

Trinity Tidings

I found an article telling how confusing Valentine's Day is for some people and how hard it is on others. Now, you would think that having a day to say, "I love you" to those close to you would be pretty straight forward however, Reuters News Service reported that:

1. Eight Million Americans admit to sending themselves Valentine gifts. So, if the person sitting in your office has a dozen roses, it may or may not be from an unknown admirer. There are many people who feel extremely lonely on Valentine's Day.
2. Men and women have differences as to what is the perfect Valentine's gift. Twenty-two percent of men said they were going to give lingerie to their wives or girlfriends while only two percent of the women surveyed said this was a gift that they would appreciate. On the other hand, most of the women surveyed thought jewelry would be a good gift while it only came in fifth place when men rated it.
3. The survey suggested that three million couples have actually broken up on Valentines Day!

As confusing as Valentine's Day may be for us, one thing of which we can be sure is that God loves us, not only because of the words He has said, but also because of the gift He has given. As we saw in the Old Testament lesson a few weeks ago, God boldly stated, "Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you..." (Isaiah 43:4) These words apply to us as well. We are precious in His eyes and He loves us! And, having stated it, He then showed it. We see the Father's love in Jesus' birth, His life, His suffering, death and resurrection. Because of Him we have been given forgiveness and life eternal.

This shows us an important truth. God did not demonstrate his love for us with a box of candy or a Hallmark card with a rhyming verse. He did not delve into sentimental poetry or try to buy our love with luxurious gifts. St. Paul wrote this: "God demonstrated His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) God's love for us was much more than an emotion being expressed, it began with the creation of the world, continued through the fall of man, and to our redemption. His love never wavered even when His people grumbled against Him; even when His rulers lead the people astray; even when His only Son was oppressed, beaten, and killed. His love remained constant.

This year Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday and one thing of which we can be guaranteed is that God's love will be made known to us. In the Absolution as it is pronounced, in the Word as it is read and proclaimed, in the hymns we sing, and in the benediction given we will hear again and again the love our Father has for us.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the LOVE of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Pastor Wolfram

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From the Vicar

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is my first newsletter article to you after our mission trip to California. I want to take this opportunity to thank Trinity for all of your support and prayers leading up to and through our trip. It was a great success for those of us who went, both in terms of ministry and in personal growth. For those of you who weren't able to join us for the presentation, but would like to see some of the pictures, I'd be happy to oblige you. Esther Fraser took a great video of Pastor playing Wii tennis that everyone should get a chance to see!

This month is also the beginning of Lent. I want to encourage everyone to join us for our mid-week Lent services titled, "**Our Savior's Wounded Body**". Lent provides us a special chance to do some "spring cleaning" as we prepare to celebrate our Savior's resurrection. We prepare by walking with Christ to the cross so that our Easter celebration is that much sweeter. May God bless you this Lenten season and every season.

Vicar Cundiff

Purpose Kids Academy Day Care Update

At the October Voters' Assembly Meeting, a committee was appointed to look into renting space at Trinity to an outside Day Care provider. The contract is now in place and Purpose Kids Academy, a not-for-profit day care provider under the direction of Melissa Patton, is up and running!

There are currently 16 children, newborn to age 5, enrolled and that number will grow to 25-30 in the coming weeks as new families continue to sign up. The Day Care currently consists of 10 full-time and part-time staff and the Day Care operating hours are 6:30am to 6:00pm. Purpose Kids Academy also conducts an after-school program on Monday afternoons in Trinity's gym led by Coach Cory Jenkins. A new preschool curriculum will also be implemented in the near future. The families love the space and have many compliments for the dedicated staff.

If you would like to visit the Day Care, we ask that you please respect their rights to the space during their hours of operation. If you would like to visit during operating hours, please stop in at the church office and you will be given a tour! You are welcome to check out the bright, inviting space in the undercroft and nursery at any time outside of the operating hours also. If you have young children and are in the market for a new provider, please stop in and check out the Purpose Kids Academy.

