



*Serving the
downtown
community
since 1919*

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 30
Advent Begins

DECEMBER 7
Advent -The Next
NOEL

DECEMBER 14
Advent

DECEMBER 21
Advent-Quempaas
Carol

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 25
Christmas Day

DECEMBER 25-31
Campus Lockdown
(After the 10:00 AM
Service)

DECEMBER 31
New Years Eve

Published Monthly
Except July
Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church
of Orlando, Florida
123 Livingston Street
Orlando, FL 32801-1598

Trinity Downtown

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Volume 9, Issue 11

DECEMBER 2005

Pastor's Page

Why do adults get so excited about the reactions of children to Christmas? You know what I mean--we love to see them dressed in costumes for Christmas programs, we love to hear their voices singing Christmas carols, we long to gather them around their grandparents, we love to see their faces as they open presents . . . The list goes on and on. As we watch them, something special happens inside us. Why?

Perhaps in watching them we see ourselves, and thrill to memories of Christmases long past, when we were the ones dressed as shepherds, or trying to figure out what "Noel" meant, or smelling Grandma's special perfume lingering on our clothes after the visit, or opening that stuffed animal that we lugged around long after some people thought we were too old for "Lassie" or "Tiger." (I still have Tiger, confined now to an antique basket with other stuffed animals,

by Pastor Jeff Moore

but I left Lassie out in the rain when I was twelve--I think he was second base!--and he wasn't allowed back in the house.)

It's more than just memory though, isn't it? There's a desire for these children to cherish the event as we once cherished it, for them to get just as excited as we once did. We seek to recapture those moments by watching them have the same kind of moments, and so we plan our Christmas activities to provide

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Trinity Lutheran School News

TLS Annual Appeal
As many of you may be aware, tuition, PTL and the financial support of the Church no longer provide sufficient funding for Trinity Lutheran School. In order for the School to provide a Christian education in a progressive environment, to our

children, the Annual Appeal has been created to offset this shortfall. The Annual Appeal provides an opportunity for parents, grandparents, members and alumni to support Trinity Lutheran School. You should have received a mailing at the end of September that outlined our project for

by Dr. Shaffer

the 2005-2006 school year. Please prayerfully consider giving to the TLS Annual Appeal and supporting our mission of outreach to children and families in downtown Orlando.

School News

The Christmas Band Concert on December 8th has been cancelled.

(Continued on Page 6)

December Again

As the month of December approaches, it brings with it many thoughts and emotions. Upon the arrival of the month those same thoughts and emotions become reality. Sometimes that reality becomes a negative crunch of Christmas in your life. That's right the NEGATIVE crunch of Christmas.

Financially you may be struggling to purchase gifts for your loved ones, not wanting your gift to be inadequate in response for what you receive on that special day. Broken relationships are even more apparent as others speak fondly of their family time together. Special holidays bring with it special moments. Losing a loved one within this year makes you wonder if it will ever be the same. I have only touched upon part of the apparent negative crunch of Christmas in your life. If everything appears to be so negative, why go with the flow? Why celebrate something, which is so hard to do? Why, you ask, as your life has been changed.

I wish I could tell you not to worry, and that everything will be all right, but I cannot. As a matter of fact, at times I don't even have the words to speak, just a heart to listen. Even if someone did say something to you though, it would likely not even matter. There usually isn't anything anyone could say to change our attitude or state of mind

The Little Child

"... and a little child will lead them."

Isaiah 11:6b

It is Advent time again. Christmas is only four short weeks away. This is the time I dread most in a year. There is so much to do the shopping, Christmas cards, meal planning, parties, and other seemingly endless activities, all important in the name of "Christmas." Getting wrapped up in all this other "stuff" detracts from enjoying any of it. "Ah Ha!" you say "I always knew she was a 'bah humbug!'" Yeah, well maybe, BUT

What about Isaiah's prophecy of a little child coming into this world to lead (indeed, save) us? Do we get so tied up in the world's idea of preparing for Christmas that we lose sight of

by Pastor Jon van Sliedrecht

when we are in transition. The gracious part of our God is that He doesn't just do it with words, but in action.

In the book of Luke it states: "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." The birth of a baby can stop the anxiety of a person's life. The birth can bring together the broken relationships that hinder those around. Through the new life of a baby it allows the old life to be seen in a different light, the light of the new birth.

The action of a birth can make a difference in your troubled world. The birth of Jesus Christ in your life can make a difference for eternity. As the angels spoke, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests". The Glory of God is praised and worshiped through us, just like the shepherds who returned, "glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen."

It is Jesus' saving work of salvation that creates this the new birth of our lives and which allows us to live in a new way. May this December bring thoughts and emotions of Christ's birth to your life.

by Sandy Ogg, Executive Director

what Advent really means? Sure, we attend Advent services and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, but are we truly focused on the reality of what this special time in our church year really means?

