

Vol. XXIX
No. 21
Oct. 14, 2007

115 N. 4th St.
Stillwater, MN 55082

trinity

TODAY

*Love.
Transform.
Serve.*

Looking for
an awesome
community
for you and
your friends
to be a part
of? Well,
then...

Look
no further!

the
River
youth worship
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Garden Room



It's not too late to sign up for the MEA Getaway to Camp Castaway Oct. 18-21. Contact Cory Jones at 439-7400 ext. 144 or cjones@trinitylc.org

The River is our senior high youth worship service. It is a place for students to come and be a part of what God is doing at Trinity. The River offers students a chance to worship God through awesome music, and gives them a chance to learn and experience more about who Jesus is, as well as dig into the Bible. The River is an opportunity for you to get and stay connected with friends and God!

Who is Jesus?

I'm glad you asked! On Sept. 26 we will be starting the "I AM" series. Jesus said, "I am..." eight times in the Bible and it is within these "I AM" statements that we can begin to see who Jesus is and what he desires from us.

Mexico Mission Trip

Mexico Mission is coming up fast and will be here before you know it. In Mexico, students will be challenged physically by mixing concrete and building roofs, and will also be encouraged to grow spiritually as we serve others for Jesus.

- Student leader applications now available
- Mexico Mission trip applications available Oct. 17
- Mexico Mission required informational meeting Sun., Nov. 4, noon-1:30 p.m.

Get involved in a senior high small group Breakfast Club! Contact Cindy at cjones@trinitylc.org for more info.

worship opportunities

October 13 & 14

- Wednesday, 7 p.m.: The River (Grades 9-12 youth worship)
- Saturday, 5 p.m.: Worship, Communion
- Sunday, 9 a.m.: Traditional Worship
- Sunday, 10:30 a.m.: the WALK Worship, Communion, Nursery

October 17, 20 & 21

- Wednesday, 7 p.m.: The River (Grades 9-12 youth worship)
- Saturday, 5 p.m.: Worship, Communion
- Sunday, 9 a.m.: Traditional Worship
- Sunday, 10:30 a.m.: the WALK Worship, Communion, Nursery

remember in your prayers

Please notify the Trinity office at 439-7400 if you or anyone you know has a prayer need, or when you or a loved one is hospitalized (the hospitals do NOT notify us of admissions), has a baby or a death occurs in the family. Please contact Jane Backe at 439-6006 or Jan Most at 436-7264 for prayer team submissions.

Support in Prayer

- Ken Johnson
- Leroy Swanson
- Vickie Cartony

Baptisms

- Ava Ruth Pierre, daughter of Jerry & Tracy Pierre
- Alaina Brooke Lenarz, daughter of Lance Lenarz & Lisa Schultz

Altar flowers

- Oct. 13 & 14 - In honor of Jerry Herbst's birthday on October 13, given by the Herbst family

Military personnel photos sought for Veterans' Service

The Trinity Fine Arts Committee is seeking photographs of veterans and current military personnel for the annual Veterans service. Anyone who would like to participate will need to submit their photographs by Sun., Oct. 21. For more information, please contact Larry Loyer at 206-2603.

Want to receive a Trinity e-newsletter?

An e-newsletter sent via email each Thursday is now available at Trinity. In it you will find activities, volunteer opportunities and other important information for the coming week. If you would like to receive this e-newsletter, please visit our website at www.trinitylc.org and click on the subscribe icon in the lower right corner.

Anytime is a good time to give altar flowers

They beautify and enhance worship, while honoring a loved one, a special occasion or a whim! The following options are available for orders:

Blooming plants: \$35

Beautiful, healthy plants presented in a seasonal basket. Choose from chrysanthemums, azaleas, kalanchoes or begonias.

Classic vase arrangement: \$40

Comprised largely of chrysanthemums, carnations, limonium and larkspur, as well as other seasonal favorites.

Premium vase arrangement: \$60

Adds bright gerbera daisies, bold snapdragons and elegant eucalyptus to the classic presentation.

Elite vase arrangement: \$80

This impressive display adds vibrant delphinium, graceful willow branches and the spicy scent of stock to the premium vase.

To order flowers, please contact Karen Remington at 439-7400 or kremington@trinitylc.org

trinity transportation

Sunday van schedule

Trinity's van will be available during the Sunday 9 a.m. worship service. A van ride is available for members or non-members lacking other means of transportation. Please call the Church Office (439-7400) between 9 a.m. Wed. and 4 p.m. Thurs. to reserve your seat each week. Estimated pick-up times at senior residences if you have reserved a seat are:

- 8:15 a.m. – Boutwells Landing
- 8:25 a.m. – Raymie Johnson
- 8:35 a.m. – Croixdale
- 8:40 a.m. – Oakridge
- 8:45 a.m. – Rivertown Commons

worship attendance

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| September 29 & 30 | |
| 5 p.m. | 107 |
| 9 a.m. | 336 |
| 10:30 a.m. | 217 |

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| October 6 & 7 | |
| 5 p.m. | 62 |
| 9 a.m. | 318 |
| 10:30 a.m. | 219 |

trinity TODAY

Publication Number:
USPS 1509-650

Published every other week by
Trinity Lutheran Church
115 N. 4th St., Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082

Editor: Mary Steffl

Design & Layout: Amy Shalles
Articles for the next *Trinity Today* (issue dated Oct. 28), are due before 2 p.m., Wed., Oct. 17, to arrive in your mailbox beginning Oct. 25.

