

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

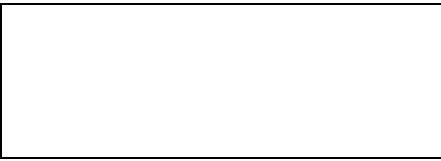
Pastor Boyle's Scheduled Hours: Off on Mondays
 At Grace 9:00 - noon Tues & Wed.
 At Trinity 9:00 - noon Thurs & Fri
 Afternoons alternated between Grace & Trinity
 Church Office Hours:
 Tuesday – Thursday 10am-3pm
 (Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 11:30-4pm)



We're on the Web
www.tlcwichita.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
 9:30AM Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:30AM Hospitality in Fellowship Hall
 11:00AM Divine Service

Trinity Lutheran Church
 611 So. Erie Street
 Wichita, KS 67211-2999
 Address Services Requested
 Phone: (316) 685-1571
 E-mail: office@tlc.kscoxmail.com



THE TORCH - January 2015+++++++ Sharing Christ's Salvation Story So That Every Soul Is Saved



Inside This Issue Index on Page 3

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas
 Church Office Telephone- (316) 685-1571
 Email Address: office@tlc.kscoxmail.com – website: www.tlcwichita.org

FROM THE PASTOR: *Reverent and Grateful Acceptance*

"Jesus then said, 'I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me.

You will seek me and you will not find me. Where I am you cannot come.'" ~ John 7:33-34

Epiphany is the season of revelations—a bunch of *a-ha's* at who this Jesus really is. Sure, it's clear He's a man. He was held at Mary's breast, laid in a manger, and was even left behind in Jerusalem just as many little church boys are today. But Epiphany is here to tell us that this Man, Jesus, is truly God almighty! So say the Wise Men, as does the Father at His baptism by John. Epiphany is the time to realize *Who* it is that dwells with man; *Who* stands among us; *Who* shares a meal with sinners and comforts those who mourn. Epiphany is about recognizing this Christ with reverent and grateful acceptance—that He is who He is *for me!*

But the excitement of Epiphany doesn't last. Before too long, the joyful revelation that the Christ child is the Creator of the universe turns from gladness to gloom. Lent will be upon us before we know it. Then we focus on the humanity and humility, the weakness and the suffering, the shame and the cross. The story of this Christ covers all of humanity and all of divinity; all that is sinful and all that is pure. In this Christ we have everything there is and everything there was and everything there's yet to be!

So can there be a more sorrowful and disappointing passage of Scripture than that this Christ is going away; that we'll seek and *not* find; that we *cannot* come where He is? Likely two things are meant by the verse above (Jn 7:33-34): first, that Christ foretells His death; second, His Ascension.

Jesus *went to Him who sent Him* by being lifted up on the cross for the forgiveness of sin. He was the Sacrificial offering for the sin of the world, lifted up to God and given back to Him. None can go where He goes, in dying for the life of the world.

And then, at His Ascension, Jesus was taken up from their sight and *sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty*. Here, Jesus alone reigns as true God and true Man for us and for our Salvation.

But in both of these, when Christ is taken from us, we begin to realize how easy it is to take Him for granted. Such was Luther's interpretation of this passage:

The people become weary of the Word and suppose that it will endure forever. When a good beer is available at a certain place, everybody runs there without delay, know-

ing that the supply will not last long...Therefore people get it while it is to be had. If it could be obtained for a long period of time, our appetite would become surfeited, and the beer would not be prized. But here we assume that the Word will remain with us always, although, in fact, it stays and endures but a short time before it is gone. if you do not accept it gratefully and reverently, you will soon be without it. And once the Word is gone...all will prove futile." (Luther's Works 23:262-263)

Whether it's right to compare the Lord's Word to beer or not is beside the point. We too take the Word for granted. Bibles in every room and every home; preaching from pulpits on every city block; Bible studies easily accessible; tools, study guides, websites—the list goes on and on—we're surrounded by this Word.

And yet, how we take it for granted! Already, we see the corruption of this Word. Already, the abuses, false-doctrines, false-prophets, false-Christ! It's not assumed that every Church has got the Word right—even among us! Our culture declines; we see gross immorality; we see consciences so numbed that they're paralyzed. How many leave the church today, never to come back? Babies are rarely born, and when they are, it's no longer certain they'll be brought for Baptism. Put simply: we're a mess!

