

## Trinity Lutheran Church – *Messenger*

**NOTE:** Daylight Savings Time changes 2 am November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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](http://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](http://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.*



### **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.

*Come, When I Hear Your Word*—a look at King Josiah, 1 Kings 21-23; and 2 Chronicles 33-35

*Come, When I Have Sinned*—a look at Adam and Eve, Genesis 3:1-14

*Come, When I Have Trouble*—a look at Peter in Prison, Acts 12:1-19

*Come, When No One Loves Me*—a 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.

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

*Dear Lord, thank you for this wonderful school you have given us. Help us all do well on our Terra Nova tests today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Jonah Klein, gr 8

**Christ the King Sunday** – Special services in which the LES will lead worship will be celebrated on November 20 & 21. There will be no communion in these services.

**Thanksgiving Worship Services** – Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**Thanksgiving & Christmas Seasons** - A sheet is posted on the bulletin board for anyone who wishes to donate for the Harvest Altar that will be displayed on Thanksgiving.

Christmas: this year we are trying something different. We will post a sign-up sheet for items needed for the decorating the church. We will contact you when payment is needed.

**Seniors (SCAT):** The next meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Bloomin' Chef for lunch.

**FOOD PANTRY** - We again will participate in the Food Pantry Network Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner bags. A list of items needed for a family of 4/5 will be given out to anyone who wishes to participate on November 1&2, 8&9. We ask that the bags are dropped off at church by November 16<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving distribution. The lists will also be available on the bulletin board for Christmas bags. You can drop them off anytime. Thank you for your help and generosity.

**Financial Peace – Dave Ramsey Course** – Approximately 50 people are attending the 13 week course. A lot of good material is being shared.

**Flu Shot Clinic – HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR.**

**Youth Group October/November Activities** – October 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm we will gather for a hayride and study on 'Managing My Time and Myself'. November 14<sup>th</sup> we meet at 11 am to raid the yards of members in need and steal their leaves. November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm we meet for pizza and pop and to listen to Dr. Kevin Peil on being better equipped to handle the Creation-Evolution debate in our public schools.

**Lutheran Pioneers** – The group is up and running. Mr. Yerks and Mr. Schlosser are in charge of the boys. Mrs. Katt, Mrs. Sayles, Mrs. Hite, Mrs. Ward and others are in charge of the girls. They are collecting items for care packages for our troops overseas. More information will be coming in future Sunday bulletins and announcements. But you can help by beginning to collect any of the following items: beef jerky & Slim Jims, breath mints, candy (except chocolate because of the heat), cereal & instant oatmeal, dried fruit, drink packets (tea, Crystal Light to Go, coffee etc), gum, Little Debbie snacks, marshmallows, microwavable popcorn, microwavable soup, mac & cheese, nuts, power bars & granola, ramen soups, **you get the idea**. Non-food items: AA & AAA batteries, calling cards, Avon Skin so Soft, bandannas, bug spray (look for Repel 100 in camping section), calendars, ChapStick, foot powder, hair bands & clips, hand sanitizer, nail files, Old Spice wipes, plastic bags (sand gets in everything), shaving items, room deodorizer (non-aerosol), soap, socks- white, sunscreen SPF 30+, t-shirts (tan or green). Just for Fun: balls-all kinds, beanie babies, books-paperbacks are best including comic books, cd's, dvd's, games-cardsm chess, domino's, etc., magazines-especially sports & cars, pens & pencils, puzzles, writing paper & envelopes, yo-yos and other "toys".

