

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

A message from Pastor Kock

“Day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’ - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

Psalm 32:4,5

“I will forgive their sins and will remember them no more.”

Jeremiah 31:34

FOUND (PART 3)

His frustration was reaching a boil. The cut-out log for the boat the group was building was stuck. The recent rain turned the sand into a muddy mess that had the log trapped. Pull as they could, the log would not budge, and Jonah was increasingly mad. At himself. Something in the back of his mind said this was all his fault.

A while back, the group had met and stressed the importance of complete honesty among themselves if they wished to survive until - they hoped - their rescue. Rule #2: register all weapons. When Jen, elected the group’s inspector, stopped by his hut and asked him to declare his weapons, Jonah had pointed to the spear in the corner. That was the lie that kept hounding him. It seemed as if nothing had gone right since. Some of his food had spoiled; rain leaked through the roof and soaked his mattress; his friendship with Jen had turned sour. He felt she was on to him; he saw suspicion in her eyes. And now the log was stuck in the mud.

“Could it be that all this rotten luck is because I told a lie?” Jonah wondered. “What do I have to do to get over it? I’ll talk to Paul,” he thought. Paul had become something of the group’s counselor. He offered words of encouragement, even spoke of God watching over them. For quite a while Jonah had avoided Paul. He wasn’t interested in getting a lecture, especially not from Paul who was often seen reading from the pocket New Testament his daughter had given him before the sailing disaster.

But this was different. The thought that his lie had started a chain of troubles nagged Jonah. At break he spoke to Paul and confessed. Jonah didn’t use words like “sin” and “repent”, but Paul did. “There is a God who hears and sees all we do, Jonah,” Paul said. “Sometimes he won’t let up on us until we admit to his existence, and admit to him our sins.”

“Will my luck immediately change, now that I told you what I did?”

“No, but if you let me talk a bit more, you won’t need luck.” Jonah did let Paul talk a bit more. He heard about God’s Son dying on the cross for sinners; about the pain and suffering the man Jesus went through; about forgiveness that is God’s free gift.” Jonah listened intently, and wondered if the log would budge the next time they all pulled on it. (to be continued)

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Miscellaneous News



Share this website address:
www.WhatAboutJesus.com

People will get real answers
 about Christ, the Bible and
 faith.

- 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?
- **The Minnesota Circuit** invites you to the **42nd National LWMS Convention** at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel June 23-26, 2005. For reservations call 952/835-7800. For more information visit the website at www.stpaulscannonfalls.org/lwms
- 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.
- The following web page has been created for Steve Rixmann. This page has been created to keep family and friends updated on his condition.
<http://www3.caringbridge.org/wi/steverixmann/index.htm>
- **From Roseanne Anderson at the Food Shelf: As** our community grows, so do those in need, not just at Christmas time, but every day. But with your generosity and caring, you helped to provide 91 families and 222 children with a \$50.00 food certificate, clothing, hats, socks, gloves and diapers. I would like to thank you for continually supporting the food shelf both financially and with your food donations. In 2004, there were 12% more families and 21% more children than last year. This year we have given out 129,000 pounds of food, helping an average of 55 families per month. God Bless.
- **Giving blood** gives each of us a chance to make a difference in someone's life. At our upcoming bloodmobile, each of you is invited to give blood and save a life. Please consider giving blood on Thursday, February 10th, 12:30-6:30 pm. For more information or to make an appointment, call Joann at 294-3108.
- We would like to say thank you to **Harry Beck and Gretchen Lindau** for making a kneeling pad to be used for weddings at Trinity. Harry supplied the frame and Gretchen supplied the upholstery.
- **"Understanding and Enhancing God's Gift to Man and Woman"** is the topic for A Christian Marriage Retreat that will be held on February 18-20 at the Schwan Center in Trego, WI. The cost is \$265 per couple which includes lodging, food and sessions. To register or for more info, please call 800/577-4848 or visit their website at www.schwancenter.org



The WELS Connection

How WELS members are helping tsunami victims

The WELS Committee on Relief has reported that more than \$100,000 has been given so far by WELS members for aid to the victims of the tsunamis in Southeast Asia. As we are able, most of this aid will be distributed through our WELS missionaries in the affected areas.

Our missionaries can request assistance for the suffering in their respective countries through the synod's Committee on Relief. Those concerned and wanting to assist the victims of the earthquake and tsunami can send checks to WELS Committee on Relief, 2929 N Mayfair Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53222, or donate online. Indicate that the donations is for "Asian tsunami relief." Thanks to the Lord who moves our hearts to Christian compassion.

Hurricane Relief

We've all read about them—the hurricanes that pummeled the states of Florida and Alabama and islands off the Florida and South American coasts during August and September. But the Lord provided opportunity through these natural disasters for WELS members to show love and compassion to the suffering. The outpouring of gifts from our church members enabled the Committee on Relief to put more than \$400,000 into hurricane relief.

