

Trinity Lutheran's Vision



ON THE FRONT

The photo on the front page of this edition of

The Vision depicts hands that are reaching up, proclaiming the desire, the need and the want to serve.

The theme of this edition of The Vision shares those same actions.

As you dive into this edition, take notice of some of the service opportunities at Trinity

Lutheran and the difference that they are making in others' lives.

Prayerfully consider how you can be a part of those opportunities, or how you can share your God-given gifts to serve others.

The opportunities are there.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10



What's inside?

What moves Pastor Vokt? Movies, especially action-packed movies. Pastor Vokt shares his thoughts why movies really move him and why 2016 is going to be a year for action for Trinity Lutheran.

What do a bucket and dipper have to do with service projects? Trinity Lutheran principal Bill Meyer explains the importance.

Tony Dixon, the director of youth and young adults, explains why youth ministry is more than just dodgeball and fundraisers. It's about learning more about God and sharing that with others.

A few Trinity members have taken their talents on the road to local nursing homes, singing and spreading God's Word.

Trinity created six task force teams this past fall. Find out who was on each team and the progress that each group made.

Check out some of the upcoming events happening at Trinity Lutheran, including the midweek Lenten services that will be starting in February as well as service times for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Trinity Lutheran's The Vision

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Equipping people to grow in Christ
at home to go in service ...

What's the key to keeping New Year's resolutions?

BY TIM LEIBOLD
TRINITY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

So, the month of January has come and gone, and I gotta ask: Have you stayed true to your New Year's resolution?

If you are like the majority of those who have pledged New Year's resolutions, there's a good chance that you have kept up your end of the deal so far.

According to Statistic Brain Research Institute, New Year's resolutions are carried out past the month of January 64 percent of the time. However, that number continues to dip as the weeks and months continue to pass throughout the year.

I have to be honest, I'm not good at coming up with New Year's resolutions, let alone sticking to them.

More than 45 percent of Americans usually make New Year's resolutions, and in 2015 the top resolutions included: losing weight, getting organized, spending less and saving more, enjoying life to the fullest, staying fit, quit smoking, falling in love, learning something exciting, helping others in their dreams and spending more time with family.

What a wonderful world we would live in if everyone could fulfill just one of these resolutions! Unfortunately, only 8 percent of people are successful in achieving their resolutions, according to Statistic Brain Research Institute.

Which leads to the question of why?

Why do many of us struggle with keeping New Year's resolutions?

Is the standard that we set at the beginning of each year too high?

Are our lives too busy that we can't possibly focus and put an emphasis on one specific thing?

Is the temptation so overwhelming that we give in and don't put up enough of a fight?

Is it just too easy to give up because we eventually will just return to our old habits anyway?

Or is it because – most times - our resolutions or our old habits that we most would like to break don't include God?

In a recent study, the No. 1 reason people don't follow through with their resolutions is because they are trying to do it alone, and they don't have a plan.

I wonder how many times praying for 5 minutes each day made the top resolutions list for a specific year?

I'm guessing reading God's word each day didn't make the cut, either. What about serving God and others?

Most of us lose sight that we have Jesus to lean on when we face those tough temptations and desires to return to our old ways.

We have the perfect guide book for following a plan in God's Word, and we also have the perfect source to turn to in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:5 says: *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus..."*

Although January has come and gone, it's not too late to come up with a New Year's resolution or give up on a resolution that you may have already made.

However, have God be the focus and see how far through the calendar you can make it.

But most of all, see how much of a difference it makes in your life.



TRINITY LUTHERAN PRESENTS

action 2016

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

While we wait for that day **WHEN HE RETURNS** in glory with all of His angels, let us **RECALL** our true identity **IN CHRIST**, and our instructions on how we can **HELP PREPARE** the citizens of this world to **RECEIVE THE ONE** who **CREATED AND REDEEMED** us all! 2016 is going to be a **YEAR OF ACTION** for our **FAITH FAMILY CALLED TRINITY!**

I love movies! I love many of the movies that were based on the books that I or my children have read. For example, the Lord of the Rings trilogy and Chronicles of Narnia trilogy were excellent film series. Almost every Disney-Pixar production is on my best of the best films list, but "Up" is No. 1. My family would tell you that I am often moved to tears when watching a particularly compelling movie! What can I say? Movies move me!

STORY BY MICHAEL VOKT— TRINITY LUTHERAN SENIOR PASTOR

Recently, my son's favorite books and movies have caught my attention. The Percy Jackson books, along with recent movies based on The Maze Runner and Divergent series have really captivated me because the main characters in each of them were "different" from other people.

