

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 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.



REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE RAINBOW

Do you remember why the Lord has given us the rainbow?

To set the stage we need to go back to Genesis 6. We are told, "The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the LORD said, 'I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth--men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air--for I am grieved that I have made them'" (Genesis 6:5-7 NIV 84).

The rainbow reminds us of the Great Flood. Because the people of that time were so wicked, the Lord decided to destroy all but Noah and his family members. He brought this destruction upon them through the waters of a flood.

Yet, even in the destruction of the Flood, we see the Lord's grace. In his grace, the Lord did not destroy the human race, though that is

what all sinners deserve. He saved a small number and through their descendants the Savior eventually came into the world. Worse than being wiped off the face of the earth, is being condemned forever to the agonies of hell. The promised Savior has rescued us from that. It is a comfort to know our sins have been forgiven.

When the flood was over the Lord showed his kindness in another way. We can only imagine what Noah and his family may have thought the first time it rained after the flood. They may very well have associated rain with destruction. The sight of rain may have filled them with fear.

Should anyone have fears like that, the Lord did something extra special. He said, "I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will

remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth' " (Genesis 9:11-16 NIV 84). The rainbow is meant to be a sign of comfort and assurance for people. The one true God will not destroy the world again with a flood.

But note carefully what the Lord says. He says he will not destroy the world again *with a flood*. He never says he will not destroy the world again. He never says he will not take action against wicked people in the world again. In Isaiah, the Lord is very clear, "I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins" (Isaiah 13:11 NIV 84).

It is sad for a Bible-believing Christian to see how the rainbow is being used as a symbol to promote a lifestyle that God expressly forbids. Those who support gay marriage have chosen to use this colorful symbol as a way to signal to others what their lifestyle is. It also sends a message that they take pride in their lifestyle.

Christians who know the Bible see irony behind their use of that symbol. Christians remember that the Lord placed the rainbow in the sky after the Great Flood. Why did that flood come upon the earth? It came because the Lord decided to destroy people because of their wickedness.

While the rainbow reminds us that God will not destroy the world again with a flood, the rainbow also reminds us that there was a Great Flood. And the Great Flood reminds us that God does take action against wickedness. He will ultimately destroy those who deliberately sin against him and never repent.

Those who choose to use the rainbow as a symbol for their sin would do well remember the whole story behind the rainbow.

For us who do know the whole story, we humbly bow before the Lord and recognize that he is serious about sin. At the same time, we thank him for his grace. We find comfort in knowing there is forgiveness for every sin for those who repent and trust in Jesus as their Savior.

Pastor Rawerts

MISSION SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 11, we will have Mission Festival. Pastor Keith Petersen from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Watertown, South Dakota will be our guest speaker. Following Bible Class and Sunday School, we will be having a pot-luck meal. Please bring a dish and a salad and/or a dessert to pass. Coffee and juice will be provided.

CARDS

Do you ever find yourself looking for "just the right card" for a birthday, anniversary, get well or other special occasion? Our Trinity Women have a large variety of boxed cards (10-15 cards per box) for almost any occasion. The selection changes regularly and by seasons. So, if you are looking for just the right card....come see what is available. The cards are located in the back of the Fellowship Hall—directly across from the adult library.

GET THE WORD OUT

Please tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers and anyone else you can think of about our Trinity Lutheran School, Preschool and Aftercare programs. For more information, call our school (229-4697).

BOX TOPS

Please continue to save the "Box Tops For Education" labels found on a wide variety of foods. These labels are collected all year long. Then, at the end of the school year, the labels are turned in and Trinity Lutheran School gets "free" money. This money is then used for various items for the school. A box for the labels is on the bulletin table.

BOOKS

Have you been looking to find a really good book—something entertaining and uplifting? Check out the wide variety of books available to read and return. The adult library is located directly across from the card area at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Selections include Bibles, Synod and Congregational Year Books, The People's Bible series, and an area of fiction by good Christian authors. Please feel free to check out our selection of books, take it home, read it and bring it back.

GROCERY RECEIPTS

It is once again time to start thinking about the Ken's and Kessler's grocery receipts, dated *after* September 1, 2015. The proceeds from the receipts are used to purchase special items for our school. Please put your receipts into the box on the bulletin table.



SERVICES ON THE INTERNET

Our worship services are now on the internet. Simply go to our website, trinityaberdeen.org and click on 'Church Service Videos'. This is a great outreach for our shut-ins and people who don't have their own church but would still like to hear God's word.

STUDENT AID FUND

Here at Trinity, we have a huge selection of ways to reach out to people. We have our internet website, sermons on the internet and CDs, we have visitations for our shut-ins, the Fellowship Hall, our new gymnasium. Most of all we have Trinity Lutheran School—a very instrumental way of providing God's word every day to our Trinity youth and the youth in our community.