Women: Word & Walk

Women: Word & Walk will meet on Thursday, February 18, 7:00pm in the lounge for Bible study. Our study will be based on the recent experiences on Skid Row. God asks us to care for those who are hungry and in need. All women of the congregation are invited to join us. For more information about LWML or Women: Word & Walk, contact Kathryn Sprecher, 279-1123.



LWML Guild

The LWML Guild meets on the February 4 at 7:00pm in the chapel for Bible study, business meeting and refreshments. All women of the congregation are invited to join us. For more information, contact Norma Hohlfeld or Thalya Hanson.

VALENTINE DINNER

Sunday, February 14, 5:00pm

\$10.00 per person

Please fill out a form (on the table in the narthex) with your name and choice of entree. Deposit the form with your check to Trinity in the brown box provided in the narthex or give to Bev Wadle. Reservations due by February 7. The dinner is sponsored by the Youth Board, the Fellowship Board and Trinity's Fellowship Society.



Youth News



Meetings:

The Youth Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00pm. We encourage the parents of our Junior High and High School youth to join us and give us your input. The High School Youth meeting is the first Sunday of each month during the Sunday School hour. We will go to McDonalds this month for breakfast (Bev's paying!) so be sure to join us!

Activities:

The Circuit Lock-in has been re-scheduled for the weekend of February 19-20. See Denise Honts if you need more information.

Fundraisers:

The Youth Group will be serving **Lenten suppers** before Wednesday Midweek Worship. Serving is from 5:30-6:45pm each week. The first supper (soups supplied by the Fellowship Board) is on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and parents need to sign up to serve a dinner during Lent. The sign-up sheet is posted on the door to the kitchen.

On Easter Sunday we will serve **Easter Breakfast** to the worshipers at Trinity between the Sunrise and Festival services. Watch for the menu in the Sunday bulletins and March Tidings.

Other fundraisers: We are collecting empty **Ink Jet Cartridges**. Place your donations in the boxes in the narthex. We are also selling calendars for 2010 and continue to collect empty cans & bottles. Place your cans in the large garbage can at the bottom of the north stairs.

Bible Studies:

Sunday at 9:00am: Pastor Wolfram continues a study in the lounge on the book of Romans entitled "Alive in Christ".

Sunday at 4:00pm: "Re: Ply to ALL: Christians in Casual Conversations" For the young adults of Trinity (age 25-40). The group continues a timeline study of the book of Acts. Child care is provided; meet in the lounge.

Downtown Bible Study - fourth Thursday of each month, Noon - 12:45pm at St. John Lutheran Church, 6th & Keo. We continue the study of the book of Isaiah entitled "Here Am I! Send Me!" Call Claudia at 278-5781 for information.

New Wednesday Bible Study, 6:30pm: Do you know your Bible? How much do you know *about* the Bible? Join us for a five week class entitled How We Got the Bible to learn more about the history of the texts that form the Bible. We will be watching a presentation by Dr. Paul L. Maier followed by discussion. We will meet downstairs in the Mother's Room.

Other Bible studies will be starting soon. Watch upcoming bulletins and Tidings for dates and locations.

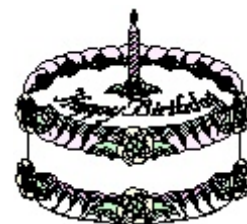
February Anniversaries

13-Al & Renae Hooper (28th)
24-Vanessa & Verlin McBurney (31st)



February Birthdays

2 - Tasha Harper
4 - Zach Daniels
5 - Nathan Kolbet
6 - Vidal Spaine
Karen Thede
7 - Pamela Jackson
8 - Meggan Whiteley
11 - Alexa Biladeau
Jim Biladeau
12 - Ansgar Olsen
14 - Stephanie Davis
15 - Evelyn Opheim
18 - Zachary Fiepke
19 - Doug Coats
21 -Carol Runge
Craig Helle
22 - Trevor Flettre
23 - Craig Stoermer
24 - Elisabeth Wyatt
25 - Pastor Michael Wolfram
27 - Taylor Chesnut
John Schneller
28 - Sally Witte