What's our way out? Is there hope? Is all lost?

Our hope is in Christ. In Him the lost are found and the dead raised. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And even though He goes where we cannot come, He goes for us! He will come to us in glory, taking us to where He is. This is the confession we've been given and this will keep us firm, no matter what surrounds us.

That being said, we may not take this Word for granted. For though the Word remains, it quickly may be cut off from our hearing. So we teach the 3rd Commandment saying:

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Let us not despise preaching or forsake the Scriptures. Let us not take them for granted: that there'll always be another service, or another Bible study, or another opportunity to hear the word as a family. Let us attend to the readings with the Church as a whole! Let us attend to the doctrines and teachings of Christ, that we may not be swayed. Let us reverently hear this Word with thanksgiving, grateful that the Word became *Flesh for us*. And let us gladly hear and learn it, for in the hearing of the Word He comes to us.

Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum, Pastor Boyle



From our Confessions

Part III, Article IV. Of the Gospel.

We will now return to the Gospel, which not merely in one way gives us counsel and aid against sin; for God is superabundantly rich [and liberal] in His grace [and goodness]. First, through the spoken Word by which the forgiveness of sins is preached [He commands to be preached] in the whole world; which is the peculiar office of the Gospel. Secondly, through Baptism. Thirdly, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar. Fourthly, through the power of the keys, and also through the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren, Matt. 18:20: *Where two or three are gathered together, etc.*

Part III, Article V. Of Baptism.

1] Baptism is nothing else than the Word of God in the water, commanded by His institution, or, as Paul says, *a washing in the Word*; as also Augustine says: *Let the Word come to the element, and it becomes a Sacrament.* 2] And for this reason we do not hold with Thomas and the monastic preachers [or Dominicans] who forget the Word (God's institution) and say that God has imparted to the water a spiritual power, which through the water washes away sin. 3] Nor [do we agree] with Scotus and the Barefooted monks [Minorites or Franciscan monks], who teach that, by the assistance of the divine will, Baptism washes away sins, and that this ablution occurs only through the will of God, and by no means through the Word or water. 4] Of the baptism of children we hold that children ought to be baptized. For they belong to the promised redemption made through Christ, and the Church should administer it [Baptism and the announcement of that promise] to them.

Part III, Article VI. Of the Sacrament of the Altar.

1] Of the Sacrament of the Altar we hold that bread and wine in the Supper are the true body and blood of Christ, and are given and received not only by the godly, but also by wicked Christians. 2] And that not only one form is to be given. [For] we do not need that high art [specious wisdom] which is to teach us that under the one form there is as much as under both, as the sophists and the Council of Constance teach. 3] For even if it were true that there is as much under one as under both, yet the one form only is not the entire ordinance and institution [made] ordained and commanded by Christ. 4] And we especially condemn and in God's name execrate those who not only omit both forms but also quite autocratically [tyrannically] prohibit, condemn, and blaspheme them as heresy, and so exalt themselves against and above Christ, our Lord and God [opposing and placing themselves ahead of Christ], etc.

Part III, Article VII. Of the Keys.

1]The keys are an office and power given by Christ to the Church for binding and loosing sin, not only the gross and well-known sins, but also the subtle, hidden, which are known only to God, as it is written in Ps. 19:13: *Who can understand his errors?* And in Rom. 7:25 St. Paul himself complains *that with the flesh he serves the law of sin.* 2] For it is not in our power, but belongs to God alone, to judge which, how great, and how many the sins are, as it is written in Ps. 143:2: *Enter not into judgment with Thy servant; for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.* 3] And Paul says, 1 Cor. 4:4: *For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified.*

To be continued next month...



EVENTS AT A GLANCE

January 6	~ Epiphany Divine Service 5:30pm ~ Epiphany Party at Pastor Boyle's 7pm
January 8	~Hall of Men 7:30pm
January 9	- Game Night 6:00pm
January 12	- Labor Finders
January 13	~ Bishop Vsevelod Lytkin Visit 5:30pm ~ Church Council Meeting 7pm
January 15	~ Ladies Guild 9:30am
January 17	- Holy Cross Women's Retreat 8:30am-2:30pm
January 20	~ OMT Book Club 9am
January 21	~ Torch Deadline
January 22	~ Elder's Meeting 7pm ~ Hall of Men 8:30pm
January 27	Ladies Bunco @ Trinity 7pm
January 28	Elders Confession Study 7:30pm
January 30	~Winter Lock-in @ Grace

~MORE THIS MONTH~

Sundays (unless otherwise noted on calendar)

2014-2015 Youth Catechesis at Grace

More information on page 11.

