

From the Pastor's Desk...



I am writing this after our Annual Meeting on January 21. I think this meeting was a demonstration of how far Trinity Lutheran Church has come. In any discussion, there are two things going on: process and content. The content is what is being said; the process is how it is being said. It is possible to have a discussion in which the content is very valuable, but the manner in which the content is shared (process) is negative and thus the discussion is not beneficial to the group. What I saw at our Annual Meeting was that both the content and the process were extremely positive. Good questions were being asked, good ideas put forward, *and* all this was being done in a way that was respectful and positive. This is a wonderful sign of maturity in a congregation! It bodes well for the future as we seek to meet the needs of our neighbors, and prepare for the numerical growth that will come as a result of this.

At our meeting there were three major areas of discussion that will necessitate further study and brainstorming and research and action. First is the Emergency Preparedness Project. Second is the Nursery/Cry Room. The third area relates to worship services. I'm going to attempt to give a brief summation of the discussions on these topics that took place at the annual meeting. Each one of these three areas will most likely end up with a task force of interested people doing research and putting together ideas and recommendations to bring back to the council and congregation.

Emergency Preparedness Group. The impetus for this group was the October Surprise Storm and its aftermath. A generous member of the congregation came forward with some ideas and the beginning of a plan to provide electrical power to the church property in the event of an emergency. This member also "put their money where their mouth is" by committing \$2500 to the project! Although in its beginning stages, I have already received a further commitment of \$500 to this project. The scope of this group's planning will deal first of all with preparing our church for emergency situations by having a reliable power source set up and ready to go. Building on this, the group also will explore how our church can be a resource to our community during emergency situations. This very much fits in with our Natural Church Development area of focus -- Need Oriented Evangelism!

Nursery/Cry Room. The group working in this area will be focusing on the issue of making our congregation a welcoming and comfortable place for families with small children. Is the nursery currently meeting family's needs? How can it be staffed in a regular and fair manner? Is a Cry Room an option that would be preferred by many people in addition to a nursery? Once again, this whole issue centers on meeting the needs of families who come to worship with our congregation. We already have many families with young children, for which I'm very grateful. Many pastors I talk to have few, if any, young families with children in their congregations. This is a blessing for the future of our church, and an opportunity to attract and keep these families.

Worship Services. This discussion was far ranging and interesting. Ideas discussed included things such as changing the time of the second service from 10:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., possibly going to one worship service on Sunday morning at 9 a.m., a contemporary service, should we be adding a service to our schedule, etc. Things to take into consideration include how does any change impact our Sunday school program? Whose needs would be met, or not met, by the addition or subtraction of worship services? Also, since studies show that when a church drops a worship service the overall attendance declines and does not remain the same, are we willing to accept such a decline? The same studies show that the addition of a worship service to the schedule results in an increase in overall attendance, but do we have the resources for such a move at this time? I think this is going to be an extremely fruitful and creative task force!

I've tried to just summarize some of the things each group will need to be looking at. Each of the three groups will need to do research and collect information (we don't have to reinvent the wheel), identify resources available to us, ask the hard questions, discuss options, and make recommendations based on the concept of allowing ourselves to be used by God to meet the needs of our community and lead to others into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. All three of these groups' work relates to our Natural Church Development area of focus, need oriented evangelism. Each of these groups has a real opportunity to make a contribution to the overall effort of Trinity Lutheran Church to evangelize our community through meeting needs.

Trinity is at an exciting point... as we discuss ideas and arrive at decisions, remember that *process* is just as important as *content*! How we speak to each other, work with each other, and treat each other as we go through this process is just as important as what we have to say to each other. Be in prayer, put your "idea caps on," and volunteer to work in the area that interests you the most.

Yours in Christ,

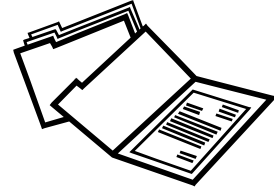
Pastor Terry

SURVEYS

Included in this Beacon are two surveys - a Nursery Survey, and a Time and Talent Survey. Please take a few moments to fill these out and return them to the church office or place in the church offering plate on Sunday. Thank you!

Council President's message for February 2007

by Erik Polkowski



“Can I have 15 minutes of your time?”

