

Trinity Tidings

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Our Hope for years to come
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!**

This verse is the first verse of hymn # 733 in our hymnal, O God, Our Help in Ages Past. What an appropriate hymn verse as we close the year 2009 and move into 2010!

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

As we look back over last year we can certainly see God's hand in our shared ministry.

Some significant events of last year include:

1. Going to one service in February with Sunday School at 9:00 and worship at 10:00.
2. Inviting the Sudanese and Lao children to join our Sunday School classes.
3. A Lenten series on "O Sacred Head".
4. Hosting the Concordia Seward Choir in March.
5. Revising the church constitution and merging some boards for governance simplification.
6. We were represented at the Iowa District West Convention by Dennis Shaltanis and Pastor Wolfram.
7. A softball team was formed and played in a city church league.
8. The Laborers for Christ, with assistance from members, glazed and painted our windows.
9. We participated in the Lutherans in Mission "Noise in the Neighborhood" event in Altoona.
10. We joined together with Mt. Olive and Living Faith and held a Reformation Hymn Festival.
11. Our Advent series was on "Silent Advent".

We had 1 youth confirmation and 4 adult confirmations. Six were received by transfer or profession of faith. Two couples were united in Holy matrimony. Seven members received their crown of glory.

The elders began contacting our inactive members which resulted in 18 transferring to other congregations and 56 requesting their name being removed from our membership roles and 62 were moved to our inactive list because we have no address for them. Some members began attending again as a result of these contacts.

Our Hope for years to Come

We never know what the future will bring, but we do know that just as Our God has been our help in ages past, He is also our Hope for the year and years to come!

As a congregation we are already working on some things for the coming year.

1. Pastor Wolfram, Vicar Cundiff, Esther Fraser, Kathryn Sprecher and 4 Drake students (Tim Frank, Lindi Knock, Laura Herzog, and Nichole Hafer) will be going to Los Angeles as a part of the IOWAY mission team.
2. The Purpose Kids Academy will be renting some of our lower level to provide daycare and after school care for children in the neighborhood.
3. Our Outreach Committee is looking into the possibility of having a “Noise in the Neighborhood” event at Trinity.
4. We will be participating in the “Fan into Flame” aspect of the ABLAZE movement.
5. Dennis Shaltanis will represent us and our circuit in the LCMS international convention this summer.

We pray that the Lord will continue to guide us as we now stand at the beginning of a New Year ready to follow His leading and looking forward to the blessings He has in store for us.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Wolfram

Thank you from Trinity’s staff for your generous donations toward the staff gift this year. Your support of our staff is greatly appreciated by us all!

Pastor Wolfram, Vicar Cundiff, Bev & Barry Wadle

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From the Vicar:

Dear friends in Christ,

In the few months that I have been here, Trinity has lost a number of people who were stalwarts of the congregation. We mourn those men who were members of our family of faith. Many of us have also lost other family and loved ones. Death, it seems, is all around us. Even in our age of modern medicine and technology, we are unable to conquer our greatest enemy: death.

We must be careful lest we despair in the face of death, but we also should not go so far as to say that it is “natural”. Instead, we recognize death for what it is: It is the terrible dividend of sin. Just as in the face of any sin, we run, we flee straight to the cross of Christ. As Luther said in one of his lectures on Isaiah, “Christians are people who keenly feel death and the power of sin. But what do they do? Just when they are conscious of sin and death, they nonetheless cling to Christ. They do not renounce the Word. They suffer, but they stay in Christ. They do not look elsewhere for salvation and peace. We must diligently learn this and not turn a Christian into a log that is not conscious of sin. Since a Christian still has flesh and blood, he of necessity is conscious of his and the weakness of his faith.”

It is in our hardest times that the Church is one of our greatest blessings. No matter the difficulties you may be going through, or the hurt you may be feeling, there are people here who truly care. We come here to be fed and nourished by the Word and Sacraments. We don't abandon God in our times of trial, but instead we run toward him for he holds us up and our brothers and sisters in the faith comfort us. Let us not forget this greatly important lesson as we move into this new year.

Vicar Cundiff

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“**The Ten Commandments - Jesus Fulfilled**” is the theme of the Lutheran Hour Ministries float in the Rose Parade on January 1, 2010 marks the 60th year in this world famous parade. The Lutheran Hour float stands as the only Christian float. Pastor Wolfram, Vicar Cundiff, Kathryn Sprecher, Esther Fraser, Tim Frank, Lindi Knock, Nichole Hafer, and Laura Herzog, along with 19 others from the Iowa District West IOWAY team, will be part of the 4000+ Petal Pusher volunteers working on this and other floats. The full parade can be seen on Home and Garden TV beginning at 10am (CST). The LHM float is scheduled to be the 38th unit.

