

# Trinity Lutheran's Vision



The Magazine of Trinity Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER 2015: Issue No. 4

# ON THE FRONT

The photo on the front page might look very familiar to you. The piece of art, which was created by the hands of Trinity students, hangs on the wall behind the desk in the main entrance of the school.

During the 2010-11 school year, each student left their handprint on the canvas, with the smallest handprints creating the inner circle, while bigger handprints layered on top of each other until the whole canvas was filled. The cross was made up of handprints from preschoolers and kindergartners.

The ministry theme for that year was: I love to tell the story, with the focus on outreach and reaching out in support.

This edition of The Vision shares a similar focus.

As you read the stories, pray and reflect on ways that you could leave your handprint on the Body of Christ we call Trinity.

Think about ways how you would tell your story.



## What's inside?

The ministry theme for this year is: A Legacy of Faith, which focuses on the Bible verse Psalm 78. Trinity school principal Bill Meyer asks: What is the legacy that we leave behind?

Pastor Vokt asks the question: Are there similarities between the bridge building on I74 and building the Body of Christ called Trinity Lutheran Church and School?

What's orange and covered with a whole bunch of sticky notes? You'll have to check out one of Trinity's hallways.

Get caught up on Trinity's youth group and their recent servant trip to Southern Pines, N.C.

If you are looking for someone that's really good with their hands, check out Tracy Dunn's story on Pastor Eckert.

Check out some of the upcoming events at Trinity, in addition to the Adult Bible Study Classes that are taking place at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Trinity Lutheran's The Vision

Volume 1: Issue 4

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



# Emotional Journey

## Mission trip plans fall into place perfectly for Trinity Lutheran third-grade teacher

BY TIM LEIBOLD

TRINITY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The thought of traveling more than 5,000 miles away from home and leaving her family and third-grade students that she teaches at Trinity Lutheran for a week brought tears to the eyes of Robin Duling.

It wasn't just sad tears, though. There were feelings of excitement and being nervous as well.

All of these emotions were building up to Oct. 7, when Mrs. Duling traveled to Romania for a week-long mission trip. It will be Mrs. Duling's first mission trip.

"I'm excited right now," Mrs. Duling said. "But as I get closer to the time when I actually leave, it begins to hit me that I won't be able to just drive home and see my family or see my students."

The fact that every piece to planning this mission trip had fallen into place perfectly, along with doing some of the things that she loves to do while she's on the mission trip has put Mrs. Duling at ease.

"Teaching Vacation Bible Camp, doing crafts, telling stories, working with young children, that's

me," said Mrs. Duling, who will be working with kids at Point of Hope School, as well as working in group homes.

Mrs. Duling will be one of 12 Quad-City area people taking part in this mission trip which is headed by Tim Oloffson, who is the co-founder of Another Child Foundation.

The foundation's mission is to reach, teach and transform the lives of orphaned and at-risk children in Romania. Another Child Foundation offers mission trip opportunities for individuals and church groups to Romania several times a year.

Mrs. Duling got connected with Tim Oloffson during a presentation he was making at Trinity, thanking everyone who had donated shoes and other items for the same mission trip that Mrs. Duling will be taking part in.

During his presentation, Tim Oloffson mentioned that his group was still looking for people to take part in the October mission trip.

"When Tim began talking about this, I knew I had to go," Mrs. Duling said. "It was an opportunity I didn't want to pass up."



Robin Duling poses for a picture with her third-grade class and her dad before leaving on a mission trip.

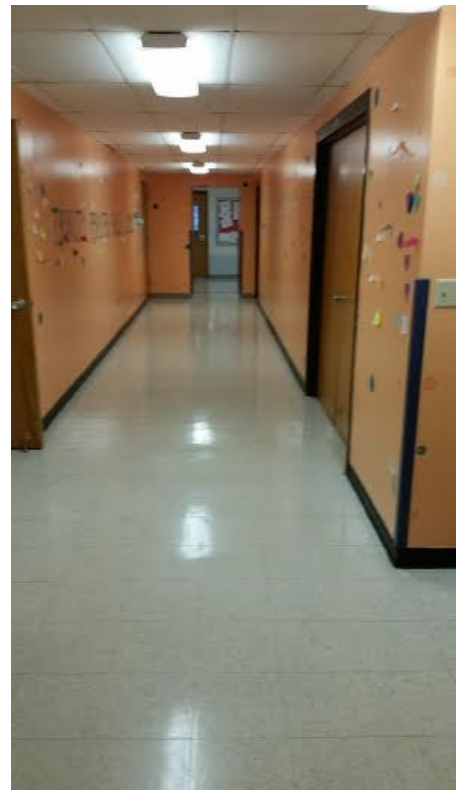


# WORK IN progress

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Trinity HALLWAY  
becomes place for  
PRAYER, reflection

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# *“I want people to struggle to find a spot on the hallway walls to post a prayer request.”*

Julie Bushre, Trinity eighth-grade teacher

**BY TIM LEIBOLD  
TRINITY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

The science hallway at Trinity Lutheran School got a much-needed makeover this summer.

Thanks to the efforts of Trinity eighth-grade teacher Julie Bushre, the hallway received a fresh coat of bright orange paint and some stylish accents.

But the makeover isn't complete and may never be complete - and Mrs. Bushre is OK with that.

