



Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect for the Day

*Trinity Lutheran Church
220 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois
Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod 217-522-8151*

*Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Radtke
Head Pastor*

*Rev. Donald Garvue
Visitation Pastor*

SATURDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

5:30 p.m. Page 151

HYMNS:

700, 349, 357; 340; 920

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE:

8:00 a.m...Page 219

10:30 a.m. Page 184

HYMNS:

8:00 a.m.

338, 349, 348

Adult, Trinity,

Primary Choirs

10:30 a.m.

338; 349; 357; 347; 348

SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

P. 620

Psalm 126

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I Thessalonians 5:16-24

P. 988

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P. 886

THE PRAYERS

Rejoicing in the hope that Jesus brings to our lives. Denny & Ellen Herbert, 40th wedding anniversary. Jim Stumpf, surgery. Charles Shipman, hospitalized. Dorothy Wernecke in hospice care.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL CALENDAR

Today:	<u>9:30-10:30 a.m.</u>	Church Library is Open
	<u>6:00 p.m.</u>	Men's Basketball - School
Mon:	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	Board of Stewardship - School
Wed:	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	Chapel - School
	<u>12:10 p.m.</u>	Service - Church
	<u>6:30 p.m.</u>	Advent Service - School
Thurs:	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	Quilters - School
	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	Board of Property Management - School
Sat:	<u>5:30 p.m.</u>	Service - School
Sun:	Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 21, 2008	
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	Holy Communion
	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	Morning Prayer

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE – The Learning Center is looking for a qualified pre-school director. Please call the school office at 787-2323.

	Sat:	Sun:	Wed:	Total:
At Worship Last Week:	<u>95</u>	<u>205</u> , <u>158</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>468</u>
Adult Bible Classes:	<u>70</u>		Sunday School:	<u>25</u>
Our offerings for the Lord's Kingdom Work:				<u>\$14,778.81</u>

FLOWERS are placed on the altar today by Greg and Jolene Oest with gratitude to God for all His blessings as they celebrate the 2nd birthday of their granddaughter Payton Hill.

Today in Sunday School we studied “An Angel Visits Joseph.” Just as the angel proclaimed to Joseph that Mary would bear an infant who is the Son of God, the Savior, so God proclaimed to us in His Word that this same Jesus is our Savior from sin and death. *Parents could ask, “What important message did the angel give Joseph? What important message do we hear in God’s Word?”*

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Receipts	80,370.59	376,299.98
Expenses	<u>89,239.09</u>	<u>441,614.85</u>
Over (Short)	(8,868.50)	(65,314.87)

The new Associate Pastor is coming! The new Associate Pastor is coming! Let’s make Pastor Schnelle and his family feel welcome by throwing them a Pantry Shower! Please bring in your gifts of non-perishable food, household items (paper towels, toilet paper, etc...) or diapers (new babies go through a lot of them), or as an alternative, gift cards, (Lutheran High has a program in place...if you buy gift cards through them, they then receive a percentage from the vendor) when you go to the church or the school between now and January 11th. There will be a box at each location for donations and we would like to fill and empty them several times before Pastor Schnelle and his family arrive. **Let’s show the Schnelles how blessed we feel to welcome them into our wonderful Trinity family.**

Stewardship Corner

Many people don’t make weekly worship a priority. Christmas and Easter are often the only times we see many of our friends and neighbors in church. That situation presents a challenge to us, the redeemed of Christ, for we preach sermons every day with our words and our actions. In fact, ours may be the only sermons many hear! We have been called to “*declare the praises of Him Who called [us] out of darkness into His wonderful light*” (1 Peter 2:9). Let us pray that we might embrace our calling and “preach sermons” that will help spread the Good News of salvation for all.

