

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JULY 2015



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.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In a certain cathedral in Europe, one can find the tombs of various church leaders of who have gone before us, and are now at rest. The headstone on one of the tombs contains the last thoughts of a certain man. The following is a paraphrase of his words.

“When I was young, I wanted to accomplish great things and change the world. As I got older I realized that I could not change the world, and so I set my sights simply on trying to change my own country. As I neared the twilight of my years in this life, I thought, ‘If I could only change my family, then I would truly be making a difference.’ Now, on my deathbed, I wish that I could only change myself. It is now, during my last days that I realize that if I had succeeded in changing myself, then I could have made an impact on my family, and then my family could have served in such a way that they would have brought changes to my country. Then my country through its own changes could have made a difference in the rest of the world.”

Often when I think of serving in God’s kingdom and wanting to make a difference, I might, at

first thought, desire to single handedly convert the world. Or might I might desire all by myself to change the lives of thousands of others. Certainly these are noble ideas, but before I can think of making a change somewhere else, I need to first of all look at myself. If I myself am not truly serving my Lord as he wants, how can I expect truly to be a blessing to anyone else? If I myself am not faithful to the Lord, how can I expect to make a positive difference in someone else’s life? Jesus himself says, *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye”* (Matthew 7:3-5 NIV 84). If my own knowledge of Scripture or my own moral judgment is flawed, how can I understand things clearly to help others?

Ultimately the only life I can live is my own. The most important thing in my life is my own relationship with the Lord Jesus. As I personally grow stronger and stronger in my Savior and his Word, and as I learn how to

better show is love to others, then I can truly make a difference in the lives of others. It may seem that my life touches only a few, but those few people who have been served by me, will also touch others who will then touch others and so forth. Though I might seem to be insignificant in comparison to the rest of the world, the Lord does indeed use me and work through me to accomplish what he wishes for his kingdom. The scope of his influence through me usually reaches far beyond anything I might conceive in my mind.

When we are young and idealistic, we too might feel that we can change the world. And yet as we walk through life, we might feel as if our existence has made little difference in this world. Or we might look at our own weaknesses and conclude that we will never be of much use in God's kingdom. The truth is that the Lord uses us, each of us, to accomplish his good purpose. Often those purposes are hidden from us. Yet, we know they are there, because the Lord promises that he will work all things for the good of those who love him. Working through all things means he is also working through me and even the little things that I do that seem to touch so few.

No matter who I am or how insignificant I may seem to be, God is using me. The best way for me to make a difference in the world, is to make a difference in myself. The closer I grow to my Lord, the more I grow in him, the better I follow his Word, the better I show his love, the better I will be able to serve and be a blessing to those he has brought into my life. That will make a difference.

Pastor Rawerts

NOMINATIONS

Our congregation will be having elections in July for positions on the Church Council and the Department of Education. If you are willing to serve or if you know of someone whom you believe is willing to serve, please speak to one of the elders.

CHURCH SOFTBALL

Trinity once again has two teams in the Aberdeen coed church softball league.



There are a total of 20 teams in the league with teams divided into three different divisions (A, B and C). Trinity has a team in the A division and in the B division. Games are every Monday night. Both teams have had four games and are doing very good and having a lot of fun. The A Team has won 3 and lost 1. The B Team has won 3 and lost 1. Each team has had around 10-12 regular players. We have also had good fan support from the congregation. On Monday June 22nd we had our annual tailgate party in the church parking lot. It was a great event with a great turnout. Thank you to all those who helped with the event.

Six more regular season games remain – each Monday night through August 3rd. Game times vary each week – either 6:30, 7:30 or 8:30. Extra copies of the schedule are on the table in back of the church. The season concludes with an end of year double elimination tournament on August 8th. Both teams are improving and looking forward to the tournament again in 2015!

GO TRINITY!

BOX TOPS

Please continue to save "Box Tops For Education". These labels are turned in at the end of the school year and that money goes for Trinity Lutheran School, preschool, and/or aftercare. A box for the labels is on the bulletin table.

