

Trinitytimes

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
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A Monthly Publication By and For the Members of Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity's Financial Situation

In the New Testament book of Hebrews (13:5) we find the powerful and assuring Old Testament promise of God quoted:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hold that thought.

Recently I learned of a Trinity family that had faced a seemingly insurmountable financial hurdle. We had no idea how we were going to pay that bill, I was told. Through that struggle I know they remained faithful to our Lord and His church.

Then disaster struck. Their basement was flooded and partially destroyed. Burden appeared piled on top of hurdle. The insurance adjuster assessed the damage and issued the standard check for the level of damage according to the policy. But a contractor later advised that repairs could be effected for only a portion of that insurance payout. The difference between the cost of repair and the remainder of the insurance money covered that dreadful bill to the penny. God was faithful.

Now before you are too tempted to say, "Oh, they're lucky; God doesn't provide for my life like that," know this also!

That same family has faced gut-wrenching grief and sorrow, a tragedy for which our Lord provided no miraculous intervention. Instead, He has provided for them the spiritual strength and personal fortitude to simply face one day after another and allow God to lead the slow journey of emotional healing. God is faithful.

We are never left nor forsaken by the One who loves us so much that even His Son faced death on our behalf.

Continued on page 5

There are a number of ways to look at the financial situation at our church right now. First, we can thank God that our Shelter to Share program is doing very well. We aren't even halfway through the program, and more than half of that project has been paid off. We are down to \$68,000 until the project is complete. So thank you for your faithfulness and thank God for the success of Shelter to Share.

Our general receipts and expenses are not doing as well. Fiscal year to date we are running negative cash flow of \$101,541.27, compared to last year (same period) negative cash flow of \$79,255.69. Over the past year we have had to refinance and increase our mortgage to pay down the line of credit twice. Our mortgage on 3/25/10 was at \$306,500, and currently it is \$451,000.

Unfortunately, our total receipts are down \$24,644.00 from last year same period. Even though our total expenses are down \$3,000 from last year, we are still running a loss. Part of the deficit is due to Matching Funds being down \$32,000 from last year, and General Donations being down \$25,000.

Trinity has a line of credit available of \$250,000 and is currently using \$210,000, leaving us with only \$40,000 to cover upcoming expenses if we continue to have shortfalls. Three months ago, the balance on the line was \$180,000 leaving a cushion of \$70,000. When that line of credit hits \$250,000, our serious situation will become critical.

So, what can we do? First, we need to pray. That's always the first step, God is on our side and He will help us. Secondly, I like to suggest that we extend the season of Lent. It may sound silly, but with the extra worship services and the mood of the season, our income has been decent during Lent. But once Lent is over and once school is over, income is going to get lean. This summer is going to be difficult.

Please consider increasing your percentage of giving. Please keep in mind that if you go on vacation, expenses at church don't go on vacation. They keep piling up. Attendance and income may go down during the summer, but expenses continue.

Finally, talk to your friends and neighbors about enrolling in our school. Just a few years ago our enrollment was around 260. This year we are at 230. The additional 30 students would help our financial situation a great deal.

May God bless us all during this difficult financial time. And may God bless you and your family during this Easter season. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

INSIDE

Official Acts/School News	2
Planting Seeds	3
From the Back Pew/Council Minutes	4
Church News	5
Around the Church	6

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He said this, He showed them and side. The disciples were enjoyed when they saw the Lord.”

March 20	429	447
March 27	360	628
Total Attendance	1722	1937
Average Attendance	431	484

John 20:20

As Jesus' resurrected body was recognized by its scars, so His body, the church, should be known by its scars and tears and the unspeakable joy it knows in spite of, and indeed because of, it all. Michael Card

We have traveled the road of Lent to the foot of the cross. We have suffered with our Lord. We have been convicted of our sins. We have celebrated the joy of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Yet life goes on and is hard at times. We are confronted with Satan's attacks on all sides. We experience the heartache of life at all levels. Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Life does go on with its ups and downs; however, we are reminded each day through our baptism that we are God's children and that Jesus has won the victory for us through His suffering and death and resurrection.

