries	
Children from congregation enrolled	8
Children from community	20

Lutheran Elementary Schools	
Children from congregation	79
Children from community	7
Male elementary teachers	2
Female elementary teachers	5

Secondary Schools	
Members attending WELS ministerial schools	16

Bible Class	
Average weekly adult Bible class attendance	124
Average weekly teen Bible class attendance	14

Offering that Support the Ministry of the Gospel

Congregational offerings	\$749,855
Additional offerings (synodical organizations)	\$18,916

Capital Projects and Indebtedness

Total spent on capital projects during year

\$1,604

Total capital indebtedness of congregation

\$286,577