**Living Christmas Card** – The Living Christmas Card is coming soon. The dates are Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6. Starting time will be 6 pm and end at 8:30 pm. The sign up boards will be posted beginning Sunday, Oct. 25 and will be available through the end of November. Tentative plans are to set up the manger and tax collector booths on Sunday, Nov. 29 probably in the afternoon and the other scenes on Saturday (morning) Dec. 5. We will need LOTS of volunteers for the setups and also for the take down after the end of the LCC on Dec. 6. The LCC is a large undertaking and early sign up will help greatly with the planning. We encourage all families to sign up as this is a wonderful fellowship opportunity for the members of Trinity and also an excellent public display of our faith here at Trinity. We have had as many as 200 people sign up in the past LCC's, so we can never have too many. We will also need volunteers for helping to serve the meals on both days and donations of desserts will be greatly appreciated. More to come as the event gets closer.

**Listening Sunday Surveys** – The task force will meet on Monday, Oct 26 and Tuesday, Oct 27 to go through the surveys and work on a plan. The task force members are: Jodi Arrowsmith, Kim Cochran, Dan Darling, Randy Davies, Craig Garwick, Rusty Garwick, Shannon Guettler and Pastor Starr. More information will be forthcoming in future Messengers.

**Advent by Candlelight** – Advent by Candlelight will be held Sunday, November 29 at 4:00 P.M. This year's theme is *Shine*. All women from the congregation are invited. Invitations will be available after church starting Sunday, October 25. Please look for your invitation. You may rsvp by signing up on the sign up sheet after services or by calling the church office. Hostesses may also sign up in the same way. Members are encouraged to bring non-member friends. Sign up by Sunday, November 15 to be entered into a special drawing, although we will still accept sign ups after that date.

This year we will be using an open seating method, so we do not need to know who will be seated at which tables, but it will be important for us to know who is coming so that we have enough seating. Hostesses, we do expect that your non-member guests will be seated at your table. Please be sure to sign up yourself and your non-member friends up on the sign-up sheet. There will be a free will offering to cover expenses and to ensure that we have enough to do this again next year.

We also would like to meet with all of the hostesses after the church service you attend on Sunday, November 15. If you can't make that meeting, we will give you a call.

**Van Expenses** – Funds are needed to maintain and purchase gas for the van. This is not in the budget.

**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.



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 September 2009 Fund Balances**

General: \$(15,743)      Missions: \$15,111      Building: \$55,615      Project Share: \$5,055

*Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for bringing all of us to school safely today and help us pay attention in class. And please give us good weather for tennis today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

David Abraham, gr 8

**Membership/Pastoral Activity**

**Release:** Henry and LouAnn VanDriessche

**Excommunication:** Gail Hackett

**Transfer:** Matthew Sprunger to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND

**Profession of faith:** Jeramy Morse and children Tristan and Nicole

**Marriages:** William and Dawn Ledesma, Alan Schulz and Tammy Schulz, Amy Essmann and William Pavlakos

**Communicants:** 696

**Souls:** 877

**Address changes for Directory**

Alan & Tammy Schulz

4510 Greenfield 48706

Jeff & Kim Ewald

3313 Old Kawkawlin 48706



Our Financial Peace University class has been receiving rave reviews by the participants. 48 people from Trinity and our community are taking the 13 week class on Thursday nights. After I give a few opening remarks we watch an hour video, and then go to 3 breakout groups where we discuss questions based on the DVD video. Assignments are given for the next week. The topics discussed are the following: Super Saving, Relating With Money, Cash Flow Planning, Dumping Debt, Credit Sharks in Suits, Buyer Beware, Clause and Effect, That's not Good Enough, Of Mice and Mutual Funds, From Fruition to Tuition, Working in Your Strengths, Real Estate and Mortgages, and the Great Misunderstanding. In our last class on dumping debt, I had the opportunity to share the salvation plan with the entire group. It fit well since the greatest debt we had has been paid for by Jesus Christ. There are several unchurched families taking the class. I only wish I had been able to take this class when I was in my 20's. So many of our young families could benefit from this class. I would like to offer it again sometime in the future.

Our teen group had a scavenger hunt on the last Sunday in September. 16 teens drove off with adult chaperones to fulfill different tasks, and then met up at Little Caesar's for pizza, pop and prizes. Before we took off on the Scavenger hunt, we had a study on "Liking Yourself". October activities include a Rock Night at our youth room and a Hayride.