In The Maze Runner series, the teen-aged survivors are wanted and hunted because they are "immune" to the plague that has destroyed most of the world.

In the Divergent series, people choose to live in one of five virtue-based factions in society: Selfless, Peaceful, Honest, Dauntless (brave), and Erudite (intellectual).

However, there are a small number of people who are known as Divergent because they can fit into multiple factions and are not as subject to the desires of those who hold the power in the post-apocalyptic world. Because of their "divergence," they are considered a threat to the many and are hunted and even exterminated because of their "differentness."

It's possible that I like these series of movies because they are filled with "action."

However, I think these movies move me the most because the storyline echoes the truth about each one of us who has been watermarked forever with the sign of the cross of Jesus Christ!

You and I are "different." You and I have been made "holy" and "set apart" by God!

The apostle Peter described our condition, our current reality like this in his inspired letter: *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..."* (1 Peter 2).

The apostle Paul, writing to the Christians in Ephesus, described our identity like this: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing..... even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him..."* (Ephesians 1:3-4).

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, described our "set apartness" in this way: "You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world."

Please notice that your identity, your grace-filled condition is not to be something you hold onto for your own benefit. Instead, it moves you and motivates you to action! In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father, who is in heaven.

Sometime later, Peter wrote: *"Dear friends, I urge you, as sojourners and exiles to abstain from sinful desires which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the Day He visits us."* (1 Peter 2)

While we wait for that Day when He returns in glory with all of His angels, let us recall our true identity IN CHRIST, and our instructions on how we can help prepare the citizens of this world to receive the One who created and redeemed us all! 2016 is going to be a year of action for our faith family called Trinity!

Join with your brothers and sisters in Christ in worship and in serving one another and our neighbor in their time of need! Soli Deo Gloria! To God Alone Be the Glory!



"You are the salt of the earth..."

You are the light of the world."

MATTHEW 5:13-14



“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

BUCKET CHALLENGE

Bucket and dipper principle: The theory says that when my “bucket” is full, it is very easy for me to dip in to my own bucket to share an act of service with others to fill their “buckets.”



Serving With a Smile! Serving to Change the World!

"Each one of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

Back in my college days, I distinctly remember learning an important principle from my education psychology professor, the now-sainted Herman Glaess.

Dr. Glaess wrote his own textbook to teach ed. psych. In it, he diagramed and explained the bucket and dipper principle.

In short, I learned that each person is a bucket. My "bucket" gets filled when others serve me. It may be a gesture like a smile or words of encouragement offered by another that fill my bucket. Or, my "bucket" can be filled by a significant act of kindness or service provided by a caring soul.

Buckets are filled by dippers. The theory says that when my "bucket" is full it is very easy for me to dip in to my own bucket to share acts of service with others to fill their "buckets."

The added blessing for me in serving is that I generally feel good about serving and in essence refill my own bucket.

We are called to serve numerous times in the Holy Scriptures.

As Lutherans, we clearly understand that acts of service and good works will never save us. It is only through Christ that we are saved.

However, scripture also makes clear that our acts of service are a powerful way for us to evangelize by modeling the love of Christ.

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 'He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" Matthew 25:44-45

Go to thrivent.com to learn more about service projects

In the coming months at Trinity, we will be challenging ourselves to take on action projects.

Our goal will be for our members to complete at least 30 specific service projects between January and May.

Anyone or any group can participate and can receive seed money as well through Thrivent.

The grant comes in the form of a cash card for \$250. It is exciting to imagine how the world may change as a result of our efforts and these grants from Thrivent. To learn more about Thrivent's action plan, go to trinitydavenport.org and click on Winterim Presentations. If you are considering starting an action project, contact Mark Jorgensen at jorgensen511@msn.com.

Christ was the perfect example of service to you and to me. His ultimate act of service for us was to give up His very life as an atoning sacrifice. His act of love means that we do not have to face the punishment and condemnation that we deserve for our sinful and fallen condition.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" Mark 10: 45

Give thanks to the Lord for His gift of service. Then prepare your heart to respond to His love by serving others.

Buckets? Check. Dippers? Check. Together we will impact the kingdom. And we can do it with joy in our hearts.



SERVICECHALLENGE

The **challenge** has been set. Trinity has asked its members to complete at least **30 specific service projects** by the **end of May**. Are you up to the challenge? Anyone or any group can take part and **receive a \$250 cash card through Thrivent**. To learn more about the service projects or if you would like to do a service project, contact **Mark Jorgensen** at jorgensen511@msn.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY



It's more than
fun and games.

