Never Stop Learning ~Rev. Michael J. Roth

John Rooney once said, The quickest way to become an old dog is to stop learning new tricks. Educators and wise people will tell you the same thing. The best way to stay mentally healthy and engaged, all the way to the end of your earthly life, is to never stop learning. When it comes to useful, edifying knowledge there is no better place than the eternal truth, God's Word.

The wisest man to ever live was King Solomon. He was given wisdom from God and was inspired to write the book of Proverbs. Listen to what he says in Proverbs chapter 2:

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.

From the mouth of the Lord, that is from the Word of God, comes knowledge and understanding. The wisdom that the Lord gives is more valuable than what one would learn from a college textbook or a TED Talk. The wisdom that the Lord gives is more reliable than the advice you get from your coworkers and friends. The wisdom that the Lord gives is more useful than the training seminar or the class you have to take for your work. The wisdom that the Lord gives leads to eternal life. It also leads one on the path of an earthly life that is worth living.

Notice the descriptors of those who receive the Lord’s wisdom: upright, integrity, justice, saints. The wisdom of the Lord is more than having knowledge about any given field, be it mathematics, physics, medicine, astronomy, biology, chemistry, literature, grammar, geography, psychology, sociology, or whatever. The wisdom that is meaningful to the Lord and has eternal value is that which comes from the mouth of the Lord. This is a wisdom unto salvation, through faith in Christ.

The knowledge we gain from study in the sciences and liberal arts give us the ability to know or understand or do. The knowledge we gain from God’s Word enables us to be. Who we are in Christ is much more valuable than what we can do or how much we know. Jesus said, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. (Matt. 11:25-26) Salvation doesn’t belong to the smartest and most educated person. It belongs to those who have a child-like faith in Christ.

You may argue that this is the reason that you do not need to study the Word, attend Bible class or listen to sermons. You think, I have a simple faith in Christ as Savior. What more do I need? The answer to this rhetorical question is, growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pt. 3:18) In humility we are all in need of more growth, more knowledge, more wisdom. We do not read the Scriptures only to gain knowledge. We possibly are quite knowledgeable of the content of the Bible. We read and study the Word of God so that the Holy Spirit might work in our hearts and lives to increase our faith and equip us for every good work. What we need is the wisdom of the Lord, which enables us to receive the righteousness of Christ in faith and to walk according to His ways.

With a new program year beginning at Trinity there are many Bible study opportunities designed to assist you in the growth of wisdom. Look over the offerings mentioned in this Connected and commit yourself to attend. Not only is continual learning good for the mind, it is good for the soul. Never stop learning!
Reflect + Rejoice + Renew
Trinity Lutheran’s 150th Anniversary – 2017

During the Jubilee Year 2017 Trinity will be hosting guest pastors and guest musicians. Please look at the list of our guests below.

At the present time we are seeking sponsorship for these visiting dignitaries and events. Sponsorship could include gifts for the following items: travel, lodging, food, honorarium, Festival Reunion or Gala Celebration. Sponsorships could be a timely gift to the 150th Anniversary Fund or gifting the entire expenses for a visiting dignitary. The dignitary costs vary from $150 to $2000. Festival and Gala costs vary from $150 to $4,000. Please consider a sponsorship now for one or more of the following guests or events coming to Trinity during 2017.

**Pastors**
- Rev. Thomas Batsky | Rev. Daniel Streufert
- Rev. Thomas Bartzsch | Rev. Louis Nuechterlein
- Rev. Nickolas Kooi | Rev. Dr. Eugene Krentz
- Rev. Kurt Hatteberg | Rev. Galan Walth
- Rev. Richard Rudowske | Rev. Gerhardt Doroh
- Rev. Michael Roth

**Musicians**
- Jenifer Milnikel | Walter Gresens
- Nicole Busarow | Nicholas Quardokus
- Jb George | Sam Eatherton
- Walter Pelz | Kevin Hildebrand
- Jim Gladstone | Paula Steuernagel

**Events**
- *Special Jubilee music*
  - Including the commissioning of three new works
- *May 13  Incorporation Day*
- *Reunion weekend Festival*
- *Gala Dinner and Entertainment for ending the Jubilee Year*

Contact the church office at 983-5000, for information on how you can become a sponsor of the 150th Anniversary celebrations.
Homebound Members

Those that are Homebound
Irene Albrecht, CT; Irene Barker, WL; Joyce Cerecke; Elsie Damaske; PR
Dianne Fernan; Lois Fox; Art Gench; CT; Al Hettig; Bob Humberg, CT; David Karsten; Ella Klank; RM
Marian Krieger; WT William Lange, OG; Clara Leitz; Josephine Malesky; Ted & Dorothy Mutz
Irv Neubauer, PR Clara Neuman; Jerry Pechtel; PR Anna Pesko; WL Jean Roberts; WT Loretta Kelley, WT

Please encourage our homebound members and others you may know to watch Worship for Shut-Ins, Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. on WHME-channel 46.

If you or someone you know has become Homebound & would like a Pastoral visit, please call the Church Office at (269) 983-5000.

September Anniversaries

John & Hannah Buck 9/5/2015 1st
Brad & Shelly Chaffee 9/6/1986 30th
Tim & Tammy Hall 9/8/2007
Fred & Anita Schultz 9/10/1955 61st
Keith & Gillian Conrad 9/11/2010
Jerry & Donna Pechtel 9/15/1956 60th
Gerhardt & Rose Doroh 9/16/1944 72nd
Mark & Janeen Zerbe 9/22/2001 15th
Phil & Loraine Frobel 9/22/1956 60th
Gary & Mandy Coburn 9/24/2004
Dennis & Diana Vargo 9/25/1982
Jason & Katrina Schaefer 9/27/2001 15th
Steve & Heidi Lockman 9/28/2002

If you do not see your anniversary listed, please call the Church Office at 983-5000 to update your records.

