

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Kock

*“When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.”*

*Jonah 2:7*

## FOUND

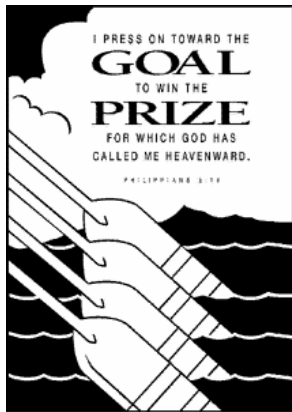
The luxury cruiser was sailing smoothly over the Caribbean waters. Skipper and crew were sure this would be a routine trip that would have the tourists with their snorkeling equipment and cameras back safely on the American coast in a few hours. Skipper chuckled to himself at the habits of his passengers: money for them was no problem; nor use of drugs or alcohol.

Suddenly without notice, an explosion burst from below. It was the last thing the skipper would hear.

But not Jonah. A moment before he was sipping a drink, and with his girlfriend soaking up the sun. He was planning his next investment scheme that would rake in another fifty thousand or more. He was trying to erase from memory his hasty marriage and divorce that had upset his parents immensely. “Is this what you learned from us and all your time in church and Sunday school?” they had asked him. He remembered how he laughed at that remark. For him church and God had long ago faded from importance. Life was too good; there was too much fun and money to get. Besides, who knew if God existed anyway?

These were the thoughts that ran through Jonah’s mind when...bam! He was suddenly in the water, with the rest of the passengers, swimming for his life. It was just reaction for him: grabbing a piece of seat cushion, keeping his head above water, letting the waves take him. Was it also just reaction that caused him to cry out, “God, save me!”? Was it just panic that had him praying for divine help? Was it just luck that he made it to shore on an island? Was it just coincidence that lying a few feet from him on the beach was another passenger, whose daughter had stuffed a New Testament into his belt pouch earlier that morning?

(This ends part I of a series, entitled “Found”)

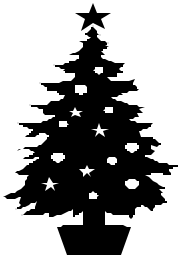


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## Miscellaneous News

*Check out this website that offers a fresh approach to connecting people to Christianity, [www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com)*



- 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?!
- Osceola Medical Center invites you to share in the beautiful holiday tradition of the **Love Light Trees**. For a donation of \$3.00 each, lights will be placed on the tree in honor or memory of those who are special to you. The lights will shine throughout the holiday season. Mail donations to OMC Auxiliary, PO Box 218, Osceola, WI 54020. The tree lighting ceremony will be held at the Osceola Medical Center on Sunday, December 5, 2004 at 4:00 pm. Refreshments will be served in the Riverside Room following the ceremony. Proceeds will be used to purchase a fetal heart monitor for the Obstetrics Department.
- 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.
- 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 is 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 12**. The baskets will be assembled on Thursday, December 16 at 6 pm in Trinity's fellowship hall. Volunteers are encouraged to help that day. Baskets will be distributed to the families on Saturday, December 18. 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.
- Have you checked out our website lately? Go to <http://www.telcoscwi.org> (for Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI).
- Would you like to visit **China**? Pastor and Cheri Birkholz will lead a 15-day trip to China, leaving September 14, 2005. The trip will include visits to The Great Wall, The Forbidden Palace, Terra Cotta Soldiers of Xian, shopping in Beijing and Shanghai and a cruise on the Yangtze River. For more information, please contact Pastor Marcus Birkholz at 651/430-2391. Pastor's email: [marcbirkholz@yahoo.com](mailto:marcbirkholz@yahoo.com)
- **Ken and Lorna Stob and their family** would like to extend a sincere thank you to Trinity members for all the prayers and caring that you have provided during Ken's illness. It's been a very difficult time for all of them and the Stobs greatly appreciate all the support from their church family.
- **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.