Most of us probably have a picture in our heads when we hear the words, Youth Ministry.

What comes to mind for you?

Maybe it's a trip to the Laser Tag arena. Or it could be a group of young people serving soup to the congregation at a Lenten meal.

Let's not forget about the intense dodgeball games that happen on a regular basis! These are all great events that are used when we minister to young people, but there is a bigger picture that isn't always as easy to see.

So, what is the plan?

It can be very easy for people to forget the WHY and go straight to asking WHAT.

"What's the plan for tonight?" This is a question that is asked AT LEAST once each week as our youth gather during midweek youth group.

It makes sense - the youth are curious and want to know what crazy activity or gross eating contest is in store for them. Usually they get a response like, Jesus or the Bible. It may be a simple response that isn't meant to be taken completely seriously, but there's truth in that response.

It doesn't matter what the activity is. It doesn't matter if we are splitting into small groups or not. Our focus when we come together is that we are here to learn more about God's love for us and sharing that with others.

That's it. That's why we come together. Through every game and activity that is a part of what we do, the WHY remains the same: To learn more about our loving God and tell the world.

Trinity is blessed to have an active Youth Ministry Team (YMT) that meets monthly to celebrate how God is at work in the lives of the youth in our ministry and the community.

Some members of this team provide input and organizational insight into the way the program functions, and others work together on the front lines to lead various youth events.

Taking all of that into consideration, as you hear the question, "Who is a youth leader?" the answer is, "We are!"

Everyone has opportunities to step up and be a youth leader. Just to clarify, that doesn't mean that everyone will volunteer at events or chaperone a lock-in.

Rather, it means that we all have opportunities as the body of Christ to encourage and guide others in faith.

Parents and grandparents are youth leaders. Pastors, DCEs, and teachers are youth leaders. Congregation members that ask a youth member, "How are you doing?" and listen to the answers are youth leaders.

On Sunday mornings, as we worship and grow in God's Word, each one of us is leading youth, sometimes without even realizing it!

God uses everyone to work in the lives of young people at Trinity. As a congregation, continue to prayerfully ask how God is using youth in the life of our ministry and community. What can we do to support them and their families?

From the outside looking in, youth ministry might look like a group of teens who want to get together and have a good time, and there is truth to that. But there is another truth that we should not forget.

During those dodgeball games and soup suppers, God is reaching those young people through the power of His Spirit at work in the body of believers.

We learn from Christ's example of the importance in building relationships. As the body of Christ, look for ways to strengthen and encourage our youth as they search and grow.

Pray that God would help us see those chances and take them. Like it or not, each one of us is a leader in youth ministry even if we've never touched a dodgeball!

STORY BY
TONY DIXON

TRINITY
LUTHERAN'S
DIRECTOR OF
YOUTH AND
YOUNG
ADULTS



TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
THE YOUTH,
YOUNG
ADULT
PROGRAMS
CONTACT
TONY AT
563-323-8001



Trinity congregational members Randy Pribyl, Rick Carlson, Rich Matthews and Robin and Casey Duling share the Good News through song and word on a weekly basis at Quad City Nursing Homes.

MESSAGE HITS **HOME**

Trinity members share
Good News through
song, word at local
nursing homes

“This is the
biggest day
of the week
for them.

Unless
there’s an ice
cream social
going on,
this is their
favorite
day!”

**BY TRACY DUNN
TRINITY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

Imagine sitting in a nursing home, day after day, night after night, with no visitors to break the monotony or bring you news of the world outside your walls. Yes, the caring staff members tend to your needs and try to get you to smile, but no one you love (or who loves you) comes to see you.

What if, though, there was someone who visited every week, bringing not just news, but Good News? What if they shared the Gospel through song and words, and talked with you like a friend?

That's what the residents of St. Mary's on Rusholme Street in Davenport and ManorCare Health Services on Utica Ridge Road near Bettendorf are blessed to experience, thanks to some dedicated volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church.

Every Sunday, when Trinity's late service ends, Randy and Carol Pribyl go to Manor Care, along with one or two volunteer readers or musicians. They spend about 45 minutes singing hymns and sharing God's Word through readings and a short message.

The same service takes place each Thursday evening at St. Mary's, where Randy is joined by Casey and Robin Duling, as well as Rich Matthews and Rick Carlson.

With Rick or Casey strumming the melody on the guitar, they lead the often 25 to 30 in attendance in song and prayer.