What can be done in fifteen minutes? In fifteen minutes time, there are 3,675 babies born into the world, approximately 245 per minute. In the same time, if flying at the speed of sound, Mach 1 (761mph), you could travel from Akron, New York to Akron, Ohio or approximately 190 miles. To some, it is their time in the spotlight. To others, fifteen minutes or less could save you a bunch of money on your car insurance. A lot can be said in fifteen minutes. A lot can be said about fifteen minutes.

First, for all who attended the annual meeting, I thank you. Your time, participation and input demonstrate the importance, passion and mission of this church to you. The dialog from the meeting reveals how far this congregation has come. Everyone is acknowledged and is beginning to speak, their mind and with their heart. We have opened our discussions to one another. Gone are the quiet private conversations of back halls. We, as a congregation, have moved past that. Everything is put out in the open. For those unable to attend the annual meeting, allow me to expand upon the events that transpired at the meeting. I express these to you and the entire congregation, as your input will be requested over the upcoming few months. Each person's voice is vital to this church.

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:12

Fifteen minutes was the time allotted for Pastor Snyder to travel from services at St. John's Lutheran to Trinity Lutheran. This time was set while we were sharing the services of ministry between the two congregations and while in the intentional interim period. The question raised was, do we change the start time of the second service from 10:45 back to 10:30? From this, a conversation began. A list of approximately eight items that will need to be addressed was started. Along with this topic, other items were raised and discussed. Some of the items included, changing from two to one Sunday service, holding Sunday school at the same time as a Sunday service, staffing the nursery at 10:30 to assist with children between the end of class instruction and the second service.

This is the challenge to our congregation. Our actions here help set the response to future challenges, challenges faced by growing congregations. And we are a growing church. It is in the attendance numbers. We see it with the number of children and new faces in our services.

“So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” – Romans 12:5

We have planned a course of action. At the next council meeting, a task force will begin to take shape. It will be open and made up of a cross section of the congregation. The focus of the group will be to review the questions and suggestions made at the annual meeting. Additionally, the group is to collect additional information from this congregation to better understand and meet its needs. The group will return results of their inquiry and make suggestions to the congregation. The goal is to have this done by the end of June, allotting time to implement possible changes as discussed at the annual meeting. This task will be difficult, but something we must do. We all have a part. Each and everyone must participate, speak and listen, regardless of your opinion, as it is necessary to understand both sides of a discussion.

“What than shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All these must be done for the strengthening of the church... if anyone speaks...someone must interpret...and the others should weigh carefully what is said. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

1 Corinthians 26-40

And on this, let me be clear. We are ALL a part of this congregation, which is the body of Christ. We are all important. For if we do not work together, we will not fulfill the mission of this church, the mission we have set for ourselves, “To be a beacon, seeking and reflecting the light of the Lord.”

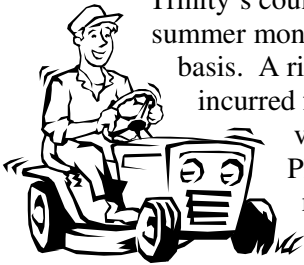




FYI. . just thought you'd want to know!

****Deadline for the March issue of the *Beacon* is Sunday, February 18, 2007!****

Summer Job



Trinity's council is seeking anyone interested in providing lawn mowing services throughout the spring & summer months for both the church & parsonage. The job entails the ability to mow the lawn on a weekly basis. A riding lawn tractor is provided. Reimbursement consists of \$145.00 per month as well as any costs incurred for gasoline, oil, maintenance, etc. However, anyone wishing to provide such services as a volunteer or at a reduced rate, in order to save the church some money, would be considered first. Please submit your name, address, telephone number, relation to the church (member, relative to member, neighbor, etc.) and your "bid" to the church office by March 1st for the Property Committee's & Council's review. Thank you!

Our Military

We would like to keep our family and friends who are serving in the military and deployed overseas in our prayers. Please add their first and last names to the prayer list notebook and they will be added to our bulletin. We also ask that you add their names to the prayer notebook upon their safe return to the United States.