Suggestion: Think about the Isaiah passage ". . . and a little child will lead them." Next, spend time with a little child. This could be your own child, your grandchild, or simply a child you see in your everyday life as you wander about doing your errands. Think about that child being so blessed by God that he is chosen to lead an entire nation. Can you see that little child in that role? If you are like me, I can't imagine my own child being an adult (35 years) having his own children (three) and the responsibility all that imparts,

(Continued on Page 6)

Pastor's Page, continued from page 1

wide-eyed wonder for little ones.

There are dangers in this, of course. By concentrating on the reaction of the children, we can easily "use" them. Who hasn't felt guilty when receiving a gift that the giver was much more excited about than the receiver? "Oh, I love it!" you said out loud, while inside you thought, "What is this, and what will I ever do with it?" It's possible for the recipient to feel almost used by the giver, and we can do that to children, too—we can use them more for our enjoyment than for their own. Have you ever felt disappointment when a small child enjoyed the box more than the gift? If so, it's possible that your giving was more about yourself than about the child.

There's also the danger that we focus more on the externals than on the "reason for the season." If we're zeroing in on the reaction of children we might very well "dress up" everything until it's unrecognizable. "It wouldn't be Christmas without Grandma's molasses cookies!" Really? That's a funny definition of Christmas!

And, of course, children do see through us. When they perceive that we're working the situation to provoke a certain reaction from them, they sense the hypocrisy, and may very well choose either to use us ("the more we get the grownups excited about this Christmas deal, the more loot we'll get!") or to rebel against what they know is false.

May I suggest instead that we really pay attention to our own celebration of Christmas, not selfishly, but realizing that if we really care about the birth of Christ, we'll model the right kind of excitement, leaving our children free to follow in our footsteps.

There is much for an adult Christian to get excited about at this time of year! We can use the resources provided by our church to discover these lost treasures. Take home an

Advent devotion book and actually read it, with your family, this year. Try some of the things it suggests. Listen to the Advent messages you'll hear at church. Most of all, read the Christmas story again, and ask yourself, "Did the King of the universe really do all this for me?"

I'm not asking you to manufacture excitement. I'm urging you to pay attention to the most exciting thing that ever happened on the face of the earth. The Son of God took on human flesh in order to save the human race! He found a way to take away the burden of our sin so completely that it's still gone, that even 2,000 years later you and I are free! Look past the cuteness of the story, the "warm fuzzies," and see the great drama that caused the angels to burst into Glorias! If an angel can get excited about this, can't you?

FL/GA LCMS Middle School Youth Gathering

Extreme Makeover Faith Edition

During the weekend of 11/4 - 11/6/2005 28 of Trinity's Middle School students attended the FL/GA LCMS Middle School Gathering at Lake Yale Conference Center in Leesburg, FL. This year's theme was: 'EXTREME MAKEOVER FAITH EDITION' based on 2 Corinthians 5:17 (*If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone the new has come.*)

Back by popular demand was the featured speaker Pastor Bill Yonker who had over 850 middle school students attention with his stories for faith and forgiveness. The students also enjoyed DANIEL'S WINDOW the featured praise/rock band - who was back for their 3rd year in a row.

The weekend was also filled with break-out sessions, Sat. afternoon fun-time and a dance/pizza party on Sat. night. All of the students had a great time during this weekend with their friends and making new ones too.

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A from Your Music Director

by Lisa Moore, Music Director

"Bats in the Belfry" puts Adults and Kids on the Organ Bench

A medley of Bach's "Toccatina and Fugue in Dm", Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain", Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera" and Beethoven's "Fifth" opened up the 2nd annual fun concert on Trinity's 50 year old, 27 rank, Skinner organ, the Friday night before Halloween. *Thanks to the Fellowship Board*, costumed families enjoyed pizza and games before coming over to the balcony where bats greeted them in the doorway. The "King of Instruments" was explored with a series of variations on the well known "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star". Adult volunteers helped with "The Blue Danube Waltz" and Anders Hammerstrom and Sarah Dittmer, two piano students, performed special pieces on the organ. Afterwards, all children (and adults!) were invited to sit on the organ bench "up close and personal" and try their hand at it. Thank you to everyone who participated!!

"Parenting in the Pew" Tip of the Month

Appropriate behavior and participation doesn't just happen; it's learned step by step. The most important thing you can ever teach your child how to do is worship. It's the only thing they will do forever.

December, with the start of the Advent season and a whole new church year, is a wonderful, and perhaps easier time to worship with children! The *colors* change on the altar and on the pastors. The *music* and the *moods* change. Often through Advent and Christmas seasons there are hymns with *refrains*, easily sung by even small children.

With many more services to prepare for, please at this time of year, pray for the pastors, your music director, the choirs and instrumentalists.

Thank You for the donations that have come in to help us cover the expenses of more bell tables, foam, gloves, folders, music stands, and the new processional candles we will be using this Christmas season!

LAST call! Sign up for the Children's 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program!

E-mail lmoore@trinitydowntown.org or call 407-422-5704 X 124 to sign up! Rehearsals are Saturdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 from 10 a.m. to noon and Tues, Dec 20 and Thurs., Dec 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30.