Volunteers Needed

Trinity's semi-annual Voters' Assembly Meeting will be held on April 19th at Trinity. We will be electing new officers for the congregation and a number of positions need to be filled. They include: 1st Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Youth, Fellowship, and positions on the Boards of Elders and Trustees. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would like to volunteer, please call the church office. If you would like to be a member of the nominating committee, please speak to Barry Wadle.

Friendship Circle

Book Discussion Group:

The group will meet next on Monday, February 1, at 7:00pm at the home of Norma Hohlfeld.

The book we will discuss, "Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel" by Jeanette Walls, has been listed as one of "The 10 Best Books of 2009" by the New York Times. We'll meet Monday, March 1st to discuss "Driftless" by David Rhodes, the 2010 "All Iowa Reads" book. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for one or both of these evenings.

Girls' Night Out:

Tuesday, February 23, at 6:30pm at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove. All women of the congregation, and your guests, are invited to join us for an evening of good food and fellowship. RSVP to Kathryn Sprecher, 279-1123, by Sunday, February 21.

Breakfast with the Pastor:

The date for the next Breakfast with the Pastor is Thursday, February 4, 8:30am at I-HOP by Merle Hay Mall. All are welcome to join us for breakfast and fellowship!

Pastor's Lunch Bunch:

Eleven people enjoyed brunch in January; this month we will meet on Sunday, February 21, at 11:30am at the Machine Shed at Living History Farms. Everyone is welcome to join us!

VALENTINE DINNER

Sunday, February 14, 5:00pm
\$10.00 per person

Please fill out a form (on the table in the narthex) with your name and choice of entree (pork loin or chicken). Deposit the form with your check to Trinity in the brown box provided in the narthex or give to Bev Wadle. Reservations due by February 7. The dinner is sponsored by the Youth Board, the Fellowship Board and Trinity's Fellowship Society.



Church Council

Below is a recap of the meeting held on January 19th. A complete copy of the minutes can be obtained by calling the church office at 279-3609.

Treasurer: Positive balance in checking account; expense cuts have helped. Spending freeze remains in effect.

Elders: Bev changing hours to 11am-5pm beginning Feb. 1. Working on in-house pictorial directory. Pastor Olsen returning to baptize grandchild in March.

Trustees: Reviewing utility bills to monitor costs of day care. Roof leaks in north hallway need to be repaired in spring; A/C also needs repair.

Campus: Potluck on Sunday; presentation from Petal Pushers. Discussed splitting parking for Relays with Youth; 7/5/25 split agreed upon.

Outreach: Fan into Flame on hold; may combine with Noise in the Neighborhood. Approved to begin planning; boards asked to devise ways to help and bring to next meeting. Proposal will be taken to Voters in April

Education: New Bible studies in March: Sunday afternoon, every other Tuesday, one weeknight.

Youth: Circuit lock-in rescheduled for Feb. 19-20. Working with Fellowship Board on Valentine Dinner on Feb. 14. Lenten suppers begin Feb. 17.

Fellowship: Valentine Dinner on Feb. 14. Fellowship Society & Youth helping. Board will provide soup for Ash Wednesday supper.

President's Report: Daycare is up and running with 16 children currently attending.

Vicar: California trip successful; Young Adult Bible study on the book of Acts. Wednesday night study on "How We Got the Bible".

Pastor: Encouraged by all the positive things at Trinity lately. Lent starts 2/17 - Vicar will preach on Wednesdays and Pastor on Sundays. Elders need to look at whether to continue Vicarage program. Pastor will retire from the Navy as of 9-1-10. Ceremony on August 7 at 2pm.

