

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2012

## **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS:**

Dear Members of Trinity,

Do you need to believe that the world was created in six twenty-four hour days in order to believe that the Bible is true? If you do not believe that Jonah was swallowed by a large fish does that mean you are not a true Bible believing Christian? There are some Christians who profess that in order to be a good Christian you have to believe every word in the Bible is true, i.e. historically and scientifically correct. Failure to believe that way means that you do not believe in the Bible.

The way some fundamentalist Christians interpret the Bible is one way to understand a very complex book. But it is not the only way. Lutherans since the time of Martin Luther have interpreted the Bible differently. You will be given an opportunity to explore another way of interpreting the Bible during an adult class that will begin on Sunday morning, September 16th at 10:30 a.m. and continue to October 28<sup>th</sup>.

The seven week class will use the video series "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible". The video each week is a lecture given by Dr. Mark Allen Powell who is a Lutheran pastor and a Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. The hour will be spent viewing the video, doing a Bible study, reflection and discussion questions. Here is the list of the seven sessions.

1. The Word of God
2. What Lutherans Say about the Bible
3. Where the Bible Comes From
4. Interpreting the Bible in Context
5. Determining Right from Wrong

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## **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Chamblerian, SD

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## **WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

Evening Circle will meet Wednesday, September 26th, at 7:30 at the church. We are beginning a new Bible Study, "GATHERED BY GOD". Session 1 is "Our Present, Christ's Presence". What does this mean to us? Our theme verse is Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them". Everyone is welcome.

## **GRANDPARENTS DAY CELEBRATION**

As a kick-off to the year, there will be a celebration of grandparents on Sunday, September 9 following the worship service, sponsored by Trinity Women of the ELCA. After a short program and an activity, a brunch will be served. So bring yourself, your children, and your grandchildren for this special day.

"How to be a Spiritual Guide (Ten Spiritual Disciplines)" and "Letting God's Light Shine Through (What Does the Spiritual Guide Do for the Child?)" will be the components of the program. All women in attendance will receive a bookmark with the new Bible Study theme verse and a brochure that outlines the themes and main verses of the nine-month Bible study beginning in September in the *Gather* magazine. That theme is "Gathered by God" based on the theme verse from Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." People will be able to sign up to receive the *Gather* magazine and *The Lutheran*. Each household will also receive a Thankoffering Box which will highlight God's Global Barnyard. Children and adults will be able to construct the boxes together before the brunch so the boxes are built and ready to take home to gather our thank offerings.



## **PRAYER LIST**

Connie Bailey – friend of Larry & Elaine Larson  
 Karl Bodensteiner – friend of Larry & Elaine Larsen  
 Burt Casler – Trinity Member  
 Shirley Feltman – Trinity Member  
 Karla Gould – mother of Noah Gould  
 Chad Hope – son of Rolf and Marj Hope  
 Karen Kraus – friend of Margie Neugebauer  
 Riana Laurens-sister-in-law of Colleen Venter  
 Georgene Laska – daughter of Dorothy Robarge  
 Lora Means – relative of Joyce Wevik  
 Gloria Miller – sister of Marcella Jensen  
 Joshua Neugebauer & Family – Pastors son  
 Kevin Normile – brother of Mike Normile  
 Susan Normile – Trinity member  
 Danielle Rea – friend of Marcella Jensen  
 Wes Schaub – friend of Dianne Graves  
 Richard Tesch – husband of Mary White Bird/Tesch  
 Kim Tyrell – friend of Maryalice Larson  
 Mindy Wahlquist – friend of Maryalice Larson  
 Jade Wilkens – grandson of Jim Wilkens  
 Sonjoa Walkup – niece of Marcella Jensen

## **TO BE REMEMBERED**

Lori Miller Boeding – Dwain Miller’s Daughter  
 John Blumeyer-brother-in-law of Charlotte Geerdes  
 Don Borman-cousin of Charlotte Geerdes  
 Aleigha Buum – gr granddaughter of Buum’s  
 Jim Butler-friend of Maryalice Larson  
 Gail Danhour- sister of Larry Larsen  
 Ron Feltman – member of Trinity  
 Ray Goeden -  
 Winnie Keeler - requested by Deacons  
 Bridget Kendrick – great niece of Marcella Jensen  
 Deah Killion – Trinity member  
 Mariah Normile – Trinity Member  
 Gunnar Oleson – nephew of Leanne DuVall  
 Denise Ross – friend of Judy Swanson  
 Deb Selland – Trinity member  
 Janice Selland –Trinity Member  
 Jill Schrieber – friend of Dianne Graves  
 Barry Swanson – by Judy Swanson  
 Stanley Tybureck – brother of Elaine Larsen

6. The Many Meanings of the Bible
7. Devotional Bible Reading

These sessions should help all who attend better understand the Bible and see how it is still relevant for our faith in today’s world. I would encourage all of you to attend.