Our small group members set up displays in the parish hall and in the narthex highlighting the studies they are offering this fall. The group that I oversee on 2 Sunday nights a month is doing a video study entitled "Dealing with Teens". The study takes place at the home of Jeff and Lisa Polsinelli from 6:00-8:00 P.M.

I conducted a devotion for the Kingdom Worker's Committee in September and also conducted a wedding address for Bill and Dawn Ledesma. I made 20 shut-in calls and led worship for a service at Sheffield Bay.

Jeanne and I enjoyed putting on a "Walk like an Egyptian Night" for the congregation on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 80 members of Trinity enjoyed some good Egyptian cooking and viewed a PowerPoint slide show that I put together from my recent Egypt trip. I had my face colored dark brown and wore an authentic head piece and gown.

We have seven people taking our Tuesday night New Life in Christ class. Of the seven, six are prospects and one is a member doing a refresher course. I have been reserving Wednesday nights to call on backsliding members of Trinity, and to make phone calls to our teenagers.

*Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for this day and everything you have given us. Please let our hearts and minds be open as we listen to your word. May all praise be to you. Amen.*

Bryanna Alvarado, gr 8

### **Report of Evangelism Task Force-October 9, 2009**

The Evangelism Task force was asked to analyze the Evangelism efforts of Trinity congregation, look at our weaknesses and strengths, and give constructive suggestions to improve our evangelism efforts. They were also asked to put together a calendar plan for 2010. Here are their suggestions: A) The grounds of Trinity appear well kept, strikingly attractive, and neat. The signs on the grounds are informative and clear to see with the eye. However, the parking lot looks to need recoating, the cracks filled in, and lines for spaces redone.

B) The greeter program looks like it needs to be restructured, so that every team has at least two greeters. We would suggest that one greeter be positioned at the front entry way, and one at the door by the stairway to the balcony, so that guests are not missed when they enter the church by the side aisles. It would be a good idea to have ushers at the center of the narthex to hand out bulletins. In addition, the greeters should be at the back of church at the end of the service to again greet the guests and introduce them to other members. One of the pastors could be positioned at the back of church following the service to point out guests to these greeters.

C) A committee of individuals should be recruited to write a personal note of appreciation to all guests who worship with us at Trinity. A personal stopover visit with short and sweet words of appreciation should be done within 3 days of the visit.

D) A staffed nursery is good for guests, and should be available at our 11:00 A.M. service. It would be nice if the sound system could work in the women's bathroom so that a mother who is changing her

baby and utilizing the rocking chair there, might hear the service.

E) We would like the congregation to be encouraged to open their hymn books when a song is on the screen that has an unfamiliar tune. It would be nice to have some upbeat contemporary songs in our Sunday Worship service on a regular basis, as well as to have the choir, soloists, or musicians participate on a more regular basis.

F) Small group leaders should be encouraged to invite unchurched people to their group meetings. The material for small groups is sometimes light and lacks Biblical substance. More small group study options should be made available.

G) More community fellowship activities should take place at Trinity which would provide natural ways for members to invite their unchurched friends.

H) There should be an annual Leadership Training workshop to equip our leaders for their tasks.

I) A New Resident outreach program needs to be set up to inform new people about our church.

J) Our food pantry should have personal follow-up calls on clients.

K) Supply ideas to our membership on how to engage people in the workforce about their faith.

L) Attempt to assimilate new members by having a New Member Social group, where one can connect with other new members and older members of Trinity. Possibly form a couple of new small groups each year which target these new members.