Business: Budgets due back by March meeting. Working on Nominating committee. Memorial committee has been formed. Sound system needs to be left off until 9:45am on Sundays.

IOWAY Reflection on recent Mission Trip

A box. It is a simple geometric figure. It can come in all sizes and shapes. We can put presents in them. We can mail gifts in them. They can help us carry items from one place to another. They can store things in an attic. The word BOX can also conjure up different ideas: a boxing ring, to feel boxed in, a voting box, a lunch box, a mite box, a tool box.

To think outside the box is to “think differently, unconventionally or from a new perspective”. And that is what the twenty-six members of the IOWAY (Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth) team did while working in the Los Angeles area recently. The week began by meeting Gerald and Kim, leaders of the New Salvation Ministry, and sorting through items collected by the team to be distributed on Skid Row. (More on this later.)

The first two and a half days of the trip were spent in Pasadena working on floats for the Rose Bowl Parade. They were part of the 4,000+ Petal Pusher volunteers working with Lutheran Hour Ministries. Petal Pushers work on different floats and found themselves working with a variety of flowers in a variety of new ways. Silver-leaf and eucalyptus leaves can make an object look like a street pole. They learned the importance of using sticky glue rather than oasis glue to place carnation petals on the letters of the sign. And how high can you sit and work on scaffolding to place button mums?

On January 1st the group enjoyed watching the parade – seeing the finished products and listening to the music of the bands. The Lutheran Hour float is the only Christian float in the parade. This year the float, under the theme “The Ten Commandments - Jesus Fulfilled”, included 8 men carrying the Ark of the Covenant, along with the 2 tablets of the 10 Commandments and three crosses.

All of this was nice, comfortable, inside our boxes. And then the students, the farmers, the housewives, the employees, the retirees, and the pastor all found themselves in a totally new environment – taking them outside of their boxes.

On December 20, part of the prayers included the following response:

P: Mary sang of God’s caring for the poor and downtrodden, and His remembering all His promises.

C: We confess that our care has too often been limited to the “holiday season” and to charitable donations. We have failed to be God’s hand and feet to visit and relieve the plight of the hungry and forgotten around us so that they may magnify the Lord with us. We ask God to open our eyes for opportunities to serve in His name.

This became evident as we distributed lunch, backpacks, hygiene items, and underwear to over 200 of our brothers and sisters on Skid Row. Due to limited space, only the first 40 people in line spent time at a worship service and they received a marked New Testament. They were then served a meal, received a backpack with some hygiene items, and were allowed to pick up underwear and other clothing. The underwear was brought by the IOWAY team members in their extra suitcase. The clothing was provided by another local church which assists each month.

Then the long line of people (men, women, children, old, young) were allowed in to have lunch and pick up items until they were gone. “Thank you” and “God bless you” were the words we heard over and over again. The words were coming from people who had barely more than the clothes on their back. How often do we thank those who serve us? Do we remember to thank God for all His gifts – a fresh slice of bread, a bar of soap, a warm home, clean clothes, our job? Each IOWAY team member has come home with a new appreciation of what our awesome God has done for each of us as He is a “cut above the rest” (Rose Parade theme). Our boxes have been opened to look at His people with new servant eyes and serving hands.

Serving this Month

ELDERS

Feb. 7 - Bennett, Heiden
 Feb.14 - Chesnut, Honts
 Feb.21 - Garton, Hohlfeld
 Feb.28 - Oliver, Spaine

ACOLYTE

N. Smith
 A. Kent
 J. Heiden
 B. Heiden

LECTOR

K. Honts
 N. Hohlfeld
 J. Schneller
 B. Oliver

TRUSTEE

Jackovich
 Krug
 Bennett
 R. Brott

USHERS

R. Brott, Schneller, Wadle, Hanson
 Jackovich, Stoltenow, Garton, Vogler
 Stoermer, Freeman, Honts, B. Heiden
 Oliver, Olauson, Hohlfeld, M. Heiden