Advent services "Come Lord Jesus, Be Our Guest"

- Fellowship meals before church.
- Pre-service music by harpist, Elaine Scott
- Hymn Sings

December 7 "The Next Noel"

presented by Trinity Lutheran School

9 a.m. chapel, 12:10 and 7:00 p.m.

The sequel to the popular "First Noel", where Leon is again involved in the children's Christmas pageant and needs to learn an important lesson. With new songs and traditional carols, the school children will help us find what's really important in Christmas.

Dec. 21 "Quempas Carol" "The Quempas goes 'round" this phrase describes a worshipful and truly beautiful Christmas custom which dates back to the Middle Ages. At midnight on Christmas Eve, when the congregation had assembled for worship, four groups of boys proceeded to the four corners of the church to announce to the congregation from north, south, east, and west that "Heaven's all-glorious King is born." The four solo groups are followed by the choir's verses from *Nunc angelorum* "The glorious angels came today." The congregation replies with the refrain, "God's own Son is born a child." This beautiful, candlelight procession from the mid 1500's will be started again here at Trinity, and used the last Advent service before Christmas.

Dec. 24 4:00 Children's Christmas Program

6:00 Christmas candlelight communion service - Trinity PRAISE

8:00 Christmas candlelight communion service - Trinity's Parish Choir

11:00 Christmas candlelight communion service soloists

Dec. 25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day communion service

Growing in Christ



From your Director of Christian Education by Ronda Krauskopf Grant

by Ronda Krauskopf Grant, Director of Christian Education

*“I thank my God every time I remember you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 1:3-6*

As I began to think of writing this article, my final Growing in Christ article for the Trinity newsletter, this verse came to mind. I do thank all of my family here at Trinity for your partnership in the gospel. We have shared, laughed, learned, played, prayed, and even cried together. In my short time here, you have become a part of me that I will carry with me to Chicago.

I believe that God is alive and well at Trinity, and I encourage you to continue to grow in God's word and continue to share the joy and peace of God with those within and outside of the walls of this beautiful church.

I will hopefully be pulling out of Orlando for Chicago on Jan. 2, pulling a trailer of belongings. You can contact me there by email at Rondalou1@comcast.net or mail to Ronda (Krauskopf) Grant, 3333 Atlantic St., Franklin Park, IL 60131. I look forward to hearing from you and keeping up with what is going on at Trinity and Orlando. You will be in my prayers and thoughts. Thank you again for all your love and support. I have been blessed by my time at Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

I leave you with a very special prayer:

The Clown Prayer

Lord,

As I stumble through this life,

Help me to create more laughter than tears,

*Dispense more happiness than gloom,
Spread more cheer than despair.
Never let me become so indifferent
that I fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a
child,
or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged.
...and, Lord,
in my final moment, may I hear you
whisper,
“When you made My people smile, you
made Me smile.”*

- Author unknown

School Registration

by Wayne L. Schwanke, Director of Admissions

It's not too early to begin planning for the next school year. Trinity Lutheran school's enrollment process for the 2006-2007 school year begins in January. If you or a friend are interested in enrolling at Trinity Lutheran School for the 2006-2007 school year, or want to learn more about our school's programs, please mark January 24-26 on your calendar. These are the dates of our annual school open house. You are invited to visit classrooms between the hours of 9 and 11:30 a.m., enjoy some fellowship with the Trinity administrative/admissions staff, and see our school in operation. If you wish more information now, please do not hesitate to contact Wayne L. Schwanke, Director of Admissions, Trinity Lutheran School, Phone 407-422-5704 extension 109 (office), or 321-438-9585 (cell). E-mail WSchwanke@Trinitydowntown.org.

PORTALS OF PRAYER

Portals of Prayer, daily devotional booklets, are available in the back of the church. Please take one. A limited number of large print editions are also available in the church office.

Trinity Lutheran School News, cont'd from page 1

Fall Festival

The Trinity Lutheran Fall Festival has been rescheduled! Mark your calendar on Saturday, March 4th, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., for the **SPRING FEVER FESTIVAL!** We'll have all the same great activities such as a Birds of Prey show, arts & crafts for kids, games, rides and much more. If you haven't already purchased your tickets, signed up for a vendor table, or volunteered there's plenty of time!

We'll begin selling event tickets again at the beginning of February. If you have already purchased tickets and armbands, keep them in a safe place for the March 4th event. If, for some

reason the new date conflicts with your personal calendar and you have already purchased tickets and/or armbands, please let me know and we will reimburse you. Additionally, if you have paid for tickets and armbands, you should have received them, by November 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Monique Yeager at 407.660.8888 or email myeager@sonnysbbq.com.

Thanks to our sponsors Schenck Company, Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q, PBS&J, Orlando National Bank, Barnie's Coffee and Tea Company, Selma's Cookies, The Guetzloe Report and Miller Legg.

The Little Child, continued from page 2

let alone that he could lead an entire nation.