Since Christmas we have had some great things taking place here at Trinity. We have celebrated the birth of Alexander Ziemba, the son of our kindergarten teacher, Stephanie Ziemba and her husband, Mike. We celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week. We successfully completed the third quarter.

We thank God for other significant events like the Light of Christ Award winners for the third quarter. The Light of Christ Award every quarter goes to students in each grade that have set an example for us by their Christ-like care of each other. The third quarter recipients were: Cassidy Kortendick-grade eight, Ian Kramer- grade seven, Colin Killberg- grade six, Sam Arehart-grade five, Paul Haselhuhn- grade four, Gerald Crawford- grade three, Kadin Purath- grade two, Joshua Jorgenson-grade one and Kaleb Miller-kindergarten.



TRINITY TIDBITS

with Gary Marxhausen

We are also delighted to announce that we had our Accreditation team visit at the end of March. The team was here for two days going over our self-study, conducting interviews, and observing how Trinity runs. Their conclusion at the exit meeting was very positive. They were especially taken by how respectful our students were and how happy they seemed to be here. They have recommended us for accreditation, but that is pending final approval in August by the National Lutheran School Accreditation Board. Thank you to all the parents, teachers and board members who worked so hard on the process.

Our seventh and eighth grade, under the direction of Mr. Struck, our eighth grade teacher, and Mr. Stravers, our seventh grade teacher, presented the play "Tengo Famiglia." Their first performance was a dinner theatre, and the second performance was open to the public. In all around 350 people attended those two performances. The students did an incredible job in their performances. Thank you to all those, and there were many, who helped make this a success. A special thank you to Mr. Struck who worked long hours preparing the students.

Our third quarter chapel offerings went to Giving Gardens, which helps spread the Gospel through agricultural endeavors in Third World countries. Our offerings totaled \$830.22 for the quarter. Our fourth quarter offerings are going to the Shelter to Share program here at Trinity. Thank you to the parents and students for their support throughout the year on our mission projects.

Remember Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, Be patient in tribulation, Be constant in prayer."

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Losses

Transfer

William & Roxanne Mierow

Self Removal

John, Autumn, Brea, Brett Lenart

Release

Melanie Carraro (Ella, Aurelia)

Gains

Affirmation of Faith

Craig Granetzke (Jordan Brumback, Julianna Granetzke)
6358 Cedarhedge Drive
Racine, WI 53406

Rite of Confirmation

Bernardino Ortiz
Michael Kunda Jr
Laura Granetzke
Linda Behringer (Brooke)

Pastors, teachers, missionaries, and just plain Christian parents are all among those who can be considered seed planters for God's harvest.

Just like a gardener or farmer, these people plant their seeds – seeds for God - then wait for the results. I know during my jail ministry I've wondered, will the seeds I have tried to plant produce any fruit.

And I'm sure the same holds true for pastors, teachers, missionaries, and parents. They wonder, are the seeds I'm planting really taking root. Will my efforts, with God's help, produce the type of fruit I'm hoping for?

Some of the inmates in our jail have asked me what I hope to accomplish with my weekly Bible Studies. I tell them, if I can get one or two of them turned around in a year's time, I would feel my efforts are worth it.

Hopefully, our pastors and teachers at Trinity, the missionary programs we support, and our parents harvest some fruit-producing crops on a much larger basis. But I have, with God's help, been able to produce some fruit. Let me give you an example.

Recently, I was having an extremely bad week. I always say, "I'm blessed," but this particular week my struggles seemed to be working overtime to catch up to my blessings, both at work and in my personal life. I was also suffering from a bad sinus infection.

To top everything off, due to a shortage of guards, some inmates causing problems inside the areas where I usually go, and an unusual numbers of inmates deciding to stay in bed or their cells rather than come out for worship, I was only able to conduct three out of six studies and see just three of my six one-on-ones. All this happened within the same seven-day period.

