

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Trinity Lutheran Church
We exist to share the good news of life through Jesus with the world and to nurture believers in their faith, all to the glory of God.



Trinity Lutheran School
We exist to help families in Aberdeen and the surrounding communities by providing children with quality academic and Christ-centered education, in a loving and caring environment.



It's Still Horrifying

*Your word, LORD, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.*

*Your faithfulness continues through all generations.
Psalm 119:89-90 (NIV 84)*

Desensitize. In certain ways, it is a very scary word. Being desensitized means that you have changed, and usually not in a favorable way, almost never in a God-pleasing way. Something used to bother you, but you are now so used to it, that it doesn't bother you anymore, or at least not the way it used to bother you.

Are we becoming desensitized? It is a real danger. It seems, sad to say, that many people are. Are we so used to hearing bad language at movies and on television that hearing those words doesn't seem to bother us as much? Are we so used to seeing risqué scenes in movies and on television that we don't blush the way we used to? Have we dealt with so many people living together outside of marriage, that we aren't much bothered by it anymore?

Have we become so accustomed to abortions being practiced that we are no longer horrified at what abortion actually is and does?

By God's grace, we still know abortion is wrong. We know it is murder. We don't like the fact that it is legal. We don't like the fact that millions of abortions are performed every year. There is a part of us that gets angry sometimes because we know that this practice should not be legal.

But, without realizing it, are we little by little becoming desensitized in regard to abortion? January 22 marked the fortieth anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision that made abortion legal in our country. For forty years abortion has been legal and easily available to most any woman. During those years, abortion has been promoted and pushed and in many cases praised by millions. We don't like this, but it keeps happening. In spite of our efforts, the law permitting abortions has never been repealed. A whole new generation of Americans has grown up being taught that abortion is a woman's right and simply the removal of unwanted cells. It is being presented as a normal medical procedure not much different than having your appendix removed. We don't like this. We don't want it to be this way. But nothing changes and it appears, sad to say, that the laws of our country never will change.

Because it appears that the law will never be overturned, what do I do? The temptation is there to become accepting of abortion as a fact of life in the United States. If we are not careful, we can get so used to hearing about abortion that we almost become 'ho hum' in our attitude regarding it instead of being horrified by what happens in an abortion. If that happens, then I have started to become desensitized. And that's a scary thing. So what do I do?

Go back and tell yourself again and again what the Bible says about life. Our laws may never change. But then we remember God's Word never changes. Review how the Lord emphasizes that he and he alone has the right end a person's life. Read again

how a person's life is their chance to know and serve the Lord. Keep clear in your mind how the Lord promises to punish the evil doers and bring judgment on those who reject his Word and disobey him. Keep God's truth in the center of your mind and heart. This will help you to always be clear that abortion is murder. Cherishing God's truth will make it less likely that you will become desensitized. As you grow in faith, you will fear and love your Lord more and more. This will us lead to remain sensitive about his will. *"To fear the Lord is to hate evil"* (Proverbs 8:7 NIV).

Also keep in mind what the Lord does and does not want us to do. We are never to resort to sin to change people or a society. It is a sin to bomb an abortion clinic. It is a sin to force feed our beliefs into someone else's mind. It is a sin to persecute those who are pro-abortion.

We are to speak the truth in love. We are to point out sin. We are also to teach and model what is right. We proclaim God's truth and trust God's power to work through his Word to change human hearts. We focus on the truth. We stand for the truth. We proclaim the truth. We speak honestly about sin, and then we point people to Jesus for forgiveness and new life. We trust the Lord to work through his Word to change our hearts.

We also trust the Lord to work through his Word to keep us faithful, and to keep us from becoming complacent or desensitized. As we focus on God's Word more and more, we will remain clear and passionate about the truth regardless of what goes on around us.

Pastor Rawerts

COUNCILMEN'S CONFERENCE

A conference entitled *Elders-Proactive and Reactive Ministry* will be held Saturday, February 2, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at the Pizza Ranch in Moberge.

BUILDING PROJECT

Plans are being finalized for our upcoming building project. We hope to break ground soon. Please continue to ask the Lord to guide our building project and to enable us to build in a way that will enable us to do his work in the best possible way.

NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST

An updated membership list has been compiled. Copies are on the bulletin table. If you see any information on the membership list that is incorrect or needs to be updated, please tell Pastor Rawerts or the church secretary.

ACTIVITY NIGHT

There will be an activity night on Friday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The TLS students will perform for the audience. All are invited to join us.