Finally, think about the birth of Jesus the little child spoken of in Isaiah. It was a humble birth. There were no baby showers or expectant mother parties. Just His mom and dad looking for a place to sleep in a small town that was overrun with people who had come to be taxed. No motel, no hospital, nothing! What was there was a stable with a manger, some shepherds sitting on a hill that were told the good news of God's gift to the world by angels! There was the completion of God's promise that a little child would be born who would change the whole shape of a sinful world. This little child came into our sinful world just as innocent as we view our babies when they are

born. The difference? God freely gave His Son to save us. Could you do the same with your little child? Isn't it comforting to know that we don't have to make that decision?

I pray each of you will make time to spend with Jesus, the little child, as you go about preparing for this Christmas season, and that if you don't already know deep down in your heart how priceless is this gift, that you will be gently wooed into Him and allow the real meaning of Christmas to be planted and encouraged to grow and grow and grow EVERYDAY!

In the Little Child's Name,
Sandy

FL/GA LCMS Middle School Youth Gathering *Extreme Makeover Faith Edition*, continued from page 3

Thanks to Beth Jackson, Renee Ponik, Linda Wolters, Ronda Krauskopf and Pastor Moore for helping me make this event possible for the MS students. I would also like to thank our bus driver Brain Fisher who kindly stepped in when Miss Barb was out of town for this weekend.

Please keep watching this newsletter, The Triune and/or Trinity's web-site for upcoming Youth

events for both HS & MS students. If you have any questions in regards to Trinity's Youth Ministry please e-mail us at: BYM@Trinitydowntown.org.

In Christ Alone,

Wade Regan
Board of Youth Ministry

From Your Music Director,

continued from page 4

Trinity's Epiphany Cantata—Friday, January 6th, 7:00 p.m.

“The Winter Rose” by Joseph Martin.

Based on the carol, “Lo, How a Rose is Blooming” Presented by the choirs and instrumentalists of Trinity.

From the earliest Christian time, the rose has been a symbol of divine love. It reaches across the ages in ancient illuminations and freely spills from the pens and brushes of countless poets and artists. Echoing through our sanctuaries in the melodies and texts of many beloved carols, it brings to life the beautiful visions of Biblical prophets and the hope of early Christian pilgrims. Today, the rose remains a vital expression of love and peace both inside the Church and the outside world.

Christ, the Rose of Sharon, is God's greatest gift. Even in the deepest winter, we are people of hope, joy and life. Bring your family, neighbors and friends!

Rehearsal Notes!

Handbell Rehearsals move to Mondays.

November 28, December 5, 12, 19 - 6:30 p.m.

Women's Choir Rehearsal, church basement

Wed., Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.

NO Women's and Men's Choir Rehearsals

Dec. 4th!!

Women's Choir Rehearsal, church basement

Sun., Dec. 11, 7:30 a.m.

Men's Choir Rehearsal, church basement

Sun., Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m.

Men's Choir Rehearsal, church basement

Wed., Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Parish Choir Rehearsals follow the

Wednesday evening Advent services, 8 p.m.

NO Rehearsals the week of Dec. 26-31

Handbells-Wed., Jan 4, 6:30

Choir-Wed., Jan 4, 7:30

Dress rehearsal-Thurs., Jan 5, 7:00

Women's Choir Rehearsal, at the Moore's Food:
Kristine Zook-Sun, Jan. 8, 6:00 p.m.

Men's Choir Rehearsal, at the Moore's Food:
Allen Cunningham-Sun, Jan. 8, 7:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Eve 4:00 program rehearsals: Saturdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Tues., Dec 20 and Thurs. Dec 22 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

New Members to Trinity Lutheran Church

The following families and individuals who through transfer, adult instruction, and reaffirmation of faith were formally brought into our congregation on November 13th, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Trinity Lutheran Church New Members

Frank & Gretchen Knoblauch
with children; Jeuneth & Kaleb Jones

Julie & Marty Lasater

Sandra & Robert Lyerly

Carl & Lauren Moffi

Dave Schaub

Susan Sievers

Sandra Walker

Arnie & Cindy Eastlick

Betty Brath

Kathy Lee

Lee & Sylvia Webster

Veda Webster

Elmon Hanke

Kristi Domke

Jennifer Carter with children;

Nicolas, Kelsey and Gracyn

Michael Schneider

Leah Weber with child; Luke Matthew
Weber

Gladys & Omar Dittmer

Eleanore Gawron

Benjamin Piering

Stephanie Springer

Tiffany Blackson

Carolyn Davenport

**“The Best Cup of
Coffee in Town”
Brought to You
by Your Fellowship Board!
Sundays 8:45-9:30 a.m.
In the Fellowship Hall**

Try It! You'll Like It!

Looking for adults who want to share their love of God with children for one hour once a week for a four-week period. Can you spare just one hour a week, 9:30-10:30 Sunday mornings, to share the gifts that God have you. If so, then you can be a Sunday school Station leader. All lessons are written and easy to follow. Materials are provided and a Sunday school teacher will help you during the class. Look below for the station leaders needed and the dates, and pray about being a part of our Sunday school team for a four-week time (or longer if you wish). Try it! You'll like it!