Community Outreach Statistics

July 2016 Community Statistics

Community Dinner
79 served | 7 volunteers

Country View
63 served | 10 volunteers

Mobile Food Pantry
144 registered | 358 served
19 volunteers | 8,300 pounds of food

Soup Kitchen
160 served | 7 volunteers

Benevolent Fund
32 appointments | 16 pledges

IT'S TIME TO SING FOR JOY!

Yes, it's that time of year again when ADULT CHOIR begins rehearsal. Starting on Wednesday evening, September 14th, we will once again be singing and praising the Lord. Choir meets Wednesday after church service in the band room: just a quick elevator ride to the 3rd floor. Practice starts at 7:30 and goes until 9:00. If you've never considered choir, please prayerfully think about joining us. Or, if you haven't been to choir lately, check out all the fun we have! What a great opportunity to practice what we'll spend eternity doing: praising our Lord God! In choir this saying holds true: the more the merrier!
Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Church and what it means to be a Lutheran. This class is what you will want to know as much as you can about the Lutheran way that won -

—

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - LUTHERANISM 101 (begins Sept. 18th) With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation occurring in 2017 you will want to know as much as you can about the Lutheran Church and what it means to be a Lutheran. This class is what you need. What makes the Lutheran confession of faith unique? Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Does it have to be confusing? If you’re a lifelong Lutheran looking to dig deeper, new to Lutheranism and want answers, or are just curious about the Lutheran church — this book is for you! Conversational and fun to flip through, the reference guide for this class helps you easily get to know theology basics in a way that won’t make your brain hurt.

LEADER: Pastor Anthony Gerber

LOCATION: Lighthouse Café

TIME: Sundays, 9:15-10:15 a.m. (Oct. 2-Nov. 6)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - REVELATIONS | part 1 (begins Sept. 12th) Exodus Part 1 covers the first 19 chapters of Exodus. This nine-session Bible study includes: Hopelessness Suffering | The Lord Calls Moses to the Rescue | Facing Roadblocks | Signs of Power | Proof of the Lord’s Authority | The Passover | Rescue to Freedom | Providing in the Desert | The Lord Calls Israel to Himself. As you progress through this 9-session study, participants will better understand the covenant God made with His people in Exodus and the significance it has for God’s people of the new covenant.

LEADER: Pastor Michael Roth

LOCATION: Lighthouse Café, Ministry Center

TIME: 9:30-11:00am

TUESDAY DAD’S SMALL GROUP (1st & 3rd Tuesday’s) (begins Sept. 20th) Few things in life can be more intimidating that taking on the role of fatherhood. Whether it’s a planned event or one of life’s little surprises it demands our full attention and a commitment to put our all into it. Using various study guides, we will address the challenges in being loving and Christ-like fathers to our families, especially in a society that frequently portrays dads as buffoons and ill-equipped to care for themselves, much less their kids. Along with time in God’s Word, we will share life together. What were some of our fatherhood ‘wins’ since we last met? How can we celebrate those? What were some of our fatherhood ‘losses’? How can we learn from those?

LEADER: Pastor Anthony Gerber

LOCATION: Lighthouse Café, Ministry Center

TIME: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 a.m.

FINANCIAL PEACE (Sept. 20-Nov 22) We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God’s ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you’ve dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! Each family must have their own FPU Membership and Materials. If you have never taken an FPU class before, that cost is $93. If you have taken a class before, then you can sit in on any and all lessons for free! There is an additional cost, though, if you would like to update your Materials. There will be a preview session on September 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Solid Rock Café, or during the Kick-Off Sunday in the Gym on September 11 from 9:00 a.m. — noon.

LEADER: Pastor Anthony Gerber

LOCATION: Solid Rock Café

TIME: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Sept. 20-Nov. 22)

COST: $93.00 per couple

WEDNESDAY SON-RISERS BIBLE STUDY—LUTHERANISM 101 (begins Sept. 14th) With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation occurring in 2017 you will want to know as much as you can about the Lutheran Church and what it means to be a Lutheran. This class is what you need. What makes the Lutheran confession of faith unique? Why is Lutheran worship different than at the church next door? Does it have to be confusing? If you’re a lifelong Lutheran looking to dig deeper, new to Lutheranism and want answers, or are just curious about the Lutheran church — this book is for you! Conversational and fun to flip through, the
reference guide for this class helps you easily get to know theology basics in a way that won’t make your brain hurt.

LEADER: Pastor Michael Roth
LOCATION: Lighthouse Café, Ministry Center
TIME: 6:45-7:45 a.m.

“CHRIST & COFFEE” Women’s Bible Study (begins Sept. 14th)
This year we will look at the book of Acts. The theme of Acts is “the spread of the Gospel to all the known world”. Ladies, imagine yourself stepping away from the craziness and taking the time to spend with other Christian women in a relaxing atmosphere with coffee or tea and refilling your well by being fed with the very Word of God. I invite you to take the time to join us. Questions contact Debby Miskill 983-5000.

Childcare is provided.
LEADER: Debby Miskill
LOCATION: Ministry Center, Lighthouse Lounge
TIME: 9-10:30 am

“The Wired Word” (begins Sept. 14th)
The Wired Word class uses questions and Scripture considerations from current events, topics, and happenings in the United States and around the world as a basis for adult, intelligent and provocative discussions. Members of the class are truly thinking about their beliefs and the Biblical applications to their own day-to-day lives.

LEADER: Rich Hackbarts
LOCATION: Ministry Center, LHC
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.

THURSDAY
ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP (begin Sept. 15th)
Join with a host of other adults for a time of fellowship and study of God’s Word. Plenty of breakfast treats abound in this group.

