

Spring 2014

Trinity Lutheran

Newsletter



“How do we help our children grow into the adults that God envisioned?”

PLUS Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center, Hispanic Ministry, Youth Group Update and more!





Christ's Love Compels Us

There is really only one place that has the love and compassion to help our children and their moms and dads. That place is God's Church.

During this Lenten season our worship services help us focus on the wonderful love that God has shown us through Christ. His love compels us to serve each other in whatever form that love may take. Our lives afford us continuous opportunities for actions reflective of Christ's love.

A newly formed group at Trinity, Trinity Seniors, is endeavoring to live lives reflecting Christ's love. A few weeks ago we organized and spoke of how we would carry out this new ministry. We spoke of how to help our school and our shut-ins as we give of our time. However a large issue in our society looms before us and that is the breakdown of the family unit. It is said that for a baby born today in the United States of America, 50% will grow up at some time of their life without a father in the home. What do we do when the family unit breaks down? How do we communicate? But more importantly, how do we help our families who are going through this kind of crisis?

The Biblical family unit consists of parents raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Moms and dads are to be the examples of love and parental guidance to their children, who can then understand how to carry out these roles when they become moms and dads. What happens when divorce is rampant? What happens when the children are raised without a dad in the home? What happens when the extended family cannot help our moms because the family does not live in the area? How do we help our children grow into the adults that God envisioned when He created the family unit?

How will children learn about family if their family is in chaos? There is really only one place that has the love and compassion to help our children and their moms and dads. That place is God's Church. Here is where the children need to be taught unconditional love. Here is where the children can be taught family roles through the examples of our members. And of course, this **MUST** be the place where we reach out and help our single moms and dads as they struggle with trying to raise children by themselves. Our Christian Day School, preschool and day care can become vital links in helping the families that are breaking down. But we need even more.

In the past, single moms and dads were almost shunned because they had made mistakes. This was wrong then and it is wrong now. Now the church and school must come up with inventive ways to help our families. How can the church as a unit become the community of love that God intended so that we can support all of our families better?

Trinity Seniors met on February 9 to organize for reaching out to our shut-ins, working to see how they can help within our school, and for some social activities. This should be wonderful and very enjoyable. We are also going to begin our Bible Study based on Titus 2: 1-8. This section of the Bible speaks about finding ways for the older men and women to teach and help the younger men and women to grow in their faith and in their roles within the church. Within this Bible Class setting we hope to find ways to help and support our families.

Please pray for our seniors. Please pray for our families. Please pray for our church. And please pray for answers to these questions. God does have the solutions to them all. It is found within the wonderful love that God has shown us through Christ. By this love, through this love, and because of this love we will find out how to keep our families strong in Christ, through Christ, and because of Christ.

Pastor Lawrence Gates

Financial Six Month Update

July 1, 2013 thru December 31, 2013

Amount Needed (6 months)	\$555,000.00
Amount Received (6 months)	\$539,000.00

Although our total is somewhat short, the trend from last year (2012-13) has improved by +\$12,000.00. We believe that an increase in giving of about \$1,000.00 per week will carry us through to meet our 2013-14 Budget goal of \$1,120,000.00. Offerings have flattened somewhat in the new year. May the Lord bless us with a strong finish to this year!

“Gifted For Praise”

As I reported in the winter newsletter, Trinity is embarking on a two part campaign for stewardship giving. Opportunities Abound will lead us into the Gifted for Praise campaign in June 2014. You might recall that 100% of all contributions for Opportunities Abound stay at Trinity for maintenance repair and paying down on the mortgage principal. Gifted for Praise is a joint effort to assist Wisconsin Lutheran High School (WLHS) with their physical plant needs and addition.

In Gifted for Praise 80% of the funds received will stay at Trinity. From June 2014 thru June 2017 Trinity will focus on using the additional gifts for such projects as:

- Extra mortgage reduction payments
- Church roof repairs
- Bell tower, Trinity Room and Narthex improvements
- School Science Lab
- Phone system upgrade
- Security/Door upgrades
- Expand Spanish ministry
- Add - Business Manager position

Moving our congregation forward will require careful planning. It will also require a unified team effort of our members. First and foremost, it will need the continued blessings of a loving and generous Father. God is a God of abundance, not scarcity. God has invested in us His resources and gifts.

Perhaps Proverbs says it best, “A generous man will himself be blessed” (Proverbs 22:9) and “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 11:25).

As we journey here on earth it becomes apparent to us that we are the receivers and the users of God’s generous gifts. We are not the owners of God’s resources. Through investing in these ministries (Opportunities Abound and Gifted for Praise), God’s generous abundance of blessings has never and will never cease.

Indeed we are gifted. Use us, Father, to be gifted for praise to You!