December 4, 11

Celebrate Christmas and Epiphany
Stations-Games, Video, Music, Science

January 8, 15, 22, 29

Practice the Prayer - The Lord's Prayer
Stations-Art, Storytelling, Science,
Video

February 5, 12, 19, 26

Splashed in the Spirit - Baptism
Stations-Art, Science, Video,
Storytelling

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Hope in Lent and Holy Week
Stations-Art, Drama, Games,
Storytelling

April 2, 9, 23, 30

Experience Easter
Stations-Art, Games, Video, Science

May 7, 14, 21, 28

Play Through Pentecost
Stations-Video, Music, Art, Science

Your help is needed! If you are interested in helping with Sunday school for one of these short 4 week sessions, please contact the church office, talk to a Board of Parish Education member (Doris Engstrom, Cindy Hammerstrom, Ellen Boogher, Michelle Alvarado, or Becky Hildebrand), or email BPE@trinitydowntown.org. Thank you!

CHURCH STAFF



EVACUATION

Campus Lockdown! All Alarms Are On!!

Starting after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 25th til the New Year's Eve service on Saturday, December 31, 2005, the entire school and church campus will be closed and the alarm system will be activated. If you open a door and set off the alarm during this time,

police *will* respond, and they charge us \$50.00 each time. Please help us avoid unnecessary expenses and make sure that, even if you have a key, you don't enter any buildings during this break time unless you've made special arrangements. Thanks!!

Attention Young Adults!

Join in exciting Bible study and fun on Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., at Amy Kushnir's home. The current study is a study of Moses and how God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things, based on the book "Here I am Lord...Send Someone Else" by Jill Briscoe. This group also gets together for some type of social events (like going to a Christian concert or a local pool place). Contact Amy Kushnir for more information at 407-697-1396 or amyk@c-p.com.

EMAIL ADDRESS?

Do you have an email address that you have not turned into the church office? Please email or call in your new or updated email address to Kristy at kbowman@trinitydowntown.org.

Trinity Youth News LCMS FL/GA District Senior High Youth Gathering

March 3-5, 2006

RADISSON RIVERWALK HOTEL

Jacksonville, FL

Featuring the Christian Rock Group: 'FUSEBOX'
and Guest Speakers:

Pastors Vic Belton & Paul VonWerder

To Register:

- Complete the Individual Registration & Medical Information Form.
- Complete and have **notarized** the Medical and Liability Release Form.
- Read and sign the Gathering covenant form.

Registration forms can be found in the church office, in the church narthex or on the Trinity's web-site (www.trinitydowntown.org) - look for the Cross/Shield icon.

Mail or bring in the completed forms to the church office with a check of \$180.00 (made out to Trinity

by Wade Regan, Board of Youth Ministry

Lutheran Church) by **Sunday, Jan. 15th, 2006**. This \$180.00 covers: accommodations, transportation, bus driver, snacks, a box lunch for Sat. and all event activities. **PLEASE NOTE** this fee DOES NOT cover all meals, you will need to bring extra money for Saturday & Sunday's breakfast and Saturday's dinner.

Mail notarized forms & check to:

HS District Youth Gathering Registration

Trinity Lutheran Church

427 N. Magnolia Ave.

Orlando, FL 32801

If you have any questions please contact Wade Regan at WADE408@YAHOO.COM or the church office. Trinity does not want financial burdens to keep students from attending this event contact Wade Regan to ask about financial assistance.

NOTE: If you bring your forms to the church office during office hours - Connie Hagerman our Finance Administrator is a Notary. She will be happy to notarize the Medical & Liability Release form for you.

Orlando Lutheran Academy News

Brick of Faith: Help pave the way for The Orlando Lutheran Academy's future by giving a gift that lasts for many years! Buying the personalized brick, or bricks, is a way everyone can help support The Orlando Lutheran Academy. Your personalized, engraved message will be a visible tribute to your family, child, graduate, alumnus or favorite teacher. Call the school office (407-275-7750) for additional order forms.

Emerald Evening Dinner and Auction: The 8th Annual Emerald Evening Dinner and Auction will be Saturday, February 25, 2006 starting at 5:00 p.m. Mark the date on your calendar and watch the Crusader Communicator in the weeks to come for more information and details.

The Orlando Lutheran Academy's
3rd Annual Holiday Stop N' Shop
and

Christmas Tree Sale

Saturday, December 3, 2005

8:00 AM 4:00 PM

(tree sales to continue longer)

Our event offers the ultimate in one stop holiday shopping!

We offer fresh Christmas trees and wreaths, holiday gifts for everyone on your shopping list, gift-wrapping, food tasting, make and takes, breakfast and lunch.

We have over 30 vendors and crafters available for your shopping convenience.

The first 100 shoppers, to make a purchase at the Stop N' Shop will receive a holiday shopping bag, compliments of Bath and Body Works-Altamonte Mall. The bags will contain coupons and other goodies from local businesses.