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E-mail: trinitytoday@trinitylc.org

Web Site: www.trinitylc.org

Trinity Today is also available in full-color for download at Trinity's web site.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

A quiet walk with God

By Pastor Siri Erickson

living your faith

A month ago I was feeling rather empty. It wasn't that I didn't have enough food to eat. It wasn't that kind of emptiness. Rather, it was more the kind of emptiness that comes from feeling disconnected from the presence of God.

Intellectually I know that God is always present in me and with me and around me, but sometimes it is really hard to feel that presence. It isn't God's fault. The problem is that I often don't take the time to focus my awareness enough to notice God.

It is so easy to let my mind roam around in all different kinds of directions and to be preoccupied with doing things that need to get done. Over time, though, not being aware enough to notice the presence of God can lead to wondering if God is really there at all.

Part of the beauty of being a part of a spiritual community, is that we can encourage one another to take the time to notice the presence of God, even in the midst of everything else that is going on in our lives.

A couple of weekends ago, I was fortunate to be on a retreat with other members of the Trinity community. The retreat was called "Cultivating Spiritual Leadership;" it was a chance for people to come together for the sake of encouraging one another to pause and notice the presence of God in our midst.

Christians throughout history have developed a whole variety of different spiritual practices to help quiet the mind enough to notice the presence of God. These practices have been explored and developed throughout the

centuries by people like you and me who long to know God in a deeper and more real way. Practicing the presence of God in community is one of the greatest gifts of the Christian life.

One of the practices that I enjoyed most at the retreat was the contemplative walk. The goal of the walk wasn't speed or even aerobic exercise. Instead, walking abnormally slow for a period of time can help the mind s l o w d o w n .

Step by step, on this beautiful fall day, I felt my awareness shifting. First, I began to notice the individual drops of dew that shimmered in the grassy meadow beneath my feet. Then, I saw the beauty within a single red leaf and a single blade of prairie grass calling out for my attention. And then, gradually, the whole world became alive in a way that I hadn't noticed for a long time.



*I saw the beauty within a single red leaf and a single blade
of prairie grass calling out for my attention.
And then, gradually, the whole world became alive
in a way that I hadn't noticed for a long time.*

As one friend on the retreat noticed of my experience, I fell in love with the world all over again.

Through the process of falling in love with the world all over again, I experienced the presence of God that I had been so longing for in my emptiness. In those slow, deliberate

steps, I was able to refocus my awareness enough to notice that God was there in the quiet beauty of the day, in the shimmering dew, in the brilliant red leaf, in the flock of birds that was dancing overhead, and in the connections between everything that is, and my own heart.

Live, Love, Laugh, Lefse!

Everyone who loves lefse is invited to help make lefse for the Lutefisk Supper. Whether you have tons of experience making lefse or none at all, we welcome your help in the Trinity kitchen on the following dates:

Sat., Oct. 13, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Tue., Oct. 23, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Thu., Oct. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Please call Kari Bartingale at 430-3902 to sign up or with questions.

Get ready, get set, GO LUTEFISK!

Thu., Nov. 1

11:30 a.m., 12:45, 4:15, 5:30, 6:45 p.m.

Tickets on sale Oct. 13

Adults \$15, 12 & under \$5, under 5 free

It's time for the Lutefisk dinner again. This dinner takes more than 300 volunteers to make it a success. Whatever your strength or passion, put it to use at this all-congregational event. If you can serve in any way, please contact Norma Swanson at 439-6377 or Wilma Edhlund at 439-5912. Helen Orff, 439-6272 will take your offer of a home-made pie – apple, pumpkin or mincemeat.

JESUS Delivers

Last fall open date: Sat., Dec. 8

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Meet at *The Daily Grind* coffee shop in Stillwater and carpool to St. Paul

Serve meals to homeless men and women in St. Paul. Contact Peter or Cary Bolstorff at peterbolstorff@scelimited.com or caryjbolstorff@comcast.net, or 439-8342 to serve. For complete details about the JESUS Delivers ministry, visit www.jesusdelivers.info

Are you a techno-geek?

Audio/Visual Ministry seeks you!

Looking for an exciting way to get involved at Trinity and its ministries? The Audio Visual Ministry is looking for youth and adults with good attitudes and an interest in technology to help out with Sunday morning worship operations. Interested? Please contact Jacob McBroom, Audio Visual Director at jake_mcbroom@hotmail.com or at 507-271-5696. No experience necessary; we will train!

Embroidering enthusiasts!

Now that fall is here and we are spending more time inside, how about embroidering dish towels? We provide the towels, which can be picked up in the Church Office, then you stamp and embroider them. These towels, plus our dish cloths will be sold at the Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner on Nov. 1. Contact Norma Swanson with questions at 439-6377.