## Miscellaneous News (con't)

- Everyone is invited to the **Ladies Aid Christmas Party!** The party will be held on Thursday, December 16 at noon.
- Called to her eternal rest on Friday, November 19 was the soul of **Olga Berg**. Olga's funeral was held Wednesday, November 24 at 1:00 pm.
- The area **WELS Reformation Rally** was held on Sunday, October 31 with 115 people in attendance. Preaching the gospel, special music and Christian fellowship made this a day of blessings.
- Trinity Youth placed third at the **St. Croix Conference Volleyball Tournament!** Trinity students, ages grades 7-12 spent a fun day playing volleyball at St. Croix Lutheran High School on Sunday, November 14. Stay tuned for more fun activities planned for Trinity teens!
- Thanks to everyone who has been saving **Labels for Education** for Trinity's preschool. We need to ask you however, when removing the labels, please do not slice down the middle of the front of the label—that's the part we need to send in for redemption. Just cut the label somewhere in the back and we can trim the part we need.
- Would you like to **purchase clothing embroidered** with the new Trinity logo? For several weeks we have had a display in the narthex showing our new logo and various items that we could order. The display will be in the narthex through Sunday, November 28. If you are interested in different items, Theresa at Mainstreet Embroidery in Osceola would be glad to help you find what you want. This is NOT a fund raiser for Trinity, we are just helping you order some items. Questions? Please talk to Nancy (294-2828).
- Thank you to Joanne Johnson and Deb Johnson for donating the **poinsettias** for Advent this season.



## Trinity Youth News

All High School youth are invited to meet at the church kitchen on Saturday, December 11, 1 p.m. to **bake cookies**. The cookies will be distributed to church members during the Christmas caroling, December 19. Contact Jo Jaspersen (294-2753) for more information.

**A Winter Retreat at Camp Croix** is scheduled for January. Interested teens and adults in planning this event are asked to meet with Pastor Kock at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 19.

**Wanna SEE?** The WELS International Youth Rally will be held July 13-16, 2005 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fl. Trinity would like to take a bunch of teens—would your child be interested in going? We are also planning on combining a mission opportunity with the rally. Please talk to Pastor as soon as possible if you are interested. We need to register participants very soon. It's a great experience for Trinity's young people! Newly confirmed through high school seniors are welcome to attend.

## We Worship Our Lord



### Wednesday Advent Services December 1, 8, 15 at 7 pm

Catechism Youth provide special music for our services that center on the words of Isaiah 40:1-8: "Comfort, comfort my people," says your Lord.

How is your home Bible reading and family devotion time going? Do you have an Advent wreath or Advent calendar to add beauty to your devotions? The important thing is that you have a Bible and read it. For through his Word your Lord promises to enlighten you with the Holy Spirit and preserve you in faith in Jesus Christ, who is coming soon.

**December 12** The children of the Tender Loving Care Preschool will present The lesson of Jesus' birth, in the 10:30 a.m. service

### December 24, 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

The children of Trinity's Sunday School will add song, narration and recitation to the service "God's Love in the Manger"

### December 25, 9 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

### December 31, 7 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship



## "The Case for Christ" - Women's Study Continues

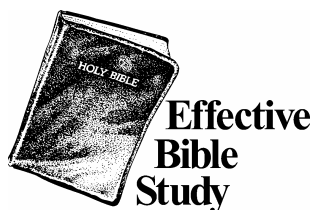


The Women's Study group continues to meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in Trinity's library. We are currently reading Lee Strobel's book, "The Case for Christ" which tells of the author's quest to prove that Jesus exists. We discuss a chapter of the book each week and also have a Bible Study on God's Abundance and Emptiness. Ladies, please join us at any time! Call Nancy with any questions (294-2828).

## We Grow Together in Studying God's Word—

Attend the Sunday morning Bible Class at Trinity at 9:15

### "The Triumph of Grace: A Study of Romans"



The Book of Romans is a treasure to all Christians for it contains the chief teachings of our Lord and Savior that fill us with thanks for the Gospel. While the Law of God shows us our sins and condemns us to hell, the Gospel of our Lord shows us our Savior and gives us eternal life. Martin Luther said that every Christian should memorize the book of Romans. We won't go that far, but as we gather to study this valuable book God will take us far into his grace and promises. Come, join us!

## Serve the Lord with Gladness—The WELS Connection

Recently I heard the following statistic. The average paperboy in the United States makes more than 72 percent of the world's population. That means, comparatively, we all have many blessings to count.