The hallway, which houses only Trinity Lutheran's eighth-grade home room and also serves as the science room for middle-school classes, has its own name now - The Prayer Hallway.

“When I first came up with the idea for the Prayer Hallway, I was trying to find a way to help Trinity's middle-schoolers get connected with Trinity's high school youth group and keep them involved,” Mrs. Bushre said. “Now, it has turned into a connection for the church as a whole, and that's a good thing.”

The Prayer Hallway is meant to connect both the church families and school families at Trinity Lutheran in prayer, lifting each other up as the Body of Christ.

The directions on each end of the Prayer Hallway encourage those passing by to post a prayer on the wall, using the provided sticky notes located on the top of the fire-extinguisher cabinet.

Prayer requests will not be removed.

If a prayer request has been answered or is no longer relevant, you may remove only what you have posted. While passing through the hallway, people are encouraged to pray for those requests and for the requests of their hearts as well.

Some different types of prayer could be:

A blessing or adoration or just praising God.

A prayer of petition, in which you ask for forgiveness.

A prayer of intercession, in which you ask for what others need.

A prayer of thanksgiving, in which you thank God for what has been given or done.

“My hope is to have the hallway filled with sticky notes by March,” Mrs. Bushre said. “I want people to struggle to find a spot on the hallway walls to post a prayer request.”

The goal definitely seems within reach, considering all the sticky notes posted already.

“It's been neat to watch as teachers bring their classes through the hallway during their religion classes and just watching kids read them, sometimes even bowing or putting their head on the prayer requests,” Mrs. Bushre said.

“It's a bright spot, and a neat thing to see,” she said.

Not too bad for a makeover that still is a work in progress.







# BRIDGING THE **Future**

Local bridge building mirrors the building of the  
Body of Christ called Trinity Church, School



Have you driven through the construction work underway near the I-74 Bridge?

It's almost impossible to see what is being done, because you are so busy trying to avoid hitting the orange cones or cement barriers that surround you! I've been stopped in a line of traffic often enough that I've looked around and marveled at what construction crews are doing.

I recently parked nearby and took a couple of pictures.

One photo shows the site that once held a business called Grant Street Auto Repair.

BY TRINITY PASTOR MICHAEL VOKT



The business relocated, and the buildings were torn down and replaced by a field of grass. Look at it today! Piles of dirt and rock everywhere and deep trenches that will hold what is commonly called “*infrastructure*.”

This present activity is relocating sewer and utility lines, and just east of the bridge, crews are pouring new pavement that will become a section of a relocated Grant Street. But what are the reasons for all this work?

The activity we see and experience today is connected to the planned construction of an eight-lane, \$2 billion bridge by December 2020. An important detail to these plans, however, is the absence of funding necessary for construction of the span, slated to begin in 2017. City and state officials remain confident funding will come from our federal government, and bridge construction will begin as planned.

**Seems to me there are a number of similarities between bridge building and building the Body of Christ called Trinity Lutheran Church and School...**

Perhaps, you’ve noticed during the past eight months a lot of extra activity at Trinity.

In addition to the day-to-day, week-to-week ministry that is part of our life together, is the work that is being done by our staff and Board of Directors to prepare for the future. From February to May in 2015, we held at least one forum that presented the challenges and opportunities facing us. The challenges included the cost of catching up with **deferred maintenance** on our buildings and grounds: roofs, parking lots, and windows. We identified needs to beautify and update our **worship sanctuary** with new paint, floor coverings, lighting, sound, video, and other new technology. Finally, we held two forums that addressed the **amazing opportunities** that God continues to place before us through the ministry of **our school**. Among the needs and possibilities discussed were **additional classroom space and an expanded early childhood ministry program**.

Recently, our Board of Directors contracted with Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry to help our congregation plan how to best fund these projects, which are estimated to cost about \$4 million. You’ve likely been involved in some way with the surveys, interviews, and focus groups connected to the feasibility study that took place in August. **These efforts are preliminary and foundational to what will take place in the future.**

What has this feasibility study revealed? These efforts have highlighted again the uniqueness of the ministry we offer to one another and our community! However, the study has identified a number of “gap areas” in the *infrastructure* of our life together that needs attention and action before we move ahead with a capital campaign. These areas include:

- 1. Staff Operations and Procedures, 2. Lay Leadership Operations and Procedures, 3. Worship and Facilities, 4. Children, Youth, and Adult Ministry, 5. Church and School Relations, 6. Campus Facilities and Maintenance**

Undergirding all future strategic action proposed by staff and lay leadership in these six areas will be a “**refocusing on the infrastructure**” of our congregation: Vision Frame, Governance, and Communication. With that will be efforts to establish a Culture of Biblical Generosity that involves Spiritual Gifts, Financial Gifts, Annual Gifts, Gift planning, and Project Giving Circles.

The Board of Directors has reached out to many of you who were involved in the feasibility study, and a dozen of you will join with board and staff members to form teams that will work to strengthen the “gap areas” listed above.

My thanks to the following brothers and sisters in Christ for their willingness to serve in this capacity: Bob Gaster, Jerry Lindstrom, Tim Dunn, Mark Jorgensen, Gary Bates, Sharon Nathan, Randy Pribyl, Larry Radetzki, Dan Breiding-er, Michelle Steining, Linda Gaster, Andrea Hussong, John Behrendt, Tim Leibold, Bill Meyer, John Bremer, Randy Slusser, Mary Frost, Tammy McCartney, Tony Dixon, Matthew Ragan, Chuck Stanger, Pastor Merle.