Valley Outreach Food Shelf thanks

We had a very energetic group of 18 people, some coming several times, who put in over 100 hours on cleaning and painting the new Food Shelf warehouse. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers and to the Rebekah Circle, who provided lunch! We rejoice with Valley Outreach on their new space!

Card Ministry to begin

Mon., Oct. 22

9:30-11 am – Garden Room

Are you interested in crafting cards? Would you like to be a part of a ministry that supports the sick, the grieving, and the homebound? If so, come to this introductory meeting to experience card-making fellowship. Experienced and non-experienced card-makers are welcome. Sometimes this gets messy, so please dress accordingly. Contact Janet Plaster at 439-4206 with questions.

Katrina Relief: Rebuild with a Servant's Heart

Next team meeting: Thu. Oct. 25,

6:30-8 p.m. – Living Room

Eleven adventurous people have signed on for the January 12-20 Katrina rebuild trip! The list includes Trinity members and friends, skilled construction workers and people willing to learn new skills, retired folk and people able to take a week off of work plus a week of vacation, new members and long-time members. Everyone is totally engaged with the Katrina survivors and willingly bring hearts and hands to assist in Mississippi. Additional volunteers are welcome! Contact Kristie Anderson at 439-9133 or jkjsa@hotmail.com with questions.

Eco-Ministries

buckthorn removal event

Sat., Oct. 27, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Meet at Trinity.

Help rid McKusick Ravine of buckthorn. Volunteers need to bring work gloves and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Please contact Eric Lindberg at 612-760-6695 with questions.

Sunday and Wednesday Children's Learning needs you!

The Sunday & Wednesday learning opportunities for our children are planned and we need YOU to help the children on their faith journeys! Whether you enjoy leading or co-leading a group of children, organizing activities, singing or playing guitar, enjoy photography or video taping, like to provide hospitality and welcome others, or have some other strength or talent you want to share, WE NEED YOU on the team! Opportunities exist in all age groups and on both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening! Please contact:

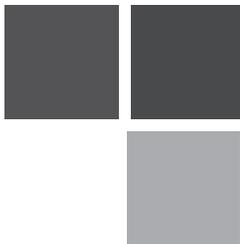
- Karen Gieseke at ext. 145, kgieseke@trinitylc.org
- Rebecca Christiansen at rchristiansen@trinitylc.org
- Mary Peters at mpeters@trinitylc.org

Nursery Ministry opportunities!

Trinity's Nursery Ministry has opportunities available for those who love to spend time with God's littlest children! If you enjoy sharing both your energy and your tender care with babies and pre-schoolers, we'd like to hear from you! Trinity's Nursery is available Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and other times by prior arrangement. If you are interested in joining the Nursery Ministry Team, please contact Karen Gieseke at kgieseke@trinitylc.org, or at ext. 145, or Rebecca Christiansen, Director of Early Childhood Ministries at rchristiansen@trinitylc.org

Hearts of the Home ministry needs you!

Hearts of the Home needs you if you enjoy giving tender care while playing with little children. Hearts of the Home meets the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month, from 9-11 a.m. While the HOTH moms are engaged in small group studies, safe, loving childcare is offered to their children. If interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact: Rebecca Christiansen at 439-7400 or Karen Gieseke at 439-7400 ext. 145, or kgieseke@trinitylc.org



Let's Welcome Valley Outreach to Stillwater!

Food Shelf, The Closet, emergency assistance

For many years, Valley Outreach has been located in Oak Park Heights. This November, they will be relocating to a wonderfully remodeled space on Curve Crest in Stillwater! Valley Outreach serves our St Croix Valley neighbors in need of food, clothing and emergency financial assistance. They are in the middle of a capital campaign, called "New Beginning," and are so excited about the renovations and new spacious facility which includes a large storage space painted by Trinity volunteers! During the month of October, we are asking Trinity friends to donate funds which together will be gathered and donated in Trinity's name. Please make checks payable to Trinity and give to Kathy Hagen or Kristie Anderson in the Commons on

Sundays or to the Church Office. We already have \$185 donated; let's watch the Trinity welcome amount grow!

The Valley Outreach new home will provide:

- A place for children to play while their parents "shop" for food
- A private office for intake interviews
- A new produce cooler for fresh and healthy food
- Expanded aisles for better accessibility
- Climate-controlled storage space for expanded shelf life
- Clothing storage for out-of-season clothing and household goods
- A loading dock for safe delivery of donations

Valley Outreach serves nearly 400 area families each month. The facts show that 30% more of our St Croix Valley neighbors are coming for help for their most basic needs.

leadership retreat

On the weekend of Sept. 21-22, thirty Trinity adults gathered at Villa Maria Retreat Center near Red Wing, MN for the first "Cultivating Spiritual Leadership" retreat. Together we explored how we learn and grow, how we understand ourselves as spiritual beings, and how we lead in the world. Highlights included deep small group connections, lectio divina and a contemplative walk, an inspiring film, and lots of fun. Watch for more information and an invitation to join us for a future Cultivating Spiritual Leadership retreat.