M) Make use of billboards in Bay City with one sentence advertisements

We find the strengths of Trinity to be its strong doctrinal position on Scripture and its strong Christian Day School. Submitted by: Trish Darling, Rachel Faucett, Michael Florida, Mark Kaplenski, Tessa Schisler, and Pastor Mark Schulz

*Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for bringin us safely to school today. Please allow our teen tournament to go well. We praise you for all of your glorious blessings. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Lorissa Wascher , gr 7

## **Administrative Report – Pastor Starr**

### **TASKS ACCOMPLISHED BY GOD'S GRACE**

1. Amazing Grace Bookstore—God continues to bless our efforts to nurture and reach out with his Word through our bookstore. More volunteers and day managers are always needed and welcome! If you have a friend from a neighboring WELS congregation who would like to volunteer, they are welcome to do so. Hold a meeting at our bookstore.
2. The *Wednesdays in the Word* on *Luther's Small Catechism* class has been well attended and received. Many people are enjoying a review of the catechism or are studying it for the first time. There is still time to join us.
3. Completed preparation of the next Sunday morning Bible class, *Come, Lord Jesus*. This class focuses on Bible characters who experienced similar situations to us today. This class will begin as soon as we complete the *I Must Bring Them Also* study of positioning our LES, preschool, and daycare for greater outreach into our community. Join us!
4. The results of the listening Sunday sessions have been compiled and will be published in *The Messenger* next month. A task force will use that information to formulate a proposed mission plan that will be discussed several times, revised, and eventually adopted by the congregation.
5. Continued teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism class in our LES three days a week. Something new this year: parents can check grades and assignments online. Completed the acolyte schedule for 2009-2010.
6. Continued teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism class to our public school students on Thursday afternoons. Seven students (four 8<sup>th</sup> graders and three 7<sup>th</sup> graders) are participating well in the class.
7. With the help of Art Joitke continued trying to sell a car donated to Trinity by a member to help with the General Fund deficit. The car is a 1981 Pontiac Trans Am Turbo 4.1 with fewer than 60,000 miles, no rust, maroon with gold Firebird decals, nearly showroom condition inside and out. If you are interested in purchasing, speak with Art Joitke or Pastor Starr.

8. Project Share continues its work. We are still searching for a part time director. We have a new volunteer counselor from St. John, Bay City, Alan Smith. He is currently doing on-the-job training with Gerry Rexin. New fund raising ideas are being discussed.
9. Attended WLS Symposium on Congregational Health as part of my continuing education.

### **TASKS PLANNED FOR NEXT MONTH ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL**

1. Preach at Sheffield Bay Assisting Living Center, Bay County Jail, and for the Flint area Reformation Festival Service.
2. Work with Mission/Vision Task Force on developing plan for future work at Trinity.
3. Complete work on 2010 financial plan for Trinity's work.
4. Complete nominating committee work for electing officers and board members.
5. Continue teaching Catechism classes, *Wednesdays in the Word* Bible classes, and Sunday Morning Bible class.
6. Continue counseling with several people who need help from God's Word.
7. Complete work on book with Scott Barefoot about overcoming the sin of homosexuality.

*Dear Jesus, Thank you for another beautiful day to praise, thank, and learn your word. Please help and keep me healthy as I go to Ann Arbor to have my eyes tested. In your name I pray. Amen.*

Evan Arrowsmith, gr 8

### **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; back to Sunday afternoons
- ✚ Prepare 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 selection for handbells for Christmas
- ✚ Finalized plans for school singing times
- ✚ Planned special children's service for Christ the King Sunday
- ✚ Began planning of Children's Christmas service with Nikki Hill
- ✚ Began Adult Choir rehearsals
- ✚ Began Boy Pioneer program; meeting after school – Jim Schlosser is assisting
- ✚ Conducted "Hymn-sing" service at Sheffield Bay

#### **Tasks planned with the Lord's Guidance:**

- ✚ Prepare services for Sunday
- ✚ Teach music at school
- ✚ Assist the LES in leading worship on Christ the King Sunday and Monday
- ✚ 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
- ✚ Begin handbell rehearsals on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ Introduce two new hymns from CWS to the congregation this next month
- ✚ Meet with prospective leaders for Girl Pioneer program
- ✚ Plan and teach the children the Christmas 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

**Christmas for Kids** – We will hold “It’s Jesus’ Birthday” on Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Watch for flyers and registration forms to come out during November. Make a list of your child(ren)’s friends to invite!