Please join with this team of staff and leaders in prayer, asking the Lord to direct our efforts and to bless the steps ahead of us as we strive to leave a legacy of faith in our community!





*"What we have heard and know, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."*



# WHAT IS THE LEGACY WE LEAVE BEHIND? legacy

through the **death** and  
**resurrection** of **Jesus**, we are  
**assured** of **forgiveness** and an  
**eternal residence** in **heaven**.

BY BILL MEYER  
TRINITY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Most of the time, when you think of passing on a legacy, you consider the ways you can leave *something* to your descendants: Your wealth, a name, jewelry, or maybe a special antique.

There is a more valuable thing you can leave to your children than all of these. It is the legacy of faith.

Trinity's theme for the 2015-16 year is: A Legacy of Faith. This theme is from the words of Psalm 78:

*"What we have heard and know, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."*



So, what is the legacy that we leave behind? It is the very legacy that Christ has given to us! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured of forgiveness and an eternal residence in heaven. Our task is to take seriously the Great Commission of our Lord: Go and make disciples of all nations, and each of us needs to remember that “all” includes “me.”

As you ponder Trinity’s theme for the year, start by searching your own heart. Are you madly in love with your Savior? Do you really understand and accept the free gift of forgiveness and salvation that He offers to you?

For those who have children, keep in mind what James Dobson and many others have reminded us: The morals, convictions, and values a child holds are more often “caught” than “taught.” You are teaching your children — right now and at every moment — the value of your faith by the harmony you demonstrate between your lips and your life.

If you tell them that a relationship with the Lord is important, but they never see you opening the Bible, praying, sharing your faith, going to church, or living according to God’s principles, what message will your children catch?

If you examine the 145-year history of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, you will find the legacy of many generous souls who sacrificed so that the gospel of Christ could be proclaimed. Can you even begin to imagine the many ways God’s Kingdom has grown, thanks to the diligence and dedication of these past generations?

*Diligence* implies thoughtful care at each step of a task. We must be diligent about staying faithful to our beliefs so that we have the right message preserved and ready to share with the next generation.

Will we hand down the “pearl of great price” to future generations?

That thought is addressed musically in the lyrics to the song “Find Us Faithful,” written by Jon Mohr and sung by Steve Green.

*May all who come behind us find us faithful.  
May the fire of our devotion light their way.  
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe.*

*And the lives we live inspire them to obey.  
May all who come behind us find us faithful.*

*After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone.*

*And our children sift through all we’ve left behind.  
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover*

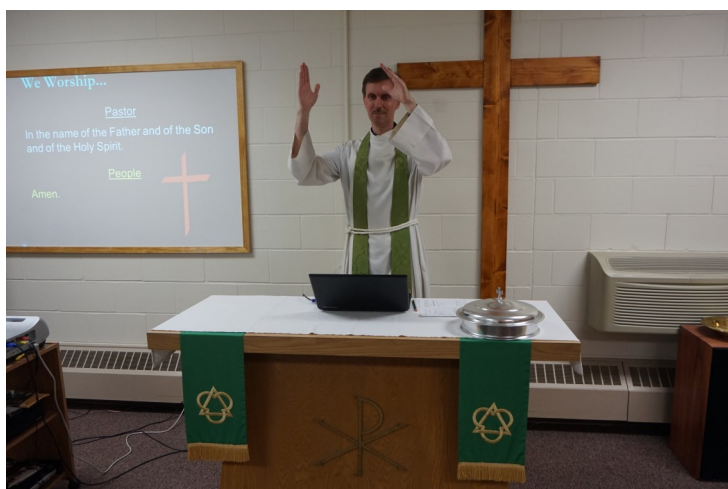
*Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find*

*May all who come behind us find us faithful.*

What inspiration in these lyrics! Let me emphasize: Staying faithful to our beliefs should be our ultimate priority. It has meaning not only for you and me but also for those who are yet to be born.

Let’s all pray that we come together and support one another as we live under this theme for the next 12 months.





# Good HANDS

BY TRACY DUNN

## TRINITY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

In a room at the far west side of Trinity's building, next to the Activity Center kitchen and across from the gym, a small but faithful congregation meets on Sunday afternoons, after their pastor conducts services in Cedar Rapids.

One wall boasts a colorful mural depicting the road to Jesus' crucifixion outside Jerusalem and the tomb from which he rose, painted by members and volunteers under the direction of Pastor Karl Fay during his tenure at Trinity.

But all eyes are on Pastor Tim Eckert, who stands before a large cross in the front of the room leading the members in worship. His hands deliver the message; their hands offering praise and petitions. This is deaf ministry.

Most people at Trinity know Pastor Eckert and his family.

He and his wife, Susan, have been members since 1999, when he accepted a call to Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Cedar Rapids and the associated district parishes.

They live with their children, Stephen, Rachel and Sarah, in Davenport.