"This is the biggest day of the week for them," administrator Debi Gonzales says of the residents at St. Mary's. "Unless there's an ice cream social going on, this is their favorite day!"

The ministry doesn't just touch the nursing home residents.

"I hear nothing but positive stuff from the staff," adds Gonzales. "It's amazing! They tell me, 'We love those guys!'"

How did it start?

Many of us may wish to reach out or to go in service, as our church's mission statement says. But we're not sure just how to go about it.

Randy Pribyl felt that calling and simply started to obey it.

"It was Christmas time, 11 or 12 years ago," he explains. "I felt God was asking me to go into the neighborhoods around Trinity, inviting folks to come to church for Christmas."

So, he began knocking on doors. One person who answered was Rich Matthews who appreciated Randy's invitation so much he decided to join him on the "mission." Another woman they met, who attends a different church, started going along with them.

"We were knocking on doors for months," recalls Randy.

As the weather got colder, they decided to go into a nursing home to witness to a group of people - St. Mary's was nearby.



Randy Pribyl, along with other Trinity members visit area nursing homes during the week to share God's word with the residents. He says: "We sing, 'How Great Thou Art,' 'In the Garden,' and 'Amazing Grace' over and over and over."



And so began the ministry.

A few years later, the director at ManorCare, who had heard about these volunteers who provided a worship service for the residents of St. Mary's, contacted the group. There was no budget for a paid chaplain or musicians to do so at ManorCare.

But the Pribyls were willing to step in and answer the call. Carol Pribyl was so moved by their early experience there that she put together a large-print book of all the old hymns that the residents knew and loved.

"We sing, 'How Great Thou Art,' 'In the Garden,' and 'Amazing Grace' over and over and over," says Randy.

The group has recruited a few more volunteers, some who have become regular participants; others have come and gone.

"It can be hard," said Randy. "Some of these people are sick, or can't communicate ... but after a while, you look past the food left on their chin, or their disheveled hair, and you just see a friend."

Giving and getting

The Dulings, who sing with Randy at Trinity's 11 a.m. Go Fish service, agreed to come to St. Mary's when Randy suggested it to them a few years ago.

Casey was inspired to learn to play the guitar by Rick Carlson, and says the nursing home was the perfect place to practice.

"There's no judgment out there. These people just love to have somebody pay attention and show that they care," he says. "If you can bring the message of God's love and Jesus' salvation to them, it's just that much more."

In addition to playing and singing with the residents, Casey and Randy work together to witness to the residents and staff.

At the microphone, they choose a verse they've sung and use it to make a point and offer some encouragement.

"Thursday night is when the Holy Spirit is present," Casey states on a recent evening at St. Mary's. "We never script anything we say to each other ... It's in the moment and we roll with it. These people want hope and they want joy and they want light, just as much as anybody outside here does, but they're confined to this space, and they come here to get it."

"We sing 'Jesus Loves Me' – the St. Mary's version – 'All of us to him belong, we are weak but he is strong.' That's their favorite," adds Randy.

When the service is over, the volunteers visit with residents one-on-one. Robin puts her hand on a woman's shoulder and offers a few loving words.

She sometimes visits residents in their rooms if they aren't able to make it into the dining room. All of them have certain residents they seek out.

"They're like family now," explains Casey. "It's a ritual now; it's something we have to do."

Is God calling you, too?

The small but faithful group always welcomes new volunteers. Musical ability is not a requirement — just a caring heart and willingness to serve.

"We would love to have people pray about it and join us if they feel led," says Randy. "It is what the Lord is calling us to do. But I'd like to say it's no more important than the people who cut the grass at Trinity ... somebody's called to do that, and it's important, too. Everybody serves in different ways, and it's all important."

The commitment of time and stepping outside of one's comfort zone is a sacrifice, but those involved in this particular ministry say the investment is worth the cost.

"When I'm in heaven, I'm going to know these faces, these people — they're God's children as much as anybody else is, but we're spending our time with them, and we're all benefitting from it," says Casey.

"They're like family now. It's a ritual now, it's something we have to do."

Finding a solid place in chaos

BY AL ZAMBONE
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

In 2016, we like to think that we are living in tumultuous and turbulent times, unprecedented in human history.

But this fall, a group of us immersed ourselves in the classics of Lutheran spirituality. We reflected on the words of Johann Arndt; his great student Johann Gerhard; the delightful Christian Scriver; and the hymn-writer Paul Gerhardt (no relation to Johann!). There we learned that our times were nothing in comparison to their own. The spiritual devotions they wrote were forged in times of excruciating suffering. And yet, they were full of hope.