WELS' response through the Committee on Relief in the Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda areas of Florida was immediate. It sent significant dollars as well as brought in volunteers. As hurricanes kept coming, additional money and manpower arrived.

WELS has also been doing humanitarian aid in Grenada. By some estimates 90% of Grenada's homes sustained damage from a hurricane. In conjunction with WELS Kingdom Workers volunteers, the Committee on Relief is planning on sending two construction and clean-up crews to help rebuild and repair homes. Already stateside churches have sent volunteers and money to help in this effort.

Technology Update

Decisions are being made for a new technology strategy for our synod. Over the next several months this strategy will address an improved infrastructure that will support our financial and human resource systems. In addition it will address the need for improved synodical communications. And finally it will need to find a way to provide the necessary tools and services to make it all happen. WELS Chief Technology Officer, Martin Spriggs, welcomes your input relative to how we might better leverage technology and make smart choices.

The technological revolution is well under way! Through it God has provided us a multitude of new mechanisms to reach more people with the good news of our Savior. Send Mr. Spriggs your ideas relative to this issue at <martin.spriggs@sab.wels.net>.

North American Outreach—Minnesota Style

The Mankato area is now home for approximately 350 Sudanese refugees. As many as 25 Sudanese now worship at St. Mark's in Mankato. Adult confirmations and baptisms are taking place. Individuals in the congregation are providing English-as-a-second-language classes and transportation to church and other locations. Still others assist with the paperwork required for the Sudanese to relocate in the United States or bring other family members to the United States.

St. Mark has a Lutheran elementary school that can accommodate 40 students. The cost to operate the school is the same for 40 students or 20 students. The decision was made to use the school as an outreach instrument into the community and fill all 40 desks. A substantial number of students from outside the congregation, including the Sudanese, attend the school at a reduced cost or no cost. These students receive God's message of salvation daily and participate in church and worship activities.

Our Life of Worship at Trinity—Lent 2005—We See Jesus

The season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 9 with a 7:00 pm Service with Holy Communion. Throughout Lent, Wednesday services occur at 7:00 pm with dinner in the fellowship hall preceding worship from 5:00–6:30 pm.

The Wednesday services teach us the depth of Jesus' suffering to achieve our redemption. We learn not to take our sins lightly—how can we do that when we see the agonizing death the innocent Son of God suffered because of our sins laid upon him? We learn to treasure Jesus and our salvation highly—surely He who willingly suffered for us deserves our highest praise, and every moment of our lives in thankful and obedient living.



Lenten Soup Suppers

All are invited to attend the pre-service suppers offered before the Mid-Week Wednesday Lenten services at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 9. A different soup will be served each week with sandwiches and bars. There will be a free-will offering basket.

Also, sign-up forms will soon be available in the narthex for help with serving, making sandwiches and making bars.



Evangelism News

**Join Us for Evangelism Sunday
February 6, 2005—Trinity Lutheran Church
8:00 and 10:30 am.**

Our theme this year is "Every Soul a Treasure." Let's have the fire in our hearts to love every soul as Christ does! We are blessed to have the Gospel—let's share it with everyone!

Our Mission to Reach Out with the Gospel!

On February 6, at the end of the worship services, Curt Richter will make a presentation on simple ways to participate in evangelism—the work of testifying of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Often you hear people say that they want to make a difference in the world and in peoples' lives. God has planted you in the world to make a difference, by letting your light of faith shine so that others may come to know the saving grace of God and be eternally saved. Make a difference; impact the lives of others in great ways: Grow in your knowledge of Christ, grow as a Christian believer, and then let all your words and actions be a testimony of him who lives and rules to all eternity.



Forward with Lutheran Schools

Trinity council members recently voted to continue with an on-site analysis to help us as a congregation determine if the time has come to begin a Christian Day School, grades K-8 here at Trinity.

We are beginning the process Sunday, January 30 when every confirmed Trinity member, age 15 years and older will be asked to complete a survey titled "Assessing Congregational Development." The survey will be distributed after each service on Sundays, January 30 and February 6. Please fill out only one survey per eligible person and return to the ushers. Parents of preschool and school-aged children will have an additional survey mailed to them to complete.

The Parish Assistance Program through our (WELS) synod will conduct an 'Onsite Analysis' March 10th–13th. Program consultants, Dr. George LaGrow and Jeffrey Inniger will have a full schedule during their days here, meeting with Trinity members and various people throughout our community. Friday, March 11 will be "Community Day", Saturday, March 12 is "Congregation Day" and Sunday, March 13 is "Worship, Work and Reporting Day" which will also include a potluck dinner when a preliminary oral report will be presented to the congregation.