“

*Well, God gave me an ability to sign. Maybe He wants me to use it full-time .*  
*Pastor Eckert*



## Uncommon road to ministry

Unlike most pastors serving the deaf, Pastor Eckert does not have a personal connection to the non-hearing community. While attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, he signed up for a sign language class his first year. "Just out of general interest; in case I would ever happen to meet a deaf person, I would be able to talk to them," he explained.

He picked up the language pretty easily, so he enrolled in a second class, and a third. Planning for vicarage, he thought, "Well, God gave me an ability to sign. Maybe He wants me to use it full-time," and he requested a deaf vicarage. He enjoyed his experience at Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Des Moines so much that, when he graduated, he requested a call to a deaf congregation and was sent to Rochester, N.Y. in 1995.

Pastor Eckert now ministers to groups of five to 15 members in Cedar Rapids, Muscatine, Burlington, Dubuque, Waterloo and Davenport. His workdays involve visits with members, sermon and Bible study preparation, and responsibilities as the executive director of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS), a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

## On the road again ...

While his duties — conducting worship services, leading Bible studies, attending to the spiritual needs of his flock, and visiting shut-ins — are similar to most pastors, Pastor Eckert's schedule is closer to that of the old-time circuit preacher, who traveled from small church to small church throughout a region, serving the faithful. His monthly schedule looks like this:

**Sundays:** Lead Bible study and worship in Cedar Rapids at 9 and 10 a.m. At 1 p.m., lead worship at Trinity Davenport. (Bible study in Davenport takes place on Friday mornings, since his Sunday schedule is tight.)

**Fourth Sundays:** Travel to Burlington for worship at Concordia at 4 p.m. Visit shut-ins in Wapello, Burlington and Mount Pleasant.

**Third Fridays:** Lead a combined worship and Bible study at Our Savior in Muscatine.

**Second Saturday:** Go to Our Redeemer in Dubuque for Bible study.

**First and third Wednesdays:** Travel to Christ Church in Waterloo for worship (first Wednesday) or Bible study (third Wednesday). Visit shut-ins in the Cedar Rapids area, Anamosa, Waterloo, Davenport and Moline.



## A need in the deaf community

"The ministry has dynamics similar to urban ministry and rural ministry," explains Pastor Eckert. "Similar to urban because of the way discrimination and things beyond their control work against them (the deaf) and hold them back; also, there is a higher percentage of drug use, promiscuity, alcoholism, etc., among the deaf population. It is like a rural ministry because the deaf community is smaller, and everyone knows everyone else and everyone else's business. On the positive side, that makes it easier to form good relationships with the people, whether they are member of the church or not."

The sad truth is that very, very few deaf people are Christians.

Language and cultural barriers have left the deaf a veritable unreached people group right in America's midst, states a 2010 *Christianity Today* article. Christian deaf ministries estimate that only 1 percent of American deaf children will attend church as adults. Less than 7 percent will ever have the Gospel presented to them in a way they can understand.

That's why Pastor Eckert and the people he works with at LDMS are passionate about this ministry—about reaching out to the non-hearing with the Gospel message of salvation, and showing Christ's love for them by meeting their needs. Pastors for the deaf also tend to be the go-to person for non-ministry issues, including healthcare, taxes, car repair and computers.

"I am asked about these kinds of things pretty regularly," says Pastor Eckert.

## On the national scene

Installed as the LDMS executive director in November of 2014, Pastor Eckert previously served the society as the project leader for DIT (Deaf Institute of Theology), which trains future pastors to serve the deaf. He also served as associate director and then interim director of LDMS. His previous positions have not been filled.

"Unfortunately, one of our biggest needs is people," he said. "At its pinnacle, in the 1970s and 80s, we had 60 congregations for the deaf, and pastors for almost all of those congregations."



Today, there are 14 full-time pastors and about 18 part-time pastors and deaconesses ministering to the deaf. Of those full-time pastors, according to Pastor Eckert, only three or four are fully supported by their districts. Now that the LCMS has renewed RSO status for the society, the LDMS can to continue to partner with LCMS districts and missions for support and cooperation.

At its 2014 annual meeting in St. Louis, the executive committee, board of directors and representatives of LDMS member congregations made important decisions and set high goals for the next four years. They include:

- *Increase the number and quality of interpreted ministries throughout the synod.*
- *Increase the number of people (deaf and hearing) working with the deaf.*
- *Develop a working relationship with three foreign missions.*
- *Continue fundraising and increase public relations exposure. (LDMS does not receive direct support from the Missouri Synod.)*
- *Develop new resources needed by the church.*

## How can you help?

- Pray for the LDMS — for its people, and for the goals toward which it works.
- Contact Pastor Eckert to get involved in interpreted ministry.
- Give a financial gift to provide a DIT scholarship or help fund mission opportunities.

Donations are accepted at any time at:  
[www.DeafJesus.org](http://www.DeafJesus.org) or at  
Lutheran Deaf Mission Society  
9907 Sappington Road  
St. Louis, MO 63128.





prayer

Trinity  
prayer  
team  
rejoices  
reflects  
in God's  
**WORD**

Trinity's Prayer Team is rejoicing and giving all glory to the Lord because the group has been consistently meeting for the past five years. We are very thankful for the faithfulness of these team members.

Here's a little bit about us and what we do:

Before we start our intercessory prayer, we have a 15-minute Bible study. The last few studies have been generations of legacy, and how the word temple is used in the Old Testament and New Testament. And, most recently the word mediate.