As I left the jail one night that week, my frustration must have showed on my face. One of the trustees – that's an inmate who is allowed to do work in the jail - and one who had previously been a member of one of my studies, asked me, "What's wrong Brother Mark?"

I answered, "Sometimes the devil just wins. This is one of those days, one of those weeks, where he just seems to be winning."

"No, Brother Mark, remember what you taught us," the inmate replied. "He only wins if we let him win. Don't let him win! Just remember what is important – what Christ won for us on the Cross of Calvary and with His resurrection. His victory is our victory and the devil's defeat."

I think that's one of the best pieces of fruit I've ever experienced. I truly felt like a seed planter – a seed planter for God's harvest, and my blessings once again far outnumbered my struggles.

God Teaches a Mother How to ... *Trust Him Completely*

*I will love You, O Lord, my
strength.*

*The Lord is my rock and my
fortress and my deliverer;*

*My God, my strength, in whom
I will trust;*

*My shield and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold.*

Psalm 18:1-2

*Trust in the Lord with all your
heart,*

*And lean not on your own
understanding;*

*In all your ways acknowledge
Him,*

And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

God's Wisdom with Children ... *Begins in the Home*

*If anyone loves Me, he will keep
My word; and My Father will love
him, and we will come to Him and
make our home with Him.*

John 14:23

*And these words which I com-
mand you today shall be in your
heart. You shall teach them dili-
gently to your children, and shall
talk of them when you sit in your
house, when you walk by the way,
when you lie down, and when you
rise up.* Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Who Do You Talk To at 6 a.m?



FROM THE
BACK PEW

with Pastor
Jennings

meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Jennings conducted the opening prayer.

Secretary's Report - L. Morgenson MSC to approve minutes from the August 23 Council meeting.

MSC to approve minutes from the October 26 Council meeting.

Pastors' Reports - Pastor Jennings MSC to approve membership gains and losses as presented.

Pastor Jennings met with church directory companies. Much simpler now with electronic advances. Olin Mills cheaper and easier. On-line community; able to change addresses, etc., online. No cost to church, only cost is if you buy extra pictures. Directory is free. They will give us a 40% overrun. Will start taking pictures around Easter. The directory company will be making the calls.

Bd. of Elders starting to put committee together to examine the role of women in church. Committee: Ruth Stauersbol, Lynn Morgenson, and 2 more.

Pastor Gehne - Youth Service very well received.

LHS put on Valentine Gala. Raised \$50,000. Met expectations.

Covenant Response Project: Following up on families they have not heard from. Intending to pursue similar approach at beginning of school year.

Need to remind Council members of meeting. Not getting enough attendance.

Principal's Report - G. Marxhausen NLSW activities planned for 3/6.

Accreditation team visit planned for 3/31 and 4/1.

Treasurer's Report - Heidi Schold Broke even last month; YTD 90,000 in arrears; refinanced mortgage; StS - \$4,000/month.

MSC approved the financial report as presented.

Many of you know that my routine begins about 5:30 a.m. as my second alarm goes off and I pull myself out of bed, throw on a pair of jeans, a couple shirts and a white sweatshirt (so people can see me as the sun starts to rise), and make my way outside to walk for 45 or 50 minutes.

During my walk this morning I was praying. I was praying for my wife and my children, my parents who will be driving from Florida back to Michigan, and of course for everyone on your prayer list and for Trinity in general. I also had time to run through my sermon for our last mid-week Lenten service. It was about that time that the sun had risen enough so that I could see people inside their cars as they drove past. I can only imagine that around 6 a.m. the vast majority of people are driving to work. But one thing surprised me. As a couple cars passed by me, I was able to notice that they had their cell phones to their ear. Who in the world were they talking to at 6 a.m? I don't like calling people before 9 a.m. out of courtesy. And if you are calling me at 6 a.m., someone better be bleeding, in the emergency room, or on the way to the emergency room. I just can't imagine holding an intelligent conversation with another person on the phone at 6 a.m.