LEADER: Pastor Tom Batsky
LOCATION: Lighthouse Café, Ministry Center
TIME: 9:30 am—Coffee and breakfast treats
10:00-11:00 a.m—Bible Study

YOUTH MINISTRY
SUNDAY
JUNIOR HIGH (6th-8th grade) BIBLE STUDY
(begins Sept. 18th)
The Uncommon curriculum, Kara Powell, will help God’s Word to become real for Junior High students. It makes connections with these students and the culture in which they live. The students will interact with the Old and New Testament texts as they grow deeper in their faith.

LEADERS: Pastor Anthony Gerber, Terry Bird, Tim Ernst
LOCATION: School Room 205 (7th grade classroom)
TIME: 9:15-10:15 a.m.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
Need a break from everything? Come join us on Sunday evenings for some time to hang-out and build up the body of Christ. There will be structured and unstructured time. Need to work on homework? Bring it. Have friends that aren’t members? Bring them! Have questions about life or faith that you want answered? Bring them too!

LEADER: Pastor Gerber
LOCATION: Solid Rock Café
TIME: Sundays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
JUNIOR HIGH NON-TRINITY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION
(begins Sept. 14th)
5th and 6th graders will be preparing for confirmation by learning Bible stories and the truth of God’s Word. 7th and 8th graders will be starting a self-paced program. The emphasis of this program will be to go more in-depth into the Bible and learn what Martin Luther teaches us in his catechism. Parents will be involved in the teaching (and learning!). Wednesday evenings will be a time to study, ask questions, discuss individual topics, and recite memory work.

LEADER: Pastor Anthony Gerber/Vicar Mullet
LOCATION: Trinity School Rooms 204 and 205
Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

If you have any Youth Ministry Questions Contact:
Pastor Anthony Gerber; Phone #: 269-983-5000 Ext. 410 or Email: anthony.gerber@discovertrinity.org

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY
SUNDAY
CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL (begins Sept. 18th)
This is a special year in Sunday School for many reasons. First we are pleased to announce that Stacy Gerber will be serving as the Sunday School Coordinator. She had served in this position at her previous church. Stacy will be bringing a fresh approach to our Sunday School program. This year your child will be digging into the Life of Jesus. In a chronological one year program, kids will walk in the foot steps of Jesus from his birth to his resurrection and accession. Sunday School is open to children age 3 years through 5th grade. You may register your child at anytime during the year. Sunday School begins at 9:15a and ends at 10:15a, and meets in the Children’s Ministry Room located on the lower level (by the Fellowship Hall).

LEADER: Stacy Gerber
TIME: 9:15-10:15 a.m.
LOCATION: Children’s Ministry Room

K.F.C. (KIDS FOR CHRIST) (begins Sept. 14th)
W.O.W. Begins on September 14th. With it, K.F.C. Will be meeting from 6:30-8:00. We consider K.F.C to be like a mini Day Camp, where each week your child will be doing a different activity. K.F.C. is open to children 5 years through 5th grade.

LEADER: Debby Miskill
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
LOCATION: School Gym

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
MUSIC MINISTRY at Trinity Lutheran Church:
• Adult Choir (High-School and older)
• Wednesday’s 7:30-9:00p
• Contemporary Praise Team — Thursdays 7:00-8:00p
• Want to do something but not sure what? If you sing or play an instrument, talk to Paula Steeunjags or Brad Chaffee to get connected to serve the church with your musical talent.

WOMEN’S OPPORTUNITIES
BETH MOORE SIMULCAST / Sept. 17th
Ladies you are invited to see Beth Moore “Living Proof” simulcast on Saturday, September 17th in the Trinity Ministry Center, doors open at 10:00am. Join women from around the world for this inspiring one-day event with Beth Moore as she encourages you to dig deeper into the Word of God. There will be lunch and snacks included, you will also receive the Living Proof note book for you to take notes in. If you would like to attend contact Debby Miskill at 983-5000 ext.402 to reserve your spot. Due to the limited seating I encourage to reserve your spot early.

DATE: Saturday, September 17th
LOCATION: Lighthouse Café, Ministry Center
TIME OF SIMULCAST: 10:30 am — 5:15 pm
COST: $20.00 (Checks can be made out to Trinity and in memo put Women’s Ministry).

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB
Join other women for a lively discussion of a book of the Month. Check the Women’s Ministry page in the Connected for the current book selection. The Book Club meets on the third Saturday of the month.

LEADER: Tracie Berghaus
TIME: 10:15-11:15 a.m.
PLACE: Biggby Coffee

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE FAMILY
Trinity, through its Family Activity Team offers some very exciting family oriented events during the year. They are designed to bring adults and children together for fellowship, laughter, learning and fun. Included in these events include:

FAMILY MOVIE/PIZZA NITE
The movies will be shown in the Ministry Center, Lighthouse Café. Watch for information about Family Movie Nights throughout the year. Held in the Lighthouse Café, Ministry Center. First one for the year will be on Sunday, Sept. 18th at 5:00pm.

HALLOW HIM
Come and enjoy a safe alternative to public ‘Trick or Treating’. A variety of activities to keep children entertained, including Trick or Treating. Save the Date, Hallow Him is on Sunday, October 23rd, 4:00 — 6:00 pm.

Please don’t hesitate to contact the Church Office at 983-5000, if you have any questions.
SCHOOL NEWS
Our theme this year is, "It's still all about Jesus." Hebrews 13:8. We are looking forward to a great school year. The hectic first week has passed by and now we can get into the classroom routine of learning. This year we have a new teacher in grade 4, Mrs. Laurie Mantei. Mrs. Mantei lives in St. Joseph and brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge. Other returning staff members are Katie Hartfield, Kim Kelly, Susan Case, Alison Schmidt, Heather Steffens, Tim Ernest, Jessica Maynard, Nate Chaffee, Paula Steuernagel, and Terry Bird.

We are still looking to fill the position of food service manager, (head cook.) Please pass the word if you know of someone who has this experience.

September Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Back to School Night</td>
<td>September 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Education Sunday</td>
<td>September 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Fair</td>
<td>September 19-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Port-O-Pit Chicken Dinner</td>
<td>September 25</td>
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Serving Christ Together,
Mrs. Terry Bird | Principal

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
School is back in session and we have hit the ground running! I am so excited for this school year. We have lots of new families coming to Trinity this fall. What a joy to see so many children learning about Jesus and being part of our Trinity family. I am looking forward to visits to the orchards, school pictures and hot lunch! The kids are excited to meet their new teachers, see old friends and make new ones. The teachers are excited to meet new students and plan lots of great activities for them! The Early Childhood center is hopping and I couldn't be happier. Stop in and see us sometime and check out what all the excitement is about. The kids love to share about what they have been doing. Check out the bulletin boards and art projects. We stay busy! Thank you all for your prayers and support. Enjoy your "Back to School" adventures, whatever they may be!

Blessings,
Robyn Adams, Director | Trinity Lutheran ECC

MEMORIALS The following have made a gift to Trinity Lutheran or School

In memory of Erwin Kreter:
Gary & Shirley Stichter
Rosanne Brogno
Mark & Elizabeth Gibbs
Kay Kossen
Ruth Patzkowsky
Louise Mueller
Bob & Jill Spencer
DonnisKuver

In memory of Cliff Machacek:
Eleanor Dorow

In memory of Toni Kreter:
Rosanne Brogno

In memory of Lorraine Truhn:
Beatrice Siemon

In memory of Rodney Burch:
Debra & Marge Mihlhauser

In memory of Roger Poole:
Agnes Lay
Jan Burress

In memory of Lillian Yircott:
Marcie Schalon

In memory of Eloris Schulte:
Marion Milnikel
Ruth Patzkowsky
Eleanor Dorow
Bill & Margot Pyatt
Rich & Jan Ellis
Phil & Lorraine Frobel
Agnes Lay
Jerry & Donna Pechtel
Margaret Bestervelt
Richard &Dollie Schmaltz
Marjorie Bischoff
Louise Mueller
Karen Ketzer
Jan Burress
**Children's Ministries**

**Sunday School**
This year your child will be digging into the Life of Jesus. In a chronological one year program, kids will walk in the foot steps of Jesus from his birth to his resurrection and accession. Sunday School is open to children age 3 years to 5th grade. You may register your child at anytime during the year. The first day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, September 18. Sunday School begins at 9:15 and ends at 10:15 in the children's ministry room located on the lower level next to the fellowship hall. Another change is that you can register your child online by going to www.trinitystjoe.org or fill out a form at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 11.

This is a very special year in Sunday School for many reasons. First I am very excited to announce the Stacy Gerber is coming on as the Sunday School Coordinator. This is a position she has served at before. Stacy will be bringing a new and fresh approach to Sunday School. Another change will be in the children's ministry room. As some of us are aware there has been a problem with the sound in the room. This is currently being worked on by adding sound absorbing panels.

**K.F.C. + (Kid's for Christ)**
K.F.C. begins Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30-7:30pm. We consider K.F.C. + a mini day camp, where each week your child will be doing a different activity. K.F.C. + is open to children 5 years through 5th grade.

**Family Movie and Pizza Night**
Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 18 at 5:00 in the Ministry Center's Lighthouse Café for family movie and pizza night. Our Movie for this month is "Zootopia". Along with pizza there will be lots of popcorn, drinks, and desserts. We ask for a $3.00 donation that will go to cover the pizza.

*Save the Date, Hallow Him is on Sunday, October 23 4:00 – 6:00*

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**Youth News**

**Senior High Youth**
Hooray!! School has started! Aren't you so excited? This year, our theme for Youth Group will be 'Being an Echo.' This was one of the themes from the National Youth Gathering. Not only will we be talking about how we can be an echo of Jesus in our daily lives, but we will put these into practice by having more opportunities to serve others in our area.

Youth group will typically meet on Sundays from 6:30-7:30pm, but that schedule fluctuates, so make sure that you are on Pastor Gerber's email list (if you're not sure, email him at anthony.gerber@discovertrinity.org) and signed up for the Remind notifications (again, if you're not sure, email Pastor Gerber).

**Junior High Youth**
Confirmation will be starting up soon! Confirmation Orientation (6th-8th grade Trinity school students and 5th-8th grade non-Trinity school students) will be Thursday, September 8th and the first meeting for non-Trinity school students will be Wednesday, September 14th. More information will be available at the Orientation. You should have already received a couple letters from me (Pastor Gerber) in the mail regrading dates and the Orientation. If you haven't and are interested in Confirmation this year, please contact me at anthony.gerber@discovertrinity.org.

Drop-ins are an after school time on Wednesdays from 3:15pm to 5:30pm. Students can study and spend quality time with friends. All 6th – 8th grade students are welcome to join us!

There will be a junior high Bible Study on Sunday mornings for all 6th-8th graders. Refer to the Bible Study page for more information.

Youth group will typically meet once a month on Sundays from 5:15-6:15pm, but that schedule fluctuates, so make sure that you are on Pastor Gerber's email list (if you're not sure, email him at anthony.gerber@discovertrinity.org) and signed up for the Remind notifications (again, if you're not sure, email Pastor Gerber).
S.A.G.E.S. (Senior Adults Growing & Exploring)

Get those sneakers on! S.A.G.E.S. are off walking and exploring for the month of September.

First on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, we will be heading out of town to Dowagiac to visit with a tour guide at the DOWAGIC AREA HISTORY MUSEUM which has three floors of interesting historical trivia to learn and reminisce about. There is an elevator available so no stair climbing. After our tour we will have lunch at the local, popular ZEKE'S RESTAURANT (lunch is on your own). From there we will be traveling to the OLD RUGGED CROSS CHURCH whereby there is a 13 foot wooden cross on a hill, a statue of Christ and we will be having a private tour of the church/grounds. Watch the church bulletin about sign up, car pooling (there are some spots available). What a fun day to do “hands on learning” and to enjoy each other’s company.

