

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Kock

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21

"You Have Your Whole Life Ahead of You"

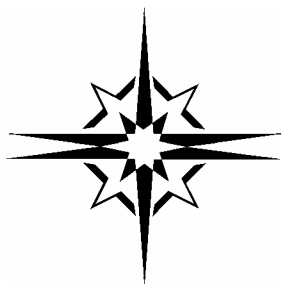
Ricki sat across the table from the 2nd grade school teacher who had just handed out the grades for the past quarter. "You are doing OK, although you need to improve your reading and spelling," Ricki heard from the teacher. "You have your whole life ahead of you."

Ricki sat down at the head table at the banquet hall filled with family and friends extending their best wishes on this special day, Ricki's wedding. The best man stood to make a toast: "To the newlywed couple: Many years of happiness and good fortune. You have your whole lives ahead of you."

Ricki sat on the stool in the bar, struggling to hear words of encouragement from a best friend to whom Ricki had just confided that the company that had employed him for twenty years was folding and he'd be out of work in a month. "You're still young. There's plenty of things you can do. You've got you're whole life ahead of you."

Ricki looked up from the bed to the ceiling lights in the room that he had occupied for the past three days, days of tests and diagnosis that this morning had revealed he had little time to live. Ricki looked up not in a sense of dread, however. A change had occurred in his life over the past six months. A friend from the neighborhood had introduced him to Jesus Christ. After weeks of resisting, then accepting the invitation to attend a Bible study at church, Ricki had come to know Jesus Christ as the Savior whose death and resurrection was the assurance of life forever. Ricki's outlook on life had completely changed. "I'm no longer living for me, but for Him who died and rose for me," Ricki thought from his bed.

Now, pondering the news delivered from the medical staff, knowing what soon was approaching, Ricki remembered with a new sense of meaning what had been spoken to him many times before. Now more than ever it was so true: "You have your whole Life ahead of you."



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December



Miscellaneous News

Check out this website that offers a fresh approach to connecting people to Christianity,
www.WhatAboutJesus.com

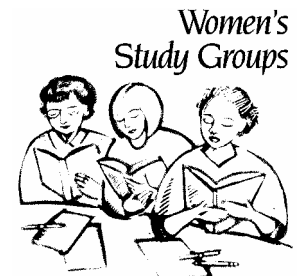


And he will
be called...
Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

- If you would like to pray with us weekly, there are copies of the **prayer chain requests** in the church office every Sunday morning. If you would like to make a request for prayers, please call Pastor Kock at 294-2828 or 294-2979.
- **HELP Supply the Foodshelf** – The Open Cupboard is always in need of donations. You may bring the items to church and we will bring them to the food shelf.
- Have you looked in your **church mailboxes** lately?!
- **Spiritual Renewal Weekend for Women.** March 26-28, 2004, Radisson Downtown Rochester, MN. Weekend of speakers, music, entertainment, and fun. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** Theme: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16
- Osceola Medical Center and Grandstrand Funeral Home will not be having a formal meeting, but we will be remembering or honoring our loved ones by joining in on the OMC Auxiliary **“Love Light Ceremony.”** The meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7 at 3:45 pm in the conference room and will go together to the clinic for the tree lighting at 4:00 pm. The Love Light ceremony is an annual event at OMC which provides an opportunity to pay honor to or in memory of your loved one by purchasing a red or green light which will be lit throughout the Christmas. Please call Nancy Christie at 294-5642 or Deb Swiontek at 294-5639 with any questions.
- **Message from the Master** broadcasts every Sunday morning at 7:00 am for those of you who cannot attend services. Put your radio dial on 1220 AM WEZU for an uplifting message every week.
- **The Minnesota Circuit** invites you to the **41st National LWMS Convention** at the Sheraton & Sioux Falls Convention Center June 24-27, 2004. For more information visit the website at www.goodshepherdwels.com/wms.
- **Be A Shining Star!** Minnesota District Regional Youth Rally July 11-13, 2004. Come to the 2004 WELS Youth Rally held at Cragun’s Resort on Beautiful Gull Lake in Brainerd. MN. For more information contact Gerald Pieper at 294-3836.
- **Bethlehem Revisited**—You’re invited to experience a walk through history...Friday, December 19, 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 20, 4:00—8:00 p.m. Bethlehem Revisited is a presentation of the Christmas story. It will be held at Salem Lutheran Church in Stillwater. Admission: bring a non-perishable food item for the food shelf. For more information call 651-439-7831.
- Friday, December 5 has been set aside for the benefit of the future students of St. Croix Lutheran High School. Every eighth grader is invited to visit the school as a **“Crusader for a Day.”** The day is designed to assist the students and parents in making the important decision regarding where to attend high school. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Please contact Richard Gibson at the school office (651/455-1521) for more information or to register.
- Do you need help paying for your **heating costs?** Wisconsin’s Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) helps you pay for the cost of heating your home. To make an appointment to learn more about this program, please call Polk County Human Services Department at 715/485-8876 or 485-8400.