Sometime in 1619, all of Europe went insane. Or so it must have seemed. A war in Bohemia provoked nation after nation to join in, until the entire continent was at war. Protestants warred against Catholics; Catholics against Protestants; Catholic France financed Lutheran Sweden's fight against the Holy Roman Empire. Famine accompanied the armies as they ate their way around Europe; disease—from smallpox to bubonic plague—followed quick on its heels.

The world in which these Lutheran pastors lived was brutal—as bad as anything you'll see on the news. They tended the sick and dying in their parishes; one reported burying 70 parishoners a week. Stop for a minute and imagine 70 funerals, 70 grieving families, 70 experiences with death each week.

They experienced unimaginable personal trauma. Johann Gerhard (now regarded by scholars as the most important Lutheran theologian not named Martin) was orphaned as a teenager and at the point of death twice before the age of 24. A surviving relative, a Godsend in the era of no social safety net, promised him a stipend if he studied medicine. After two years, he returned to seminary, cut off without a penny but unable to deny his vocation. He published *Sacred Meditations* in 1606 at age 24, already a man who had suffered more than many of us do in a lifetime.

These experiences only intensified with the Thirty Years War. By the beginning of the war in 1618, Gerhard was teaching theology at the University of Jena, where he remained until his death. But writing theology—which he did a great deal of—did not occupy all of his time.

When the Catholic Imperial army arrived at the gates of Jena in 1631, Gerhard was one of the men



who came to negotiate with its commander, and supposedly the one who convinced the Imperial forces not to ransack the city.

Ironically, it was not the Catholics who took Gerhard captive, but the Lutheran Swedes in 1636. Later, Lutherans burned his family's farms, leaving him penniless. In his diary he wrote that when he heard the news of his loss he was "busy with a revision of the entire Bible (probably the Weimar edition) and, in fact, with the last chapter of Job which lists the very rich blessing of God upon Job after he had endured his cross."

What does Gerhard, a man who persevered in hope through brutal circumstances, think is important for us? Christ knows us and wants us to know him. In fact, and disconcertingly in our independent age, the Christian life is an ever-more intimate union with Christ. As the Holy Spirit unites all the members of the Trinity, Christ promises that He sends the Spirit to unite us with him. We are led to Him through preaching, baptism, and Eucharist, and we encounter Him there. For Gerhard, that is the reason for us to live.

The Holy Spirit, moreover, descended upon the apostles while they were continuing with one accord in prayer (Acts 1:14); for the Spirit of prayer is prevailed upon by prayer, and He it is who leads us to pray. And wherefore?

Because He is the bond that unites our hearts to God, just as He unites the Son with the Father, and the Father with the Son; for He is the mutual essential love between the Father and the Son.

This spiritual union between God and our souls follows upon faith; but faith, the gift of the Spirit, is obtained by prayer, and true prayer is prompted by the Holy Spirit.

(Johann Gerhard, *Sacred Meditations*, 22:119-120)

In need of special attention in specific areas, Trinity Lutheran creates teams to get back on ...

TASK

Groups challenged to come up with at least one initiative within 90 days

STORY BY DENISE HOLLONBECK
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

The time is now for Trinity Lutheran to look internally at the ministries and relationships in our congregational family.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1.

Trinity recognized that it was time for a transformation for the church to grow. In looking for an answer, Tom Grunow, a consultant for Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry, was asked to review our congregation to see if we were ready for a major fundraiser.

After intensive research, the final report was very thorough and specific. Tom Grunow suggested that Trinity create six task force groups to work on issues that were set before us as a congregation.

The purpose of each task force team was to identify critical issues from the data presented by Tom Grunow. Each group was tasked to come up with one or more initiatives within 90 days.



TASK FORCE TEAMS

A glance at the six Task Force Teams that were created this Fall, along with members of each group and tasks that they worked on

Staff Operations and Procedures

Team members: Tim Dunn, John Behrendt , Tim Leibold , Jerry Lindstrom

About the team: This group's focus was to look at the present staff responsibilities, the structure of the staff reporting functions, and current procedures. The accomplishments of the group included creating a new organization chart and defining specific leadership roles and areas of responsibility. The group also reviewed the administrative responsibilities and non-ministry activities. With the completion and approval of the organizational chart, the group began developing ministry descriptions, including a ministry description for an additional called pastor, who will focus on worship. This Task Force Team still is ongoing.