By Ted Oertel, Congregation President

New Members

Mary Fischer

Brittany Hesselmann

Lee & Christy Hitter

Jonathan Laabs

Bonnidene Maglio

Jonathan Neujahr

Jeremy & Sarah Hasse

Albert Post

Carol Putz

Baptisms

Alijandro Castillo

Genevieve Laabs

Kaylee Mindiola

Luca Oertel

Lent and Holy Week Worship Schedule

March 5	10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday (w/ Holy Communion)
March 12	10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
March 19	10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
March 26	10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
April 2	10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
April 9	10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
April 13	7:45, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday / Confirmation
<i>There will be no Saturday night service. 8th Grade Confirmation will take place at the 11:00 a.m. service.</i>		
April 14, 15 & 16	7:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer Services
<i>These are brief devotional services lasting roughly 30 minutes each. Instead of a sermon, a longer section of Scripture will lead us through the events of that day. Each service will feature a special musical offering.</i>		
April 17	10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday (w/ Holy Communion)
<i>We gather to receive encouragement from the supper on the day Christ instituted it.</i>		
April 18	Good Friday 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Service of the Seven Words (w/ school children) Service of the Cross (w/ choir & orchestra)
April 19	7:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil (w/ Holy Communion)
<i>The Easter Vigil is an ancient service that is making a reappearance in the WELS. Christmas has its Christmas Eve. The Easter Vigil is Easter's "Easter Eve." The Vigil service begins in the darkness by candlelight. The service begins with a series of lessons from God's Word, moves to a commemoration of our baptisms, and concludes with a celebration of Holy Communion. It is hoped that area WELS churches might join us in an area-wide celebration of the Easter Vigil.</i>		
April 20	Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Sunrise Service (w/ Holy Communion) Easter Breakfast Festival services Spanish Language Easter Worship

What do Diapers have to do with Jesus?

The mission of Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center is to give a life-honoring message of hope, based on Christ's love, to people searching for answers involving life issues. Tomorrow's Choice is a non-profit Christian, pro-life agency, affiliated with Christian Life Resources, an organization within the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

At its inception 16 years ago, Tomorrow's Choice celebrated 1-2 clients per month. Its only objective was to offer free pregnancy testing and educate women about choosing life. A year or so later, clients starting bringing in their old baby clothes to pass along to another mother. A year or so after that, a frequent visitor to the center would often drop off a package of diapers. Whenever a client stopped by who had a child in that size of diapers, they were given the entire package!

Fast forward a decade or so later, Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center opens its door to an average of 120 clients per month. The Center continues to offer free pregnancy testing, in addition to pregnancy and abortion counseling services, and has recently added parenting classes. They also house a "Clothing Room" where clients can select gently used boy or girl clothing ranging from newborn to size 4T. Clients also receive a "day's worth" of diapers every time they stop in. Any additional donations are distributed on an as needed basis.

Tomorrow's Choice welcomes mothers and families of various religious affiliations including Lutheran, Catholic, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu. Clients who come for assistance represent countries from across the globe including Mexico, Afghanistan, Turkey, Puerto Rico, China, and others. The Center allows for "worldwide" mission work right here in downtown Waukesha. The volunteers who work at the Center strive to show God's love to all clients regardless of ethnicity, religion, or need.

Tomorrow's Choice Family Resource Center is located at 912 N. Barstow St. just blocks from Trinity. They are open Mondays from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon. The Center is staffed by Director Kathy Gates and a team of volunteers. If you would like to support this ministry with your time or treasures, please call Kathy at 262-513-9590, or stop during regular operating hours to see how you can best support this important ministry.

*By Tomorrow's Choice Volunteer,
Laura Reinke*



¡Adelante! Hispanic Ministry at Trinity Keeps Moving Forward



Our congregation is continuing to reach out to welcome our Waukesha neighbors with the sweet Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Spanish-speaking Seminary Senior Justin Gran continues to come two days a week to canvass our neighborhood and do in-home Bible Information Classes and make connections. Sometimes things move quickly and sometimes things move a bit more slowly. To help connect with our neighbors, Trinity members (see Jennie Busse pictured) along with Seminarian Gran and Pastor Oelhafen worked with La Casa De Esperanza to identify more than 15 Hispanic families in need and personally delivered meals to them (sponsored by the Board of Elders' Good Samaritan Fund, Hispanic Ministry, and a helpful Trinity family). When we delivered a meal of ham/potatoes/tortillas/cake, an English-speaking neighbor welcomed one Trinity group of two into their home. When the mom expressed her gratefulness, a little boy (no more than three) ran out of their second floor flat living room – maybe he was being shy? Immediately he came back with three spoons to share the meal and the mom said she'd join us for a worship service. Amazing how far a little care goes. In the same effort, when another Trinity team delivered the meal to a Spanish-speaking man, the man opened his door to our team. And he literally opened the door and asked about Bible study as Seminarian Gran is now following up. Open doors!