Wouldn't that time in the car be better spent in prayer? It's quiet, you are getting your mind straight for a day at work; wouldn't it be beneficial to talk to the Lord in prayer? Life at work isn't always pleasant. Often

there are conflicts, and sometimes, we aren't looking forward to going into the office. If that's the case, wouldn't it be a great idea to spend the time in the car asking God to watch over our day? To be sure, there aren't a lot of people who want to jump out of bed and go walking at 5:30 so they can pray. But once you are up and dressed and ready for the day driving to work, wouldn't that be a great time to spend some time with God getting ready for the day?

Our Lord promises to hear our prayer. He strengthens us and comforts us. St. Paul says to "pray constantly." Maybe we don't have three hours like Martin Luther did. But most of us have 10, 15, or 20 minutes or even an hour as we drive to work. Rather than yelling at the guy who cut you off, be productive and start the day driving in prayer.

n Pin

...dest of my musical jewelry
... I had used. As I opened it,
... of a shield with an open Bible
in the center. On the top of the pin was the word "Trinity," and fastened to
the bottom of the pin was a very fine, short chain that led to another pin with
the number "39" on it, the year I graduated from Trinity Lutheran School,
1939 - 72 years ago.

What memories it brought back. Our class of 13 seated on the stage in the
church basement. There were 6 girls and 7 boys. The basement was all
together then, and the audience was seated on very noisy, wood-slotted
chairs on the wooden floor.

Several members of the class spoke for the rest of us about what graduation
meant to us. There were class prophesies and songs about vacation and the
"Good Old Summertime."

When it was time at the end, Mr. Doepping presented the diplomas, so
beautifully tied with purple and white satin ribbon. It gave me a feeling of
sadness to leave this friendly school and teachers. Everyone knew each
other so well. No one dreamed as we graduated on that hot, June evening
that in four years, when we graduated from high school in 1943, the boys in
that 1939 class would be enlisted in military service fighting in World War II.

As the graduation service ended on that hot, peaceful June evening in 1939,
we sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

Written by Leone Muller

Dedicated to the 2011 Trinity School Graduation Class

**Following is an excerpt from the bilingual installation service of
Pastor German Novelli Machado at Holy Cross/Santa Cruz serving
the Hispanic community.**

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to everyone who
has a birthday in May. We thank God
for the blessings He has given you and
ask Him to continue showering His
blessings upon you. We especially
remember the following birthdays:

Leone Muller	5/10
Harvey Mauer	5/11
Olga Frickensmith	5/14
Richard Neuman	5/21
Gloria Ittner	5/22
Evelyn Haman	5/23
Pearl Gergen	5/25
Frank Zamecnik	5/27
Lorraine Secanky	5/28
David Zich	5/28

In the Word

Continued from page 1

The challenges, the suffering, the
grief we face in this life are all very real,
not to be downplayed or trivialized.
But God's faithfulness is greater still.
In the Old Testament, the quote above
was spoken on behalf of God by
Moses, twice. He spoke to all the
people of Israel when they faced a
seemingly insurmountable enemy. He
spoke that same assurance to Joshua,
who faced the daunting task of leading
God's people. Read Deuteronomy,
chapter 31.

In Hebrews God's faithfulness points
to a different aspect of our lives:

*"Keep your lives free from the love of
money and be content with what you
have, because God has said, 'I will
never leave you nor forsake you.' So we
can confidently say, 'The Lord is my
helper; I will not fear.'"*

- Hebrews 13:5-6

If you are withholding something
from God ó your time for worship and
prayer, a portion of your money, the
gifts He gave you to serve others ó
then hear again these words of
promise: He will never leave you, nor
forsake you! You need only believe in
Him. Then let your life actively reflect
that trust.

Anyway?

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One of the reasons I am 10 lbs. lighter is cooking. Cooking is entertainment for me. It's relaxing. It is an escape. I can forget about the problems of life while I chop, sauté, stew and create. Not to mention, that it usually (but not always) tastes good.

So, when John Kamperschroer came to me one Sunday morning before Bible class and suggested that we do a "Chili Cookoff" for one of the Lenten dinners, he had me at the word "chili." A few years ago, I found a recipe for chili that I just love. The taste is amazing. While it costs way too much to provide chili for 100 people or more who come to Lenten dinners, I could make a batch large enough for the contest.