Adult Choir Practice 6:15pm at Grace

Fridays

Mom's Morning Out 9-11a

Private Absolution 3:30-4:30pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



~THANK YOU~

Dear Saints of Grace and Trinity,

Again, we are humbled to receive such generous gifts and kind Christmas cards from all of you. While our family is a long way away, you treat us as family, for which we give thanks and praise to God! It's an amazing thing the way our children see the Church as a place of comfort and joy. We certainly try to do our part in teaching the faith, but you've done yours as well--making each of these two congregations a place of tender love in Christ's name. Christmas, as we've all heard and believed for some time, is truly about Christ who comes to save us. It is, in fact, a time for gifts and family, but not quite in the way our world sees it. The gifts are those from Christ--the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, each pouring forth in the holy Sacrament. Family, Jesus says, is made of those who hear His word and do it (Luke 8:21). In this way, you truly are our family: brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as grandparents and great-grandparents, along with nieces and nephews. Thank you for all that you do for us as for the Lord.

Yours in Christ our life and light!

Pastor, Nikki, Ana, Claire, Gabriela, Micah, and Brigit



~WOMEN'S RETREAT~

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is hosting a women's retreat on Saturday, January 17 from 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 which includes lunch. The theme is "Treasured" based on Deuteronomy 14:2--"The Lord has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession." The guest presenter is Deb Burma, noted speaker and author. Registration is due to Holy Cross by January 12.



As we celebrate Epiphany
810 O God of God, O Light of Light

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 O God of God, O Light of Light,
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
To you in heaven's glory bright
The song of praise forever rings.
To Him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain but raised
again,
Be all the glory He has won,
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.</p> <p>2 For deep in prophets' sacred page,
And grand in poets' wingèd word,
Slowly in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the song, "Goodwill to
men!"
Sung once by firstborn sons of light,
It echoes now, "Goodwill!" Amen.</p> | <p>3 That life of truth, those deeds of love,
That death so steeped in hate and
scorn—
These all are past, and now above
He reigns, our King once crowned
with thorn.
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
So sang that host beyond our ken.
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.
We lift them up. Amen, amen.</p> <p>4 Then raise to Christ a mighty song,
And shout His name, His mercies tell!
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise pro-
long,
And all on earth, your anthem swell!
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!
Forever let the song ascend!
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.</p> |
|--|--|

This hymn was written by Dr. John Julian for the Sheffield Church Choir's Union Festival, April 16, 1883, and first printed in the festival book. In 1884 it was included in Horder's *Congregational Hymns*. Since then it has been included in other hymn collections.

The tune "OGrosser Gott" is from Gesanng-und Notenbuch, Stuttgart, 1744..

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1	From Our Missionaries	6-7
From our Confessions	2	News & Notes	8-14
Hymn of the Month	3	Events Calendar	15
Book of the Month	4	Calendar/Special Dates	Insert
Financial Report/Expense Budget	5		



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Our Faith from A to Z

by Ruth M. Meyer, Illustrated by Dave Hill
(St. Louis: CPH, 2014, 32 pages)

This month we'll look at a children's book just released by Concordia Publishing House. But this isn't just any, ordinary kid's book—it's chock-full of information for every parent who might read to his or her child. Sure, the pictures say, "Kid's book!" But the notes on the bottom of each page will have adults picking the book back up long after the children are in bed!

The basic outline is just as you'd expect: learning the faith through the 26 letters of the alphabet. On our shelf at home we've got at least a half-dozen books that run through the alphabet with various pictures. The primary goal of those books is to help teach the alphabet and to start training with phonics (how letters sound). This book dif-

fers in that the primary goal here seems to be more on the content than on the letters of the alphabet.

Really, there are about three age ranges this book offers itself to: 1) the youngest children who are just learning to recognize letters and can look at the delightful art work (2-3 years); 2) pre-K and early elementary, who can follow the poetic descriptions of each letter; and 3) 4th grade on up, those who have the attention span to hear the thorough notes on each page.