Through our Student Aid Fund, we at Trinity try to assist families who want to send their children to Trinity Lutheran School and are unable to afford the tuition. Without our Student Aid Fund, these families would not be able to bring their children to our school and learn about God. Perhaps we have another Peter or John in our midst, but we may never know because our Student Aid Fund is depleted. Please help us build it up again. *"Let the little children to come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* (Matthew 19:14)

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.

COMING SOON

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL BOOKFAIR DECEMBER 5 – 13, 2015



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWSBYTES

God continues to richly bless Trinity Lutheran School! Here are some recent notes and news related to our school.

FRIDAY CHAPEL SERVICES



Each Friday, at 8:05 a.m., we begin our day with chapel. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. An offering is collected each Friday to teach our students the importance of mission work. This year the chapel offerings will help support Jesus Cares, a ministry that brings the love of Jesus to adults with special needs.

LUTHERAN PIONEERS

Our Mission: Lutheran Pioneers exists to assist congregations in nurturing and training boys (and girls) in the Lord, so that they will remain faithful to Him and faithfully serve Him throughout their lives.

If you are interested in joining Lutheran Pioneers, helping with Lutheran Pioneers, or have questions, please contact Nick or Trina Lien for more information.



GYMN SHOES

All students must have non-marking tennis shoes to participate in any activity on the gym floor. Thank you for your cooperation.

BIKE RACK

A bike rack is now available for students' use. If your child is riding his/her bike to school, please use the bike rack.

HOT LUNCH

Hot lunch is served on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Students can purchase lunch tickets for \$45 for 20 meals or \$2.25 per meal. Please see Mrs. Stewart or Mrs. Brick to purchase lunch tickets.



AFTERCARE PRICING/HOURS

Aftercare is available to Trinity families as well as the general population.

The Aftercare charge is \$3 per hour from 3:15-5:30 p.m. or 5 cents per minute. The pricing may also be broken down into half-hour increments. The 5:30 p.m. pick-up is very important to remember as the policy states that anyone who picks up their child after 5:30 p.m., will be charged \$5 for every five-minute increment entered after 5:30 p.m.

For more information about our state-licensed Aftercare program, contact Ms. Leinen at preschool@trinityaberdeen.org.

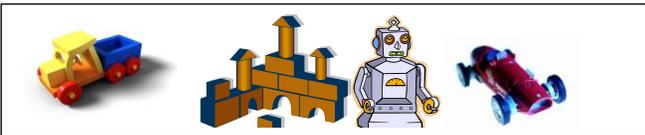
ONLINE GRADEBOOK

Parents are able to login to check grades on a daily basis. Please talk to your teacher to obtain an ID and a Password. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions.

AFTERCARE WISH LIST

The Aftercare room could still use a few items. If you would like to donate them to the Aftercare, we would greatly appreciate it:

- ❖ Board games (Anything for ages 5+)
- ❖ Puzzles (all sizes by nothing over 300 pieces)
- ❖ Card games
- ❖ Legos
- ❖ Art supplies
 - Construction paper
 - Crayons, Markers
 - Glue
 - Colored Pencils
 - Paint, Play Doh
 - Scissors
 - Watercolor pain
 - Paintbrushes, etc.
- ❖ Anything that you feel may work. We love to have new things to switch out the toys.



TLS APPAREL

We have a variety of TLS clothing available for sale. T-shirts are \$8, long sleeved shirts are \$11, crew necks are \$12, and hooded sweatshirts are \$18. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please speak to Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Brick or Mrs. Biegler.

FALL FUN NIGHT 2015

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 30, 2015
5:30—7:30 p.m.**

**Bring your friends
and family.**

**Children, friends, and
parents are invited to
come in costumes.**

**A complimentary supper
will be served followed by
an evening of fun with lots
of game for the kids.**

**We could use some volunteers to
help with games that night.
There will be a sign-up sheet on
the bulletin table. If you have any
questions, please contact Mr.
Hassler.**

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

Greetings! The objective of this letter is to inform and educate on recent and future happenings at Trinity. In particular the letter highlights some of the many blessings God has showered on us in recent months and presents some opportunities to consider.