Miscellaneous News (con't)

- Everyone is invited to the **Ladies Aid Christmas Party!** The party will be held on Thursday, December 18 at noon.
- Once again, it is time to get ready for the **Blessing Baskets!** The Blessing Basket program started many years ago to help area families in need at Christmas time with food and gifts for their children. Our Card Tree will be in the narthex, decorated with gift cards. You choose a card from the tree, buy the gift listed on the card and return the wrapped gift (with the card on the outside of the package) to Trinity. All gifts must be returned by Sunday, **December 14.** The baskets will be assembled on Thursday, December 18 at 1 pm in our fellowship hall. Volunteers are encouraged to help that day. Baskets will be distributed to the families on Saturday, December 20. NO volunteers are needed that morning as this is a confidential time for the families. If you would like to nominate a family for the program, please contact Pastor Kock at 294-2828 or Roseanne at 755-3096.
- The **Wednesday morning adult Bible Class** will not be held during Advent. The class will resume in January.
- We have a new, user-friendly website address: <http://www.telcoscwi.org> (for Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI).
- **Mission to the Children in Mexico** is seeking your help. The mission is getting ready to share the joy of our Savior's birth by providing worship services and Christmas gifts to villages in Mexico. Mission volunteers will do the shopping and gift-wrapping if you can provide \$10 towards a gift box. Mail your donation to Mission to the Children, PO Box 4223, Tucson, AZ 85733.
- The **Cantable Singers**, a musical group of WELS members, will sing in both worship services on Sunday, December 7th.



Women's Bible Study on Prayer continues on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm in the church library.
Please join us any time for Christian study and fellowship!
Next class will be Tuesday, December 9.

Upcoming Events at the Schwan Center

A Weekend with C.S. Lewis—A Readers' Retreat December 5-7, 2003

Two C.S. Lewis scholars will contribute to a lively discussion of two of Lewis' most intriguing books: *The Abolition of Man* and *That Hideous Strength*. It has been said that these books predicted the emergence of anti-Christian worldviews that we clearly face today—a half a century after they were written. If you like C.S. Lewis and if you want to know more about cultural trends that undermine confessional Christianity, make plans for this great weekend. C.S. Lewis scholars: Prof. Dale Nelson, Mayville State University and member of First American Lutheran Church (ELS); Dr. Angus Menuge, Concordia University, Mequon, WI. Please call the center at 800/577-4848 for more information or to register.

Advent Services begin December 3rd at 7:00 pm



Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus. He came as a baby to Bethlehem to redeem us from our sins. He comes now through the gospel to rule us with peace and forgiveness. He will come again in glory to deliver us from this world to himself in heaven. This year Trinity will conduct Wednesday services at 7 p.m. that allow us to receive God's Word and Holy Spirit that alone make us ready for the coming of Christ. In worship will offer our prayers and praise to our coming Lord!

"Oh, Come! Oh, Come! Emmanuel!"

Hearts strengthened by the gospel that are eager for his coming

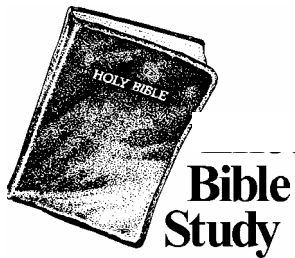
minds filled with the tender mercies and promises of our God

voices that rise with spirit to the throne of our Lord on high

Come to the Wednesday Advent services!



Attend a Bible Class at Trinity



It's easy to attend! All you need to do is show up. Classes are held at church, usually in the fellowship hall. Everything you might need is provided—a Bible for reference, study guides, refreshments, and an abundance of opportunity to meet other members of Trinity. Most classes allow you sit back and listen quietly and learn, or you can actively ask questions and give answers, if you'd like. Whatever your style, Bible Class is a way to explore God's Word and a way for all of us to become more eager and active Christians.

Sunday Morning 9:30 a.m. "Hosea—The Lord is My Salvation"

We begin a new Bible Class on November 30 that takes us into the important message of the prophet Hosea, a message relevant to our lives today.

Enrich Your Marriage Through God's Word and Grace—January 23 & 24, 2004

The symbol for Christian marriage is of two circles interlocked with a cross running through the middle. Christian couples need to center their lives in their Savior Jesus. How can you make your home and lives more focused on Christ? Hymn 506, verse two and four, offer this answer:

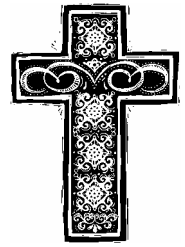
"Oh, blest that house where faith you find and all within have set their mind to trust their God and serve him still and do in all his holy will."