Our monetary blessings are just a small part of it. We can count family and friends and a bright future. And even if the funds, as we see them, are running low and the fun in life is running out, thanks to the blessings we have in Jesus, we have an eternally bright future.

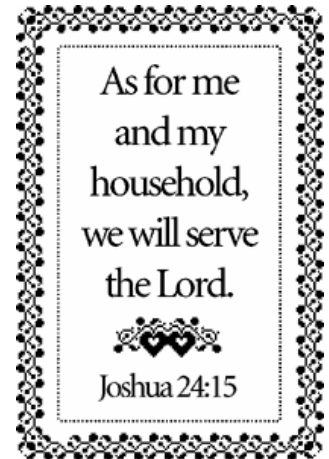
It's with this future in mind, that we count the cost. Our precious Savior's perfect life and innocent death paid the full price for our redemption. There was nothing we were charged, nothing we could have paid. Even now, anything we do for God, any service we may render, is only a thank offering, an expression of eternal gratitude.

We've been blessed! As the old Irving Berlin song goes, "Just count your blessings instead of sheep, and you'll fall asleep counting your blessings." We can count the cost of serving our Savior, considering it a small "price" indeed to reflect our living gratitude.

As so, as we as individuals or as a synod go forward, what can we say about our gifts and offerings for the Lord's work? They can be a reflection of all the blessings we've received from the Lord's hand. They can indicate our appreciation for the cost of our redemption the Savior paid.

The more we count our blessings, counting the cost the Savior paid, the more we will want to reflect Christ's love. With our offerings we will want to proclaim peace through Jesus to others. Counting our blessing and the cost, we will want to encourage others to do the same as we consider our mission offerings individually or as a congregation this fall.

Karl Gurgel  
WELS President



## The People's Bible—To Many Nations, Tribes, Languages, and Peoples

It took 18 years to complete. It involved 35 authors, pastors and professors. It spans 41 volumes. **The People's Bible** commentary series is now finished—well, sort of.

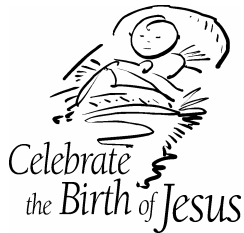
Sure, the English version is complete; however, the work of translating and publishing **The People's Bible** series into several other languages continues. The Spanish version was completed last fall. This is the first Lutheran commentary on the entire Bible available in Spanish. During the 1990's, five volumes were published in Bulgarian. Three volumes have been translated to Latvian; nine volumes to Japanese; 15 volumes to Russian; and 27 volumes to Indonesian.

As challenging as the original work of writing **The People's Bible** series was, the task of translating the volumes into other languages may be just as challenging. For example, no less than 19 people—including 9 missionaries from Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the United States—translated and revised the Spanish version over a period of 15 years.

Translating **The People's Bible** series into other languages is just one way of carrying out the Lord's work of proclaiming the everlasting gospel to "every nation, tribe, language and people" (Revelation 14:6)

We have the complete **The People's Bible** series in English in our Trinity library. Check out a copy and spend time with this great Christian Education resource.

## Go Into All the World and Preach the Gospel—Evangelism News



**Saturday, December 11**—"Christmas for Kids" is like a one-day VBS to teach children the true meaning of Christmas. Offer to help out at this event, with crafts or teaching the bible lesson. Speak to Pastor Kock or Board Chairman Curt Richter of your interest.

Be sure to tell your friends who have no church to attend our Christmas Eve service, December 24, 7 p.m. Many Americans celebrate Christmas outwardly but have no real idea of what the holiday is all about. All the commercials and frantic shopping and partying keep many from hearing the good news of the infant Jesus born as the world's Savior.

## Sunday School News



**Rehearsal** for the Christmas Eve service for children occurs Saturday, Dec. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 23

Parents, please complete the Christmas Eve survey quickly and return to the office. Call if you did not receive one in the mail.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



A Child is Born!

## TLC Preschool News

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good! God has certainly been good to Tender Loving Care Preschool. He has blessed us with a full enrollment of 24 wonderful children this year. He has also blessed us with Donna Cottor, our assistant. With her help and hard work, things have been running very smoothly this year. Thanks, Donna!

