

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
Senior Pastor
546-2347

Rev. Aaron D. Schnelle
Associate Pastor
787-2323, 670-1088

Rev. Donald Garvue
Visitation Pastor
726-6747

SATURDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE 5:30 p.m. **Page 151**
HYMNS: 346; 343; 357; 411; 342

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE: 8:00 a.m. **Page 219** 10:30 a.m. **Page 184**
HYMNS: 8:00 a.m. 333; 343; 348 Adult Choir
 10:30 a.m. 333; 343; 357; 338; 348 Primary & Junior Choir

SCRIPTURES FOR TODAY: Zephaniah 3:14-20 P. 790
 Psalm 85 P. 493
 Philippians 4:4-7 P. 982
 Luke 7:18-28 P. 863

THE PRAYERS

Sharing the joy of Christ with others. Larry Boehm, upcoming surgery. New members. Ben Friday in camp. Clifford Thomas, father of Paula Boehme.

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
Tue:	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	Board of Elders - Church
Wed:	<u>12:10 p.m.</u>	Service - Church
	<u>6:30 p.m.</u>	Advent Service - School
	<u>7:30 p.m.</u>	Adult Choir Practice - Church
Thur:	<u>9:00 a.m.</u>	Quilters - School
	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	Board of Property Management - School
Fri:	<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	Chapel - School
		Christmas Parties
Sat:	<u>5:30 p.m.</u>	Service - School
Sun:	Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 19/20, 2009	
	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	Holy Communion
	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>	Morning Worship

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

	Sat:	Sun:	Wed:	Total:
At Worship Last Week:	<u>102</u>	<u>146</u> , <u>133</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>388</u>
Adult Bible Classes:	<u>75</u>		Sunday School: <u>24</u>	
Our offerings for the Lord's Kingdom Work:				<u>\$17,859.09</u>

FLOWERS are placed on the altar today by David and Sue Rohe with gratitude to God for all His blessings and in loving memory of their parents, Martha Rohe and Clifford and Frances Dyroff.

In Sunday School today, the children will hear the message of the angel to Mary, telling her that the promised Savior would be born to her (Luke 1:26–38). God favored Mary because of Jesus Christ, choosing her to be the mother of Jesus. God favors us because of Jesus Christ, choosing us to be His children! In your family discussions, ask your children to tell you the story of the angel's visit to Mary, pointing out that because of our sin we are separated from God, and we deserve nothing from Him. Encourage your children, reminding them that God grants us unmerited grace and favor because of His Son, who unites Himself with us through His Word and Sacraments.

FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Receipts	77,457.33	291,346.90
Expenses	<u>89,710.91</u>	<u>365,732.60</u>
Over (Short)	(12,253.58)	(74,385.70)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! In our 8:00 a.m. service today we will be receiving Ryan Murphy; Jeff Lindvall; Tara Fox and Chloe Ashton; Dara, Stephanie and Amber Bahlmann; Julie, Betsie, Gabriel Tucker and Blake Stagnolia; Brian, Kelly, Avery and Levi Biggs; Carol Ponder; Evelyn and Jeff Vorderstrasse into membership. Membership is a high and holy thing. In Christ we become one and together work for His glory and the good of our neighbors.

Members of the congregation are invited to join the Ladies Aid in purchasing **poinsettias** for the altar for Christmas. Price is \$11.00 per plant. You can place your order with Chairman Judy Fliege at 787-9011 or Grace Davis at 787-8433. Pick up will be Sunday, December 27, after late service or Monday, December 28.

CALENDER YEAR 2010 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES will be prepared for mailing on **Saturday, December 12.** PLEASE do not use your new envelopes until after January 1, 2010. Also, after New Year's Day, throw out any unused 2009 (or previous years) envelopes. Please note your new number. The contribution counters ask that you write it on the memo line of your contribution checks in 2010. Thanks!

ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING, Sunday, December 13, 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The main order of business will be the election of 2010 officers, directors and elders.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION:

OFFICERS:

President:	Rick Koopman
Vice President:	J. R. Davidsmeyer
Secretary:	Steve Foss

DIRECTORS:

Steve Rossman
Roger Schlichting
Vacancy

BOARD OF ELDERS:

Jim Croxton	Mickey Reed
Jake Klug	Steve Rossman
Barry Nass	Andy Wiesenhofer

FOUNDATION BOARD;

Jack Knuppel

VISION TEAM:

Bill Denham
Rick Koopman

APPROVE APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Financial Secretary:	Bill Firth
Assistant to Treasurer-Church:	Ron Moll
Assistant to Treasurer-School:	Chris Schmidt
Comptroller:	John Penick

THRIVENT GIVING PLUS PROGRAM – As many of you are probably aware, Thrivent Financial is ending the Giving Plus program at the end of this year. They will be announcing a new program during the first quarter of 2010.

I would like to personally thank all of the members that have participated in this worthwhile program through the year. Your gifts have been multiplied thanks to this Thrivent program.