Then on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH, we are “TAKING OUR TOWN BACK” after all the visitors have left. That’s right, we are exploring St. Joseph. We will start off by visiting the SILVER BEACH CAROUSEL for a talk about the history of the carousels and much/much more. Maybe you can even ride the Carousel on your favorite critter or just sit on a bench. From there we will be “brown bagging” our lunch in the park area and then heading up on the bluff to have two individuals talk to us about two popular spots the BERRIEN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL and the MAIDS OF MIST WATER FOUNTAIN. Then to finish the day with a little more sweetness, we will visit KILWINNS for a scoop of ice cream before heading home.

Watch the church bulletin about more information on these two events.

"DON'T COUNT THE DAYS, MAKE THE DAYS COUNT"

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We Need Your Help!

We are starting a bulletin board where we will post newspaper, magazine, or any printed articles that highlight our member’s accomplishments, recognitions, or special activities. If you, your family, or someone you know from Trinity is recognized, please bring a copy of the article to the Church Office to be previewed. We will then post it on our Special Member Moments bulletin board.

Those Serving in the Armed Forces

U.S. Marines
Gunnery Sgt Andrew C. Wedde, Marines, stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA; Grandson of Irma Wedde

LC David Bluschke, son of Scott Bluschke

CPL Paul Jersey, stationed in Camp Pendleton, CA; son of Tim and Jill Jersey

PFC. Christopher S. Hendrix, U.S. Marines Reserves; son of William & Cheryl Hendrix

U.S. Army / National Guard
Jacob Long, Army, stationed at Ft. Sill, OK, son of Jim and Suzy Russell

Sgt. Evan Wilder, Army, Stationed at Fort Carson, CO, son of Mary Wilder

1st Sgt. Keith Bickers, Army National Guard, returned from Afghanistan, stationed in Round Rock, TX, Son of Carol Bickers

U.S. Navy
Lt. JG Adam Roth, Naval Aviator, Stationed on USS George Washington, based in Japan; son of Rev. Michael and Amy Roth

U.S. Air Force / National Guard
Airman Evan Pyatt, US Air Force, stationed in Lackland AFB, Texas, Grandson of Bill & Margo Pyatt

Master Sgt. Karl Stenske, stationed in Florida, nephew of Irma Wedde

Tech Sergeant, John Pyatt, Minnesota Air National Guard, 133rd Civil Engineering Squadron, stationed in Minneapolis, MN, son of Bill & Margo Pyatt

U.S. Coast Guard
Seaman Camille Downey, stationed in Elizabeth City, NC, niece of Jan Dasse

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Please keep all of our Servicemen and women in your prayers. May God keep them safe from harm and bring them home to their families soon.
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BETH MOORE SIMULCAST
Ladies you are invited to see the Beth Moore “Living Proof” simulcast on Saturday, September 17 in the Trinity Ministry Center, doors open at 10:00. Join women from around the world for this inspiring one-day event with Beth Moore as she encourages you to dig deeper into the Word of God. Lunch and snacks are included, as well as a Living Proof notebook for you to take notes in.

Time of Simulcast: 10:30 am – 5:15 pm
Cost $20.00 Checks can be made out to Trinity and memo Women’s Ministry.
If you would like to attend contact Debby Miskill at 983-5000 ext.402 to reserve your spot. Due to the limited seating I encourage you to reserve your spot early.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY
Christ & Coffee -- “ACTS”
The theme of Acts is “the spread of the Gospel to all the known world”. Ladies, imagine yourself stepping away from the craziness and taking the time to spend with other Christian women in a relaxing atmosphere with coffee or tea and refilling your well by being fed with the very Word of God. I invite you to take the time to join us. Childcare is provided.
Leader: Debby Miskill
Location: Lower Lounge (ministry Center)
Day: Wednesday’s (Beginning on Wednesday September 14)
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Beginning is October!
Jeanne Strine will begining the month of October Look for more information In the October Connected or in the church bulletin insert.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB
The Impressionist by Tim Clinton for September
Middle aged, disappointed and self-loathing, Adam Camp is anything but the picture of a successful man. With his wife threatening to leave him and their son addicted to drugs, Adam teeters on the verge of absolute despair—questioning his own existence and purpose for living. After an explosive argument with his wife, Adam searches for an escape as he sets out on a journey that will dramatically recolor his world. While walking through the city park, Adam is approached by an old painter. The mysterious artist convinces Adam to let him paint his portrait and what happens next is nothing short of a masterpiece.
Leader: Tracie Berghaus
Location: Biggby
Time: 10:15
Date: 3rd Saturday of the Month

SLEEPING MAT MINISTRY
The Sleeping Mat Ministry is looking for volunteers to assist in cutting the plastic bags, assembling the bags into plarn (plastic yarn), and crocheting the plarn into the mats. Once a mat is completed they will be distributed into our community to the homeless. This is something that can be done at home or you are invited to come to the plarn group which meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 2:00-4:00 in the Lighthouse Café. The most important thing that we all can do is keep those that are homeless in our prayers. For more information please contact Debby Miskill at 983-5000

LADIES AID

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 6
Please note the time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
In the Lighthouse Café Ministry Center

Summer is over and our meeting time has changed to1:00pm to 3:00pm
This coming monthly meeting will be very informative. It is concerning an organization which we should be aware of, in our community. Our speaker will be Peggy Schaefer from PACE. She will be informing us of Elder Care at Home. Of course, visitors are most welcome.