Retreat leaders Julie, Siri and Jody



Contemplative walk

Retreat participants



Their small group covenant stated the five came together because they each had a specific life issue that was challenging and they desired a safe place to talk and pray about them. Each week they risked being honest and vulnerable by laying their challenges out there during group time, and each week their issues felt bearable as they loved and listened to one another. A year later one of them shared that she didn't know what she would have done without that group in her life. "The rich community I experienced in that group helped me be patient and wait. Now I live in a different state where I am more fulfilled in my job than I believed was humanly possible."

*Oh, to be known and to know!
To be loved and to love!*
Real-life, Trinity small group stories



Thank you very much for all of the invitations and encouragement lately to grow in my faith through opportunities in my area of passion. God has certainly blessed you to be a blessing to me, to Trinity, to all who have been touched directly or indirectly by your ministry and by your friendship...

a task team leader wrote to her coach

A new staff member is invited to attend a leadership retreat and part of the retreat includes participation in a small group. Wow, what a cool way to immediately feel like he was connected, supported, and belonged!

A woman with cancer is being richly blessed by other women in her small group who are lovingly and intentionally staying connected by visiting, bringing meals, and sending encouraging cards.

I'm so glad I had my confirmation small group to share with "that night" after TJ talked about Jesus loving me so much that he died for me! It was so weird because I guess I had heard it before, but this night at camp it really connected with me personally and I was blown away! I'm not sure my parents would have understood. It was really neat to be able to share this amazing moment with the confirmation group I had already journeyed with for a year. **We are so much closer this year!**

Friendships were made as this small group of new members met during the past year under the leadership of Ordell Stewart. They continue connecting and even babysitting for one another.



To express interest in leading, coaching or participating in a small group and/or visit about what you would change your schedule for, contact Julie Jolivet, Director of Mutual Care and Small Group Ministries, at 439-7400, ext. 108 or jjolivet@trinitylc.org



Jonathan Nye the Psalms Guy

Psalm 22:31

People not yet born will be told, "The Lord has saved us!"

A 30-minute TV show that begins with a disaster, is often wrapped up in the same amount of time and all is right with the world. Those hurt will be on the road to recovery and those who were lost will be found. We sort of hem and haw, and say that's not the real world. No problem is solved that fast in real life.

Yet this Psalm of only 31 verses does just that. It begins, "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" It is a desperate situation, but as the Psalm progresses, the situation amazingly changes. After descriptions that curl our ears, there is a gradual change in mood. By the 19th verse, the graphic description of the psalmist's woes have begun turning to a sense of confidence that God is not far off. Within one verse, that confidence has grown to a declaration of praise. It was important to get all those feelings off his chest, but now he realizes that God is near, and God will rescue him.

The last six verses are a declaration of the goodness of the Lord. The poor will eat and be satisfied. Everyone on earth will turn to the Lord and God will rule the whole earth.

Even people not yet born will praise God.

This all happens in 31 verses. Less than a few minutes of reading time. Maybe the psalmist was reflecting upon a prior troubling experience, or possibly meditating (and writing) as he endured it.

The 30-minute TV show is just too drawn out for the grace of God. Pray, meditate, write. God hears.

oct 13 - oct 26 calendar

Sat., Oct. 13

- 12:30 p.m. Lefse-making: Kitchen
- 3 p.m. Wedding-Pearson/McLean: Worship Center
- 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., Oct. 14

- 9 a.m. Bible Explorers (Gr. 3-4) Garden Room
- 9 a.m. Sunday School (3 yrs.-Gr.2): Lower Level
- 9 a.m. Club 56 (Gr. 5-6): Luther Hall
- 9 a.m. Adult Ed.-Secret Message of Jesus: Room 108B
- 9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library Conference Room
- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (3 yrs.-Gr.6): Lower Level
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Ed.-Called to Service: Living Room
- 10:30 a.m. Couples Small Group: Room 108A, Room 108B, Luther Hall, Library Conference Room
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Ed.-Jesus 101: Garden Room
- 4 p.m. Singles Connection Potluck: Garden Room, Gym
- 4 p.m. Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra Concert: Worship Center
- 7:30 p.m. School Levy Forum: Worship Center

Mon., Oct. 15

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Living Library
- 6:30 p.m. Congregational Council Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 7 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study: Living Library
- 7 p.m. Rebekah Circle: Home of Gerri Dufresne

Tue., Oct. 16

- 6:30 a.m. Gratitude Ministry Team meeting: Office Conference Room
- 8:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Worship Team Planning meeting: Narthex
- 9 a.m. Croixdale Sr. Communion
- 9:45 a.m. Good Samaritan Sr. Communion
- 10:30 a.m. Greeley Sr. Communion
- 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group: Office Conference Room
- 7 p.m. the WALK Rehearsal: Worship Center
- 7 p.m. Adult Ed.-Jesus 101: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Adult Ed.-Growing Your Faith: Living Room