Event to be held on our school campus located at:

550 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando, FL 32825
(Directly across from Valencia College- East Campus)
407-275-7750

Sponsored by: The Orlando Lutheran Academy PTL
and the class of 2006

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Orlando Lutheran Academy's

"CORNFEST 2006"

An Outdoor Community Celebration Of
Music, Food, Fellowship And Fun

Saturday, March 25, 2006

Noon - 8:00 Pm

**ON THE CAMPUS OF
THE ORLANDO LUTHERAN ACADEMY**

Strategic Planning Initiative

Report to Congregation November 20, 2005

The Strategic Planning Initiative committee members are: Tom Cotton, Peter Krzyzak, Pr. Jeff Moore, Sandy Ogg, and Pr. Jon van Sliedrecht. We are "coached" by Kurt Bickel of The Cornerstone Factor.

This committee as well as all of Trinity's leadership, staff and faculty have spent countless hours looking at Trinity's past, present and future. We have looked at what Trinity does well in her ministries as well as areas that need improvement. We have moved through the first half of the SPI process. Committee meetings have been held, and we have done individual research into demographics, attendance, school ministry, Bible study opportunities, small group effectiveness, and other areas. Two major workshops encompassing Parish Planning Council members, all board members and staff participation have been held. We have discovered:

Trinity's Vision:

Trinity Lutheran Church is a people straining to share, willing to risk all to get the life-giving word of the Gospel into the lives of others.

Trinity's Mission:

Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Ministries which strengthen and equip people for Christian witness and service in Downtown, Metropolitan Orlando and the world!

Trinity's Guiding Principles:

- **Godly Servant Leadership**

God has blessed Trinity through His grace with Godly Servant Leadership. Leadership values the gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit upon its leadership as it serves the Lord.

God's people continually develop their gifts and skills as servant leaders.

- **Bible Centered Preaching and Teaching**
Trinity values The Holy Bible as the inspired word of God and seeks to impart the Christian message through preaching from the pulpit and teaching through its various ministries. Study of the Bible and meditation of its truth is integrated into the life of all.
- **Worship**-Our church values the opportunities it has to worship together. Worship fills our spiritual sieves and enables us to go forth into our community to be Jesus to others. Trinity experiences worship as central to all of life and fosters prayer, devotion and other frequent opportunities to glorify God.
- **Education** Our church values its education ministry through its Christian Day School, Childcare Center and Extended care programs and all other learning opportunities. God presents this opportunity to feed His lambs and their families by presenting God's word on an everyday basic teaching and learning the faith throughout all of life's journey.
- **Sacraments** Our church values the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Communion. They are God's gifts of eternal grace to us. Our church holds them as sacred and central to the very life and being of our congregation.
- **Family** Our church values the family unit as the "small church" at home [whether married, single, young or old] that comes together at the "big church" to be nourished so they can go into the community to proclaim the love of Christ and encourages healthy relationships and Christ-centered nurture.

(Continued on Page 11)

Strategic Planning Initiative, continued from page 10

Critical Ministry Targets

What is a Critical Ministry Target? - It is a special focus of work (groups of people or areas of effort) for which the organization must make significant impact in order to effectively pursue its mission.

There are many things Trinity could be doing. However, based upon results of our guiding principles, vision and mission, what must we do and do well? Selection of a few critical targets does not mean the exclusion of other ministry areas. It does mean, however, that the church council gives these outcomes priority. It may not mean new programs and projects; or it could mean establishment of significant additions/changes to our organization. Targets are for everyone! Members expect leadership to accomplish critical targets and visitors feel their influence.

At the workshop held October 29, 2005, Trinity leadership brain stormed critical targets. Target priorities by first selection process are listed below. (Each participant was given four votes.)

Votes Target Area

- Bible Study
- Outreach
- Young Adults age 24 to 35
- Responding to Peoples Needs
- Seniors
- Worship
- Youth
- School
- Assimilation of New Members
- Web Ministry
- Expand Child Care Programs
- Stewardship
- Missions Here and Abroad
- Parents of the School
- Family Ministry
- Neighborhood Ministry
- Reactive Members
- Christian Citizenship

Two additional targets were identified: expansion of facilities and marketing. While they are important, they are not part of strategic identity, but are more operational. (i.e., they are *supporting* roles to the “true ministries” of Trinity).

All of the critical targets are important. They represent the diverse and rich ministry of Trinity. The congregation will continue to serve all ages of the church because that is part of Trinity's vision. We now move into the phase where congregational input becomes important, and, indeed, essential. Congregational members are encouraged to review progress to date and make comments on the process. The final critical targets selected by the congregation and its leadership will dictate how Trinity moves into the future.

The foregoing is a brief synopsis on the SPI process to date. If you would like to view the complete report provided by Cornerstone Coach Kurt Bickel, please contact Executive Director Sandy Ogg at: natlme@aol.com. A copy will be e-mailed to you.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Ogg Trinity Executive Director
For the SPI Committee

Excitement Thy Name Is Development Committee

This is a time of exciting happenings around Trinity. The Travelodge has been offered to the congregation on a first look basis, we are being given the opportunity to buy the property before it is put on the market because the owners are Christians and want the church to have the property if we are interested. One of the trustees is the treasurer of Lake Highland.