Pastor Kelley will be celebrating his 50th Anniversary of Ordination On February 17, 2007

If you would like to send him and Marline a card, their address is:

The Reverend & Mrs. Robert Kelley
55 Olentangy Ridge Place
Powell, OH 43065-9691

THE BELL CHOIRS OF ZION Present their 25th Anniversary Concert

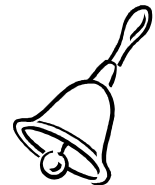
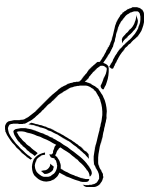
February 11, 2007 3:30 pm

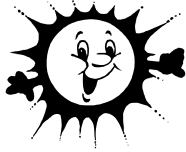
Zion Lutheran Church

9535 Clarence Center Road

Clarence, NY

A light supper to follow the concert Freewill offering



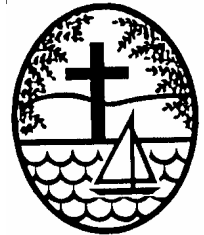


ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Have you signed up for the April 20-22 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend at the Four Points Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport? Put that bright sparkle back into your relationship by signing up now! Don't delay—registrations are limited! Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends which run from 8 p.m. on Friday evening to 5 p.m. on Sunday are designed as enrichment for ALL MARRIAGES! All meals, lodging, and weekend materials are provided. A \$45.00 per couple registration fee is required, and at the end of the weekend you will be invited to make a contribution to the program of whatever amount you choose. Other Western PA 2007 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are scheduled for: Sept. 21-23 at Sequanota Retreat Center in Jennerstown, PA; and October 19-21 at The Avalon Hotel in Erie, PA. Contact Fred & Julie Schamber, Western PA Chair Couple, with questions or to receive a brochure: email: schamber@adelphia.net or phone: 724-325-3166, or go to the website: www.ilmeone.org for more information or to register online.

News From Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

4th-8th Grade Winter Retreat
March 9-11, 2007

(See flyer in this newsletter)



Lee M. Lindeman
Executive Director

LCLC Ambassador Program

Greetings from the shores of Lake Chautauqua and Happy New Year!

The purpose of the **LCLC Ambassador Program** is to have an individual in each congregation who will serve as a liaison between LCLC and their congregation. An LCLC Ambassador's primary role is to regularly lift up the ministry and events of LCLC throughout the year.

In order to prepare your Ambassador for their role, we are hosting an orientation meeting this February 17th from 9:30-3:30 in the Retreat Center at LCLC. In future years we will have regional meetings in the four western conferences of the Synod. For this initial meeting though, we thought it would be good to gather at LCLC. The purpose of the meeting is as follows: 1) To get to know each other. 2) To update you on the state of LCLC and where we are headed. 3) To update you on summer programming and year-round programming. 4) To offer ways to better promote and represent LCLC within your congregation. 5) To physically see the many capital improvements that have occurred in the past few years.

Coffee, tea and snacks will be available in the morning and afternoon along with a delicious complimentary lunch! On behalf of the Marketing Team, we would very much like to see your congregation represented.

If you are interested, please see Pastor Terry.

TALENT AUCTION...

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH

**with SUPPER at 5:00PM
AUCTION at 6:00PM**

Can you believe it has been 18 years that Trinity has been offering Talents of Baked Goods, Crafts, Handyman Projects, Meals, and/or Services up for bid at their Annual Talent Auction? This all began as a way to raise funds for remodeling and upgrading the church building and has grown into a fun filled evening of buying and selling items given in thanksgiving for the talents God has given the donors. On Sunday, March 11th at 6:00pm SHARP! The auction will be preceded by a Pot-luck Supper beginning at 5:00pm SHARP! We must emphasize the times to eliminate the activity from running too late in the evening.

Start thinking of what talents God has given you that you would like to share with those who come to buy, and fill out the slip following this article or slips that can be found on the table in the narthex.



TALENT SLIP 2007

It's time again to collect our talents for Trinity's Annual Talent Auction! Talents may be donated by anyone, of any age, and in any category. Your talent need not be available at the auction, but it is helpful to have as many items as possible that evening.