Wed., Oct. 17

- 9 a.m. Pilates w/ Stability Ball: Narthex
- 9:15 a.m. Heart of the Home Moms: Lower Level
- No Confirmation**
- No Children's Choirs**
- No Children's Wednesday Learning**
- 7 p.m. THE RIVER Youth Worship (Gr. 9-12): Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Temple Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Worship Center

Thu., Oct. 18

- MEA Weekend-No School**
- 9 a.m. Bible Study-Gospel of John: Living Room
- 11:30 a.m. Hilltoppers: Garden Room, Kitchen
- 4 p.m. Coordinating Committee: Living Room
- 6:30 p.m. Home Communion Friends: Room 108A
- 8 p.m. St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Concert: Worship Center

Fri., Oct. 19

- MEA Weekend-No School**
- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Living Library
- 6 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal-Terry/Galvan: Worship Center

Sat., Oct. 20

- 3 p.m. Wedding Terry/Galvan: Worship Center
- 5 p.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION

Sun., Oct. 21 - No Sunday learning

- 9 a.m. Couples Small Group: Library Conference Room
- 9 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY
- 9 a.m. Adult Ed.-Secret Message of Jesus: Room 108B
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Ed.-Jesus 101: Garden Room
- 10:30 a.m. WORSHIP, COMMUNION, NURSERY

Mon., Oct. 22

- 7:30 a.m. AA Meeting: Living Library
- 9:30 a.m. Card Ministry: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Monday Night Bible Study: Living Library

Tue., Oct. 23

- 6:30 a.m. Gratitude Ministry Team Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 8:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning: Bible Study: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Mom's Day Off: Room 106, Luther Hall, Nursery
- 9 a.m. Worship Team Planning Meeting: Narthex
- 9:30 a.m. Lefse Making: Kitchen
- 1:15 p.m. Prayer Group: Office Conference Room
- 6:30 p.m. Circle Leaders Meeting: Office Conference Room
- 7 p.m. Adult Ed.-Jesus 101: Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Adult Ed.-Growing Your Faith: Living Room

Wed., Oct. 24

- 9 a.m. Pilates w/ Stability Ball: Narthex
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Band Practice: Worship Center
- 5 p.m. Alleluia Choir (Gr. 3-6): Choir Room
- 5 p.m. Joyful Noise Choir (K-Gr. 2): Heritage Chapel
- 5:30 p.m. Pizza Night: Gym
- 6 p.m. Leader Mtg Gr 7-8 Confirmation: Narthex
- 6 p.m. Club 56 (Gr. 5-6): Luther Hall
- 6 p.m. Bible Explorers (Gr. 3-4): Gym
- 6 p.m. Wed School (3 yrs.-Gr. 2): Lower Level
- 6 p.m. Couples Small Group-Five Signs: Off-Site
- 6:30 p.m. Gr. 7-8 Confirmation: Lower Level
- 6:30 p.m. Leader Meeting Gr. 9 Confirmation: Narthex
- 7 p.m. Gr. 9 Confirmation: Lower Level
- 7 p.m. Temple Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room, Worship Center
- 7 p.m. THE RIVER Youth Worship (Gr. 9-12): Garden Room
- 7 p.m. Jubilate Bells (Adult) Rehearsal: Heritage Chapel

Thu., Oct. 25

- 9 a.m. Bible Study-Gospel of John: Living Room
- 9 a.m. Mom's Day Off: Room 106, Luther Hall, Nursery
- 3 p.m. Jam Sessions with Drew: Worship Center
- 4 p.m. Coordinating Committee: Living Room
- 6 p.m. Lefse Making: Kitchen
- 7 p.m. the WALK Rehearsal: Worship Center

Fri., Oct. 26

- 7 a.m. AA Meeting: Living Library
- 10 a.m. Knitting Ministry: Living Room

FALL CLASSES

Jesus 101

*Sundays through Dec. 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
OR Tuesdays through Dec. 11, 7-8 p.m.,
Garden Room*

Jesus of Nazareth has fascinated people for centuries. His message is so compelling that millions of people around the world have chosen to follow in his spiritual path. Using the latest and best research, participants in this class will explore the purpose of Jesus' life and message and reflect on what it means to connect our lives with his today. This class is for people who have questions about Jesus and who are searching for new ways to understand what it means to be a Christian.

Led by Pastor Siri Erickson with Jonathan Nye, Jody Thone, Pastor Luther Dale, and members of the Jesus 101 Learning Team

Growing Your Faith in a Changing World

*Tue., Oct. 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13
7-8:15 p.m. – Living Room*

We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. Still, our lives aren't any different than other generations before us. Our time is. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us and available when we need it. We want a new format for getting Christian perspectives. In short films, Michigan Pastor Rob Bell touches on issues that we care about, that we want to talk about, and that come in a way that fits our world. *Led by Dr. James L. Moline*

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

The Secret Message of Jesus

*Sun., Oct. 14, 21, 28; Nov. 4, 11, 18
9-10 a.m. – Room 108B*

Explore the life and teachings of Jesus through the eyes of pastor and writer Brian McLaren in his new book, *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything*. Engaging, thought-provoking, and challenging, McLaren brings a fresh perspective to what it means to follow Jesus in our world today.