Next is a time of verbal or silent confession. The third section is for prayers of thanksgiving. How grateful we are to offer prayers of supplication. We use the prayers given to us from the Internet and prayer requests from the prayer cards from Sunday services. We then pray for many other subjects such as Trinity staff, school faculty, social concerns, missionaries, government, and our families.

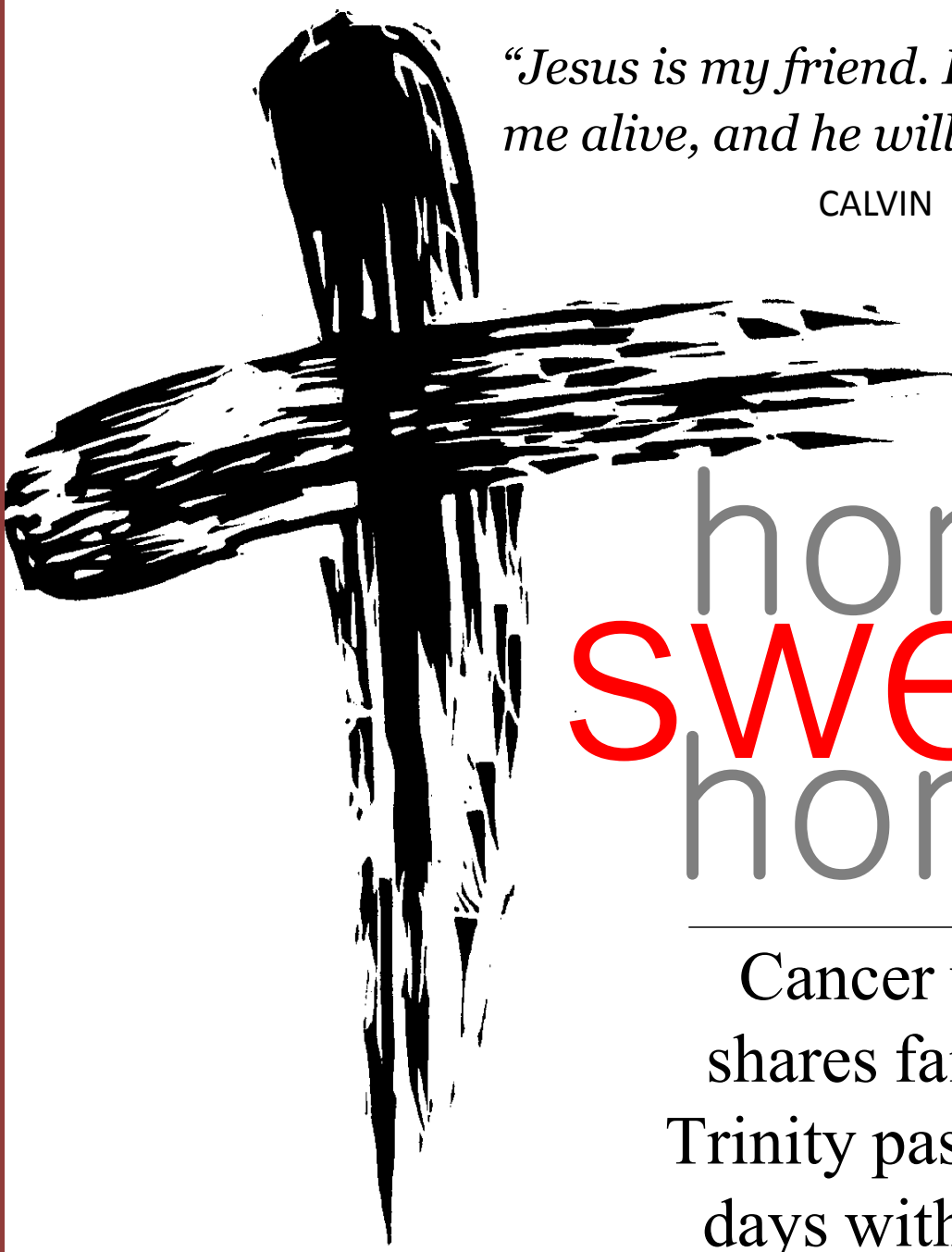
It's exciting to see how the team has grown spiritually. When we first started, the intercessory section was the longest part, but now the praise and the thanksgiving section has become a vital part of our prayer team.

We have concentrated on many verses, but this beautiful one from the apostle John motivates us to be together in prayer in one accord.

*1 John 5:14. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: That if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. What a promise from our Lord.*

Trinity's Prayer Team meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Church Library. If you have questions about the Prayer Team, contact Lois Riese at 563-355-6097.

Come join us and be blessed.



*“Jesus is my friend. He is keeping me alive, and he will not fail me.”*

CALVIN

# home sweet home

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Cancer victim  
shares faith with  
Trinity pastor, final  
days with family

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**I** met Calvin in Jan. 2011. He was what we call a walk-in, someone who needs help with a utility bill, rent payment, gas money, or another need — a common occurrence at Trinity.

On that day, Calvin needed help with his utility bill. We talked, and I agreed to assist. Since that first meeting, Trinity has helped Calvin over the bumps of life more than once. About three years ago, we walked together over the bumpiest path of all.