Some of you have your gifts accumulate through the year until the maximum amount is reached at which time I mail the form in. I have not received forms from some of you and I need them within the next two weeks in order to get them submitted by the deadline. If you are not sure if you have submitted a form, call me at 753-1272 and I will check. Forms are available at the school and in the church office or from me. They can be put in the plate and I will get them. Thanks, Bill Firth

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RECYCLING – Don't throw out those old strands of lights that don't work! The Green Team will be recycling Christmas lights. Please bring them to the school and drop them off by the learning center entrance (where all the other recycling goes). Christmas light source will take the lights, have them recycled and take the proceeds from the recycling and use them to buy books! These books will then be donated to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Please feel free to tell your friends and neighbors! Any questions? Please email tls.greenteam@gmail.com.

ONGOING AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST (O AFC) is celebrating New Years at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. Begins 4 pm on December 29 and runs through the morning devotions on January 1, 2010. No O AFC experience needed. Registration deadline is December 12 and costs \$30.00 (T-shirt and meals while at the seminary). Register online at www.oafc.org. Contact Nate Ruppert at 217-827-1777 for travel arrangements. Registration and transportation seating is limited so it is extremely important to contact him now if you are going. Welcome all junior high youth through adults. Celebrate the new year with Lutheran youth from around the area whose beliefs and confession are the same as your own.

ARE YOU DOWNSIZING, REDECORATING? ... Contact Ministries needs your "left-overs still in good condition". Items needed include beds or sets of bunk beds, bedroom chests, kitchen tables & chairs, couches, kitchen ware and appliances (silverware, dishes, pots and pans, microwaves, refrigerators, high chairs, etc.) Currently in need are 4 shelter families moving into their own homes, consisting of a total of 15 children. **SPECIAL NOTE:** A 12 year old boy in the shelter is a straight A student and plays the flute – the school district is unable to locate a flute for him. If you or someone you know has a decent flute to give to this young boy, please call LaTrice Nettles, Executive Assistant, 753-3939 Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

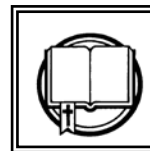
ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY DROP-OFF CENTER for St. Martin DePorres. A west-side Springfield drop-off center has been arranged by St. Martin DePorres through the end of the year of 2009. Terry Farmer Photography, 2711 West Washington will receive non-perishable food items, coats and blankets at the studio during regular business hours. Donors whose contributions are worth at least \$50 will receive a complimentary elite or premier family portrait session. Contact St. Martin DePorres (217-528-2851) or Terry Farmer Photography (698-6000) for additional information.

PRAYER PAGE REMINDER: This tool has been generated by the Building Caring Relationships (BCR) in Christ group for Trinity members to use during their personal devotion time and to keep the congregation connected through prayer. The prayer page is prepared bi-weekly (purple one time, yellow the other, to help distinguish when a new one is available).

The prayer page is on the bulletin table for the Saturday service and at each of the church exits for the Sunday services. Pick up your copy today!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

9:30-10:15 a.m.



Family Cornerstone – This class focuses on Christ-centered guidance and encouragement in three areas: priorities, family conflict, and children. Booklets for each area will be available for \$3.50 per booklet (the class may be attended without the booklets). Location: Parish Hall. Leader: Pastor Schnelle

God's Grace in St. Paul's Letter to the Church of the Thessalonians – Join us as we discuss Paul's reassurances that we are saved through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and belief in the truth of God's grace. Location: Parish Hall. Leader: Bill Denham

I Believe But I Have Questions – A Bible study exploring some of the more difficult questions all Christians struggle with, such as "Why didn't my problems disappear when I became a Christian?" or "How can I find God's will for my Life?". Location: Science Room. Leader Eric Garvue

[Child care is available for Adult Bible Classes]

WEEK DAY BIBLE CLASSES

TUESDAYS:

LADIES MORNING STUDY will meet in December at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Terri Cameron, 816 South Park (787-4111). We will continue our study of The Acts of the Apostles.

SENIOR CITIZENS BIBLE CLASS Refreshments at 9:30 a.m., class at 10:00 a.m. Studying II Peter. 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 meets at 6:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Studying Mark. 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 BEST IS YET TO COME”

Luke 7:18-28

Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Radtke

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

- I. There is hope even in times of sadness.
 - A. According to God's promise.
 1. Jesus is the one to come (v. 22).
 2. As the prophets had promised.
 - B. The coming of Jesus brings good news.
 1. Even as we question his actions (v. 19).
 2. People are restored (v. 23).
- II. God's plan overcomes all obstacles.
 - A. Sometimes our vision is clouded.
 1. By events in our lives.
 2. The greatness of God's working escapes our notice (vss. 24-25).
 - B. We live in joy.
 1. Which has been accomplished with Jesus' first coming (v. 28).
 2. We anticipate the greatest of all days (Zephaniah 3:20).