In addition the property just to the North of the Travelodge, the Daley property, has been put on the market.

(Continued on Page 15)

Advent 2005

Advent Weekday Schedule

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th

12:10 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7th

12:10 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14th

12:10 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21st

12:10 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

Christmas Worship Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th

4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas program

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th

10:00 A.M.

New Years Schedule

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31st

6:00 P.M.



Poinsettias

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND DECORATIONS

Making Trinity Church especially beautiful during the Holy Day celebrations, are provided by Trinity people who wish to remember loved ones, or

simply express special thanks to God. The names of contributors and people remembered will be published in the January newsletter following Christmas. (Donations for poinsettias are \$10.00.)

Name _____

Envelope # _____

Donation \$ _____

In memory of _____

In thanks for / In memory of: _____

Plants may be picked up after the 11:00 a.m. Epiphany worship January 4th.

The tradition of Trinity's midweek Advent dinner continues. Dinners will be held at 5:30 p.m. on November 28th, December 7th, 14th and 21st.

So, take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and join us each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall for a little food, fellowship and fun as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. Followed by our Advent Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

Please cut off the bottom of this form and fill it out to assist us in our preparation.

Advent Dinner Reservation Form

Name: _____

Dinner prepared by Board of Elders

Wednesday, November 30th

Lasagna, salad and dessert

_____ will attend

Dinner prepared by PTL Board

Wednesday, December 7th

Pizza, Salad and dessert

_____ will attend

Dinner prepared by TBA

Wednesday, December 14th

Food TBA

_____ will attend

Dinner prepared by Board of Youth Ministry

Wednesday, December 21st

Soup & Sandwiches

_____ will attend

There will be a free will donation taken at each meal.



Prayer List

In order for the Triune prayer list to be up to date and functional, we have started to date the prayer requests and put them in a rotation. After three weeks of prayer, we will automatically take off that particular prayer. If you want us to continue the prayer, call Kristy in the church office and request the prayer be put back on the prayer list for another three-week rotation. The prayer list of the monthly newsletter will consist of prayers that are longer term. If there are any changes on the list below or if you would like them in the Triune prayer list for three weeks, call Kristy, 407-422-5704, or email kbowman@trinitydowntown.org.

During the Month of November we prayed for:

Mary Barnes, Charlie Barnes, Valerie Bender (Amy Dittmer's girlfriend/ Stomach Cancer), Jack Berry, Vicki Blaine (Carole Stevens mother), Dale Blair, Lois Blair, Inga Bouton, Rosalie Bowen, Lyman Bowman (Martha Pfantz brother/health), Bertha Bradbury (leukemia), John Calkins, Allison Carey, Mary Cawthon (Health), Elizabeth Cohen (recovery chemo), Ralph Driscoll, Mike Duda (Father-in-law of Greg Registers brother/cancer) Mark Eckoff, Diane Edenfield (Daughter of Margaret Thomas/Cancer), Becky Elkins, Dawn Erwin (cancer/friend/Wendy Churchville), Lillian Ferris, Tim G. (Nephew of C. Burnett/Special Needs), Donna Gardner (Friend of Virginia Ellis), Pat Glander, Elizabeth Gordon (Health), Laura Guderian, Doris Guehery, Mary Hecht, Mariam Hey (Mother of Bob Hey), Kenneth Hill (Mary Hohman's brother-in-law), Robert Hoard, Terry Imperato (Friend of Sweatt Family, cancer), Bev Johnson (Pat Glander's cousin), Madeline Kimmel (rehab), Ed Korndoefer (Brother of Karen Killinger), Deborah Koivu, Kim (Koivu) West, Duane Kuhlow (Brother of Mary Lange/Abdominal Surgery), Wendy Kuhn (Friend of Frank Kraus), Edna Kunze, Everett Lackey (Father of Sharon, Shirley, Susan and Shelia), Pat Lange (Mother of Ted Lange/High Blood Pressure), Rick Lasater (Brother of Marty) Crystal Lawrence (friend Carole Stevens), Jennifer Leishte (Friend of Jody & Gaye Bowman), Laurence Lillvik, Rose Madlinger (Chemo), Babe Marjema, Stewart Marshall (leukemia), Doyle Martin (Father of Anna Kunster/Cancer), Shaun McDonnaugh, Elizabeth McLean (Family friend of Ruffier family), Steve MacNevin, Mike Meeske, Lenore Mooneyham (Sister of Peggy Trapp) Cayla Ann Parody, Susan Podrasky, Ruth Pytko, Lois Raymond, Adel Renner (Mother of Craig Stephens), Claude Reece (Jean Hamilton's brother), Wealey Robinson (Billie Kuzdzal's cousin), Alta Salmond, Scott Edwards (Stacy Saul's brother), Nell Schmidt, Eleanor Schaecher, Diana Seal, Louis Siems (Chemo), Bonnie Claire Shelton (Family friend of Ruffier Family), Joseph Starr, Earl Stanhope (Health), Oakus & Dorothy Stephens, Paul Stephens (Craig Stephens Dad/ Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma) Sheryl Stephens (Oakus & Dorothy Stephens' daughter-in-law), Neal Strange, Samantha Steinman (Friend of Kunze/Harris Family), Oakus & Dorothy Stephens, Marilouise Stuart (Mary Jo Hoard's mother), Mark Sulzman, Tyler (Friend of Jody & Gaye Bowman), Steven Thompson (Student of Tim Smith), Peggy Trapp (Cancer), Jimmie Vaught (Family Friend of Collier Family), Thomas Vroman (Grandfather of Laurie Gonzalez), James Walters (Father of Mellissa Hoevenaar), Bernest Ward (Brother of Alex Boston/Hodgkin's), Easton Wargo, Clara Watson (Louis Siems sister), Glen Wendt, Daniel Walsh (Father of Carrie Sabin's friend), Bonnie Wesinger (Friend of Jody & Gaye Bowman) Tom Whittaker, Mary Wilk, Scott Wilkins (Hodgkin's), Bill Williams (Health), Gail Wilsheck (Amy Dittmer's girlfriend/breast cancer) Marti Wise (Friend of Patricia Teal), Don Wolf (Uncle of Kent Wolfe), Earl Yawman, Tyler Youtz (5-year-old friend of Janet Wolbert) Paul & Helen Zalman (Recovery/Health)