During the month of November, the themes we worked with were "nursery rhymes" and "Thanksgiving". The children love learning nursery rhymes and doing various learning activities with them. We made a book of rhymes, sang them in song, and did craft projects with them. Then we learned about Thanksgiving the last two weeks of the month. We talked about all of the blessings God has given to us. We also talked about the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims and Native Americans.

We will be singing in church on December 12th at the 10:30 service. Please come and take the change to meet the preschoolers and their families for the service. God bless all of you during this special time of year

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Annette Schulz

## Serving Your Savior—Stewardship at Trinity

- ◆ A simple way for you to assist your church is by volunteering as a counter of the Sunday offerings. Speak to Dean Dehmer (755-2807) of your interest.

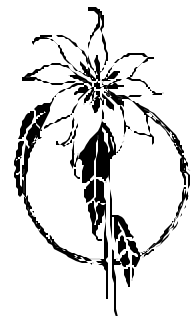
Others areas of service:

- ◆ Provide refreshments for Christmas Eve fellowship, after worship. See Kevin Rogers.
- ◆ Help set up the Christmas tree and decorate the church, on December 3. See Will Stob.
- ◆ We thank the Ladies Aid for sending Christmas gift packages to our members who are away at college or in the military. If you would like to donate toward this annual project, contact Lavern Renspe.
- ◆ Offer your services to the Lord to assist our worship of Him by volunteering to serve as an usher, a greeter, or a member of the Altar Committee. See the sign-ups in the narthex, or speak to Pastor Kock.
- ◆ If you would like to help with the children’s Christmas Eve Service (costumes, staging, lighting, music, recitation, please speak to Pastor Kock or Will Stob. Deadline: December 5)
- ◆ Join your friends in singing Christmas Carols to church members and residents of our local nursing home. This occurs Sunday, December 19. (starting time will soon be announced). The youth of Trinity are baking cookies to hand out. Pastor Kock is looking for a member to co-ordinate this event, by lining up homes to visit. All ages are invited to share the Christmas Gospel through song.
- ◆ Join your friends for a chili dinner and decorating the Trinity Christmas tree on Friday, December 3 at 6 pm.



### BUDGET UPDATE

	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
<b>Income:</b>	\$23,264	\$209,512
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$19,591	\$208,255



## Mission to the Children Reformation Box Update

Thanks to all the members of Trinity and neighboring WELS churches who helped to make our Mission to the Children box project such a success!

There were 90 boxes and many loose items collected at our Reformation Service. The boxes included various items (such as pencils, toys, candy, etc.) which were sent to school-age children in Mexico. The boxes were shipped the week of November 15.

The free-will offering totaled \$496.00 which will also be sent to the mission.

Mission to the Children is a mission that Trinity has supported for many years. WELS congregations work with impoverished children of Mexico to provide what we can for them. Many of the Trinity-made quilts have also been sent to this mission.



**Trinity Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

300 Seminole Ave  
Osceola, WI 54020  
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-3  
Phone & Fax—715/294-2828

Email: [telc@centurytel.net](mailto:telc@centurytel.net)  
Web-site: <http://www.telcoswi.org>

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



**2004 Trinity Church Council Members:**

Chris Riba, President	Wayne Riba, Vice-President	Scott Doerr, Treasurer
Dick Durand, Secretary	Curt Richter, Evangelism	Bob Wells, Education
Dean Dehmer, Stewardship	Will Stob, Trustees	Kevin Rogers, Elders

**2004 Board of Elders:**

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

**Special Dates!**

- ◆ Wednesdays, December 1, 8, & 15—Advent Worship at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Friday, December 3—Chili dinner & decorate church at 6:00 pm
- ◆ Tuesdays, December 7 & 21—Women’s Bible Study at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Saturday, December 11—Christmas for Kids at 10:00 am
- ◆ Sunday, December 12—Preschool Christmas Story during 10:30 Worship
- ◆ Thursday, December 16—Assemble Blessing Baskets at 1:00 pm
- ◆ Sunday, December 19—Caroling at 6:00 pm
- ◆ Friday, Christmas Eve—Worship & Program at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Saturday, Christmas Day—Worship at 9:00 am
- ◆ Friday, New Year’s Eve—Worship with Lord’s Supper at 7:00 pm



**Holiday Schedule**

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.