FAMILY GAMES AFTERNOON

We will be having a family games afternoon on February 17 at 3:00 p.m. Snacks will be served and all are invited to join us.

DAYCARE COMMITTEE

Don Jakober, Kelly van Veen, Sarah Zimmerman, Marilyn Kjenstad, Nick Lien and Brian Rawerts are the members of our Daycare Committee. Don Jakober is serving as chairman. If you have questions or comments about the daycare services are congregation is planning to offer, please feel free to speak to them.

SPECIAL NEEDS BIBLE CLASS

Our special needs Bible Class has started again. The class meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you have questions or would like to help with the class, please speak to Glendora Dick or Aaron Kjenstad.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR CALLED WORKERS

Miss Emily Sell teaches grades 1-4 in our School. She also is in charge of our school music program. Miss Sell plays piano for our choir and directs music for the younger Sunday School children. She grew up near Watertown, Wisconsin where her family continues to operate a dairy farm. Miss Sell is an avid Wisconsin sports fan and is especially loyal to the Packers, the Brewers, and the Badgers. She also enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. In her free time she enjoys zumba (a dance exercise program) at the Y.

STUDENT AID FUND

The Student Aid Fund exists to provide financial assistance for those who wish to send their children to Trinity Lutheran School. Without the aid



that this fund provides, certain families may not be able to send their children to our school. The Student Aid Fund provides these families with much-needed assistance. We could use some help to replenish the Student Aid Fund. Please keep this in mind as you consider your offerings.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report for 2012 is in your mail box. Please be sure to pick it up.

THE SEASON OF LENT

On February 13, we begin another season of Lent. During the season of Lent, we take time to focus once again on all that Jesus suffered and endured in order to accomplish our salvation. We also review the events leading up to his death.

The word 'Lent' comes from the German word for spring. The season of Lent begins in winter but then leads into and concludes in the spring. The season lasts 40 days. The early church chose this time frame to commemorate Jesus' time of fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

However, the early church also decided that every Sunday was to commemorate Jesus' resurrection. Therefore, the Christian church has traditionally not included Sundays when counting the days of Lent. Not counting Sundays, the number of days from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter is 40.

During the season of Lent, many Christian churches offer additional worship services. Many have a special worship service on the first 6 Wednesdays of Lent. During the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week, congregations have traditionally held services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Some have also had special services on the Saturday night before Easter.

Our congregation has the privilege of having services on the first 6 Wednesdays of Lent with worship starting at 6:00 p.m. The first Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday, is also a Communion service. After each of our Wednesday services, we have a fellowship meal.

We pray that all our members will use these special opportunities to worship our Lord and review again all that he did so that we may have eternal life.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

We would like to thank everyone who turned in the Box Tops for Education. Please have the box tops turned in by February 22 so that the school will get credit for them for this year. Beginning March 1, we will again start saving box tops for the following year.



GROCERY RECEIPTS

Please save all receipts from Kessler's and Ken's that are dated after September 1, and put them in the box on the table near the entrance to the church.

TLS NEWS

The Students have started rehearsing for their spring musical. This year's play is entitled, "The Three Little Pigs Out West."

Students in grades 4-8 are having Basketball practices on Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. The students in Kindergarten to grade 3 are practicing on Tuesdays from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

The LES Basketball Tournament at Great Plains Lutheran High School will be held on March 9.

PTO BOWLING

On Sunday, February 24, from 4 - 7 p.m., Trinity Lutheran School students and Trinity church families are invited to meet at the Village Bowl for an afternoon of bowling. (A sign-up sheet for those interested in attending is located on the bulletin table at the back of the church.) The PTO parents will provide a meal after bowling. The cost for bowling is \$3 per game and \$1.50 for the shoe rental. If you have any questions, please call Jessica Kjenstad at 225-3878.



SCRIP PROGRAM:

We are using the SCRIP program here at Trinity. If you buy SCRIP coupons, you may use them like cash at various stores and donations will be made to our school and to Great Plains Lutheran High School. 25% of the donations will go to our school and 75% will go to Great Plains. Please speak to Ardys Gosch and let her know which stores you prefer to shop at so that we may buy coupons for these stores. Please speak to Ardys if you have any questions.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Please remember to save the Labels for Education. This is an ongoing project that helps to provide school equipment for TLS. The collection box for these labels is located near the mailboxes. Collection sheets can be found on the back of this newsletter or in the church secretary's office.

