

## 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](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 Have Trouble*—a look at Peter in Prison, Acts 12:1-19

*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.

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

**Christmas Worship Services** – Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am the Preschool and Kindergarten Christmas Presentation. Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm the LES will present their Christmas Service; Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service; Friday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am Christmas Day Festival Service.

**Christmas Plants** – The deadline for ordering plants or wreaths is December 6<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for the items needed to decorate the church.

**Voters' Meeting** – The meeting will be held on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at noon. The budget and elections will be the main topics.

**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.

**New Church Office Hours** – Due to budget constraints beginning January 2010 the church office will be closed on Fridays throughout the year.

**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.

**Christmas Concert** – The Saginaw Valley Lutheran Chorale will offer a sacred Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the chapel at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. Kathy Baeckl, Art Joitke, and Troy Yerks are the Trinity members who are part of the Chorale. Please join us for an evening in celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Christmas for Kids** – We will hold “It’s Jesus’ Birthday” on Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. See attached flyer for more information or call the church office to register (892-5435) Make a list of your child(ren)’s friends to invite!

**Seniors (SCAT):** The next activity will be a potluck luncheon on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at noon. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service and \$1 gift to exchange. This activity is open to anyone in the congregation who is retired.

**Youth Group November/December Activities** – 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.

The December activities are serving hot chocolate for the Living Christmas Card, Dec 5 & 6.

December 12 from 6-9 pm the Youth Group will meet in the room and the North Campus for a Christmas Party. Discussion topic: “The Case for Christ”

**Food Pantry** – Thank you for your help and generosity. We gave bags to 27 families for Thanksgiving dinner. For your information our pantry has helped 9 families since the middle of October with food.

*Lord, thank you for allowing us to have Bible class today and every day. Lead us to have another good week. In your name we pray. Amen.*

Christian Urban, gr 7

**Lutheran Pioneers – Still time to donate!** They are collecting items for care packages for our troops overseas. You can help by beginning to collect any of the following items: microwavable food, 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”.

**Helpers needed** – We’re seeking volunteers to help with baking cookies on December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8 pm for our Preschool-Second Grade Family Activity Night. We will meet in the Parish Hall at church. If you’re able to assist, please contact Mary Herbst, Nancy Kleinke, or Melissa Leslie personally or by phone: 894-2092.

**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.

*Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, thank you for getting all of us here safely this morning. Help us all to pay attention to your Word and to learn something new. And that we all pass our memory work. In your heavenly name. Amen.*  
 Jaeland Sayles, gr 7

**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 October 2009 Fund Balances**

General: \$(17,215 )      Missions: \$48,591      Building: \$57,575      Project Share: \$4,875

**Membership/Pastoral Activity**

**Baptisms:** Reid Allen Schisler, Mason Kyle Heinz

**Transfers:** Tammy Quaal and daughter Andrea to Bethel Lutheran Church, Bay City

**Communicants:** 695

**Souls:** 877

**Gifts & Memorials:**

A gift from Art & Edna Lijewski for their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary --- \$100 for the General Fund  
 In memory of Viola Sarrine and Mary Sarrine from Kathy Packard -- \$200 to be matched by Thrivent  
 In memory of Bernie Talaga, Alex and Edna Talaga from Therese Talaga --- \$100 for the Living Christmas Card and \$100 for Amazing Grace Bookstore  
 In memory of Fred Erlenbeck from Bob & Darlene Schulz --- \$25 for the General Fund

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	Early	Late	Mon.	Total
Oct 18	151	189	50	390
Oct 25	127	202	73	402
Nov 1	155	175	75	405
Nov 8	113	181	85	379
Nov 15	131	176	88	395

**Schedules**

**Usher**

Dec 6	Team #1	Team #2
Dec 13	Team #3	Team #4
Dec 20	Team #5	Team #6
Dec 27	Team #7	Team #8

**Technicians**

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

Mon. Dec 7	Barry Schmidt
Mon. Dec 14	George Hausmann
Mon. Dec 21	Earl Jacobs/Everett Jacobs
Mon. Dec 28	Dustin Gwizdala

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

Wed. Dec 9    Midweek Advent    Team #12    Dustin Gwizdala  
 Sun. Dec 20    LES Children's Service    Board of Education

Thurs. Dec. 24 Team #11 Jeff Katt  
Fri. Dec 25 Team #12 Dustin Gwizdala  
Thurs. Dec. 31 Team #11 Jeff Katt