More information will follow regarding the events in March. **Right now, we greatly encourage all members to become involved in this process.** This is a very important issue that every member of Trinity needs to be involved in. Also, we would like every member to pray that the Lord guide us during this process for His will to be done.

Your Lenten Offerings at Work

For as long as most anybody can remember, it has been the tradition at Trinity to donate our midweek Lenten service offerings to special Missions. These are mostly charitable organizations who, guided by Christ's love, are extending loving assistance to the needy among us—the elderly and infirm, underprivileged children, mentally handicapped, prison inmates, troubled youth, those battling addictions, the homeless and troubled families.

By God's grace we have been able to donate thousands of dollars through the years to The Lutheran Home, Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services (WLCFS) and Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries (LIMA). Our donations have also helped Mission to the Children in Mexico, Camp Croix, Builders for Christ, Christian Life Resources, East Fork High School and Friends of China.

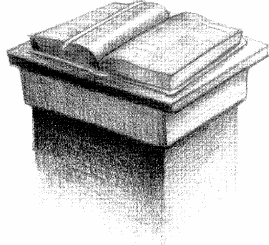
LIMA, Lutheran Home-River Falls, WLCFS, Apache Christian Training School (ACTS), Indonesia, and St. Sophia Seminary are some of the missions that will be highlighted this Lenten season. As you reach for your offering envelopes this Lenten season, consider the good you can do with just a few dollars, and give generously!



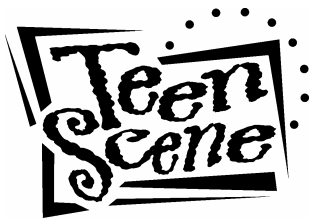
Additional copies of the 2004 Trinity Annual Report, the 2005 Budget and the Key Goals for 2005 are available in the narthex.

We Grow Together in Studying God's Word

Study ^{the} Bible
with us



Women's
Study Groups



Sunday Morning Bible Class

Attend the Sunday morning Bible Class at 9:15 a.m. on lessons of faith from the book of Daniel. (Bob Wells, teacher)

Wednesday Morning Bible Class

The Wednesday morning Bible Class at 10:30 am continues to read through the Gospel of Luke. Join us if you can.

Women's Bible Study

Please accept this invitation to join our Women's Bible Study group. We meet twice a month on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Trinity Church library. We will be starting a new book of fiction "The Red Tent." Please join us! Call Nancy at 294-2828 if you have any questions.

Sunday School News

Parents, the Lord says that the kingdom of God is to be the first priority for ourselves and our children. Are you making sure that no other activity stands in the way of your family worshipping the Lord on Sunday and attending Sunday School?

Jesus told Martha that Mary's act of giving time and attention to hearing the Word was the "one thing needful." Lead your children to Sunday School each Sunday and let the Word of Christ dwell in them richly.

Catechism Class Update

For the 2nd year Confirmation students: Examination Sunday May 1
Confirmation Sunday May 15

Parents, remember to sign the completed lessons of your child each week and spend time hearing them recite the Bible passages and chief parts of the Catechism.

Sunday Worship is part of Catechism Class. Teach your child the most important lesson of faith—that faith comes from hearing the Word and that faith that has heard the Word gladly worships the Lord.

The Inner Court (High School Members)

All high school youth—attend the Bible Class that meets each Sunday at 9:25 am. It's just for you!

Pastor Mark Kock is teaching several lessons on our walk with Jesus that includes daily repentance. In the coming weeks, there will be discussion on the lyrics of Avril Lavigne, and the "the freedom of forgiveness."

Tender Loving Care Preschool News

Snow is finally here, a child's delight! The preschool children love running, playing and making snow angels in the beautiful snow. The month of January is a month of "Winter Fun." We have been singing winter and snow songs, making a variety of winter-related projects, and learning the many characteristics of the season.

Beginning the month of January, we also started learning the Bible lessons of the New Testament. (We do Old Testament lessons through Christmas and then do the New Testament lessons starting the new year.) The children love learning about Jesus. One parent recently commented to me how their 4 year-old keeps telling her how "Jesus takes away our sins." This is our true mission of Tender Loving Care Preschool. Instructing the children to love their Savior who died for them. A child's faith is an awesome work of the Holy Spirit.

The month of January gets a little more challenging for the children. We are now starting to learn numbers in the teens. This can be a hard concept for children of this age— to understand numbers with double digits. All I can do is expose them and re-teach constantly. They have fun regardless. We play various games as well as write our numbers.

Enrollment for next year begins for current preschool families and Trinity Church members on February 21 at 9:00 am. Open enrollment for the community begins on March 7 at 9:00 am. Please inform family and friends that may be interested in enrolling for next year.. Any further questions, contact the church office 715-294-2828.