THERE IS STILL TIME!! For a number of years, Trinity has been participating in the Giving Plus Program. This is a tremendous program which increases gifts given by Trinity members who participate in this program. Thrivent Financial will donate 50 cents for each dollar that Thrivent members donate up to a set limit per year. While a number of members participate on a regular basis, the number is rather small considering the number of Thrivent members that we have in Trinity. So far this year, Thrivent has provided us with over \$4,700 in matching funds from these member gifts. We estimate that we should receive an additional \$3,000 by the end of 2008. I would encourage all Thrivent members to consider participating in this program. See details in December newsletter. Questions please call Bill Firth at 753-1272.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS ... EARTH STEWARDSHIP THAT IS! Trinity's Green Team has started up again this fall. As an ongoing effort to avoid throwing away anything that can be reused or recycled we are collecting juice pouches such as Capri Sun or Kool Aid. For the month of November we collected over 250 pouches. These pouches will not go to a landfill but will be sent to a company to be reused to make other items. If you have any empty juice pouches, please cut off the top, rinse out the pouch, and bring the dry pouch to the school. **We are also starting to collect rigid lids.** These include caps that twist on with a threaded neck such as caps on shampoo, water, soda, milk and other beverage bottles, flip top cans on tubes and food product bottles (such as ketchup and mayonnaise), laundry detergents and some jar lids such as peanut butter. Excluded from collection are pharmaceutical lids and non-rigid lids such as yogurt lids, tub lids (margarine, cottage cheese) and screw on lids that are not rigid. If you can bend or break the lid with your bare hands, than it does not meet the rigid plastic definition. Please do not include any metal lids or plastic pumps or sprayers. Unfortunately, too much of the wrong types of materials can contaminate the recycling process. We appreciate your efforts to keep it clean! ***God has given us this beautiful planet – let's do our best to help keep it the way He intended!***

WANT TO CHRISTMAS SHOP BUT DON'T HAVE A SITTER? The High School Youth Group is offering babysitting to those who would like to run errands or Christmas shop without the kids for an afternoon. Sunday baby-sitting will be available this afternoon from 1:30-4:30 in the Trinity School Gym and Youth Room. Please drop kids off and sign them in at the Gym Door Entrance. We will watch kids 4 years old through 8th grade. If you have questions, please call Katie Gilman at 787-8142.

MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION are invited to join Ladies Aid in purchasing Poinsettias for the altar at Christmas. The cost will be \$11.00 per plant. You may place your order with Wanda Miller (546-1745) or Paula Boehme (626-2179) by December 15, 2008. Poinsettias may be picked up following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service on December 28, or on Monday, December 29.

THE 2009 FLOWER CHART is now posted in the narthex. Several dates are still available in February and March. The price per Sunday is \$43.13 and must be PRE-PAID. Please sign up early to reserve your date.

BOX TOPS ... Trinity Lutheran School just finished their Fall Box Top Collection. We will be receiving a check for \$479 for the school. To date this fantastic program has generated over \$4,200 for our school since we began participating in 2002! This money is used towards projects for our school such as Fall Wiener Roast, Annual Sock Hop Dance, Teacher Lunch Program, Grandparents Day activities, Teacher Recognition, and much more.

If you purchase any products such as Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Hamburger Helper, Yoplait, Juicy Juice, Kleenex and so many more. Look for the small pink square logo that says **Box Tops for Education**...please save the little logos for our school. Please drop off any Box Tops you collect at the school by February 19 for our next collection. Trinity Lutheran PTL appreciates your efforts.

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR Christmas Festival comes to St. Louis, December 20 for two performances at Christ Church Cathedral (1210 Locust Street) at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The 60-voice National Lutheran Choir will be directed by Music Director David Cherwien in a program titled "Love Incarnate." Christmas Festival is a unique and memorable experience. More than just another concert, it is distinguished by the choir's moving from place to place, singing from all corners of the cathedral space, poetry and scripture interspersed with the music, and audience-participation carols. This year's festival will feature music by Praetorius, Gabrieli, Paul Manz, Stephen Paulus, and F. Melius Christiansen, as well as Will Todd's stunning "Angels Song II" in 'surround sound.' Tickets for the National Lutheran Choir's St. Louis concerts are available in advance for \$20, by calling 1-888-747-4589 or online at www.nlca.com. Doors open 45 minutes prior to performance. The choir's St. Louis concerts are sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, KFYO-AM 850 and KFYO-FM/CLASSIC 99, Concordia Publishing House, as well as the contributions of scores of individual supporters in the St. Louis area.