**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 all of us safely to school and let us all do well on "Books Alive." Have us win our basketball games this week and display good sportsmanship. In your name we pray. Amen.*  
Desi Hadd, gr 7

## November Reports

### Outreach Pastor Report – Pastor Mark Schulz

After going through our membership roster, I selected 100 names of individuals that I felt could be recruited as greeters in 2010. I wrote a recruitment letter, and then contacted 5 ladies in our congregation to see if they would be willing to make 20 phone calls each to the potential recruits. After I updated our Worship Elder, Dustin Gwizdala, on what I had done, I turned over to him the implementation of this program. Dustin will coordinate a schedule where the recruited greeters would serve 4 times a year, either in the early, late, or Monday night service. The plan would be to have one greeter positioned at the front door, and one at the door by the stairway to the balcony. On Monday nights there would be just one greeter positioned at the center of the narthex. In addition, these greeters would leave worship early to focus in on any guests as they leave worship. The pastor who is not conducting the worship service would point out the guests to our greeters at that point. Every guest would receive a visitor packet, a warm welcome, and be identified by name so that we might follow-up on them within 36 hours of their visit.

Sandy Ebel and Eleanor Bender have been recruited to send out post cards with a personal note to our Sunday guests. Sandy and Eleanor have been supplied with post cards and stamps, and will receive information from our secretary as to whom they are to send postcards to.

Seventeen teenagers from our congregation participated in a hayride which was sponsored by Adam and Jennifer Sayles at their home in Reese. Before taking the bus to Reese, the teens had a Bible discussion on "Making Better Use of Their Time". Hot dogs, pop, and samores were part of the food and beverages enjoyed at the campfire after the hayride. During the month of November the teens have two activities planned. They will become Leaf Bandits on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M., and listen to Dr. Kevin Peil speak on the Rock of Ages vs. the Ages of Rocks on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. We have a good strong core group of teens and I am happy to see the support we are receiving from parents for this important ministry.

Our Financial Peace University class continues to meet on Thursday nights from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. We have had several requests from our membership to offer this class again in 2010. At the present time we have between 40-50 people who have been participating in the weekly class. The class really helps people to be more disciplined in their spending by setting up a budget, dumping debt, establishing an emergency fund, learning more about insurance, mutual funds, college savings, and shrewdness in buying and selling things. Each week, I have an introduction to the lesson before we watch the video and go to our breakout groups. There are several unchurched families who are taking this class. We are attempting to build bridges to them, so that oneday they may not only know the Savior, but be part of our church family.

Twice a month on Sunday nights, I have been meeting with a group of 10 people at the home of Jeff and Lisa Polsinelli. We are engaged in an eight week video study entitled, "Dealing with Teens". It is a study to better help parents understand and deal with some of the troubling situations they face with their teenagers. There has been a lot of good group discussion.

I am attempting to find sponsor families from our congregation who will show some of our unchurched school families around at the Living Christmas Card. This would be an opportunity for us to

build bridges to these families and help them feel more connected with our congregation. That's it for this month.

*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

### **Administrative Report – Pastor Starr**

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

1. Amazing Grace Bookstore—We still are in need of more volunteers and day managers. Story hour continues. The bookstore continues to pay for its utilities and its portion of the LACE loan. Tell your friends about our bookstore. Hold a meeting at our bookstore.
2. Continued teaching *Wednesdays in the Word* on *Luther's Small Catechism*.
3. Completed the Sunday Morning Bible Study—*I Must Bring Them Also*—a study on how to position our Lutheran elementary school for greater outreach into our community. 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. We ask Jesus to come to us when we hear his Word, when we have sinned, when we have trouble, when no one loves us, when we are afraid. Join us!
4. Assisted with the second phase of "Listening Sunday," analyzing the information gathered from the congregation to help us determine the direction of the congregation in the coming years. Thank you to Jodi Arrowsmith and Janet Fogelsonger for the initial compilation of the comments. The task force members working with the information are: Rusty Garwick, chairman, Jodi Arrowsmith, Kim Cochran, Dan Darling, Craig Garwick, Shannon Guettler, and me. A proposed mission plan will be formulated by this task force 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. Parents, be sure to check grades and assignments online through PowerSchool.
6. Continued teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism class to our public school students on Thursday afternoons. There are 7 students in this class. There are 3 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Bible history class taught by Susan Patchett.
7. Wrote letters of encouragement to 10 members and/or family units who have not attended worship for months and who have not responded to personal visits, or who have moved from our area. Some of these members are removing themselves from our fellowship by their decisions to despise God's Word, preaching, Lord's Supper, and loving admonition and counseling from God's representatives. We continue to pray for them.
8. We still have the 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, for sale. If you are interested in purchasing, speak with Art Joitke or Pastor Starr.
9. Assisted with the work of the Nominating Committee. We are looking for faithful and talented men who will serve our God and us in the areas of congregational vice president and secretary, as well as on the Boards of Education, Elders, and Trustees. If you are asked to serve, please say yes, confident that God will give you exactly what you need to serve.
10. Project Share update: still looking for a part-time director. Counselor Stacy Burzynski is beginning work with the area WELS youth. Counselor Fred Ciaramitaro continues his work at the Saginaw rescue mission. Counselor Gerald Rexin and Counselor Alan Smith (new—from St. John, Bay City) continue their work at the Bay County Jail and the Good Samaritan Mission, Bay City. Pastor Schulz continues to lead the Transitions Group.
11. Wrote the service and preached for the Flint Area WELS Festival of Reformation, *Songs of the Reformer*.