Mrs. Annette Schultz

Trinity Technology Committee Formed

Do you know something about computers, sound systems, cd players, vcrs, Power Point, or any other sort of technology? Would you like to learn more about some of the technology available at Trinity? Do you know what the Trinity COW is?

Then we have a committee just for you! The Trinity Technology Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm. Technology marches on and we would like to keep Trinity up-to-date.

Please attend the meeting to see how you can be of service to Trinity and "technology-informed."



New Church Officers and Elected Board Members

God's blessings to the following people elected at the Annual Meeting on January 23.

President: Wayne Riba
Vice-President: Curt Richter
Board of Elders: Ron Lueck
Education: Tim Loescher, Colin Hendricks
Evangelism: Dave Pettis, Mark Dobberpuhl
Stewardship: John Harvieux
Trustees: Dan Kroening, Jeff Rydeen
Acting Chairman of Evangelism: Curt Richter



Serving Jesus with Our Gifts and Talents



BUDGET UPDATE		
	<u>Last Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income:	\$26,023	\$254,873
Expenses:	\$21,336	\$249,966



Cottage Meetings

Attend a "House Gathering" to learn of the Mission of your Church for 2005. Six occasions are offered you to meet with your brothers and sisters in Christ and learn of the plans of your congregation to carry forward Christ and his Word in 2005. You'll have time to share your prayers for your church and enjoy fellowship with one another. Sign up sheets are available in the narthex.

Opportunities for Fellowship at Trinity



Let's Go Roller Skating!

Join us for a roller skating party on Sunday, February 13, 1:00-4:00 pm at Skate City in Rice Lake. Cost is \$7.00 per person which includes pizza and drinks. There is an additional cost of \$1.00 for renting regular skates and \$2.00 for renting in-line skates. There is no door cost for parents to come and watch their kids skate. Meet at church at 11:30 am. There is a sign-up list in the narthex and the deadline for signing up is February 6th. If you have any further questions, please contact Bob Wells, 755-3964,

Come Chat with the Pastor



Each month Pastor Koch will set aside a day to give you an opportunity to visit with him at church, ask him questions, talk the spiritual talk of Christ, or whatever is on your mind. No appointment necessary—Just stop by.

February Pastor's Day: February 25, 3:00 pm—8:00 pm.





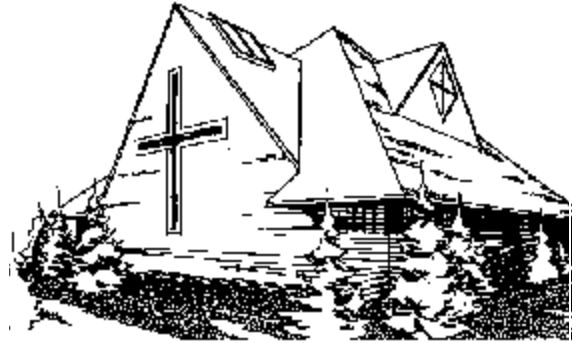
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

300 Seminole Ave
Osceola, WI 54020
Phone & Fax—715/294-2828

Church Office Hours:
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-3:00pm

Email: telc@centurytel.net
Pastor's email: pastorkock@centurytel.net
Web-site: <http://www.telcoscwi.org>

Mark Kock, Pastor
Wayne Riba, Council President
Scott Doerr, Treasurer
Nancy Beck & Carol Jensen, Church Secretaries
JoAnne Johnson, Altar Guild, 294-2020



2005 Trinity Church Council Members:

Wayne Riba, President
Dick Durand, Secretary
Will Stob, Trustees

Curt Richter, Vice-President
Curt Richter, Evangelism (Acting)
Bob Wells, Christian Education

Scott Doerr, Treasurer
Dean Dehmer, Stewardship
Kevin Rogers, Elders

2005 Board of Elders:

Jim Brown

Kevin Rogers

Don Rogers

Ron Lueck

Special Announcement Regarding Our Donation Envelopes

Due to a printing error, you may be missing one envelope in your special Lenten donation envelope series. If you run out of envelopes and wish to donate, please use an envelope from home with your name or donation number written on it. You may also add your extra donation to your Sunday offering or other Wednesday offerings, designating it for Lenten donations. Thank you for your assistance!



Special Dates!

- **Band practice resumes**—Wednesday, February 2, 5:00 pm
- **Cottage Meetings**—February 3, 4 & 6
- **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**—February 9, 7:00 pm with Lord's Supper
- **Lenten Dinners begin on Ash Wednesday**, 5:00-6:30 pm
- **Sunday, February 13**—Roller Skating at Rice Lake, 1:00-4:00 pm
- **Technology Committee begins meeting**—Tuesday, February 15, 7:00 pm