So, I talked to a few of the guys around church who I know can cook. Jim Palmer, Todd Jung, Harley Dell, Jim Arehart and, of course, since it was John's idea, he was included too. The six of us threw together our own ingredients, gathered in Trinity's multipurpose room and prepared to serve the masses our own version of our best chili.

As expected, all six people produced totally different types of chili. If I've learned anything over the years of watching Food Network and eating in restaurants and participating in chili contests (yes, I entered a Big Brother's Big Sister's contest twice), it is that chili is very personal. There are many personal differences in chili. The kind of meat (hamburger versus steak), beans or no beans, the spices, the addition of noodles, choice of condiments (cheese, sour cream). Chili is very personal.

In the end, Harley Dell won our little contest with 12 votes for his White Bean Chicken Chili. Todd Jung came in a close second with 11 votes. John Kamperschroer was third with 10, Jim Arehart had 9, I was next to last with 6, and Jim Palmer with a very unique chili that included barley had just one vote. All six guys produced very good chili. It was a great event that gave people more of a chance to move around and talk with each other. Since they were all comparing the chili and had to move to the various stations to get the samples, there was built-in conversation. It was a wonderful event that will be repeated next year.

TRINITY TROOPERS

We are approaching the middle of the year and would like to review what we have been doing. The Asian Buffet luncheon was our first event, followed by a fish fry at Harbor Lite. More recently we were invited to attend and support the production, "Tengo Famiglia," by the 7th and 8th grades. The play was a wonderful experience and was enjoyed by all. We thank the cast and crew for the special invitation.

At the present time the committee has not made a new schedule, but there is a special meeting planned for all members in May to discuss future plans and changes.

Minutes (continued from page 4)

Bd. of Trustees - Mike Jacobs
Loop system (hearing aid) system installed in church. Donated.

Basement painted
Changing Web site hosting
Bd. of Elders - Pastor Jennings

Discussing attendance
Checking slots and sending accrued information to people who have not attended.

Martin Luther Catechism - reading through catechism during church - several ideas on how to work it into the service. Starting with Lent.

Role of Elders - serve as sounding board for review of ministry - review sermons, critique - helpful to hear from congregation.

Bd. of Education - Pastor Jennings
Salary for long-term subs discussion. Submitted first draft of policy to Board of Trustees. Policy set up for short-term subs, no contingency for long-term subs who have to set up own learning plans, meet with parents, etc., \$85/day (current). Establish guidelines for long-term status - should compensation be different? \$105/day starting today for long-term subs starting at the 22nd day of substituting.

Setting up policies to get accountability from other groups that affect Board of Education.

Bd. of Stewardship - Pastor Jennings
Mission India kick-off on February 25-26. Project runs 12 weeks
March 23 flea market in gym for Mission India.

Bd. of Evan./Missions - Pastor Gehne
Did not meet this month.

Old Business -
Principal Call Committee meeting.

New Business
Fred will get letter out to council members. All members on all boards should be at the council meeting.

Lenten dinners - Pastor looking for people to help with the Lenten dinners. March 16 would be first meal.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Morgenson, Secretary

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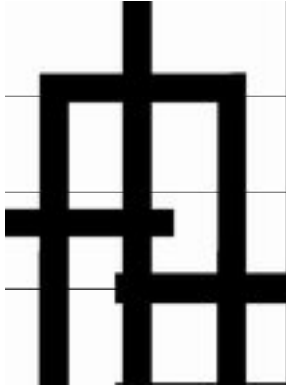
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Trinity Lutheran Church

serves as God's lighthouse, guiding our community to faith in Christ Jesus through prayer, worship and Christian education.

Weekly Services

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday September 9 -- May 29

8:00 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School and
Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

Special Services

**May 15 Sunday School
Spring Fair - 9:15 a.m.**

**May 27 Graduation
Service - 7:00 p.m.**

*Reminder: Summer Worship
Schedule begins June 5.*