**Boy and Girl Pioneers** – The boys have begun! We are getting the girls organized. Elsewhere in the messenger there is information about a service project that the Pioneers are heading up. If your son or daughter is interested in getting involved, watch for flyers from school. Boys that have not signed up as of yet, may join during the year. See Mr. Yerks.

### **Trinity Lutheran Preschool and Child Care Center Report – Melissa Leslie, Director**

#### Preschool:

- We have 24 children enrolled in our Preschool program. 10 children in the three year old program and 14 in the four year old program. I’m enjoying this class very much and it’s been great getting to know such wonderful families. The year is off to a good start!
- Nancy Kleinke and I organized 5 outreach activity nights for Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade families. Our goals are to share the Gospel more effectively with them, to build strong relationships and connect on a more personal level, promote our school, church, and bookstore, and to make the events fun and engaging for the whole family! We’re incorporating involvement from the Pastors, Staff Minister, Principal, volunteers from our Church, and the rest of our faculty to help make the outreach nights more successful!
- We had our first Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade family night on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. We had around 50 children and adults in attendance for our movie night! It was a great way to bring our families together for a fun evening. A special thanks to the staff of Amazing Grace Bookstore for keeping the bookstore open to our families that evening.
- On Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6 P.M., Preschool-Second Grade will host a “Books Alive Night!” The children will have an opportunity to pick a book character to bring to life! We will begin the evening with a pizza supper, devotion by Pastor Starr, and a short presentation by Mrs. Kleinke regarding successful reading strategies that can be implemented at home.
- Preschool and Kindergarten sang in church on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> during the 11:00 A.M. service. They sang all three verses of “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb.” They enjoy offering their praises to Jesus and what a wonderful way to bring glory to God!
- Preschool and Kindergarten went on a field trip to Johnson’s pumpkin farm on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. We had an awesome time learning about all the variety of gourds, squash, and pumpkins. We gathered together in a wigwam to learn about Native Americans.
- Preschool and Kindergarten meet on Tuesday mornings for gym class. We really enjoy teaching with the new Spark curriculum. This week we begin our second unit: parachuting! The warm-ups and activities are creative and fun! The children are always moving...never a dull moment!
- Preschool and Kindergarten meet on Thursday morning for chapel together. Ryan, Troy, Nancy and I will lead the chapel services throughout the year. Pastor Starr will join the rotating schedule after Christmas break.
- I attending a workshop by June Austin titled, “Improving Your Circle Time through Music and Song,” at the Alice and Jack Wirt Library on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- I attending the Teachers’ Conference October 5-7 in Lansing, MI. I enjoyed all four of my sectionals and came away with great ideas to incorporate in my classroom for reading and writing, encouraging ways to help hurting/broken families, ideas on how to effectively manage my time as a teacher and leader, and created an effective teaching tool for “Easter for Kids!”

#### Child Care:

- Jessica Klein was hired to be a Child Care staff member for the closing position Monday-Thursday, with a rotating schedule on Friday. Jessica is absolutely wonderful with the children and she is very dependable!

- Sue Kober, Kary Jenkins, Heather Ward, and Jessica Klein have hearts of gold! They truly are amazing ladies and are willing to help out in any way that they can! We're blessed to have such a caring staff!
- The Child Care were busy baking and selling pumpkin rolls to help with materials for the Child Care Center. Thank you so much to all who ordered, donated baking materials for our use, and/or helped volunteer to bake pumpkin rolls. A special thanks to Kary Jenkins, Helga Jenkins, Cleo Kohlhoff, Dolores Guettler, and Shannon Krohn. We had a busy day on October 28<sup>th</sup> making 32 rolls!
- Our Child Care staff will be attending an all day conference titled, "Together for Kids" on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> in Midland.