

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

MARCH 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.



Use Freedom For Service

Do you ever wonder what happened to Barabbas?

We are told that, “Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising” (Mark 15:7 NIV 84). Matthew lets us know he was a well-known prisoner. It was a custom at that time to release a prisoner to the people during the Passover (Mark 15:6). Pilate offered the people the choice of releasing either Barabbas or Jesus. Considering the kind of man Barabbas was, this should have been an easy choice. Barabbas had been involved in murder. He was a threat to the overall safety of society. In light of his crime he did not deserve to go free.

Yet, this is exactly what happened. We are told, “But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead” (Mark 15:11 NIV 84). They called for Jesus to be crucified.

Do you ever wonder how Barabbas felt when he was suddenly set free? He was most likely heading for a death sentence, perhaps even a crucifixion, but his life is spared. He is free. One wonders what he did with his sudden and undeserved freedom.

Did he go back to his old ways? Did he stir up another insurrection and commit another murder? Did he cause more trouble in the city of Jerusalem? Did he get out of town while he had the opportunity? Or did he realize the marvelous second chance he had been given and change his ways? Jesus was put to

death and he was set free. Did he seek out more information about the one the Jews rejected that day?

The truth is we just don't know. Perhaps, I can ask what I would have done had I been in his place. Comparing myself to Barabbas is really not all that far-fetched. Barabbas was guilty of crimes that deserved punishment. So am I. My crimes are sins I have committed. Barabbas was most likely heading for the death penalty. Because of what I have done, I deserve the eternal death penalty of hell. Barabbas did not deserve to be set free and yet he was. I do not deserve to be set free from the punishment I deserve and yet I am.

Think of the choice between Jesus and Barabbas. One went free; the other went to his death. I am set free because Jesus went to his death on the cross.

Now what? I might wonder what Barabbas did after he was set free. But more importantly I ask, “What will I do now that I have been set free?” Shall I ignore Jesus and live for the pleasures of sin and bring back upon myself the punishment I have been saved from? May God forbid. The Lord did not save us from sin so that we could live for sin. No, he saved us from our sins so that we could live with him in heaven one day and live for him while we are in this world. St. Paul tells us, “For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NIV 84).

Pastor Rawerts

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY 9:00 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM
Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM
Tenebrae Service

EASTER
Song Service 7:00 AM

Brunch 8:00 AM

Festival Service 9:00 AM

BUILDING PROJECT

Plans are being finalized for our upcoming building project and ground has been broken. 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.

DAYCARE COMMITTEE

The Church Council appointed a Day Care Committee consisting of Kelly VanVeen, Marilyn Kjenstad, Sarah Zimmerman, Brian Rawerts, Nick Lien and Don Jakober (chairman) with the task of developing plans for the implementation of a day care at Trinity starting later this year.

To date the Committee has developed a Mission Statement for the day care, a preliminary business plan and an initial draft of a parent handbook. The Committee has been in close contact with Jim Diede of JDH Construction in preparing plans for two day care rooms in the new building. The Department of Social Services is being consulted to assure all regulations are met so the day care is properly licensed.

The Church Council is being apprised of the progress of the Day Care Committee and will be acting on Committee recommendations as they occur. Our plan is to have a final recommendation to proceed with the development of a day care and after school program for the Council to consider in April. This recommendation will then be forwarded to the voters of Trinity in the April Quarterly Voters' meeting for approval. That will give us enough time

to ask for a called worker on assignment day at MLC to act as the director of our day care.

The Day Care Committee asks members to pray for this development process. We remind the congregation that there will be start-up costs for the new day care to cover the cost of furniture, cribs, supplies, director's computer, etc. A special fund is being established for your consideration to contribute. Our initial plans also include the use of volunteers to cover some of the day care hours and possibly to prepare the noon meal. Anyone interested should please speak with one of the Committee members.

SPECIAL NEEDS BIBLE CLASS

The TLC Special Needs Bible Class meets the third Monday of each month from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. here at the church.

