



*Stir up Your power, O Lord, and  
come and help us by Your might, that  
the sins which weigh us down may be  
quickly lifted by Your grace and  
mercy for You live and reign with  
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.*

*Collect for the*

*Day*

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*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 285

**HYMNS:**

338; 819; 390

**SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE:**

8:00 a.m...Page 167 10:30 a.m. Page 235

**HYMNS:**

8:00 a.m.

357 st. 1,6,7; 819; 365, 358 380 Trinity Choir

10:30 a.m.

357 st. 1,6,7; 819; 380

SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

P. 259

Psalm 89:1-5

P. 495

Romans 16:25-27

P. 951

Luke 1:26-38

P. 855

**THE PRAYERS**

Strengthened by God's grace. Charles Shipman, Inez Lind (grandmother of Kimberly Schnelle), hospitalize. Kyle Haynes, ill.

**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 Christian Day School - School
Tue:	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	Board of Elders - Church
Wed:	<u>12:10 p.m.</u>	<b>Service - Church</b>
	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<b>Christmas Eve Service - Church</b>
	<u>11:00 p.m.</u>	<b>Christmas Eve Service - Church</b>
Thurs:	<u>10:00 a.m.</u>	<b>Christmas Day Service - Church</b>
Sat:	<u>5:30 p.m.</u>	<b>Communion Service - School</b>
Sun:	First Sunday after Christmas	Christmas – December 21, 2008
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

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

	Sat:	Sun:	Wed:	Total:
At Worship Last Week:	<u>123</u>	<u>217</u> , <u>138</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>488</u>
Adult Bible Classes: <u>54</u>			Sunday School: <u>28</u>	
Our offerings for the Lord's Kingdom Work:				<u>\$16,317.13</u>

**FLOWERS** are placed on the altar today with glory to God for all his blessings by Debbie Owens as we celebrate the 17<sup>th</sup> birthday of my niece Mercedes Smith.

**The birth of Jesus** serves as the focus of the Sunday School lesson for today. The Son of God became what we are, human, to make us what He is, a child of the heavenly Father. *Consider discussing, "Why is it important that Jesus became a human like you and I? Why is it important that Jesus was both God and man?"*

### 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)

**ADULT INFORMATION CLASS** – A new class will begin on Thursday night, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. The class will meet at the school in the Science Room. This class examines the teaching of Scripture and is for those interested in what we teach as a church, or for those interested in membership. Of course those wishing to have a review are encouraged to join us. If you are in need of child care for the class, please notify Pastor Radtke.

**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.

### Stewardship Corner

Long ago the prophet Jeremiah wrote, *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"* (Jeremiah 17:9). We only have to look within to acknowledge that Jeremiah's statement is still true today. Fortunately, we have One Who does understand it. Beyond that, we have One Who sympathizes with us in our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15). So deeply does He sympathize with us that He came to us in human form in order to provide the cure for those weaknesses – our sins – in His body on the Cross. As Christ gave Himself for us, let us give ourselves in service to Him.

**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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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.**

The Schnelles will be living in a house that Trinity owns on Douglas Street (behind the school playground) for approximately six months. A mini work day was held Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, to clean the house. The following appliances are needed for the house: refrigerator, washer and dryer. If you have any of these items in good condition please contact Dave Booher at 793-1072 or [booher@ie-consultants.com](mailto:booher@ie-consultants.com).

**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!***

**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.

**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.

**VISITORS**, we welcome you to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church! The order of service and hymns are listed at the top of the first page of this bulletin. We hope you take the time to complete the attendance card that is at the back of the pew in front of you. Pass the cards to the center aisle after the offering. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study classes are held from 9:30-10:15 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran School on the southwest corner of Governor and MacArthur. If you have questions or need directions just ask someone or look for someone wearing an Usher or Elder badge. They will be happy to help you. Restrooms are located in the basement of the church. The stairway to the basement is at the Southeast exit of the Narthex. At the bottom of the stairs is an area where a parent and child can sit to hear the worship services, if need be. God bless you and we thank Him for bringing you to our services today. We pray that you will return to worship with us again.

**YOUR QUILTS ARE NEEDED!** – If you or someone you know have a quilt top that needs to be finished into a quilt, **Willing Workers** can help. We do hand quilting for others for a fee. These fees are used to help a seminary student, church related needs or charities. At present, our “waiting list” is short. For more information, please contact Helen Hoffman, group president at 789-4912 or Genny Colston, quilt chairman at 546-5244.

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in our sanctuary at 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 became foster parents last 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.

**SERMONS ON OUR WEBSITE!** Check out our website at [www.trinity-lutheran.com](http://www.trinity-lutheran.com)! The sermons for each week are available in audio or text. Tell your family and friends about this wonderful resource. We thank Stace Cameron, our webmaster, for making these available. We thank our Lord and Savior for His Word proclaimed in its truth and purity through Pastor Radtke here at Trinity Lutheran Church.

## **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** 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## **“THE WONDER OF GOD’S PROMISE”**

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Radtke

***[26] In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. [28] And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" [29] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. [30] And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God<sup>d</sup> will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." [34] And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" [35] And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy— the Son of God. [36] And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. [37] For nothing will be impossible with God." [38] And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And<sup>d</sup> the angel departed from her.***

- I. It is accomplished in His way.
  - A. There is no reason to fear.
  - B. It is according to His word.
  
- II. It serves His purposes for us.
  - A. Jesus Christ has come for sinners.
  - B. Like Mary, we are empowered to serve Him.