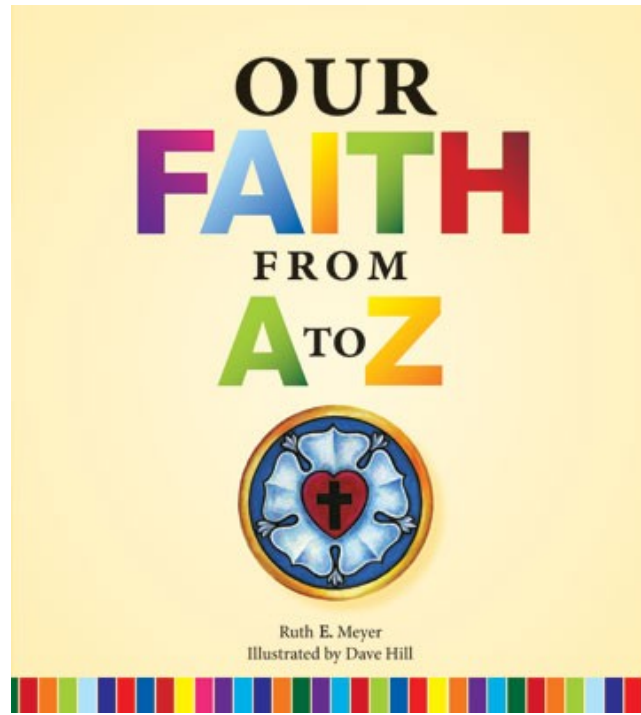
For the youngest, you'll notice the striking pictures throughout. Though drawings, they're quite realistic. You'll find recognizable pictures of the Catechism, Hymnal, Bible, and parts of the sanctuary. The

Pastors look like Pastors and are even dressed like Pastors! Amazingly, there are three crucifixes in this book, reminding us that God took on our flesh to die for us! One of them has a young girl adoring the great *eXchange* before her eyes! (Yes, I think it's a bit of a cop-out to use "eXchange" for the letter X...)

From the Apostles' Creed to Zion, this book covers all 6 Chief Parts of the Catechism (10 Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Office of the Keys, and Lord's Supper). There's history – the Nicene Creed is discussed, as is Martin Luther. There's teaching about the liturgy, including the *Invocation*, the *Kyrie*, and why Pastors wear *Vestments*. And not just *Doctrine* gets discussed, but also the *Evangelism* that nicely flows (and follows!) from the teaching.

One letter gets double the vocabulary and that's 'J' for *Jesus* and *Justify*. This is certainly appropriate as the book focuses on the work of Christ Jesus for us and our salvation. That's what *Our Faith* is centered on! And, fittingly, the picture accompanying 'J' is an altar with a prominent crucifix, the open Scriptures, and a chalice next to the body of Christ. We are *Justified* as we receive *Jesus* in the Sacrament.

This book is highly recommended for all our families, especially those with young children who can grow into all that the book has to offer. You can purchase the book regularly for \$8.99 through CPH's website: www.cph.org. However, right now it's on sale for \$6.99.



~ATTENTION LADIES!!!~

We will resume Bunco on January 27th, Nicole Boyle and Erin Kenny will host at Trinity. All Ladies are welcome to join. Please RSVP! For more information, call the church office at 685-1571 or Nikki at 650-1402 or Erin at 519-2694



~LUTHERAN HOUR BROADCAST JANUARY 2015~

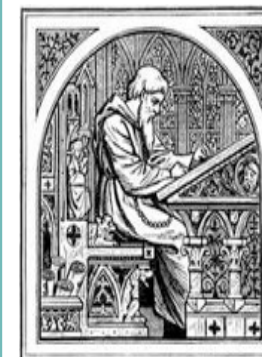
January 4
"Gospel Power for Personal Patience"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Jesus teaches us to be patient and wait with hope in God's promises.
(Luke 2:40-52)

January 11
"Are You Qualified?"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God qualifies us for eternal life through our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.
(Romans 6:1-11)

January 18
"The Antidote"
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
Jesus is the antidote for our cynicism and doubt.
(John 1:43-51)

January 25
"Just the Facts"
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus
God's truth, as revealed in the Bible, remains true regardless of whether anyone believes it or not.
(Isaiah 5:20-21)

You can listen anytime online at www.lutheranhour.org. For local times and stations, go to www.lutheranhour.org and click on Broadcast guide.