September is the beginning of a new year of Christian education here at Trinity. Our education hour will again be held on Wednesday evening, beginning with a meal at 5:30. The attendance on Wednesday night has been so much better than when we held our education hour on Sunday morning. So I am looking forward to another great year of Wow-Some Wednesday.

Confirmation Workshops will also be held on Wednesday night as they have been in the past. I had a couple of students stop me a month ago wanting to know when confirmation was going to start since they couldn’t wait. It’s great to see that kind of enthusiasm toward Christian education. Many of the adults could take a lesson from our youth and also show some excitement toward learning more and growing in the Christian faith.

I asked that you would remember our Christian education program in your prayers as we begin another year. Remember the teachers, guides, helpers and those who volunteer to serve the meals. Pray that God’s spirit might help our members (old and young) grow in their Christian faith and in their relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Friend in Christ,

Pastor Duane

Prayer list cont.

### **Missions of the Church**

Prison Congregations of America  
 St.Dysmas at Springfield, SD

### **Those in Service to the U.S.**

We pray for all the military units that have been called to active duty overseas and their families. We also pray for all who have been wounded in service to

## SEPTEMBER SERVICE MINISTERS

DATE	HOSTS	LECTOR	CANTOR
Sept. 2 w/Communion	Blackwells	Margie Neugebauer	Margie Neugebauer
Sept. 9	Venter	Still Needed	Still Needed
Sept. 16 w/Communion		Brown	Brown
Sept. 23	Shrake	Mark Huber	
Sept. 30	Mohr		



Put November 11 on your calendar for a Rural Renewal event, Prairie Spirit Gathering, in Redfield. The afternoon will include Bible study and stories of renewal in the SD Synod. An evening performance by the “Looney Lutherans” will be the highpoint of the day. Go to [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) and search for “Looney Lutherans” to get a preview of these entertaining Lutherans.

**FYI – Bulletin Deadlines – Wednesday morning each week.**  
**Newsletter Deadlines – Wednesday morning of the last full week of each month. Thank You.**

### BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 1: Weston Thompson
- Sept. 1: Nora Olson
- Sept. 3: David Larson
- Sept. 3: Ardyce Osterberg
- Sept. 4: Ragna Godtland
- Sept. 5: Bill Byre
- Sept. 5: Grant James Kringen
- Sept. 7: Robert Schaub
- Sept. 10: Tanner Hall
- Sept. 13: Marjean Hope
- Sept. 13: Annalesia Machado
- Sept. 15: Jessica Van Der Werff
- Sept. 15: Riley Thompson
- Sept. 18: Paula Feltman
- Sept. 19: Joyce Wevik
- Sept. 20: Kathy Trumm
- Sept. 22: Justin Graves
- Sept. 25: Charlotte Geerdes
- Sept. 28: Susie Normile
- Sept. 30: Dorothy Robarge



### ANNIVERSARIES

- Sept. 2 – Bill & Erin Brown
- Sept. 4 – Pastor Duane & Margie  
Neugebauer
- Sept. 5 – Maynard & Marcella  
Jensen
- Sept. 5 – Gary & Neoma Harris
- Sept. 10 – Dave & Rosemary Mohr



## ALL ABOUT THANKS OFFERINGS

So what is this Thankoffering all about??

The idea of collecting donations in small offering boxes goes back to the very early 1800s, when women formed “mite” or “cent” societies to raise money. Mite boxes were given out as fundraising tools to collect pennies for the support of church projects and foreign missionaries.

These women-led cent societies, platforms for social activism as well as evangelism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, published their own literature, Bible studies and other materials advocating around issues such as child labor, literacy and prison reform. The earliest American Lutheran women’s missionary society was founded in New York in 1837 to financially support the education and ordination of foreign missionaries from their synod. In 1879, the first national American Lutheran women’s missionary society, the General Synod’s Women’s Home and Foreign Missionary Society, was founded to support two women who wanted to be foreign missionaries. Thankofferings and Thankoffering boxes have been going ever since.

Beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection, and so the women of the congregation would come together for a Thankoffering service. The concept of Thankoffering celebrations dates back more than 100 years and beyond Lutherans. At the first Thankoffering service in 1889, \$6,100 was collected. Today, Women of the ELCA collect more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women’s organization.

Thankofferings show gratitude for God’s blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude and to teach about stewardship. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Giving Thankofferings is grounded in scripture and in the Women of the ELCA constitution. Trinity’s Thankoffering service will be held in November. Count your blessings every day so your Thankoffering box can contribute to the local and national Women of the ELCA programs.

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**Reprinted from: TRINITY EPIPHANY, January 1977**

**Joyce Wevik, Secretary**

*The old year is over. 1976 has come and gone. It has been a year of contrasts. Our church has celebrated the burning of our mortgage but has struggled to pay our regular bills. The drought has made life hard for our farmers but the town has boomed from a tremendous tourist trade and the money spent on irrigation. Many of the trouble spots of the world have settled down but new areas have experienced oppression. The wheat crop in much of the world is good – good news for hungry people but bad news for our wheat farmers as the price fell. Some of us have been sick—some have enjoyed perfect health. It has been a year of contrasts, filled with good and evil.*

*It is so easy for us to forget the good and concentrate on the bad. We remember the drought but forget the good tourist season. We remember the two of weeks of sickness and forget the 50 weeks of good health. We remember the fights with family or neighbor and forget the love shown us every day. We remember our sins and shortcomings and forget the forgiveness given us again and again.*

*As we begin a new year, let us remember to give thanks to God for the many blessings he showers upon us. Sure there will be troubles. There may be sickness for some of us. Finances may be a worry. But remember that we have a powerful God. A God who is stronger than any drought or illness. A God that Love us enough to send his son to the world to suffer for our sins. A God who promises never to leave us or forsake us.*

*No matter what the new year brings to us let us face it with confidence knowing God is alive and with us.*

*Your pastor and fellow minister,  
Doug Heskin*



# Sharing THE Dream

IN GUATEMALA

July 12, 2012

I just returned from Guatemala and would like to give you an update on the Elder Center. Your support of this project has made a tremendous difference to the lives of over 60 elders who have no one else to care for them. Thank you for supporting an elder.

I wish you could spend a day with your elder. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday's they come to the center for their food. The day starts early at the center as the staff makes over 600 tortillas to give out. The elders start coming to the center at about 10 a.m. although it doesn't start until noon. They like to come and talk to their friends who come to the center. Many of them come with no shoes and calloused and worn feet. They have never worn shoes so it is very difficult for them to start now. They sit very quietly and watch as the volunteers who are helping for that day scramble to get things ready. Once a week we have the librarian from the Open Door Library, come and read them a story. She translates it from Spanish to Tzuthil. They love it as they have never had stories read to them before.

The meal starts with coffee. All of the elders bring containers and take their food home so that they have some for the following day. Containers of all sizes, shapes and colors are handed to the volunteer for food. Everyone gets some broth with vegetables and a piece of meat and tortillas. This will be their food for two days. They all take care of each other and let the volunteers know what their friends need. "This one needs food for two", "My friend needs coffee" etc. The ones that can't see very well are helped by the ones that see. They have formed a bond that is probably more crucial than the food.

After everyone receives their food and leaves, the staff then starts their "meals on sandals". They go to the homes of the elders who are ill or are too old to come to the center and take their food. I went to several homes with Bernavela the director. The one I want to tell you about was Manuela. Manuela has been part of the Elder Center since we started over 13 years ago. She is now in her 90's and dying. (In fact she died on Monday). Manuela was on her mattress in her one room house. Bernavela went in and held Manuela, she rubbed her head and patted her hand. She has been doing this almost every day since Manuela fell ill. Manuela didn't respond, but Bernavela kept rubbing her hand and whispering to her in Tzuthil. This was God's presence to the poor and humble. What a gift to me to be able to observe this.

Again, thank you for your support of an elder. We still have 12 elders who do not have sponsorship. Please pass the word to your friends and family about this wonderful program. A full sponsorship is \$270 per year.

If you are on Facebook, Sharing the Dream in Guatemala, has a page with photos of my recent trip.

Because of your support of your elder, they will sleep better tonight, my hopes are that you will, too.

Sincerely,

Diane Nesselhuf

Founder/Director Sharing the Dream in Guatemala

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