Calvin came into my office, and I could tell he was sick. He needed to go to the Veterans Administration hospital in Iowa City for tests, and asked if I would drive him. He wasn't any better on the day we drove to Iowa City. He slept the whole way there; later we navigated the building together, locating the various departments he needed to visit for blood work, X-rays, and other tests.

BY MERLE WARNSHOLZ TRINITY LUTHERAN PASTOR



In the early afternoon, we sat in an exam room with a doctor, and Calvin received a cancer diagnosis. The doctor explained that the type of cancer Calvin had could not be cured, but with treatment it could be held at bay for a while.

Calvin had questions. "How did I get this disease?" "What did I do wrong?" He was positive that he was going to "beat this thing." Until spring 2015, he continued working his job at Tyson.

He made another trip to my office. I could tell he had lost weight, and didn't look well. I asked how things were going, and he talked about a new treatment he was receiving. The third administration of this treatment made him very sick. He had trouble cooking for himself. Eating had become very hard. He asked if I would go with him to an oncology appointment on May 28.

He went to the lab for blood work, and we met with his doctor. She once again told him (he had first received this news a few months earlier) that his cancer was terminal, and he needed to begin to think about hospice care. I asked Calvin if he had family, and he told me of a sister in Baton Rouge, La. I asked if he wanted to move closer to her.

After a few days of thinking about it, and discussing it with her, he decided to relocate to Baton Rouge for the time he had left. He also informed me that he was not ready to die yet.

And so on Tuesday morning, June 2, Calvin and I began a road trip to his sister's home in Baton Rouge. It took us a day-and-a-half, and Calvin was a trooper. As we passed large business building complexes, Calvin would say, "I bet I could get a job there." He was proud of what he had accomplished at Tyson, starting on the line, working second shift, and then being promoted to the maintenance department day shift. It broke his heart to resign his position.

*"Jesus is my friend. He is keeping me alive, and he will not fail me."*

I felt the need to talk about faith with Calvin. By Wednesday morning, I could no longer contain myself. I said: "Calvin, what do you believe about Jesus?" It took us a few minutes, but I learned that Calvin believes that Jesus died on the cross for his sins, and that when he dies — "But I'm not ready to die yet," he said — he will go to heaven.

And then he told me a marvelous story of how he had been sharing his faith with others.

After his diagnosis, Calvin traveled to Iowa City for treatment. Because he worked second shift, he usually could drive to Iowa City, and then go to work. And he did. He did not miss much work, even though there had to have been days when he felt pretty lousy.

The folks in the personnel department would call him in and ask if he didn't need to go home to get some rest. Calvin's response: "No, I want to work. My friend is supporting me." This went on for quite a while, with people suggesting he take it easy, and Calvin letting them know he wanted to work because his friend was supporting him. Finally, someone asked him, "Calvin, who is your friend?" Calvin answered, "Jesus is my friend. He is keeping me alive, and he will not fail me."

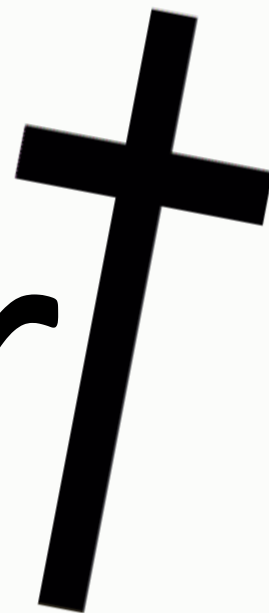
When Calvin shared this story with me, I had a bit of trouble seeing the road in front of me. He said, "You know, it is really something what has happened to me since I got this cancer. I am no longer afraid to talk about God to other people, and about what Jesus is doing for me."

In spite of the cancer that ravaged Calvin's body, he carried on, one of God's soldiers of the cross telling others what Jesus has done for him. I wonder how many people Calvin touched with his story at Tyson, and in Baton Rouge.

Calvin's life on earth ended at 4:20 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12. His work here is finished, and he is in heaven with his Savior Jesus, without cancer, pain, or tears. I can almost hear God saying to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant." It was an honor to know Calvin, and to have him as a friend.

December 14, 2012—a date in history most of us will **never forget**. But thanks to special dogs like Trinity Lutheran's Gracie, families are ...

# Finding comfort



BY JANE MARSH-JOHNSON  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

December 14, 2012 is a date in history, that most of us will never forget.

Certainly the parents, school children and school staff of Sandy Hook School in Newtown, Conn., live with the memories and results of that unbelievable day. A mentally ill young man walked into the school and took the lives of 20 children and six school staff which included the principal. How does a community recover from this tremendous loss?

Lutheran Church Charities K9 Comfort Dog staff took nine dogs and handlers to this community and stayed three months, working daily in the schools and the community. Out of this effort, two Comfort Dogs, Addie, placed at Immanuel Lutheran in Danbury Conn., and Maggie placed at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Newtown, Conn. These ministries have been working daily in Sandy Hook School for almost three years.

Gracie, Trinity Lutheran's Comfort Dog, just completed a 2000-mile road trip to Danbury and Newtown, with her Top Dog Handler, Jane Marsh-Johnson.