Led by David Teschler

COUPLES

Couples Small Group at 10:30 a.m.

*Oct. 14, 28; Nov. 18; Dec. 2, 16
Option 1: The Most Important Place on Earth*

Building a Christian home requires planning, urgency, focus, purposefulness and intentionality. Topics include respect for the power of words, the smell of God's presence, celebration, plenty of laughter, firm and loving discipline, and lots of grace. The results, Wolgemuth says, will produce permanent and positive impressions not only on your children but also on you and your neighbors. A well-constructed Christian home requires work. After all, your home is the most important place on earth.

Option 2: Your Time-Starved Marriage

Does your marriage feel overscheduled and underconnected? Authors Les and Leslie Parrott will guide you into a more vibrant and intimate relationship as they help you identify your individual time styles, reclaim the "missing" hours, and maximize the moments you share.

5 Signs of a Loving Family

*Wed., Oct. 24; Nov. 14; Dec. 5, 19
6-7:30 p.m.*

Led by Kari and Dave Kahl
Sunday school is offered at 9 and 10:30 am. Please sign your child up for the same time slot as your marriage group. Nursery will be available at both worship times and on Wednesday evening.

ON-PURPOSE MINISTRIES

Living Your Strengths

*Tue., Nov. 13, 6-9 p.m. –
Office Conf. Room*

Cost: \$15 book fee, \$5 dinner

Based on the work of the Gallup organization and over two million interviews, Living Your Strengths is a process that helps you to identify, affirm and serve from your strengths. It



includes the Clifton StrengthsFinder® assessment and Trinity's own workshop designed to bring us together to explore our strengths and learn about the incredible power of our community when we serve God from our strengths. *Led by Jody Thone*

Called to Service

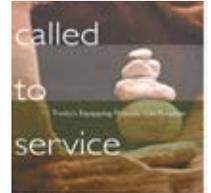
*Sun., Oct. 14, 28
10:30-11:45 a.m. Living Room*

God is calling you. Are you listening? We are called to use our strengths in this world vocationally and missionally.

Come explore your call. Sessions will explore the following topics:

1. Listening to God
2. Exploring Your Heart
3. Deciding and Following Your Call

Led by Jody Thone



BIBLE STUDIES

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

*Thursdays through Dec. 13, 9-10 a.m.
Living Room*

The poetic literary style of the Gospel of John is filled with rich imagery. Like the other gospels, the Gospel of John tells the story of Jesus' life and teachings, but it does so in a unique and interesting way. Come when you can as we read and discuss the Gospel of John together. *Led by Pastor Kris Linner*

Exploring Wellness Team

*Sun., Oct. 28, 11:45 a.m. – Lowell Inn
Brunch Cost: \$13.95*

Through the gospels we see examples of Jesus taking care of himself by going off for quiet time and prayer. Holistic well-being is important for us today. Several people have responded that they are interested in meeting to explore the possibility of starting a new Wellness Team and they would like to extend that invitation to others. If you are interested in exploring with them, please come join us. Contact Amy Quarberg at 351-5343 or Julie Jolivet at jjolivet@trinitylc.org with questions.

upcoming events

Trinity actors:

Auditions for musical theater here at Trinity!

Jesus Christ, Superstar, a rock opera with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, will be performed at Trinity on Feb. 8, 9 & 10, 2008. Auditions for the rock opera will be Sun., Nov. 11, from 3-6 p.m. and Tue., Nov. 13, 6-9 p.m. in the Worship Center. Please prepare an upbeat rock vocal number for auditions. An accompanist will be provided if needed. We will be looking for individuals comfortable with rock styling and movement on stage. All chorus and lead parts are open. Rehearsals will begin in early December. We are also looking for help with costumes, sets and lights. Audition sign ups are in the Church Office. Please contact Carol Carver at ext. 118 or ccarver@trinitylc.org with questions.

Register now for Black Hills Family Camp

July 27-Aug. 1, 2008 – Black Hills
Are you interested in joining other families from Trinity in taking a stress-free vacation?

If so, consider going to Family Church Camp at Outlaw Ranch in the beautiful Black Hills next summer. It's a wonderful way to nurture family relationships while renewing one's soul with worship, bible study for kids and adults and afternoon free time for family activities. Here is what Daune and Hyunsook Laabs said about their family's experience this summer, "It was the most stress-free vacation we have had in some time. At Outlaw Ranch your soul gets healing while your body and mind rest. Our daughter liked everything about the camp; her counselors, the music, the horses and all other activities."

If you are interested in family camp, please contact Kris Linner at ext. 107 or kliner@trinitylc.org The camp fills up fast and is first-come, first-served. To assure your spot you must register by the week of Nov. 5! Check out more information by going to www.losd.org

care ministries

With Pastor Kris Linner



I have been asked some hard questions lately which I could not answer.