~HALL OF MEN~

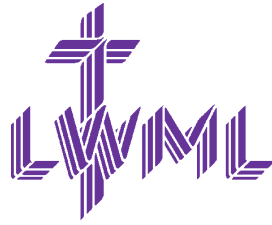
**FOR MEN ONLY - A local fellowship hall
where the men break bread, tap the keg, and toast their heroes.**

2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at Eighth Day Institute at The Ladder (2836 E Douglas Ave)
Doors open at 7:00pm. Food is served at 7:30pm, and evening events officially begin at 8:30pm with a hymn, the Nicene Creed, and a lecture on a hero whose life inspires us to live more authentic lives and to fight for the renewal of our culture.

~LADIES GUILD MEETING~

Ladies Guild will meet on January 15th at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Vicki Lessman will lead the Bible study and Irma Quade will serve refreshments.

All ladies are invited to join us for Bible study, meeting and fellowship.



~EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE~

Support Lutheran World Relief with a purchase from Equal Exchange.

Now, when you purchase Equal Exchange chocolate, 20¢ per pound will go to LWR's Small Farmer Fund, which supports small-scale farmers around the world. Try Equal Exchange's delicious chocolate products alongside the coffee, tea, cocoa, and other products you already know and love.

Shop online: lwrcoffee.com/chocolate or call (774) 776-7340



~ORATIO, MEDITATIO, TENTATIO~

(Theological Reading Group)

Schedule

9:00 – 9:45 am Matins
 9:45 – 11:45 am Reading Discussion
 11:45 am – Noon Prayer
 Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch

Locations

Trinity Lutheran Church
 611 S. Erie, Wichita
 Grace Lutheran Church
 3310 E Pawnee, Wichita

2014-2015 Reading Schedule:

January 20 (Grace, Wichita)

Girgis, Sherif. What is Marriage? Man and Woman: A Defense. Encounter Books, 2012.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 611 South Erie – Wichita, KS 67211

FINANCIAL REPORT
 November 30, 2014

CASH & FUND BALANCES

CASH	FUND BALANCE
Bank of America	Budget Fund - Exhibit A
Checking	Council Fund - Exhibit B
Savings	Restricted Fund - Exhibit C
Certificates of Deposit	
LCEF - Certificate of Deposit	
\$ 12,098.92	\$ - 32,570.83
1,016.08	52,449.50
2,754.15	6,839.24
10,868.76	
\$ 26,737.91	\$ 26,737.91

EXHIBIT A - BUDGET FUND

BALANCE	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE
1-1-14	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	11-30-14
\$ - 22,826.44	\$ + 98,471.08	\$ - 108,215.47	\$ - 32,570.83

EXHIBIT B - COUNCIL FUND

BALANCE	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE
1-1-14	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	11-30-14
\$ 49,109.90	\$ + 5,662.60	\$ - 2,323.00	\$ 52,449.50

EXHIBIT C - RESTRICTED FUND

Restricted Funds:	Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
Sunday School/Missions	1-1-14	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	11-30-14
Love Fund	-0-	992.07		992.07
Youth Fund	283.24	48		1,116.79
Tuition Funds	1,965.00	653.00		283.72
Pastor's Discretionary Funds	41.76	874.89	41.76	2,018.00
Dillon Dollars	1,201.97			-0-
TLM - Daniel Johnson	-0-	669.30	669.30	2,076.86
KS Dist LCEF Grant	103.80		45.00	58.80
Misc	-0-	2,352.50	2,019.50	313.00
Totals	\$ 4,112.56	\$ + 5,522.24	\$ - 2,775.56	\$ 6,839.24

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 611 South Erie, Wichita, KS 67211
 EXHIBIT D - EXPENSES FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED
 November 30, 2014