Lay Leadership Operations and Procedures

Team members: Mark Jorgensen, Gary Bates , Bill Meyer, Sharon Nathan

About the team: This task force reviewed the way lay leadership works and what is accomplished by leaders in the congregation. One of the completed tasks included posting pictures of the Board of Directors in the narthex. The task force also made a recommendation for a Hospitality Team as well as hosting a ministry fair in the fall. The group launched a service project initiative in January.

Worship and Facilities

Team members: Randy Pribyl , John Bremer, Larry Radetzki, Randy Slusser

About the team: This team worked together to review the present worship services, including the music aspect. For the group, it was a positive experience and will hopefully lead to more conversations in the future.

Children, Youth and Adult Ministries

Team members: Mary Frost, Dan Breidinger, Tammy McCartney, Pastor Vokt, Joann Wulf and Paula Hauf

About the team: This group added a fun and new wrinkle to the Advent suppers by incorporating an Advent Activity. The activities were held in conjunction with the Advent suppers and before the evening Advent service. In order to empower others to lead and serve, "champions" were named, one for each date. The group also began creating a spreadsheet of all lay leaders and the activities with which they are connected. The group also identified the need for small group formation and Bible studies. Lastly, the group identified the need for written policies for all groups associated with the church and school.

Church and School Relations and School Issues

Team members: Michelle Steining, Tony Dixon, Linda Gaster, Matthew Ragan

About the team: This group created the Know and be Known nametag project. They also were greeters at the Trinity preschool-kindergarten Christmas program, helping those who are not members understand the service order.

Campus Facilities and Maintenance

Team members: Chuck Stanger , Andrea Hussong , Bob Gaster, Merle Warnsholz

About the team: This group focused on church lighting. After a lot of work and securing several bids a contract has been accepted to purchase lights.

Group information supplied by
Denise Hollonbeck

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Classes are on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.,
and scheduled to begin in February

Joining Jesus on His Mission

Presenter: Pastor Vokt

Class location: Fellowship Hall

About the class: This study will seek to lead us to get clear, simple, and actively responsive on three basic questions: What is a disciple, what does a disciple do, and how are disciples formed? The study will enable us to begin to rediscover what the Church and even our congregation has lost sight of over the years.

High School Youth Class

Presenter: Tony Dixon

Class location: Upstairs of school in Room 203

About the class: For the next 12 weeks, high school students will spend each week walking through God's Word together. The lessons will take students on a crash course through key sections of scripture and lead to a better understanding of God's Big Picture when it comes to the Bible! All high school students are welcome to join the group which meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

Letters of Hope

Presenter: Jerome Nathan

Class location: School library

About the class: The apostle Peter wrote two letters that have become part of the New Testament. In these letters, Peter writes about the Gospel of Grace—what a comfort and hope to a Christian in times of trial. Class is for beginners as well as "seasoned" Bible students.

Growing In Christ, How We Use the Bible to Parent

Presenters: Dan Breidinger and Jill Schmitzer

Class location: Upstairs of school in Room 200

About the class: Dan will begin class sharing the lesson that many of your children will be learning in Sunday School that week. This is a great chance to hear some Bible lessons for the first time or get a refresher course so that you can have a great conversation with your child about what they learned. Jill will use the last half of class to show what that same Bible lesson can teach about parenting. It's amazing how many parenting tips you find in the Bible, and the things you will learn about your children.

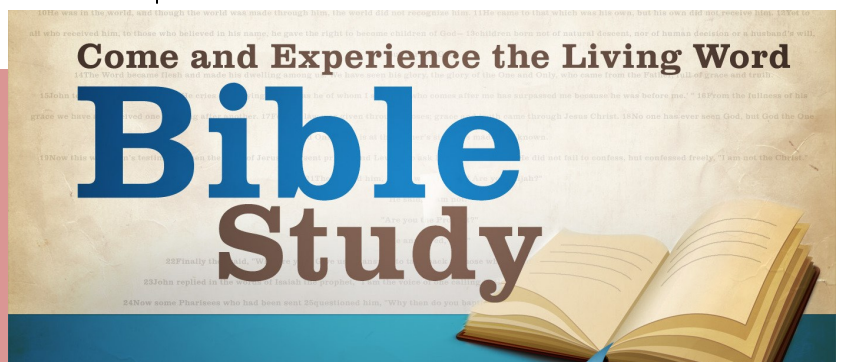
Young Adult Class

Presenter: Megan Dixon

Class location: Upstairs of school in Room 209

About the class: Young Adults are welcome to join our study this fall titled *Fearless Conversation*. It is designed to help us build relationships through authentic discussion. Looking to the Bible for the truth, *Fearless Conversation* guides participants through grappling questions that dig deep into what God has to say. Our time together will be spent learning more about the human condition based on 1-2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles and Psalms. Topics include, "Is it okay to complain to God in prayer?" and "What's my story in God's eyes?"