"Then here will I and mine today a solemn promise make and say: Though all the world forsake his Word, I and my house will serve the Lord."

We have planned a very special retreat for twelve Trinity couples. It will be held on Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24 at the Holiday Inn Express in St. Croix Falls. Cost is \$105 per couple which includes lodging and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

The retreat will begin Friday evening with fellowship at 6:30 pm. Our guest presenter will be Pastor Dennis Klatt. Sessions will continue from 9:00 am—4:00 pm on Saturday.

There is more information about the retreat and a sign-up sheet in the narthex. You can also call Mike and Lynn Plaster (715/248-3870) with any questions.



Serve the Lord with Gladness

God's love for his Son Jesus opens our hearts to gladly give offerings of our time and treasures to the praise of his holy name.

We thank the Lord for inspiring us to give of our offerings throughout this year. May the good news of his faithful love cause us to faithfully support our congregation's ministry with offerings that express the deep love we have for him. May the Lord's mercy in Christ causes our hearts to overflow with generous donations of our time and offerings so that his saving Word may continue to be heard.

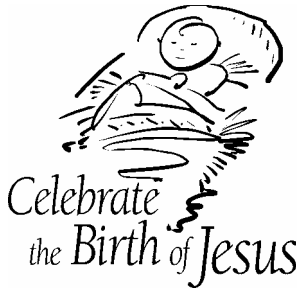
2004 Regional Youth Rally—July 22-24

The 2004 Regional Youth Rally will be held Thursday, July 22—Saturday, July 24 at the Kalahari Resort and Water Park in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. The rally will be centered around the theme F.I.S.H. (Fun in Serving Him) and will focus on service and stewardship. Registration for the rally will be done by congregation, not by individual. Registration deadline is February 1, 2004. Space is limited to only 800 participants. The total cost of the rally is \$240.

Come and enjoy the attractions the dells has to offer. There is even a water park right in the Kalahari which is the largest indoor water park in America. Prepare yourself for three days of enjoying music by Corban Creek, the beauty of God's creation and most of all, Christian fellowship! You will participate in workshops, worship and Bible presentations with hundreds of other Christian youth.

Check out our website at www.welsyouth.com to find out more about the rally.

Christmas for Kids—Saturday, December 13, 10:00 am to Noon



“Christmas for Kids” is like a one-day VBS in which Trinity offers children of our church and of the community an opportunity to capture the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Bible lesson, crafts, song and snacks provide a day of happiness and learning for children of all ages.

Parents, mark your calendar for this even for your children.

Pass the word on to other parents and children:

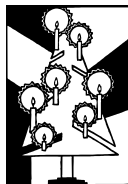
“Christmas for Kids” is coming!

The Christmas Gift—Christmas Eve, 7:00 pm



Christmas gifts! What would Christmas be without the giving and receiving of Christmas gifts? As God’s children, we know what it took for God to give us a gift above all gifts, for only could one special gift satisfy our every need, and give to us the rich rewards of an eternity in heaven. Jesus was that gift and God gave his dearest treasure to us on that Christmas night in Bethlehem.

On December 24 we will celebrate the giving of God’s gift in the Christmas worship service that will include song, recitation, drama and narration from the Sunday School children and youth. Come and receive “The Christmas Gift.”



TLC Preschool News

This month at Tender Loving Care we have been working with a unit about Nursery Rhymes. WE have acted out different rhymes, sang songs, made art projects, and did various other activities together. The children really enjoyed this unit.

We have also been learning about the first Thanksgiving. We had a (pretend) Thanksgiving feast, acting out the meeting of the pilgrims and Native Americans. Turkeys have also been fun to create and talk about. We have been concentrating on giving thanks to God for all the things he has given us.

On Sunday , December 14th at the late service the children will sing “Away in a Manager” and “Go Tell it on the Mountain.”

During our class time on Tuesday, December 23rd, we will have a birthday party for Jesus, opening gifts, and singing Christmas carols.

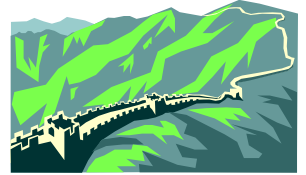
I want to thank everyone at Trinity for your support and prayers. The preschool has been very successful and we have passed our surprise visit by the state licensure with no complaints, only good compliments. God has truly blessed our preschool with wonderful children and supportive families.