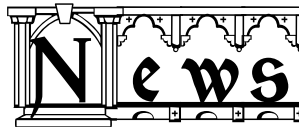
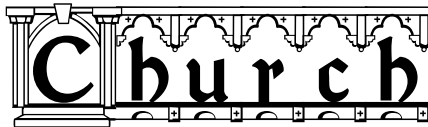


Name _____

I am donating my time/talent of _____



Please list each talent on a separate sheet and return to the church no later than Sunday, February 18th. There is a box in the narthex to collect your talent slips. Thank you!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st- Lori Domon Smith
Albert Mueller
- 3rd- Bill Nehrboss
- 4th- Bea Nehrboss
- 6th- Nicole Williams Sweeney
Marie Speder
- 8th- Jodi David
Norm Waff
- 10th- Tina Goerss
- 11th- Jessica Jones
- 12th- Daniel Kaczmarek
Jessica Brown
Louis Henley
- 14th- Wally Greiner
Lisa Kaminski
- 15th- Diane Edwards
- 24th- Pete Draper
Tony Kaminski
- 25th- Dale Kruschke
Justin Schmid
- 26th- Charles Yaeger

FEBRUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

- 12th- Gordon & Shirley Domon
- 14th- Wally & Kathy Greiner
Paul & Becky Fix

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

We continue to pray for: Ken Mekeel, Marilyn Corbett, Janice Sutton, Olivia Noble, Marjorie Heim, Nadia, Alisha Smith, Richie Helms, Eleanore Craft, Nancy, Rev. Dave Wiedman, Brad Wagner, Shirley Bower, John Stoter, Abigail Weismor, Diane Rappold, Abby Stellrecht, Tom Patterson, Brad Anderson, and Karen Brown.

THE FAMILIES OF:

Continue to remember the families and friends of Richard Long, Melvin Steger, Edwin Evers, Micky Wall, Juanita Hoffman, Pastor Amy Fauquet, Jody Fricker, Gladys Welch, Gert Quirin and the Brader family, Comfort for Robert Washington and Jay Conlan as they mourn losses in their families.

AND PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SERVING OUR COUNTRY:

Dave, Steve, Corey, Jeff, Aaron Kumpf

Worship Assistants - February

February 4, 2007

Worship Assistant 8:00 am-Helen Smith
Worship Assistant 10:45 am-Flo Goeseke
Scripture Reader 8:00 am-Sharon Waff
Scripture Reader 10:45 am-Heather Coleman
Communion Assistant 8:00 am-Ruth Knerr
Communion Assistant 10:45 am-Shirley Schoenwetter
Greeter 10:45 am-Betty Sugg

February 11, 2007

Worship Assistant 8:00 am-Donna Kumpf
Worship Assistant 10:45 am-Diane McMullen
Scripture Reader 8:00 am-David Hofmeier
Scripture Reader 10:45 am-David McMullen
Communion Assistant 8:00 am- Mel Knerr
Communion Assistant 10:45 am-Erik Polkowski
Greeter 10:45 am-Ruth Walworth

February 18, 2007

Worship Assistant 8:00 am-Donna Kumpf
Worship Assistant 10:45 am-Helen Smith
Scripture Reader 8:00 am-Martin Szingar
Scripture Reader 10:45 am-Becky Fix
Communion Assistant 8:00 am-Paula Kropelin
Communion Assistant 10:45 am-Diane Vogt
Greeters 10:45 am-Pat & Charles Lowder

February 21, 2007 - Ash Wednesday – 7:30 pm

Worship Assistant-Flo Goeseke
Scripture Reader-Candy Kruschke
Communion Assistant-Gretchen Bruning

February 25, 2007

Worship Assistant 8:00 am-Helen Smith
Worship Assistant 10:45 am-Diane McMullen
Scripture Reader 8:00 am-Paula Kropelin
Scripture Reader 10:45 am-Tony Cinotti
Communion Assistant 8:00 am-Donna Kumpf
Communion Assistant 10:45 am-Heather Coleman
Greeter 10:45 am-Helen Smith



Historian's Notebook

- by Betty Sugg

Did you Know----

Candlemas Day is February 2nd. A tradition to light candles at the supper table and to think how the light of Christ shines bright in our lives no matter what the weather. In Europe this day has been celebrated since the 11th Century when Mary and Joseph took infant Jesus to be presented to aged Simeon at the temple.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone involved in getting the annual report together for distribution. Your help and patience was greatly appreciated. Mrs. Teri White

TRINITY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, January 7th, during the 10:45am worship service, the younger students of Trinity's Sunday School (grades: Nursery - Confirmation), presented their Christmas Program under the direction and guidance of Diane McMullen. The students recited verses telling the story of the Birth of Our Lord and Savior through some special music, re-enactment of the story and scripture readings.