Blessings

- We recently ended our financial fiscal year that went through 06/30/15. By the grace of God we ended the year with a positive balance in the operating fund of approximately \$4,500. This was a true blessing to end the year “in the black” in spite of the transitional year into the new kindergarten and pre-school structure that included an additional called worker. Gross revenues totaled a record \$456k. To God be the glory!
- The new Christian Life Center / gymnasium continue to be a real blessing to our congregation. In the first full school year with the gymnasium the facility was used for several special events such as a GPLHS varsity boys basketball game, YMCA youth boys and girls basketball tournaments, the Biegler Twins benefit, Trinity Lutheran School (TLS) basketball games, offseason TLS basketball workouts with devotions, a summer basketball camp hosted by TLS, TLS Physical Education class, TLS After Care Program, ski club practices, TLS all-school assembly with the Mayor of Aberdeen, member recreation and the list goes on. The facility has certainly generated some good “PR” in the community with lots of positive feedback.
- We have been blessed with approximately 30 new members over the last 12-15 months. This includes transfers, adult confirmations, profession of faith and new children. We pray that we are a blessing to these individuals and that they also be a blessing to our ministry here at Trinity.
- Trinity Lutheran School has a K-8 enrollment of 45 for the current school year.

This is up 18% versus last year thanks to a near 100% retention rate, a couple new families and a higher number of incoming kindergarten students as compared to the number of last year’s eighth grade graduates.

- We also continue to expand and enhance our extra-curricular activities at TLS; this year we have added a volleyball program to go along with our basketball and cheerleading programs.
- Last year’s transitional year into the new pre-school structure had a late start in terms of marketing. We started the year with 4 students and ended the year with 7. By the grace of God pre-school enrollment has blossomed to 19 in the current school year! Parents have the option to choose from a two-day, three-day or five-day program.
- The After School Care Program realized an increase of approximately 50% in revenues from the 2013/2014 school year to the 2014/2015 school year. Early projections for the current 2015/2016 school year show that this figure will realize a sizeable increase once again. Currently, on average, 15 students utilize the program each school day.
- We were recently able to invest in new technology for our computer lab thanks to some special funds outside of the operating budget – PTO Fund and the Small Employer Health Insurance Premium tax credit. The computer lab is utilized by both TLS students and Sunday School students. Another positive investment in our ministry at Trinity.
- The greatest blessing continues to be a church and school that preaches and teaches God’s word in its truth and purity. In a day and age where people want to pick and choose from God’s word as if parts of it had an expiration date we continue to stand for God’s word as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. The will of Him who created the universe does not change based on public opinion. As the author writes in the hymn *Speak, O Lord*, “truths unchanged from the dawn of time...that will echo down

through eternity...and by grace we'll stand on your promises."

Opportunities

- **Completion of pledge drive:** The total cost of the Christian Life Center project was approximately \$1.15 million. This includes everything from the building itself to the furnishings, scoreboards, parking lot expansion, etc. The only debt against the project is a bridge loan with Thrivent. All of the remaining costs have been paid for with contributions; this is in addition to the donated labor not included in the total cost. The Thrivent note payable served as a construction loan to bridge the timing gap of the three-year pledge drive with the completion of the Christian Life Center project. The pledge drive comes to a close at the end of 2015. Between cash on hand in the Christian Life Center Fund and the remaining pledges to be collected we will be able to pay the bridge loan down to approximately \$105k after accounting for the 2015 interest expense and a small allowance. The ideal situation would be to have additional offerings made to the debt fund in 2015 to cover the \$105k bridge loan shortfall versus refinancing the shortfall into our existing long-term debt which would extend the length of the repayment term from 8 years to 13 years.
- **Operating fund support:** In June our voters passed a balanced budget of \$480,500 for the fiscal year that begins 7/1/2015 and ends 6/30/16. This expenditure total represents an increase of 3.65% when compared to actual expenses for the fiscal year that ended 6/30/15. Tuition and after school care income are projected to have a large percentage increase, while operating fund contributions are budgeted to increase 2.5%. Please keep this in mind as you consider your offerings for the next 12 months.
- **Evangelism committee:** There is an opportunity for a couple of members to join the evangelism committee and assist with planning and organizing various outreach and fellowship

events. Please speak with Pastor or myself if you have an interest or want to learn more.

Dates of Note

- GPLHS vs. Aberdeen Christian varsity girls basketball game on Monday January 25th
 - We are exploring a summer of 2016 event similar to what we had in 2012 that was highlighted by a grill-out for the community and an outdoor Koine concert. Keep this in your prayers as a potential outreach event and provide any thoughts or feedback to Pastor Rawerts or myself.
- We continue to have many exciting things happening at Trinity with lots to be thankful for. We have been richly blessed with dedicated called workers, a beautiful facility and faithful members. May the Lord continue to bless us as we "connect people to Christ" and nurture believers in their faith.

Al Kjenstad, Chairman

***"Christian people have the highest motivation to strive for excellence."
"Excellence is the result of planned, continuous, and incremental efforts to improve programs and practices."***