There are many unanswerable questions in life. Why did she have to die? Why does he have to suffer so much? Why won't God answer our prayers? I have no answers. The only thing that I can do is listen and join in the asking of life's difficult questions.

In such times I think of the words of Rainer Maria Rilke. In *Letters to a Young Poet* Rilke wrote these helpful words, "I beg you to be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue.

Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

It is a blessing to live in a community of faith where we can live into the answers to life's unanswerable questions with one another.

pray where you are

By Pastor Kris Linner

When the unanswerable questions of life plague us, God is with us in the asking. The psalms are filled with examples of people asking God difficult questions. For example, Psalm 13 says, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in

my heart all day long?" This psalm shows us that the unanswerable questions can be turned to prayer.

Gracious God,

When I feel overwhelmed and plagued by life's questions, help me to know that you are with me in the asking. Amen.

Camerata Bariloche concert

Fri., Nov. 9, 7:30 pm

South America's most famous chamber orchestra, Camerata Bariloche, will perform in Stillwater at Trinity as a part of its 40th anniversary tour. Music will include European and Latin American masterpieces by Mozart, Rossini, Paganini, Ginastera, and Piazzolla. Founded in 1967, thirty recordings and 2500 concerts later, this



group continues to thrill audiences around the world. The orchestra has performed with soloists ranging from Jean Pierre Rampal to Yehudi Menuhin and is currently in residence at the famed Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. Meet the musicians after the concert and enjoy special desserts and coffee from the Lake Elmo Inn. Tickets are \$10. Call the St. Croix Concert Series at 430-3528 or purchase on-line at www.stcroixconcertseries.org

Children excitedly begin “Journey With Jesus”

All children ages three through grade two are welcome to join the journey! Our rooms are packed with shining smiles and happy hearts of children learning stories about Jesus’ life!

It’s an hour when we get to share Jesus with each other and...

- sing songs
- do art projects
- play games
- and best of all, become friends

If your children still need to sign up, our arms are wide open! All are welcome Sundays at 9 or 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

PB&J (Pew Buddies & Jesus)

Children ages three through grade two are able to enjoy the ever-changing, open-ended activity kit each week that encourages quiet learning during the worship service. Living out our commitment to raise children in faith, our children are included in worship through presence, involvement and experiencing worship alongside adults. PB&J kits are provided October through April outside the Worship Center doors. Be sure to pick-up a clipboard and activity box next time you are in worship!

Nursery

Sun. mornings & Wed. evenings

The Nursery Ministry is available for children ages six weeks through 24-months-of-age. Children experience the love of Christ through tender care, joyful music, creative dance, meaningful stories and a play area.

Sunday & Wednesday Learning

Travel on a journey discovering Jesus, his life, his teachings, his friends and his relationship with us as God’s children. Engaging children and families in a variety of learning opportunities, you are invited on a journey created to explore, support and grow children’s and family’s faith and understanding of God and Jesus. Register online at trinitylc.org or pick up a registration form in the Youth Center or the Information Center in the Commons.

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Baptism instruction

Sun., Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m.

For those who want to baptize a child

Begin a journey of promise, prayer, praise, and process. Through time in conversation and learning, families will learn how God has something wonderful to share through baptism. We will have the opportunity to learn more about God’s amazing promises and gifts shared with us as God makes us God’s own child. As God joins us for our time together, we trust that it will be blessed. To register, please contact Karen Elowson at kelowson@trinitylc.org or visit us online at trinitylc.org

Mom’s Day Off openings!

Children ages 3- 5 years

The Tuesday morning Mom’s Day Off has openings and we’d be thrilled to have you join us! The MDO program provides children a happy, safe environment to socialize, sing, play and make new friends! Space is available Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuition is \$70/month. For more information or to register your child, contact Early Childhood Ministry Director, Rebecca Christiansen at 439-7400 or rchristiansen@trinitylc.org

TWO-by-TWO learning

We are looking for two individuals to lead this group on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The group meets in Room 102. If you love to play with two-year-olds, and share the love of Jesus, we need you! Contact Rebecca at rchristiansen@trinitylc.org with questions.

Family Engaging Devotion (FED) ministry!

Written by families and friends in our own faith community, these weekly family devotions will arrive at your home at the click of a mouse! Written to coincide with the learning theme and scriptures being used throughout Trinity learning opportunities that week, FED gives families an opportunity to begin and continue faith conversations, and nurture and grow in their faith together. E-mail Karen Elowson at kelowson@trinitylc.org to sign up.

Mission: Australia

Frequent flier miles sought

Drew King, a young man from Trinity, has accepted a missionary position with the Lutheran Church of Australia. This mission experience will have several



Drew King

components. One of the experiences will be reaching out to at-risk youth who do not fit well with a traditional educational model. Another opportunity will be working with Aboriginal youth and their life-skills training. Drew will also be working with video, making TV programming for students, and providing outreach to young people. All these ministries are part of a new church model that is taking the church where people need help and then being the church in the community. This is a new model for Australia and for the US. This is a great partnership and it will be exciting to see where God leads us. Drew is in the process of raising funds for his trip. We need 100,000 Northwest miles to fly him there and back. If you or someone you know might want to donate miles or sponsor this ministry, please contact TJ Anderson at 439-7400, ext 120.