The children are being given the opportunity to join the newly formed Chime Choir. Diane McMullen is working to get the Youth Chime Choir back. This special music offering during the 10:45am worship service was always a special treat but has kind of slipped away. But, it is coming back! Thanks Diane!

Remember, Trinity offers studies for all ages.

The younger children of Trinity gather at 9:15am for a time of prayer, greetings, and reflecting on the scriptures of the day's lesson or a special day on the church calendar. The youngsters are most welcome to bring in the number of pennies of their age as each week we attempt to celebrate the children's birthdays. The adults gather in the Adult Study Room of Trinity over a cup of coffee while studying the Book of Genesis, and the Confirmation students gather in their classroom to continue their study of the Lutheran Faith and to discuss fund raisers to finance their trip to Washington, D.C. this spring. Why not join us?????????

THE LADIES OF TRINITY

The Ladies of Trinity seem to be running into scheduling conflicts left and right lately! The Post Holiday Party was postponed due to everyone's busy schedule and the inability to schedule a speaker/entertainment. (Many thanks to Jane Dorr, Candy Kruschke and Lois Kruschke who have worked so hard at trying to get this festivity organized. There is another party scheduled - even this date had to be moved. See notice on Valentine Party elsewhere in Newsletter.) Then, the January meeting of the Ladies Group was to be held on Tuesday, January 10th, the Food Pantry distribution was also being held which includes a couple of the women of Trinity to serve the families as they come in and therefore they could not attend the meeting.

The Ladies Group is small in numbers because of the passing of some of our members, the inability of the younger women due to their working, and some are unable to come due to transportation. The Ladies of Trinity are organized to support the mission of the church, reach out to service organizations and help support the work of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through Thankofferings, donations to the Niagara Lutheran Health System, etc.

All women of Trinity are invited to share in the meeting/planning/offering suggestions for mission or other activities, or a Bible study you would like to learn more about. **The next meeting of the TLCW is Tuesday, February 13th at 10:00am.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Betty Sugg, Helen Smith, or Donna Kumpf.

Souper Bowl

More than 15 years ago on a Super Bowl Sunday, a youth group was inspired by a single prayer. They started the Souper Bowl of Caring, which has become an international event. Since then, more than \$33 million has been raised for individual charities across the country. These youngsters started something that has turned the nation's biggest weekend of football into its largest weekend of giving.

On Sunday, February 4th you will see two large soup kettles at the back of the sanctuary, with a pennant for the two teams playing in the Super Bowl that day. You are asked to place \$1 (or more) in the kettle of your favored team to win the Super Bowl. Trinity has been participating in the Souper Bowl for nine years and for five of those years, you have picked the winners of the Super Bowl via the kettle receiving the most money.

You can hardly buy a can of soup for \$1, but you can help feed others with just \$1, especially if every child and adult attending church brings in at least \$1 and places it in the kettles.

**Mark your calendars for
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
and bring your dollars!**



A VALENTINE PARTY

- WHAT:** A Party to celebrate
"Expressions of Love"
WHEN: Saturday, February 24th
TIME: 5:30pm - ???
WHERE: Trinity Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall



That's right! The ladies will be hosting a party to celebrate Valentines Day with a party theme "Expressions of Love," with some reflections on Trinity's heritage. The committee is inviting everyone to attend this evening of a Pot-luck Supper (bring in your favorite main dish maybe even a vintage recipe), a Dessert Box Social (bring in a dessert enough to feed 2-3 people packaged in a decorated box to be sold to and enjoyed by the highest bidder), and singing old love songs in a Sing-a-Long, and a time of devotion. You are welcome to bring in your wedding photo, old valentines you have received, old poems/stories expressing thoughts of love, (make sure everything is well marked to prevent loss.) Money raised from the sale will be shared; 50% to Hearts & Hands and 50% to purchase new table cloths for Trinity's dinners.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted for your reservations of attending and food items you will be bringing to the supper.

Watch your Little Beacon for more details! Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 24th and dig out those wedding photos and old valentines, poems, and stories.

Committee members are: Jane Dorr, Flo Goeseke, Paula Kropelin, Candy Kruschke, Donna Kumpf, Pat Lowder, & Teri White.