In December 2013, coordinator Kim Hierlmeier and her faithful volunteers completed our first 10-week session of ESL and a March 2014 ESL session is now planned. Spread the Word. We are planning our first Spanish service on Ash Wednesday for a small group and will be having an Spanish Easter service on April 20th at noon. We plan to blanket our neighborhood with 4000 postcards to advertise these events. Like to help? No Spanish is needed. Contact Seminarian Gran at granjh@gmail.com or Pastor Oelhafen at soelhafen@trinitywels.com. Look for more news at www.trinitywels.com/hispanic. Please pray for this effort. We need to do BOTH English Evangelism and Spanish Evangelism with souls who need Christ.

By Pastor Scott Oelhafen

School Events

2014 Grades 5-8 Musical

Have you ever won a prize to a wonderful place? Come experience this feeling as students in grades 5 – 8 perform Willy Wonka, Jr. This production is an adaptation of the popular television show “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” In this performance the performers win a golden ticket to go to a chocolate factory. You are invited to come and see what hilarious things happen when some children win a trip to this magical factory. Performances will be Friday April 4 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday April 5 at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Students Support Ministry Around the World

Once a week the students gather as an entire school for chapel. Taking a collection for a mission project is one part of this worship service. During the first semester of the school year the students collected over \$1,600 for the Friends of China ministry. This money will help WELS missionary English teachers stationed in China. One of its teachers came to Trinity to give us first-hand information about this ministry. During this second semester the students will be collecting money to send to one of WELS oldest mission endeavors, East Fork Apache mission in Arizona. Plans are being made to have one of East Fork's pastors tell the students via Skype about this unique ministry.

Principal Jeff Inniger

Youth Group Update

The first couple weeks of March always seem to me the gloomiest of the year. The beautiful glistening snowfalls are over, leaving in its wake a dirty, salty sludge with no hints of spring to come for at least a couple more weeks. The best way to survive the “in like a lion” portion of March? Find extra-entertaining (indoor) activities—which is exactly what Trinity’s Youth Group has been providing for our teens, all year long.

In addition to our Teen Bible Studies the second Sunday of every month, the Youth Group also enjoys one event that’s servant or social-minded. Sometimes, as in the case of December, we do both! On December 23rd, our teens traveled to Linden Grove and River Hills West to sing Christmas carols and spread the joy of Christ’s birth to residents. Just a few short days later, on December 27th, Trinity hosted an all-night lock-in. While the chaperones were looking a little worse for wear at 7:00 a.m. the next morning, the teens loved staying up all night, getting a pizza delivery at 10:30 p.m., teaming up for a Bible Scavenger Hunt through the church and school, and sharing in devotion and prayer at midnight. Those who attended were already lobbying for another lock-in in the summer.

January continued exciting youth activity with a Bible study focused on “How to talk to God....and not break out in Hives.” Superheros are becoming a theme for pizza and movie night here at youth group as we enjoyed “Captain America” for January movie night. February’s Bible study focused on “How to hear God” and Trinity’s teens headed out to cheer on the Milwaukee Bucks on February 22nd.

In addition to Bible study and fun, our youth group has been busy planning the comeback of Teen Sunday, coming March 9th. Look for our youth group’s active participation in worship. We’ll have singers, readers, greeters, ushers and fellowship servers at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services. Come join us for a uniquely TEEN worship experience!

And now, with spring close enough that we just know it’s coming, even if there are no physical signs of it, we’re gearing up for the summer WELS International Youth Rally. Listen for a testimonial during Teen Sunday to hear about how life-changing this experience can be for our youth. Then, if God so moves you, consider supporting our youth in a free-will door offering. All collections will help defray the near \$500 cost per teen to attend the youth rally (registration fees and transportation costs). All Trinity teens 8th -12th grade are welcome to attend. More information can be found at www.wels.net/events by clicking on youth rally. You can also e-mail us at youthgroup@trinitywels.com. We ask that you keep our teens in your prayers as they prepare for three days of edification and spiritual growth in Knoxville.

How could we know, back in September, when Trinity’s Youth Group “resurfaced,” that the Lord would bless the group tenfold, as he has already? We ask that Paul’s prayer in Colossians 1 may be your prayer for us as well: “And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

By Nicole Nelson





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**“In everything set them an example
by doing what is good.” Titus 2:7**

WORSHIP: Saturday 5:30 p.m. & Sunday 7:45, 9:00, 10:45 a.m.

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