The theme of the 2010 Rose Parade is “A Cut Above the Rest”. The LHM float depicts the Ten Commandments which God gave to His people by which to live. God's love for his sinful people is a *cut above* that of all normal human love. Also on the float is the “Ark of the Covenant,” a vehicle designed by God Himself to remind people that He is always present with them even as they walk through trouble and the high waters of their lives. Today, God continues to lead us now, not through an Ark, but through the Holy Spirit who leads us all the way to heaven. It is the prayer of Lutheran Hour Ministries that the Holy Spirit would touch the hearts of those who would view the float. Your prayers are requested for safe travel of the IOWAY team as they work on floats and spend a day on Skid Row.

LWML



Women: Word and Walk: All women of the congregation are invited to join us on Thursday, January 21, 7:00pm, at the church for a Bible study from *The Lutheran Women's Quarterly*, "Relationships 101: Comfort and Compassion". As His ambassadors on earth, Christians can be vessels of God's comfort and compassion. For more information about Women: Word & Walk or Lutheran Women's Missionary League, contact Kathryn Sprecher at 279-1123.

LWML Guild



The time is quickly approaching for our annual church cleaning project. This year we have reserved January 9th as our day. We'll begin at 9am and ask that you work as long as you can. Usually we work until about noon. We ask that you bring buckets, sponges, rags, and cleaning products. This is an LWML project but any and all are invited to help. It always looks and smells nice after our cleaning. If you have any questions, you can talk with Norma Hohlfeld or Thalya Hanson. We look forward to seeing you then! (This project takes the place of our January meeting.)

Youth News



Our Youth Group will combine with groups from other churches in our Circuit for a lock in at the Incredible Pizza Company in Urbandale. Watch your email or Sunday bulletins for more info.

Our Christmas Party has been postponed until mid-January. We'll contact all high school youth with more information on where & when.

Bible Studies:

SUNDAYS, 9:00am:

- Pastor Wolfram continues a study on the book of Romans entitled "**Alive in Christ**". The class meets in the lounge.
- **High School Bible Study** meets in the Mother's Room (lower level, south end) on Sundays at 9:00am.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY:

"Re: Ply to ALL: Christians in Casual Conversations" For the young adults of Trinity (age 25-40) this group meets on Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm. The group continues a timeline study of the book of Acts. Child care is provided; meet in the lounge. (No class on Dec. 27th or Jan. 3rd; we resume on Jan. 10th.)

DOWNTOWN BIBLE STUDY:

Meets on January 28, Noon - 12:45, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 6th & Keo. Bring your lunch and join us as we continue our study of the book of Isaiah entitled "**Here Am I! Send Me!**". Call Claudia Jackovich for info (278-5781).

NEW WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:

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. The class will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings beginning January 6th and conclude on February 3rd. We will meet downstairs in the Mother's Room.

Friendship Circle

Upcoming events:

- ▶ **Book Discussion Group** will not meet in January. The book chosen for the February 1 discussion is "Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel" by Jeanette Walls. This book has been listed as one of "The 10 Best Books of 2009" by the New York Times. Join us!
- ▶ **Breakfast with the Pastor** - Thursday, January 7, at I-HOP on Douglas by Merle Hay Mall. Join us for breakfast and great fellowship! All members are welcome!
- ▶ **Lunch Bunch** - We meet on the third Sunday of each month (January 17) at the Machine Shed at Living History Farms at 11:30am. Join us for great food and fellowship!
- ▶ **Girls' Night Out** - We will meet on Tuesday, January 26, 6:30pm at A Dong Restaurant, 1511 High Street, Des Moines. All women of the congregation (and your friends!) are invited to this evening of fellowship and good food. To make your reservation, call Susan Hermann, 255-5198, by Sunday, January 24.
- ▶ **Valentine Dinner** - Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 14, when we are planning to have a Valentine Dinner. This will be a joint project between the Youth Group, Fellowship Board and Fellowship Society. Watch Sunday bulletins and the February *Trinity Tidings* for more information.

January Birthdays

- 1 - Andrew McBurney
- 2 - Tiffany Schoen
Kristen Berstler
- 4 - Sam Martin
Jadah Manning
- 6 - Dennis Laird
- 7 - Jackson Heiden
- 8 - Travis VonAhsen
- 9 - Ruby Anderson
Tony Garton
Marcia Redd
- 10 - Tim White
- 11 - Steven Perry
- 12 - Carter Krug
- 13 - Randy Rodgers
- 14 - Helen Kurschinski
Jill Schneller
- 18 - Sheila Conner
Dawn Lehman
- 19 - Dannielle Corder
- 21 - Kailee Shroyer
- 22 - Kelcie Riesterer
Lindsay Cundiff
Gavin Krug
- 25 - Seth Brandos
Martha Buckendahl
- 26 - Sarah Witte
- 27 - Janet Becker
- 28 - Susan White
- 30 - Marlene Otto
- 31 - Katie Crookshank

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In case of bad weather, you can find out if activities or services at Trinity have been cancelled or postponed by calling 515-279-3609, ext. 19 for updates.