**Pictured are Joel and JoAnne Bacon, whose first-grade daughter, Charlotte, died on Dec. 14, 2012, during the school shootings at Sandy Hook School. Trinity's comfort dog, Gracie, and Gracie's Top Dog Handler, Jane Marsh-Johnson, met the Bacons during a recent trip to Newtown, Conn.**



She was invited to the celebration and passing of the leash for LCC Comfort Dog, Leah who will join Addie at Immanuel Lutheran in Danbury. Leah will join Addie and Maggie at Sandy Hook School.

We met many parents who had lost children that fateful day.

We were privileged to meet Joel and JoAnne Bacon whose first-grade daughter, Charlotte, died that day. This couple took their grief and sadness and collaborated with Authoress Renata Bowers and wrote a book about their daughter, Charlotte.

The title of the book is "Good Dogs, Great Listeners" and it shares Charlotte's personality. It is a great positive memory of their little brown-haired daughter whose favorite color was pink. The day she died she had worn a pink dress.

The Bacons kindly autographed our book along with Renata. Gracie and Jane presented this book to Trinity Lutheran School's Library

There is another part to this story about Charlotte.

Almost three years ago, Mr. Rick Holste asked his then Trinity fifth-grade class to each take the name of a child who died that day and pray for their families.

Brenna Mahr was the fifth-grade student who had Charlotte's name and she prayed for the Bacon family. This was shared with Joel and JoAnne Bacon and they were and are so grateful. Thank you Brenna for your prayers.

Continued prayers are needed for all of the parents who lost children and for the children who survived and now struggle with their memories. Our God is able to give them the peace that passeth all understanding.



**These are four of the survivors from the Sandy Hook school shootings that took place in December 2012.**



**Gracie along with her Tog Dog Handler, Jane Marsh-Johnson, present the book Good Dogs, Good Listeners to Trinity librarian Janet Bremer. The book is about Charlotte Bacon, who lost her life in the Sandy Hook school shootings, and her love for dogs.**



# Serve **AND** Share

Trinity youth group  
makes difference in  
Southern community

BY TONY DIXON  
TRINITY DIRECTOR OF YOUTH  
AND YOUNG ADULTS

As our group gathered with family members to pray and say goodbyes on the morning of July 18, we didn't know exactly what to expect.

All 23 members of the Trinity High School youth mission team loaded into the vans and departed. We had spent months preparing for the trip with meetings, devotions, and tool skills training — finally it was time to depart on a weeklong trip to serve the community of Southern Pines, N.C.

We were excited to see what God had in store for us, but no one could have imagined the impact—not only in the community we were serving, but also in each of us.

After a long, yet enjoyable, ride, we arrived at our destination. Driving through the town of Southern Pines, we were surprised to see large, beautiful houses with elaborate landscaping.



It didn't look like what we were expecting.

Where were the dilapidated homes? Where were the families living in trailers? Where were the people who needed help?

Our questions were soon answered as we received our crew assignments and projects lists from the project organizers. The magnitude of how much help community members needed started to sink in.

Along with about 300 other youth and adult leaders, we began to work on a variety of projects. Some groups focused on scraping and painting the exterior of a house. Others were given carpentry projects, such as rebuilding a front porch that had fallen into disrepair or seal-coating the roof of a trailer. As the week went on, it became clear to us that there was a large need for help in the community, and there were many residents living in Southern Pines who didn't even realize the needs.

Many people from the community didn't seem to notice that, only a few miles outside of town, were mobile homes and trailers with holes in the walls and leaking roofs.



During our time in the community, we had a chance to share the reason why we were there more than once. Usually, we heard a response like, "Why would you come here to help people? This is a community where people come to retire." As we spent more time working on homes and getting to know the residents, we began to see how God was using our groups to make a difference in their lives. It wasn't necessarily the repairs on residents' homes that mattered most.

More importantly, it was the conversations and the love of Jesus that came through the campers.

At the end of our time in Southern Pines, we were amazed to look back on the week and see how God used our small group, along with others just like us, to leave a lasting impact on the lives of so many residents.

In all, 41 homes were repaired by 334 work-campers who came from 13 different churches in 11 states. It's estimated that students—inspired to serve and make a difference in Jesus' name—spent 9,030 hours working on homes by students.



# ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Classes are going on now. It's not too late to find one that's the right fit for you

## Together With All Creatures

**Presenter:** Pastor Vokt

**Location of class:** Fellowship Hall

**About the class:** The main goal of this Bible study is to lead participants to delight in their place within creation and to take seriously their responsibility to care for it as part of their daily lives. In addition to our study of the Biblical narrative of creation, we will make use of a CTCR (Commission on Theology and Church Relations) document from our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod entitled "Together with all Creatures." The class will include some lecture, but will also incorporate both large- and small-group discussion each session. This Bible study will help you view and respond to current events and issues in our world with a Christ-centered, Lutheran lens.

## Christian Response to Persecution

**Presenter:** Scott Lindholm and Dr. David Pratt

**Location of class:** School library

**About the class:** This study is based upon "Prepare: Living Your Faith in an Increasingly Hostile Culture," by J. Paul Nyquist. As Americans, we've become used to the idea that persecution is something that occurs to Christians in other parts of the world. As the bias and animosity toward Christianity continues to grow in this country, this study looks at the increase in persecution in this country, and how we as Christians should respond.