TRINITY LUTHERAN 2015 SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP



"Wow! What a terrific basketball camp!" "My kids looked forward to basketball camp every day!" "What a wonderful learning experience for the kids—basketball

and God's Word!" These were a few of the comments heard each day at camp. Parents and kids were excited about this new opportunity here at Trinity Lutheran.

The Basketball Summer Camp was a great success! A big "Thank You" to all who helped put on a great basketball camp for our kids and the community. We received many great compliments on our facility and our camp. The kids had an opportunity to hear God's Word and improve their basketball skills. Thanks to Dylan Duvall, Brandon Kannas, Jordan Kjenstad, Kristin Kjenstad, Sarah Kjenstad, Allison Van Veen, Stephanie Van Veen, Sydney Schell, Ethan Kjenstad, Caden Seitsma, Connor Kannas, Ethan Russell, Sarah Schaffer, Brandon Schaffer, Doreen Leinen, Trina Lien, Penny Biegler, Kim Russell, and Jessica Kjenstad.



PTO RUMMAGE SALE

The Trinity Lutheran School PTO held its annual rummage sale June 19-20 at the teacherage. The sale was a huge success! Over 20 volunteers from the church and school made it possible. The school children enjoyed selling pop and candy bars. The net profit from the sale, including the concessions, was \$1443. Thrivent will provide matching funds up to \$500. The PTO will meet later in the summer to discuss how to best use the money to enhance our children's Christian education. Thank you to all who volunteered and brought donations.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

It starts with an idea powered by your passion. Bring a team together to make an immediate impact on a cause you care about and it's easy to get started. Think about an unmet need in our church, school or community.

Apply to lead a volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event. The person applying must be a Thrivent member but anyone can work on the projects. Plan to apply **at least** 30 days in advance of the project, and the project must be completed within 90 days. An application has approximately seven questions and approval will be within 48 hours (usually within 24 hrs.)

After approval you will receive a promotional banner, invitations and thank-you cards, up to 25 Thrivent Action Team T-shirts and a \$250 Community Impact Card to be used as seed money to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials.

A Thrivent member can lead two teams a year and an associate can lead one. So a husband-wife Thrivent couple can get a \$1000 per year to help a cause they care about. This is such an awesome program and has made such an impact on communities and individuals.

Let's get our heads together and do some projects here at Trinity/Trinity School/AfterCare. Application must be made online at Thrivent.com/Action Teams. If you need help filling out the online application or if you have any questions or ideas, please contact Janice Mohr, 216-3269.

GROCERY RECEIPTS



A special "thank you" to those of you who turned in their receipts for Ken's and Kessler's during the school year. The grocery receipt program brings in extra money for our school.

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.

SERVICES ON THE INTERNET

People are now able to watch our worship services on the internet. Simply go to our website, trinityaberdeen.org and click on 'Church Service Videos'.

SCRIP PROGRAM

The SCRIP program has been available to Trinity Lutheran for several years. SCRIP coupons may be used like cash at many stores, eating places, clothing stores, car washes, book stores, Walmart and many other places. (Check out the current list of business participation on the bulletin board west of the church doors.) SCRIP coupons can now be purchased at Ken's and Kessler's grocery stores. They are giving a 5% benefit—in addition to the grocery receipt program. Donations are made to Trinity Lutheran School to Great Plains Lutheran High School.

Please speak to Ardys Gosch and let her know which stores you prefer to shop so that we may buy coupons for these stores, or if you have any questions.



IT'S TIME TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL!

- ✓ Trinity Lutheran teaches children to know and believe that they have a Savior from sin, Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Trinity Lutheran School has operated a Lutheran school for over 25 years.
- ✓ Trinity Lutheran School is fully accredited by the state of South Dakota.
- ✓ Trinity is blessed with strong academic standards—students consistently score well in state tests.

Trinity Lutheran Grade School offers a Christian elementary education in the Lutheran tradition. Children at Trinity excel both in secular subjects and in growth in the Word of God. Our students regularly score above national and local levels on Dakota STEP tests, and are well-prepared for high school education and beyond. For more information, visit our website at www.trinityaberdeen.org, or call 229-4697 to speak to the principal.