If you are interested in
leading a Bible study, contact
Jerome Nathan
at 563-332-5033



What's coming up



Easter Sunday
worship services
at Trinity
Lutheran will be
at 6 a.m., 8 a.m.,
9:30 a.m. and
11 a.m.
Easter Sunday
is on March 27.

Mark your calendars

- FEB. 10: Lenten Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Lenten services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- FEB. 17: Lenten Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Lenten services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- FEB. 18-19: Parent/teacher conference for Trinity School.
- FEB. 24: Lenten Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Lenten services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- FEB. 27: Communion workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- MARCH 2: Lenten Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Lenten services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- MARCH 4: Trinity Lutheran Trivia Night in the Fellowship Hall.
- MARCH 9: Lenten Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Lenten services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- MARCH 11-12: Middle school play in the Fellowship Hall
- MARCH 21-25: Spring break for Trinity School.
- MARCH 16: Lenten Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; Lenten services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- MARCH 24: Maundy Thursday services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- MARCH 25: Good Friday services at 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m.
- MARCH 27: Easter Sunday services at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
- MARCH 27: Easter breakfast served by Trinity's High School Youth from 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

For more events, go to trinitydavenport.org

Trinity Financial Report_____

Trinity Lutheran's Building Projects Fund has been in place for more than 20 years. The fund is used to make repairs or updates to Trinity's building and grounds.

If you feel led to make a sacrificial gift to this fund, you can do so by indicating the amount on your church offering envelope.

Some of the high-priority building project fund maintenance items include resurfacing and repair of the west parking lot, repair of the Chapel windows and repairing the wall and glass block in the Fellowship Hall.

Building Projects Fund numbers

July 1 balance	\$66,591.00
Receipts/Contributions	\$21,197.70
Expense	\$11,838.65
Jan. 2016 balance	\$75,950.05

Trinity's operating budget income and expenses

	Dec. 2015	Year to date July 2015-Dec. 2015
Church offerings	\$113,514	\$564,924
School receipts	\$85,786	\$648,137
Misc. receipts	\$641	\$7,375
Total budget income	\$199,941	\$1,220,436
Budget expense	\$204,669	\$1,229,041
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$4,728)	(\$8,605)

The figures above are for budget income and expenses for the period July through December 2015, the first six months (or one-half) of the current fiscal year. Regular offerings for the months July through December were 6% lower than one year ago. Offerings support the mission and ministry programs of our congregation. School receipts are 11% higher than one year ago. Receipts from school-related sources support Trinity School programs, staffing and educational materials expenses. Overall, operating expenses are on track with our budget. Year-to-date budget expenses were 5% higher than one year ago. Good stewardship requires that we manage the affairs of the congregation within the limits of the available resources. As the Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, aligns our spending with the offerings and other income available, we ask for your support and prayers.



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GET REWARDED WITH CASH FOR
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Thank you note from PASTOR GIDDINGS

Brothers and sisters in Christ of Trinity Lutheran, Davenport:

The Apostle Peter reminds us that with the Lord, a thousand years is as one day.

And that phrase from Scripture is a good description of what I experienced on Aug. 2, 2015. That weekend, I returned to Trinity for the first time since the year I spent with the congregation as a vicar. My pastoral internship ended in July of 2006 – so it had been almost nine years on the nose.

But in so many ways, it felt like it had only been days.

When I arrived at the church on Saturday night to be greeted by Pastor Vokt and other familiar faces, it felt like it had only been days since we stood in the same hallway talking to each other.

As I walked into the sanctuary, it felt like it had only been days since I last worshipped in the familiar space.