Statistics/Membership Changes

TRINITY'S RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

	Regular	Special		
	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>10:00am</u>	<u>7:00pm</u>
Dec. 24	\$1,391	30		139
Dec. 27	4,169	200	95	
Dec. 31	1,945	2,103	(No service)	
Jan. 3	4,368	2,435	110	
Jan. 10	4,270	3,098	147	
Jan. 17	5,049	45	143	
Jan. 24	4,824	85	171	

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transfer In: Mark, Monica and Luke Lanning, from St. John Lutheran, Springfield, PA 1-15-01
 Toby, Ruth & Aleah White, from Messiah Lutheran, Seattle, WA 1-8-10
 Jayme Anderson, from SOTV, West Des Moines, 1-21-10
 Tom, Julie, Andrew, Zachary, Jonathan & Elizabeth Fiepke, 1-22-10

Adult Confirmation: Dehkontee Taryon, 1-10-10

Release: Ted and Ruth Kunkle, 1-15-10

Transfer Out: Marie Michels, to Lutheran Church of Hope, WDM 12-31-09

Baptism: Calia Alexa White, daughter of Toby & Ruth White, 12-20-09
 Benjamin Brian Heiden, son of Brian and Kristen Heiden, 1-24-10

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Phone #: 515-279-3609

Fax #: 515-274-6806

e-mail address: trinitylc@aol.com

Office hours: 8:30am - 4:30pm, Mon.-Fri.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Michael C. Wolfram, Senior Pastor

Rev. Arno Melz, Visitation Pastor

Quintin Cundiff, Vicar

Bev Wadle, Office Manager

Debbie Bennett, Adult Choir Director

Thalya Hanson, Gospel Singers Director

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, 10:00am English Service,

10:00am Lao Service, 11:30am Nuer Service

During Lent and Advent - Wednesday, 7:00pm

Holy Communion:

First & third Sunday at 10:00am Service

Fourth Sunday at Nuer and Lao Services

Also Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday,

Easter, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIESSunday School: Age 3 - 8th grade, 9:00am,
lower level.

High School: Mother's Room, 9:00am

Adult Bible Classes: 9:00am Sunday in various
locations in the chapel, gym, etc.Midweek Classes: 6:30pm Wednesdays,
Confirmation for grades 6-8. (Sept. through May)

(Classes 6:00-7:00pm during Lent & Advent)

Adult Membership Class: Lectures of Christian
fundamental scheduled periodically.Downtown Bible Study: 4th Thursday of the
month, Noon - 12:45pm at St. John's Lutheran
Church, 6th & Keo.Young Adult Bible Study: Sundays at 4:00pm
in the lounge.**OTHER MINISTRIES***Prayer Chain:* Call anytime with needs, concerns,
joys to: Trudy, 276-2427 or Renae, 287-7574.
Send email prayer request to Pastor Wolfram at
mcwolfram@aol.com.*Trinity's Web Page:*<http://www.trinitydesmoines.com>.*Trinity's email:* trinitylc@aol.com*Lutheran Family Service, 251-4900**Dial-the-Gospel in Spanish, 279-7022***CHURCH COUNCIL**

PRESIDENT: Barry Wadle

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Vacant2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Mark Hanson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Denise Honts

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Jim Riesterer

TREASURER: Annette Blasnitz

ELDERS:Mark Bennett, Eddie Chesnut, Tony Garton, Kurt
Heiden (Chairman), Bill Hohlfeld, Kevin Honts,
Burrell Oliver, Vidal Spaine.**TRUSTEES:**Bruce Bennett (Chairman), Ron Brott, Nate Cloe,
Tim Huckaby, Mike Jackovich, Rick Krug**BOARDS:**

CAMPUS: Dorothy Garton

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Marc Heiden

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH: Carol Newsom

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Bev Wadle

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP: John Schneller

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Connie Mekus

YOUTH: Annette Blasnitz