If you missed the summer meetings, you missed some nice times. In July, Tracy Gierada from the Heritage Center showed a slide presentation of our local Lighthouse, its history, and its recent restoration. The August meeting featured the Shoreline Sounds, a women’s barbershop chorus, who entertained us with “oldies but goodies.” We also heard reports from the LWML convention. Marilyn Mallonee was recipient of the door prize.

It’s always nice when you take the time and spend it with your friends in Christian fellowship.

Hostesses for the afternoon will be Ardath Poole, Loraine Frobel, Edythe Hedman, and Beth Wassilak.

See you there.

Trinity Lutheran Church Bible Study Kickoff and Ministry Fair
Sunday, September 11, 2016 | 9:00am to Noon
Follow the footprints to the gymnasium to learn about the exciting Bible Study Opportunities, learn more about the Ministries of Trinity, investigate the Bible and Book Sale, and support the 150th Anniversary by purchasing a shirt or cup, and then join us for a light breakfast in the café (Serving pancakes, sausage, streusel, donuts, coffee & juice).
Eating Healthy

Guidelines for Americans. Find sensible, flexible ways to choose and prepare tasty meals so you can eat foods you need.

4. Know how much to eat: Learn to recognize how much to eat so you can control portion size. MyPlate’s SuperTracker shows amounts of food you need. When eating out, pack part of your meal to eat later. One restaurant dish might be enough for two meals or more.

5. Vary your vegetables: Include a variety of different colored vegetables to brighten your plate. Most vegetables are a low-calorie source of nutrients. Vegetables are also a good source of fiber.

6. Eat for your teeth and gums: Many people find that their teeth and gums change as they age. People with dental problems sometimes find it hard to chew fruits, vegetables, or meats. Don’t miss out on needed nutrients! Eating softer foods can help. Try cooked or canned foods like unsweetened fruit, low-sodium soups, or canned tuna.

7. Use herbs and spices: Foods may seem to lose their flavor as you age. If favorite dishes taste different, it may not be the cook! Maybe your sense of smell, sense of taste, or both have changed. Medicines may also change how foods taste. Add flavor to your meals with herbs and spices.

8. Keep food safe: Don’t take a chance with your health. A food-related illness can be life threatening for an older person.

Throw out food that might not be safe. Avoid certain foods that are always risky for an older person, such as unpasteurized dairy foods. Other foods can be harmful to you when they are raw or undercooked, such as eggs, sprouts, fish, shellfish, meat, or poultry.

9. Read the Nutrition Facts label: Make the right choices when buying food. Pay attention to important nutrients to know as well as calories, fats, sodium, and the rest of the Nutrition Facts label. Ask your doctor if there are ingredients and nutrients you might need to limit or to increase.

10. Ask your doctor about vitamins or supplements: Food is the best way to get nutrients you need. Should you take vitamins or other pills or powders with herbs and minerals? These are called dietary supplements. Your doctor will know if you need them. More may not be better. Some can interfere with your medicines or affect your medical conditions.

Stewardship

The Exalted State of Servanthood

Martin Luther, the author of the Reformation wrote, “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an obligation to serve, but that we are called to the freedom to serve joyfully. This call to joyful servanthood is understood and often scoffed at, simply because we have confused servanthood with servitude. Servitude conveys the idea of bondage and even slavery. Servanthood, on the other hand, connotes voluntary service, joyful giving of ourselves, a willing choice to help others, and selfless commitment. One who is involved in servitude serves unwillingly out of a sense of fear and has no hope of entering into a different state, while one involved in servanthood lives in an exalted state, a healthy and uplifting climate of helping others. Even though challenges must be overcome and problems may abound, the joy of servanthood is the overriding experience. How do we get from a state of servitude to a state of servanthood? This transition is made when we properly understand the Word of God which clearly defines servanthood by explaining Christ’s purpose in coming to Earth: “...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). Jesus has lived the perfect life of the servant in our places, so we no longer are constrained to try to “measure up” to what God expects. The Law never saves, never enables us, only shows us our shortcomings. When we look at Christ, though, and how He lived His earthly life and what He has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those He has placed around us. The acts of service we render are the same; the motivation and attitude are what make the difference. Through Christ, we are elevated to the exalted state of servanthood.

Staying Connected in Prayer

Perhaps the most significant presidential election in decades will take place in a little less than three months. Numerous Christian organizations are speaking out and urging Christians to take their right to vote seriously and to even pray about the voting process in this country. Below are just a few links and excerpts from several of them. It is imperative that we are continually interceding for our country and its leaders:

Presidential Prayer Team
(http://www.presidentialprayerteam.com/pray-the-vote-2016/)

...As the Lord leads, please pray:

- For America’s voting process to be fair and ethical.
- For all American citizens to use their voting rights.
- That voter fraud will be eliminated in the upcoming election.

Family Research Council Prayer Targets

Christian voters must embrace their duty to vote - particularly for righteous candidates. Our laziness, our disrespect for the opportunity God has given us in the vote, is a large sin for which we need to repent. While the enemies of God often use their votes to ‘storm the gates’ so to speak, we squander the opportunities the Lord has provided to advance His kingdom through the peaceful vote. Some of our brethren stock up on food for the crises, and a few pile up guns and ammo, but how many of the now fearful have consistently voted in every election? How many have worked to convince their Christian brethren to put on their boots and to go and vote on the appointed day? We often hear the complaint that there are no sound candidates for which to vote. Sometimes this is true. Oftentimes what we mean is that we do not think that the well qualified candidate can win. So we stay home. Hence we make our fears into a self-fulfilling reality. The percentage of Christians who do not vote is typically large.