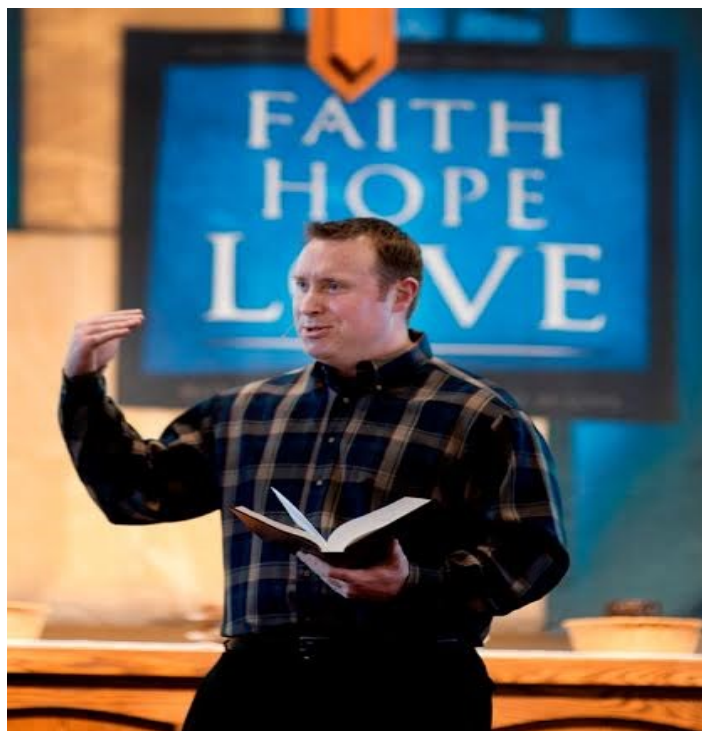
And on Sunday morning, as I was greeted by and talked with so many of you, as I reenacted pictures with some of you and shared memories with others, it felt like it had only been days since you first welcomed me into your church community and helped me learn so much. I had the opportunity to preach that morning and brought with me some of the things I inherited while at Trinity.

I shared some of the decorations the church and school staff scattered around my office for my princess-themed birthday party.

I showed off a pair of star-shaped sunglasses that still look just as good on me as well as a pair of work gloves I still use.

And then there was the bag full of C-clamps the elders gave me as a going away gift. I will let you ask one of the elders or pastors why they chose that, but I've held onto so many things from my time at Trinity for nine years because they mean something to me, because Trinity means something to me.

For me, what all of those THINGS represent is a TRUTH that is expressed and experienced in all of the biblical one-anothers that describe and define the life of the church.



Trinity often has them hanging from a banner in the front of the sanctuary and they are one of my favorite take-aways from my time in your congregation. I have even preached a whole series of sermons on them: pray for one another, welcome one another, love one another, serve one another, encourage one another, build one another up, comfort one another, be kind to one another, forgive one another, there are more than fifty of them. And God's design for His church is that they not only unite people within a congregation, but they united believers across congregations around the world.

I remain so grateful for experiencing it as a vicar, and now nine years later as a pastor of a church in Fargo, North Dakota that is supported by Trinity.

That phrase "with the Lord, a thousand years is as one day" is connected to the length of time between Christ's ascension and His return. It's not about God being slow to fulfill His promises but rather patient that more and more would repent and believe.

In Christ

Michael Giddings, Pastor
CrossPointe Lutheran Church

BAPTISMS

A listing of Trinity Baptisms from
October-December

NAME	DATE
Zachary Curtis	Nov. 22
Owen Tucker	Nov. 22
Ryan VanBlaricome	Nov. 22
Jet Johanson	Nov. 26
Rory Pearson	Nov. 28
Colton Kitzmann	Dec. 13

NEW MEMBERS

A listing of the most recent members to
join Trinity Lutheran Church

NAME	DATE
Ruth, Nola Ingalls	Oct. 19
Robert, Robyn Gray family	Oct. 19

If you would like more
information about
becoming a member at
Trinity or having someone
baptized, contact the church
office at 563-323-8001

Lenten worship services
will be on Wednesdays at
12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.,
beginning with Ash Wednesday,
which is Feb. 10



ADVERTISERS NEEDED

To help offset some of the printing and
paper costs, Trinity would like to insert
advertisements in each edition of The
Vision, for a minimal fee. If you are
interested in placing an advertisement or
know of anyone that would be
interested, please contact Tim Leibold at
the school at 563-322-5224.

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Michael Vokt (Senior Pastor) michael.vokt@trinitydavenport.org

Merle Warnsholz (Associate Pastor) merle.warnsholz@trinitydavenport.org

Tony Dixon (Director of Youth) tony.dixon@trinitydavenport.org

Bill Meyer (School Principal) bill.meyer@trinitydavenport.org

Tim Leibold (Communications Director) timothy.leibold@trinitydavenport.org

Michelle Warner (Business manager) michelle.warner@trinitydavenport.org



CONTACT US

Church office: 323-8001

School office: 322-5224

Web: trinitydavenport.org

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