The typical class, with 5-8 participants, begins with a devotion. Aaron Kjenstad then shares a lesson with participants using the WELS *Jesus Cares* Ministry curriculum. Lesson topics covered this winter include the Christmas Story, creation, Adam and Eve, and the first sin. The session moves on to music led by Janelle Ferguson. Arts and crafts focusing on the lesson are then taught by Jessica Kjenstad. The class closes with prayer. Throughout the session, Glendora Dick serves as an overall helper.

"Sharing God's word with participants is the primary objective," notes Aaron Kjenstad. He finds it a challenge working with participants with differing needs and abilities. "We are all sinners and we all need to know of Jesus' forgiveness," adds Aaron.

Members of Trinity can help by praying for the class, volunteering to help with the class and steering people with special needs to the class (family members, neighbors, friends, etc.). For any questions about the class, contact Aaron Kjenstad at 377-1501.

There is a training session scheduled on March 9 at 1:00 p.m. in Alexandria, MN covering the *Jesus Cares* Ministry curriculum. Anyone interested in attending, please call Aaron at 377-1501.

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'.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Trinity Lutheran School will be holding a Kindergarten Round-Up open house on Saturday, March 23, from 11:00-1:00, and on Sunday, March 24, from 10:30-12:00. Please come to learn more information about our Kindergarten program for next year. At the open house, you will also get an opportunity to sign your child up for a Kindergarten classroom visit. For more information please contact Mrs. Niemi or Mr. Zimmerman.

EASTER FOR KIDS

On March 23, our congregation will be hosting a special one-day Vacation Bible School program called "Easter for Kids". On that day we will tell the children the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. We will also have singing, special crafts, and goodies for them to eat. The program is for children ages 4-9 and will run from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM that day. If you are able to help, or if you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Rawerts. You may also register your children for "Easter for Kids" by calling the church office at 225-6081.

THRIVENT

Thrivent Financial is asking the Thrivent Financial members to vote on extending the organization from Lutherans to ALL CHRISTIANS. As a faith-based organization, we're called to serve more people. Extending our common bond will allow us to help more Christians to be wise with money and give generously. One of the privileges of membership is being given a voice and a vote. Let your voice be heard; whatever your opinion is – vote. This can be done online (Thrivent.com/vote), by mail or by phone. You can vote from March 1st to April 30th. You can get more information in the Thrivent magazine which you should be getting any day or going online. You can also visit with Janice Mohr or Kimberly Russell.

SMART BOARDS

In modern classrooms, the Smart Board is becoming as regular a feature as desks. Smart Boards meld high-tech functionality and tradition by acting as a computer monitor and a chalkboard at the same time. In our wired society, we can show videos, write equations and check homework all on the same board in the classroom. Smart Boards

represent an exciting technological step forward for teachers and students.

Our school has been blessed with the installation of two Smart Boards last fall in the upper and lower grade classrooms. Miss Sell is primarily using hers as a projector with plans to develop programs for increased use in her math classes. She learned how to use Smart Boards in college and during her student teaching experience. Mr. Zimmerman is using his Smart Board in math, English and science classes and is developing programs for wider application in his classroom. Mr. Zimmerman is self-taught in Smart Board usage.

For more information about our Smart Boards, stop by and visit with the teachers of Trinity Lutheran School.

LENTEN SERVICES

We have begun another Lenten season. As is our custom, we have a fellowship meal after each Lenten service. As we prepare for our fellowship meals, we will be in need of the following supplies:

Styrofoam plates	8 oz. Styrofoam cups
Napkins	Paper towels
Coffee (regular & decaf)	Sugar
Tea bags	Kool-Aid

Please join us as we worship our suffering Savior.

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.



MICROPHONES

Our congregation would like to purchase new microphones to assist with the amplifying and recording of our worship services. The cost of these microphones is about \$700. Gifts to the 'Church Electronics' fund will help with this purchase. Please keep this in mind as your consider your offerings.

Also need Box Tops blurb.



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.

FIRESIDE ROOM WIRED FOR SOUND

Please note that our Fireside Room, located on the Northwest side of the Fellowship Hall is now wired for sound and our worship service can be heard there. If parents with small children need to leave church during the service and would like a quiet and private place to go, they are certainly welcome to use the Fireside Room.

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.