This needs to change sooner rather than later (John Bona, The Christian Vote Book, 2016). [my emphasis]

May future presidents take seriously their biblical, constitutional duty to exercise true justice! May they nominate judges at every level who will affirm common sense systems, programs, and protections to prevent voter fraud. May God deliver our nation from the lawless spirit that has pervaded our land from the White House to the city streets. May He intervene to prevent voter fraud this year and expose every criminal act. May criminals be exposed, and brought to justice! (Pr 20:10; Lk 8:16-17; 1 Cor 4:5; 2 Th 2:7)

May God grant pastors across our land great courage! And may He stir them to lead as never before—in their churches and communities! Like the “Black Robed Regiment” of the Founding Era, may they teach and equip their people to stand fight and build amid the unique challenges of our day. May we dedicate ourselves to rebuilding the good that we have lost over the past 60 years, so that our children will have hope and a future. (Josh 1:7; Joshua 23:6; Neh 4:14; Jer 29:11; )

At this link is a comparison of Democrat and Republican platforms provided so that Christians can pray and vote their biblical values: https://blog.fraction.org/2016/07/comparison-democrat-and-republican-platforms/
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT—2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016

A more detailed Treasurer's Report is available for viewing in the Church Office.
Respectfully submitted,
Gus Damaske, Treasurer

W. O. W. (Word On Wednesday)

5:30 Pizza in the Fellowship Hall
6:30 Bible Class or Worship

Opportunities For Adults:
"Mid-Week Worship"
"The Wired Word"
"Choir" (following the Worship service at 7:30pm)

For Youth and Children:
K.F.C. (Kids for Christ) (5-12 year olds)
5th & 6th Grade Non-Trinity School Confirmation
7th & 8th Grade Non-Trinity School Confirmation
Childcare is provided for children 5 years and under.
Daily Lectionary

9/1 1 Kings 18:1–19; Eph. 1:1–23
9/2 1 Kings 18:20–40; Eph. 2:1–22
9/3 1 Kings 19:1–21; 1 Kings 20:1–22:53; Eph. 3:1–21
9/4 2 Kings 2:1–18; Eph. 4:1–24
9/5 2 Kings 2:19–25, 4:1–7; Eph. 4:25–5:14
9/6 2 Kings 4:8–22, 32–37; Eph. 5:15–33
9/7 2 Kings 4:38–5:8; Eph. 6:1–24
9/8 2 Kings 5:9–27; Phil. 1:1–20
9/9 2 Kings 6:1–23; 2 Kings 6:24–8:29; Phil. 1:1–21
9/11 2 Chron. 29:1–24; Phil. 3:1–21
9/12 2 Chron. 31:1–21; Phil. 4:1–23
9/13 2 Chron. 32:1–22; Hos. 1:1–14:9; Col. 1:1–23
9/15 2 Chron. 34:1–4, 8–11, 14–33; Nah. 1:1–3:19; Col. 2:8–23
9/16 2 Chron. 35:1–7, 16–25; Zeph. 1:1–3:20; Col.3:1–25
9/17 2 Chron. 36:1–23; Philemon 1–25; Col. 4:1–18
9/18 Neh. 1:1–2:10; Hag. 1:1–2:23; 1 Tim. 1:1–20
9/19 Neh. 2:11–20, 4:1–6; 1 Tim. 2:1–15
9/20 Neh. 4:17–23; 1 Tim. 3:1–16
9/21 Neh. 5:1–16, 6:1–9, 15–16; 1 Tim. 4:1–16
9/22 Neh. 7:1–4, 8:1–18; Ezra 1:1–10:19; 1 Tim. 5:1–16
9/23 Neh. 9:1–21; 1 Tim. 5:17–6:2
9/24 Neh. 9:22–38; Neh. 10:1–13:31; 1 Tim. 6:3–21
9/25 Mal. 1:1–14; Matt. 3:1–17
9/26 Mal. 2:1–3:5; Matt. 4:1–11
9/27 Mal. 3:6–4:6; Matt. 4:12–25
9/28 Deut. 1:1–18;Matt. 5:1–20
9/29 Deut. 1:19–36; Matt. 5:21–48