Wednesday Pizza Night

Enjoy the ease of Wednesday Pizza Night for children and their families. From 5:30-6:30 p.m., families are invited to enjoy pizza and conversation together before joining other families and children in an evening of faith learning opportunities. \$1/slice.



The River Youth Worship Service has moved to Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the Garden Room. Join us as we kick-off the "I AM" series – learning about who Jesus claims to be.



Confirmation has begun

6:30-8 p.m. – students in grades 7-8
 7-8:30 p.m. – students in grade 9
 Confirmation is an important milestone experience for junior high youth. Trinity has great leaders and a great program to help that milestone experience have lasting meaning. If you have not registered for confirmation yet, there's still time. Visit us online at trinitylc.org or pick up a registration form in the Youth Center or at the Information Center in the Commons.

Bible Explorers

Dig into your Bibles! Join the journey! Great activities, learning, friends, games, crafts and music, all leading to knowing more about Jesus, his life and the relationship Jesus invites us to have with God. Become an expert explorer as you learn about the Bible, its great stories, and what a great book it is to read! Register online at trinitylc.org or pick up a registration form in the Youth Center or at the Information Center in the Commons.

No confirmation, River worship, children's Learning or choirs on Wed., Oct. 31

MEA Getaway 2007 at Castaway!

Oct. 18-21; students in grades 9-12
 Camp Castaway, Detroit Lakes, MN
 Cost: \$175

Are you looking for something different this MEA weekend?

These are some of the things you could experience if you joined us at MEA GETAWAY at Camp Castaway:

- **An Amazing Speaker** – Efreem Smith is an internationally recognized speaker who uses storytelling, comedy, and passion to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as presenting principles for living the Christian life on a daily basis.
- **Faith Growth** – time for students to Go Deeper!
- **Leader Development** – With Mission Mexico coming up, MEA Getaway would be a great way to get some great leadership training.
- **New friendships or strengthened current ones** – there will be over 300 students from all over the Twin Cities.
- **Zero Boredom** – there will be free time to chill, take a walk, play football, soccer, etc., board games or hang out with your awesome youth staff and volunteers!

It will be a fun fall retreat hanging out with friends and growing closer to God. Register online at trinitylc.org or pick up a registration form in the Youth Center or at the Information Center in the Commons.

Breakfast Clubs 2007-2008

Do you like to hang out with friends?
 Do you want to grow in your faith?

If you answered yes to those questions then you are going to love Breakfast Clubs! B-Clubs are high school small groups that meet once a week or twice a month. Trinity would love to help connect you to a group and a leader. Breakfast Clubs meet at all different times of day – not just for breakfast! Groups can even meet on Wednesday nights after The River Youth Worship Service! Contact Cindy Jones if you are interested in joining a group at 439-7400 ext. 137.

R.O.C.K. registration now open

Recreational Opportunities for Christian Kids

Have you been searching for a fun recreational program for your child in grades 1-4 in a church setting? Have you wished there was a place for kids to build skills in sports without the travel and focus on competition? If your answer is yes, you'll be happy to learn about the R.O.C.K. basketball program. R.O.C.K. is a non-competitive, skills-based basketball program with an emphasis on Christ-centered team play. Children are taught the value of character development and how it relates to living in a Christian community. Registration forms are available in the Church Office and online at trinitylc.org. If you have any questions about R.O.C.K., please contact Deb Simcik at 275-0859.

Mexico Mission 2008

All 10-12 grade students are invited to serve on the Mexico Mission Trip! This year's trip will March 14-21, 2008. In Mexico, students will be challenged physically as we mix concrete and build roofs. Students will also be encouraged to grow spiritually as we serve others for Jesus. Student and adult applications for the Mexico Mission Trip will be available beginning Oct. 17 at The River youth worship and in the Youth Center. Applications signed by the student and parent/guardian and the \$50 deposit are due Nov. 11. We will be hosting an informational meeting Nov. 4 from noon – 1:30 p.m. covering questions about cost, sponsorships, travel, where we will be and what we will be doing. This is a required meeting for students thinking about attending. If you have questions contact Cory Jones ext. 144.



THE GIFT OF A GENEROUS HEART



The Gratitude Ministry Team, left to right: Chris Johnson, Norma Wilson, Ann Wolf, Jan Most & Dan Wilson.

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Trinity,

“In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints.” As Paul began his letter to the faithful in Colossae, we also thank God for you.

The Stewardship Ministry Team has changed its focus and is now called the Gratitude Ministry Team. We are focused first and foremost on God, the source of all abundance and goodness, who gave us the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ.

In our prayers, we also thank God for you. We see the transformational power of God working in and through you as you share God’s love and God’s gifts to you. Thank you for serving your neighbor and glorifying God at Trinity, in our community, and in our world.

*With grateful hearts,
Chris Johnson,
Jan & Lynn Most,
Norma & Dan Wilson,
Ann Wolff*