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

1. Preach at Sheffield Bay Assisting Living Center.

2. Give a devotion on the importance of reading for the Preschool, K-2 *Books Alive* night, which is also an outreach effort to non-member parents of students.
3. Complete work on the congregational survey regarding ministry direction and assist the various boards and agencies of the congregation in the implementation of the adopted mission plan.
4. Continue teaching Catechism classes, *Wednesdays in the Word* Bible classes, and Sunday Morning Bible class.
5. Continue work on the Nominating Committee, finding the right men to serve our God and us.
6. Continue 2010 budget process with all boards and Financial Advisory Committee.
7. Continue counseling with several people who need help from God's Word.
8. Prepare for special Thanksgiving Eve and Day services as well as special Christmas Day service.
9. Prepare a new *Wednesdays in the Word* Bible class that will begin after the first of the new year.

**Note:** Thank you to our new webmaster, Michael Priebe, for all the work is doing on our Trinity website. It looks great, is user-friendly, and up-to-date again. Check it out at [www.trinitybaycity.org](http://www.trinitybaycity.org).

### **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
- ✚ Praise Band played for WELS Kingdom Workers dinner
- ✚ 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 one of two new hymns this month; second to come this Sunday

#### **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
- ✚ Introduce a second new hymn from CWS to the congregation this next month
- ✚ Begin Girl Pioneer program this Wednesday
- ✚ Plan and teach the children the Christmas service
- ✚ Assist Boy and Girl Pioneers in collecting, organizing, and packing boxes to send off to military members.

#### **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

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

### Preschool:

- We're very excited for our Preschool-Second Grade "Books Alive" Night which will be held on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving a pizza dinner for our families. Pastor Starr will lead a devotion and Mrs. Kleinke will talk about successful reading strategies that can effectively be used at home. Following dinner, the children will role play their favorite book characters for the evening and give a brief summary of the book that they're presenting. It certainly takes a team of helpers to make these special events fun and rewarding for all who attend! Thank you!
- I'm looking forward to meeting with my preschool families for parent/teacher conferences which will be held on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Our next outreach event will be held on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8 P.M. We will have a Christmas baking night held at church in the Parish Hall. The children will make Christmas cards for shut-in members of our congregation. Pastor Schulz will discuss the importance of the Advent Season, share an Advent devotion including the Advent wreath, and give suggestions for family devotions. We will be seeking volunteers from school and church to help with cooking baking and such. The bookstore will also be open to our families that evening.
- We will be going on a field trip to the Alice and Jack Wirt Library on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> to have a tour of the library, check out a book, and go on a scavenger hunt.
- Nancy Kleinke and I have ordered our next Christmas service titled, "Lead the Way to Christmas" and will begin practicing our songs and recitation pieces with the children. I always look forward to hearing the sweet sounds of the children singing God's praises and reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas, Christ's birth! The Preschool/Kindergarten service will be held on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> during the 11 A.M. service.

### Child Care:

- Our Child Care and Preschool staff attended an all day conference titled "Together for Kids" on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Northwood University in Midland, MI. It was a very worthwhile day filled with great sectionals regarding, "Handwriting without tears," "Conscious Discipline," "Sensory Integration," "Learning Through Nature," etc. Dr. David Walsh's keynote address was about the impact that the media has on children's health and development. It was titled, "Raising Kids in an On-line World!"
- Our ChildCare/Preschool license is up for renewal. I'm in the process of filling out all of the necessary paperwork that needs to be completed. An inspection of our fuel-fired water heater needs to be completed by a licensed heating contractor.

*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