Sunday
9/4 Deut. 30:15–20; Philemon 1–21; Luke 14:25–35

Special readings for St. Michael & All Angels

We Are Celebrating...
The following Trinity Members are celebrating birthdays this month...
9/1 Roberta Knefelkamp, Irv Neubauer (91), Grant Wood
9/2 Louan Beaudoin, Tami Genovese, Scott Getz, Suzanne Nemitz, Eric Price, Brady VerHage
9/3 Matthew Gilbert, Karly Klaer, Andrew McCrery, Phyllis Nelson, David White
9/4 Kelly Arney, Laura Bischoff, Cindy Fechner, Marilyn Getz, Paul Krugel, Shane Ridenour
9/5 Dorothy Duscher (86), Darlene Hendrix, Beth Jeffers, Nolan Kahne, Tracy Petzke
9/6 Dylan Clem, Kelsey Hedman, David Kiessel, Elisabeth Schults (88)
9/7 Joanne Blusche (81), Jeff Cooper, Victor Purtha, Joan Radde, Marilyn Robbins, Jessie Siek
9/8 Greg Baker, Jim Goff, Michael Hart, Paul Langdon, Breena Scharrer
9/9 Walter Gresens, Michael Hall, Stacy Nemitz, Erik Peden, Linda Steinmetz, Robyn Wendelz
9/10 Raymond Brockway, Connor Hubble, Noah Weidner
9/11 Abigail Hartfield, Erna Joachim (86)
9/12 Lilly Halliday, Matthew Langdon, Sylvia Lieberg, Cheryl Schulte, Caroline Szwabowski, Nolan Wilford
9/13 Janice Hostetler, Carol Schmidtke, Kimberly Schultz, Stacy Smith, David Tilly
9/14 Gabriella Brady, Jeanette Catania (80), Bryan Dohm, Todd Hocker, Diane Woodford
9/15 Barbara Devries(85), Gerhardt Doroh (94), Deb Pratt
9/16 Cindy Doroh, Sara Fetke, Robert Humberg (92), Phillip Peterson, Robert Rainies
9/17 Mark Breitenmoser, Rick Fechner, Barbara Merrill, Andy Runser, Kevin Siek, Loren Smith, Earlene Whorton
9/18 Tracie Berghaus, Izack Coburn, Anissa DeSanctis, Douglas Hendrix, Nicholas Siedenstrang
9/19 Francine Barchett, Stuart Wortman
9/20 Leanne Chambers, Avery DeSanctis, Ursula Henkel, Trina Lawrence, Kimberly Neubauer, Donald Schlaack, Ethan Szorny, Larry Weeks
9/21 Rachel Clem, Marcia Graham, Charles Hadley (81), Benjamin Hall, Maya Layton, John Miller
9/22 Charlene Archut, Sue Brewer, Julianne Eaton, Elizabeth Jones, Jessica Lenardson, Lisa Pedde, Raelene Stickney, Dick Wendt (81)
9/23 Kim Hedman, Ben Iliff, Joseph Kirby, Reinhold Lenz (88), Richard Mak, Fred Schultz (87)
9/24 Riley Ellis, Justin Farrish, Riley Klaer, Louie Miltibarger, Willard Strine II, Marian Wagner (83)
9/25 Katie Hartfield, Sandy Klank, Jennifer Knuth, Donna Lippert, Robert Perry, Joyce Psychgoda, Sherri Ruff
9/26 John Blahnik, Beverly Garcia, Wayne Hedman (81), Stephanie Juhl, Marilu Patzkowsky, Cherie Sunday
9/27 Timothy Farrish, Roger King, Donna Schmidt, Annette Schrag
9/28 Terry Bird, Judith Lazor, Bernie Lieberg, Antonio Macerata, Iliana Macerata, Luca Macerata, Alexis Thalman
9/29 Hannah Carson, Richard Ellis, Karahlyn Meier, Herta Schmileke, Babette Smith
9/30 Carol Beele, Sara Milinik, Michael Pecoraro, Laurie Schmidtke, Pam Stewart

If you do not see your birthday listed, please call the Church Office @ 983-5000 to update your records. We indicate the age of members 80 years & over. If you do not want your age listed, please contact the Church Office.
PLEASE NOTE...

Benevolent Fund Door Offering, Sun., Sept. 4th, after each service
Ladies Aid Meeting, Tues., Sept. 6th, 1-3p, LHC
Financial Peace Prev, Tues., Sept. 6th, 6:30-7:30p, SRC
Confirmation Orientation, 6:30-8p, CFH
Mom2Mom Sale, Sat., Sept. 10th, 9a-2p, Gym
Kick-off Sun. & Min. Fair, Sun., Sept. 11th, 9a-noon, Gym
Plarn Othrrgs, Mons., Sept. 12th & Sept. 26th, 2-4p, LHC
Adult Instruction Class begins, Tues., Sept. 13th, 6:30-8:30p, MC 1st floor
Back to School Night, Tues., Sept. 13th, 6:30-8p
S.A.G.E.S. tour in Dowagiac area, Wed., Sept. 14th
Monthly Communion Worship & Potluck, Wed., Sept. 14th, 11a-1p, LHC
Beth Moore Simucast, Sat., Sept. 17th, 8a-5:30p, LHC
Women’s Book Club, Sat., Sept. 17th, 10:15-11:15a, Bigby Coffee

Christian Educ Sun., Sept. 18th, tchr’s & staff dedicated
Blood Press Clinic, Sun., Sept. 18th, 8:45-10:45a, rm 105
Family Movie & Pizza Night, Sun., Sept. 18th, 5p, LHC
Scholastic Book Fair, Sept. 19th – Sept 23rd, school
S.A.G.E.S. tour in SJ, Tues., Sept. 20th
Financial Peace Begins, Tues., Sept. 20th, 6:30-8:30p, SRC
Mobile Food Pantry, Thurs. Sept. 22nd, 4:00p,
MC Parking lot
Early Childhood Staff Meeting, Sept. 22nd, 6-8p, CFH
Eberhart / Casasanto Wedding, Sat., Sept. 24th
Community Dinner, Sat., Sept. 24th, 11:30a-1p, LHC
Port-A-Pit Chicken Dinners, Sun., Sept. 25th, 11:30a-1p,
MC Parking lot
Soup Kitchen, Tues., Sept. 27th, 10a
See You At the Pole, Wed., Sept. 28th, 7:30-8a, MC flag pole

September 2016

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This Month at Trinity

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NO MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, There’s A Comfort Keeper Close By

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Thy Strong Word... Verse Two by Bob Lawrence

"Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, / Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of thy salvation, / Breathed thine own life-breathing breath." (LSB 578)

In verse two the stage shifts dramatically. We drop out of the cosmos back on to earth where we find darkness lurking amid the light we witnessed being created in verse one. But his was no ordinary darkness. With the "d" sound drumming like a death knell, we find it even fiercer than the darkness of the universe. Because of sin man had plunged himself into the spiritual darkness of death. Eternal doom haunted every sunset and howled in the darkness of every night. Hope and joy were driven off the planet until some miracle could erase the curse. Then one special night in Bethlehem the Light finally arrived.

As bright as the light of creation was, it was easily overshadowed by the Light which shone from the manger in that humble stable. Wherever the Light went, it spread the hope and joy of salvation to all those who received it. Even after Ascension the Light did not go out, but rather spread from Israel to the entire world. The "life-breathing breath" not only brought new life on earth, but also offered eternal life with God in heaven to all mankind.

Obviously, physical light is basic for all life to exist on earth. Even more basic for our spiritual life is the light of God's salvation in the person of Jesus Christ. Our need for this light extends so deeply into our being that we cannot comprehend it fully without God's help. Even then, the best we can do is to simply respond with the hymn writer after each verse with a loud and joyful "Alleluia".