EXPENSES COMPARED TO BUDGET

BUDGET ITEMS	Expenses For 11 Months	Budget For 11 Months	Under-Over Budget for 11 Months	Budget For 12 Months
Pastor's Salary	42,307.10			46,153.00
Pastor's Health Insurance		20,042.00		21,864.00
Premium		1,100.00		1,200.00
Deductible		3,300.00		3,600.00
Contraception		10,047.50		10,961.00
Pastor's Pension, FICA, Accident Ins		2,750.00		3,000.00
Pastor's Home Equity Allowance		1,833.30		2,000.00
Pastor's Car Mileage		916.60		1,000.00
Pastor's Conf & Cont Ed		82,296.50		89,778.00
Pastor's Financial Support		(41,148.25)		(44,889.00)
Grace fifty percent		41,148.25		44,889.00
Trinity reimbursement to Grace sub total		-0-		-0-
Parsonage Utilities	3,397.00	2,750.00	-647.00	3,000.00
Grace reimbursement to Trinity sub-total	(1,375.00)	(1,375.00)	-0-	(1,500.00)
Parsonage Repairs	2,022.00	1,375.00	-647.00	1,500.00
Grace Reimbursement	882.88	3,732.67	2,849.79	4,072.00
sub-total	(882.88)	(3,732.67)	(2,849.79)	(4,072.00)
Guest Pastors	1,568.00	-0-	-1,568.00	-0-
Secretary	9,004.30	8,790.88	-213.32	9,590.00
Bookkeeper	3,300.00	3,300.00	-0-	3,600.00
Organist	4,806.36	4,606.36	-200.00	5,005.00
Sac Bookkeeper/Organist/Custodian/FICA	1,573.47	1,558.34	-15.13	1,700.00
Office Supplies & Copy Work	3,420.60	3,208.34	-212.26	3,300.00
Worship Supplies	1,429.21	1,833.34	404.13	2,000.00
Synod & District	750.00	916.67	166.67	1,000.00
Lutheran Student Center	750.00	916.67	166.67	1,000.00
Missions	750.00	1,833.34	1,083.34	2,000.00
issuua, Etc.	500.00	458.34	-41.66	500.00
Synod District Assessment	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Parish Education Supplies/Equip	399.26	733.34	334.08	800.00
Evangelism	97.50	458.34	360.84	500.00
Stewardship Supplies	178.53	183.34	4.81	200.00
Janitor Service	3,666.74	3,666.74	-0-	4,000.00
Maintenance & Repair	9,377.94	5,000.00	-4,377.94	6,000.00
Insurance - Church	10,313.33	13,520.84	3,207.51	14,250.00
Utilities - Church	10,105.95	11,000.00	894.05	12,000.00
Telephone & Internet	872.03	1,787.50	915.45	1,950.00
Organ & Piano Maintenance	949.00	733.34	-215.66	800.00
Chapel	1,132.98	-0-	-1,132.98	-0-
Totals	\$108,215.47	\$107,529.07	\$ - 686.40	\$ 117,304.00



THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN
MISSION SOCIETY



Dear supporters of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC);

Greetings from Gelnhausen, Germany!

I recently returned to Germany from attending the annual SELC seminary symposium. The theme was: The Church in Today's Culture. Charles Evanson and I were invited to deliver theological papers, along with several SELC clergy. The symposium opened on Friday evening with the delivery of a theological paper, followed with the Divine Service with Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin presiding. Papers were delivered on Saturday and continued through the Sunday liturgy, concluding with a panel discussion to close the symposium. Over 50 people from Siberia and other parts of Russia, as well as seminary students from Ukraine and Belerus, attended the symposium to listen to papers and ask questions. This is a healthy sign, to see a church body which is growing theologically and catechizing her people.

As we enter the season of Advent we can also remember the challenges of the church's mission. The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church has emerged out of a tradition of Lutheranism in Russia, dating back to the 16th century. Lutherans settled in Siberia at the same time when Lutherans were also sailing to North America. So, Lutheranism has a long history in Siberia.

As you prepare your Advent gifts to various mission activities throughout the world, please consider our fellow Lutherans in Siberia. The mission of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) is to support the work of the Siberian pastors and the needs of their congregations by providing financial assistance which is designated for congregations, rental of church buildings, housing costs, travel expenses to visit congregations and parishioners in remote locations, deliver humanitarian aid and mission outreach programs. Your prayers for the growth and health of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church are especially important. Your donations make you part of this mission.