Church Council

The following is a recap of the minutes of the meeting held December 15, 2009. A complete copy of the minutes can be requested from the church office.

- ▶ Treasurer: Finances stable; will continue with spending freeze for now.
- ▶ Elders: Thanksgiving and Advent offerings go to Petal Pushers attendees. Elders meeting with Pastor Dahlke to train and deal with church issues. Visiting pastor on Jan. 3.
- ▶ Trustees: Written report. Discussion on responsibilities of Daycare and groundskeeper for snow removal. Will track utility bills to compare with last year.
- ▶ Outreach: Written report. Discussed Fan Into Flame initiative. Hope Ministries 'Scan Away Hunger' plates put in mailboxes. Possible 'Noise in the Neighborhood' event next fall at Trinity.
- ▶ Campus: Have raised all monies needed for Petal Pushers trip.
- ▶ Fellowship: All monthly groups continue to thrive.
- ▶ Youth: Circuit lock-in at Incredible Pizza Company in January. Heidens to host Christmas party in mid-January.
- ▶ President: Barry Wadle moved up to President following death of Rod Ryan. Position of First Vice President will be filled at April elections.
- ▶ Pastor: Leaves with Petal Pushers on Dec. 28; returns Jan. 4. Pastor Foreman leading worship on Jan. 3. Morning Advent Service on Dec. 16; No New Year's Eve Service. Will put info about area churches having worship in the bulletin. Will be gone Jan. 25-29 to attend a seminar.

Business: Spending freeze continues; slowly building back a reserve in checking account. Daycare: Contract signed by Purpose Kids officers; need someone from Trinity to sign. Will open for business on January 4, 2010.

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Mission Central is more than just a barn, 2 miles east of Mapleton, Iowa. Did you know.....

- ▶ the barn can seat up to 300 for worship?
- ▶ that Mission Central is the largest mission supporting agency throughout Synod?
- ▶ that God has blessed the efforts of many supporters to raise millions of dollars to support LCMS world missionaries in the mission field?
- ▶ that over 50 of those missionaries have come to stay at Mission Central to be refreshed and to share the work being done around the world?
- ▶ that there are over 49 volunteers who do anything from mowing the lawn, to preparing meals, to scheduling mission speakers, to copying adoption agreements?
- ▶ that you can also be a volunteer? How can you do that? Stop by the Mission Corner in the narthex and pick up an adoption form. Contact Kathryn Sprecher if you have any questions.
- ▶ that you can learn more about Mission Central and the work being done around the world by going to <http://www.missioncentral.us?>
- ▶ and that your prayers for Mission Central and our missionaries are greatly valued?



Serving this Month

ELDERS

3 - Oliver, Spaine
 10 - M. Bennett, K. Heiden
 17 - Garton, Chesnut
 24 - Honts, Hohlfeld
 31 - Oliver, Spaine

ALTAR GUILD

(Watch for these schedules early in January)

GREETERS

ACOLYTES

3 - Andrew Kent
 10 - Jackson Heiden
 17 - Baylee Heiden
 24 - Erica Harper
 31 - Matthew Jorgenson

TRUSTEE

Rick Krug
 Bruce Bennett
 Ron Brott
 Nate Cloe
 Tim Huckaby

USHERS

R. Brott, B. Wadle, M. Hanson, E. Chesnut
 Schneller, Jackovich, Stoltenow, Garton
 Stoermer, Jonathan & Josh Freeman, Honts
 Oliver, Olauson, Hohlfeld, M. Heiden
 R. Brott, B. Wadle, M. Hanson, E. Chesnut

Statistics/Membership Changes

TRINITY'S RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

	<u>Offering: Regular - Special</u>		<u>Attendance</u>	
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving - \$327		7pm-64	
Nov. 29	\$4,876	1,756	124	
Dec. 2		185	41	
Dec. 6	6,640	3,781	149	
Dec. 9	No service - snowstorm			
Dec. 13	5,070	90	203	
Dec. 16		407	11am-16	7pm-44
Dec. 20	5,759	872	113	

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Death: Rod Ryan, 12-13-09 Funeral, 12-17-09

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 OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday 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