GROWING IN WORSHIP BULLETINS for children are available at the usher's stand.

VETERANS DAY CARE PACKAGES – Thank you to all Trinity members who donated to the care packages for active duty service members. We were able to fill and mail 14 care packages. We are grateful for your generosity and patriotism!

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 24	12:10 p.m.	Wednesday Church Service
December 24	7:00 & 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Services at Church
December 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service at Church
December 31	6:30 p.m.	Divine Service with Holy Communion at Church

NOW AVAILABLE: Cynda Strong's book "Where Do Angels Sleep?", published by Concordia Publishing House, is available at Barnes & Noble. If you would like an autographed copy, please call the Lutheran High School office. The price, including tax is \$16.00. "Chicken Soup Teens Talk Middle School" with a poem by Cynda Strong is also available for \$16.00.

LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR the weekend of January 10th and 11th. Following the Saturday night service, the congregation is invited to meet Pastor Aaron Schnelle and his wife Kimberly at a cookies and punch reception in the lobby of the Parish Hall. **Pastor Schnelle will be installed Sunday, January 11th at 3:00 in our sanctuary at 2nd and Monroe. A potluck dinner reception will be held in the Parish Hall following the service, at about 4:30.** The Parish Hall kitchen will be open by 2:00 if you would like to drop your dish off before the service. Dessert and drinks will be furnished. We hope everyone will attend this exciting event in the life of our congregation!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH has a long tradition of providing assistance to those both within and outside of our congregation. We have recently become aware of a young area couple who will be foster parents as of Monday to four young girls. The girls are 4 months, 18 months, 3 years, and a 6 year old with special needs. They are hoping to adopt the four girls in a year. The husband works at Greenview and the wife will be a stay at home mom. While they will get some help from DCFS, there apparently is a \$300 shopping limit per child. The couple already has one crib but will apparently need almost everything else. Please keep this family in your prayers. If you wish to assist them, please make checks payable to the Trinity Relief Fund and Pastor Radtke will deliver our financial assistance to this special family.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Growing as Stewards – Location: Parish Hall. Leader: Dave Rohe

Spirituality of the Cross: The Way of the First Evangelicals. A discussion-based Bible study on Dr. Gene Edward Veith's excellent book. Christianity is not about a general vague force called God, but about "God in the flesh and God on the cross" and why this matters in everyday life. Materials provided. Location: Science Room. Leader: Eric Garvue

High School Bible Class – "What About?" Location: Youth Room. Leader: Katie Gilman

WEEK DAY BIBLE CLASSES

TUESDAYS:

LADIES MORNING STUDY meets in December at the home of Debbie Rodenburg, 400 Tecumseh Trail. For information, call 787-5796. December 16 will be our last meeting for 2008 and we will resume after the Christmas holidays on Tuesday, January 6, 2009.

SENIOR CITIZENS BIBLE CLASS – Refreshments at 9:30 a.m., class at 10:00 a.m. Studying Psalms. Parish Hall. Leader: Pastor Garvue

LADIES AFTERNOON STUDY meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Loretta Rodenburg, 12 Turnberry.

WEDNESDAYS:

BIBLE AND BREAKFAST is on Christmas recess and will resume on January 7, 2009 at 6:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Leader: Pastor Radtke

ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER ... We believe that the Lord's table must be approached with sincere faith and full understanding. We believe that approaching the Lord's table is a declaration of unity of faith with this congregation. Thus, we ask anyone who has not made that declaration of faith or is not a confirmed member in good standing of a Missouri Synod congregation to please refrain from communing until you can be brought into full doctrinal fellowship with us.

“JESUS BRINGS YOU A SEASON OF JOY”

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Radtke

[1] The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; [2] to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; [3] to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. [4] They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ... [8] For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. [9] Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. [10] I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. [11] For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

- I. It is good news for you.
 - A. Jesus brings deliverance from sin.
 - B. His time has come.

- II. It is time to give God praise.
 - A. Considering all that He has done.
 - B. In celebration of what Jesus has accomplished.

- III. Your salvation is sure.
 - A. Because of Jesus.
 - B. God's way is visible for all to see.