Please understand that the SLMS operates with no overhead expenses. All work is on a volunteer basis. This means that 100% of your donations go directly to the mission. You may pay by credit card by using the link on the SLMS website (see the sidebar at: <http://siberianlutheranmissions.com/>) or send a check to:

Bob Kiefer, Siberian Lutheran Mission Society
c/o Ascension Lutheran Church
8811 St. Joe Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46835



~2014-2015 GRACE AND TRINITY YOUTH CATECHESIS~

Classes are Sunday nights from Sept 7th to March 29th at Grace Lutheran Church.

Confirmation is the rite that celebrates our congregation's regular instruction (*catechesis*) for youth. Catechesis is a life-long task. We begin in the womb, hearing our Lord's Word with ears that are just developing. As we grow we learn to say back to Him what He has first said to us. He never stops speaking through His Word, and we never stop hearing, learning, and speaking back to Him. Our custom at Grace and Trinity is to set Sunday evenings aside as a time for the whole family to gather around our Lord's Word and catechesis.

God willing we'll offer the following classes:

Nursery Catechesis: children 0-3 years of age, Primary Catechesis: ages 3-9, Junior Confirmation: 5th-6th grade, Confirmation: 7th-8th grade, High School Catechesis: 9th-12th grade

Sunday Evening Confirmation Schedule

4:30-5:30pm – Divine Service at Grace

5:30-6:15 – Diner

6:15-6:35 – Announcements and Learn-by-Heart Work

6:35-7:15 – Scripture Instruction

7:15-8:00 – Catechism Instruction

We will not have classes the following dates:

12/28 (Christmas/New Year's), or 2/1/2015 (Retreat)

Class retreats:*

Winter Lock-in: **January 30-31** (Fri-Sat) at Grace Lutheran Church

*Retreats are for Junior Confirmation and Confirmation students only. Parents, if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Pastor Boyle.

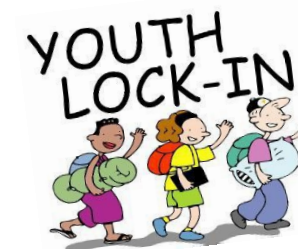
Examination of the Confirmands:

Tuesday, March 31st, 7pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, after the Holy Tuesday Service.

Confirmation Sunday: Easter Vigil, April 4th, 2015!!

This year, students will memorize the Baptismal hymn, "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It" (LSB 594)

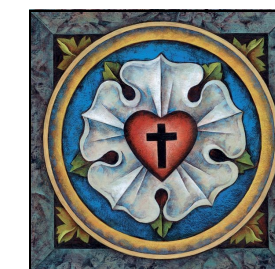
For more information, feel free to contact Pastor Boyle, Trinity office (316)685-1571 or Grace office (316)685-6781.



REMINDER

Catechesis Winter Lock-in
at Grace

January 30-31





Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Copied from LifeDate: A quarterly journal of life issue news and commentary from Lutherans For Life



January 4 – Second Sunday after Christmas – Paul, “the very least of all the saints” (Ephesians 3:8), brings Good News to the least—the Gentiles—that they too can be saints, “members of the same body” (3:6). Jesus came to bring the light of forgiveness to *all* who live in “thick darkness” (Isaiah 60:2). Here is opportunity to proclaim forgiveness to sinners, especially those feeling trapped in the “thick darkness” of sins that seem “too big” like abortion, abuse, or addiction.

January 11 – The Baptism of our Lord – The power of the Triune God “created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The power of the Triune God manifested itself in Jesus’ baptism (Mark 1:9-11). The power of the Triune God joined us to Christ in our baptisms (Romans 6:3-4). The power of the Triune God enables us to “walk in newness of life” (6:4). Christians *can* make God-pleasing decisions.

January 18 – The Second Sunday after the Epiphany – God called Samuel to be His prophet and to make Him known (1 Samuel 3:1-10). God called Nathanael to be His apostle and to make Him known. (John 1:43-51). God calls us and purifies us through Jesus’ blood to be His temple (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). We, too, can glorify Him and make Him known by the way we treat and use our bodies.

January 25 – The Third Sunday after the Epiphany – Today’s readings call for repentance. We could rail against our culture that, like Nineveh of old, it needs to repent (Jonah 3:1-5). But repentance needs to start with each of us. Do we commit the sins of our culture? Do we condone them, turn a blind eye to them, or remain silent when we should speak? “Repent,” says Jesus, “and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). Forgiveness abounds for those who do!