## That the World May Know

**Presenter:** Gary Bates

**Class location:** Art Room

**About the class:** The archaeological discoveries revealed in this 12-volume series provide even more reason to believe the Bible. More importantly, these videos, filmed in Israel and the Middle East where Bible events took place, weaves together historical, cultural, and geographical contexts to reveal keen insights into how people in biblical times understood God and Jesus' teaching. Teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals insights into the Scriptures significance for believers today.

## Lutheran Spirituality

**Presenter:** Albert Zambone

**Class location:** Science room

**About the class:** About 100 years after the death of Martin Luther, Lutheran pastors and laypeople were writing some of the most powerful spiritual classics of the entire Christian tradition. Amidst war, famine, poverty, and disease, they wrote devotionals and hymns of powerful trust in the continuing work of Jesus Christ. Come join us as we carefully and prayerfully read some of these classics during the Sunday School hour.

## 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?"

**CLASSES MEET ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 A.M.**



# What's coming up



On Oct. 17,  
Trinity Lutheran  
will host the  
annual  
Kids Against  
Hunger Event in  
the gym.  
The event  
begins at 9 a.m.

## Mark your calendars

- OCT. 17: Kids Against Hunger Event at 9 a.m. in Trinity's gym
- OCT 24: Feasibility Task Force workshop, 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- NOV. 2: Blood Drive at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- NOV. 11: Veterans Day Program at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- NOV. 14: Trinity Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- NOV. 21: Feasibility Task Force workshop at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- NOV. 27: Church office closed for Thanksgiving holiday. No school
- NOV. 29: First Sunday of Advent



## 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
Receipts/Contributions	\$10,580
Expense	\$2,463
<b>Aug. 31 balance</b>	<b>\$ 74,708</b>

## Trinity's operating budget income and expenses

	Sept. 2015	Year to date July 2015-Sept. 2015
Church offerings	\$80,085	\$264,818
School receipts	\$83,277	\$387,022
Misc. receipts	\$5,182	\$5,836
Total budget income	\$168,544	\$657,676
Budget expense	\$217,347	\$610,110
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$48,803)	\$47,566

The figures above are for budget income and expenses for the period July through September 2015, the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

Regular offerings for the months July through September were 21% of the annual offerings anticipated during budget planning.

Current offerings are about 4% (or \$50,000) behind our budget plan.

Your offerings support the mission and ministry programs of our congregation. Receipts from school-related sources support Trinity School programs and expenses. The year-to-date school receipts include a large amount of tuition and fees received in August in advance of the start of the 2015-16 school term. Overall, operating expenses are on track with our budget. In general, operating expenses are about \$210,000 per month.

October expenses will include the annual payment of our insurance premiums, expected to be about \$18,000. If you have questions or comments, you may contact any member of the Board of Directors.



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GIL LINENBERGER

Agent.

16 Valley View Drive  
Blue Grass, IA 52726-9427

SMART THINKING. REWARDED<sup>SM</sup>

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# Having your BACK on both sides of River

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2 LOCATIONS**

**Call and schedule  
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In **Davenport**  
1704 East Locust  
563-324-1514

In **Moline**  
4011 Ave. of Cities  
Suite 103  
309-517-6466



## BAPTISMS

A listing of Trinity Baptisms from  
June-September

### NAME

Baily, Christopher, Steven Comeaux  
Benjamin Elm, Jr.  
Kyle Elm  
Brian Gray  
Addison Hillyer  
Bridget Hillyer  
Brayden, Jamie Kitzmann  
Claire Monroe  
Lauren Oney  
Chloe Osborne  
Emma Specht  
Anna Swanson

## NEW MEMBERS

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

### NAME

Ben, Kyle Elm  
John, Heather Fitzpatrick (family)  
Angela, Che Hodonou  
Robb, Angela, Ella Kauffman  
Jamie Kitzmann  
Amanda Madison (family)  
Joni Rebarcak  
Kati, Chloe, Emma Solberg  
Tim, Hanah Gray (family)

# DID YOU KNOW?

The first Sunday of Advent is Nov. 29. In addition to the Advent season at Trinity, there also will be the Prepare for Jesus event, which will be Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m. There are also will be Christmas programs performed by Trinity students during the middle of December.

Do you like to write? Take pictures? Have an interest in art or designing? Have a technology talent? You would be a perfect fit for Trinity's Communications Team. If you are interested in learning more about Trinity's Communications Team, contact Tim Leibold at the school at 563-322-5224 or via email at [timothy.leibold@trinitydavenport.org](mailto:timothy.leibold@trinitydavenport.org).

## 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](mailto:michael.vokt@trinitydavenport.org)  
**Merle Warnsholz** (Associate Pastor) [merle.warnsholz@trinitydavenport.org](mailto:merle.warnsholz@trinitydavenport.org)  
**Tony Dixon** (Director of Youth) [tony.dixon@trinitydavenport.org](mailto:tony.dixon@trinitydavenport.org)  
**Bill Meyer** (School Principal) [bill.meyer@trinitydavenport.org](mailto:bill.meyer@trinitydavenport.org)  
**Tim Leibold** (Communications Director) [timothy.leibold@trinitydavenport.org](mailto:timothy.leibold@trinitydavenport.org)  
**Michelle Warner** (Business manager) [michelle.warner@trinitydavenport.org](mailto:michelle.warner@trinitydavenport.org)



## CONTACT US

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**School office:** 322-5224

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