In His service, Annette Schultz

WELS Connection

News from Southeast Asia:

Taiwan. Missionary Kevin Stellick now serves as team leader mission coordinator in Taiwan. Prayers have been answered in the announcement that two Taiwanese Christians desire to serve the Lord as full-time pastors of the Chinese Ev. Lutheran Church in Taiwan. After many years of slow growth the Taichung Gospel Center has experienced a 200% increase in its congregation over the past year. Taichung is blessed with active English as a Foreign Language classes with over 100 students attending six classes offered each week!



Thailand. Fourteen students are receiving ongoing Bible instruction while residing at the youth training center in Chiangmai, and three of them have expressed a strong interest in becoming pastors.

India. Christ Ev. Lutheran Ministries (CELM) continues to serve over 5,000 souls in 90 congregations and preaching stations. There are 45 men enrolled in the theological training program, 15 in the seminary, and 30 in the pre-seminary. Another 75 men, most of whom serve congregations, attend monthly seminars. The People of WELS continue to support 175 orphans in eight orphan homes with plans to open several more homes in villages where CELM has congregations. In addition, gifts from WELS assist in giving Christian education to 165 children in two Christian schools.

News from Latin America:

Brazil. In Gravatai recent seminary graduate, David and Brandi Bivens have settled in. A new Bible Study Center is attracting notice. More than 20 seekers have started classes. Bible institute courses have seven students preparing for ministry, two young men able to read sermons. In Dourados nearly 150 worshipers packed the carport at Missionary Flunker's home for Easter services. Young men are being trained to take over the ministry in the near future.



Dominican Republic. New missionary Shiloh Monday and wife Molly arrived in Santiago in August. Doctrine, evangelism and worship classes are being taught to a number of ministry students who are already planting seed and watering plants in various fields. About 100 Haitians are taking English as a Foreign Language (EFL) classes. In San Pedro 15 are in doctrine classes and a group of 10 students are meeting in Santo Domingo.

News from Russia:

The year 2003 has seen some significant changes in the work in Russia. We now have two Russian pastors working with our five-man team. Work continues among the deaf in Iskitim and at a home for children with cerebral palsy in Novosibirsk. Radio ministry also continues in Novosibirsk and contacts are made through English classes and humanitarian aid distribution.

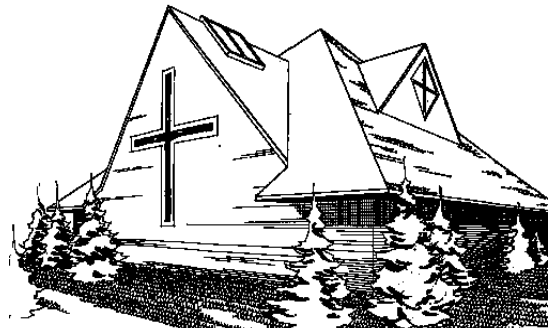


Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Mark Kock, Pastor (pastorkock@centurytel.net)
Chris Riba, Council President
Harry Beck, Treasurer
Nancy Beck & Carol Jensen, Church Secretaries
JoAnne Johnson, Altar Guild, 294-2020
Ken & Lorna Stob, Fellowship, 715-248-7244



2003 Trinity Church Council Members:

Chris Riba, President	Wayne Riba, Vice-President	Harry Beck, Treasurer
Dick Durand, Secretary	Curt Richter, Evangelism	Bob Wells, Stewardship
Dean Dehmer, Trustees	Jerry Pieper, Christian Education	Kevin Rogers, Elders

2003 Board of Elders:

Jim Brown	John Harvieux	Randy Getschel	Roger Howard
Mike Plaster	Kevin Rogers	Don Rogers	Ken Stob

Special Dates!

- ◆ Wednesdays, December 3, 10, & 17—Advent Worship at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Saturdays, December 6 & 20—Synergy at 9:00 am
- ◆ Tuesdays, December 9 & 23—Women’s Bible Study at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Saturday, December 13—Christmas for Kids at 10:00 am
- ◆ Sunday, December 14—Preschool Christmas Story during worship
- ◆ Thursday, December 18—Assemble Blessing Baskets at 1:00 pm
- ◆ Tuesday, Christmas Eve—Worship & Program at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Wednesday, Christmas Day—Worship at 9:00 am
- ◆ Wednesday, New Year’s Eve—Worship with Lord’s Supper at 7:00 pm



Mowing, raking, scrubbing, baking, cleaning, shopping, hauling, mopping . . .

If you’ve got a job to do, the Trinity Youth Group will help you do it! From spring cleaning or yard work to clearing out the attic or running to the store, call on us for a helping hand.

No fee—just a free-will offering if you can!

If you need help with a project, please leave a note in Barb Hoverman’s church mailbox or call her at 755-2762.