UPCOMING FOOD HANDLER CLASSES

For those who need a Food Handlers Card to help with the Lord’s Diner or other food serving opportunities, here are dates for upcoming classes. All are welcome. Please arrive a bit early to complete volunteer paperwork. Please call Sheryl at 266-4966 if you have any questions.



2015 Food Handler classes

~St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton (in Mother Seaton Hall)

Saturday, January 31st, 9:30 am

~St. Peter, Schulte

Saturday, April 11th, 9:30 am



You may learn more about the SLMS by visiting our website. Also check the sidebar for newsletters and documentary videos. Although, I recommend all of the videos, our newest documentary shows the work the SELC is doing in remote areas of Siberia:

<http://siberianlutheranmissions.com/slms-resources-for-you/video/the-other-half-of-the-truth-2009/>. We are also on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Siberian-Lutheran-Mission-Society/138365539536103>

I pray you have a blessed Advent and Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord!

Peace,
Rev. Daniel S. Johnson
President, Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS)
Gelnhausen, Germany

Advent 1, 2014

Board of Directors

danieljohnson@siberianlutheranmissions.com
www.siberianlutheranmissions.com

Rev. Daniel S. Johnson,
President
2905 Cooper Lane
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641/753-9565

Rev. David Mommens
Vice President

Mr. Robert Kiefer,
Secretary/Treasurer
Bookkeeper
8811 St. Joe Road
Ft. Wayne, IN 46835-1037
260/438-1385

Rev. L. Daniel Johnson
Rev. David Riley
Rev. Frank Frye
Rev. Michael Brockman
Rev. Kent Peck
Rev. Robert Wurst
Rev. Jay Watson
Rev. Michael R. Scudder
Mrs. Judith Bascom
Mr. William Boice

Staff

Rev. Robert Wurst
Fund Developer
231/228-7260
robertwurst@siberianlutheranmissions.com
Mrs. Valerie Kister
Newsletter Editor
valeriekister@siberianlutheranmissions.com





GRACE AND TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCHES

INVITE YOU TO A MISSION PRESENTATION OF THE SIBERIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

with

*Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin
and
Catechist Daniel Johnson*



Tuesday, January 13th 2015

at

**Trinity Lutheran Church
611 S. Erie St.
Wichita, KS 67211**



DIVINE SERVICE ~ 5:30PM

*The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Bishop
Vsevolod Lytkin will Preach*

MISSION PRESENTATION ~ 7:00PM

Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.

*The offering from the Divine Service will go towards the support of
the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

Rev. Vsevolod Lytkin has served the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church as Bishop since 2007, though he was elected as such in 2005. Having been baptized in the Estonian Lutheran Church, Bishop Vsevolod began as a missionary to Siberia and founded the present Church. The LCMS and the SELC joined altar and pulpit fellowship in 2010; this was affirmed at our regular Synod Convention in 2013.

Rev. Daniel and Amy Johnson serve the Lord as missionaries in Eurasia, strengthening the Lutheran Church in Siberia and the Baltic countries. Daniel acts as the liaison between the LCMS and SELC. He assists in developing sustainable Lutheran church bodies and helps create catechetical and pastoral care resources, even providing instruction and pastoral care as requested. Daniel served as senior pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Marshalltown, from 1993 until 2012. He is also president of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society.



~CHILDREN'S CHOIR~



Practices are now going on for our Children's Choir! Erin Kenny is the director and will be leading practices 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at Trinity Lutheran Church. Interested or questions contact Erin at :

ejkennykumc@gmail.com

~OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE~

You are invited to an Open House at Pastor and Nikki Boyle's home on (637 S. Erie) at 7:00 pm.

This will be after The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Service on
Tuesday, January 6th, (5:30 at Trinity)



~FAMILY GAME NIGHT~



Join us for another fun night of pizza, board games and cards Friday, January 9th at 6pm at Trinity's old Chapel. Pizza will be ordered but feel free to bring games, drinks or snacks.

All ages welcome!

~2015 FLOWER CHART~

The new flower chart is now posted in the narthex. If you would like to provide flowers on any Sunday in 2015, you may sign up and let the church office know if it is a special occasion. The cost is \$30. (If 2 people sign up for the same date, the cost can be split or two separate vases can be requested.) You may pay for your flowers one or more weeks in advance of your chosen date(s). If you have any questions, please call the church office. Remember though, we have no flowers during Lent and poinsettias around Christmas