Deaths in November:

Maurice Brodeur

Percy Reitzel

Mary Reynolds (Mother of Mila Mooney)

Please contact Kristy in the church office if any of the names of the prayer list are wrong or need to be taken off or added.

Anniversaries and Birthdays

The following people who were born or married in December. We thank the Lord for His great gifts of life and love! ***If there is a mistake or we have missed you, please let us know so we can update our records.***

Dec 1	Alderman, Andrea	Birthday	Dec 12	Lee, David	Birthday
Dec 1	Blackwood, Robert	Birthday	Dec 12	Mielke, Carol	Birthday
Dec 1	Bourgeois, Joy	Birthday	Dec 12	Smalley, Marcy	Birthday
Dec 1	Brodeur, Helen	Birthday	Dec 12	Wegner, Donna	Birthday
Dec 1	Gipson, Cameron	Birthday	Dec 13	Hahn, Anna	Birthday
Dec 1	Hagerman, Angela	Birthday	Dec 13	Reeves, Valerie	Birthday
Dec 1	Neff, William	Birthday	Dec 14	Anderson, Scott	Birthday
Dec 2	Beasom, Jeffery C. & Diane	Anniversary	Dec 15	Blair, Lindsey	Birthday
Dec 2	Gawron, Eleanore	Birthday	Dec 15	Clausen, Donald	Birthday
Dec 2	Kasper, Cody	Birthday	Dec 15	Johantgen, Ken	Birthday
Dec 2	Rodriguez, Makenzie	Birthday	Dec 15	Lemcke, Dylan	Birthday
Dec 3	Giroux, Suzanne	Birthday	Dec 15	Pfantz, Martha & Earl	Anniversary
Dec 3	Knapp, Wilma	Birthday	Dec 15	Schwichtenberg, Linda & William Staiger	Anniversary
Dec 3	Youngless, Helga	Birthday	Dec 16	Arnett, Charles	Birthday
Dec 4	Schimmelpfennig, Clifford & Janyce	Anniversary	Dec 16	Cape, Evan	Birthday
Dec 5	Finger, Thomas & Terri	Anniversary	Dec 16	Dees, Bryce	Birthday
Dec 5	Fisher, Kellie	Birthday	Dec 16	Devis, Brandon	Birthday
Dec 5	Meyer, Robert	Birthday	Dec 16	Espinosa, Ivette	Birthday
Dec 5	O'Brien, Brendan	Birthday	Dec 16	Koivu, Jean	Birthday
Dec 5	Yuhl, Kathryn	Birthday	Dec 16	Lerner, Chris & Helen	Anniversary
Dec 6	O'Rourke, Stacey	Birthday	Dec 17	Barnes, Avery	Birthday
Dec 7	Deinlein, Rebecca	Birthday	Dec 17	Eckoff, Harvey	Birthday
Dec 7	Hamer, Stephanie	Birthday	Dec 17	Emling, Katie	Birthday
Dec 7	Lubold, Morgan	Birthday	Dec 17	Ferris, Lillian	Birthday
Dec 8	Critcher, IV, Many	Birthday	Dec 17	Nicholson, Heather	Birthday
Dec 8	Frazier, Glenda	Birthday	Dec 17	O'Rourke, Zack	Birthday
Dec 8	Hector, James L.	Birthday	Dec 17	Rodriguez, Marino	Birthday
Dec 9	Hofmann, Michael & Kim	Anniversary	Dec 17	Young, Art & Lisa	Anniversary
Dec 9	Kimmel, Ashley	Birthday	Dec 18	Rawlings, Lucas	Birthday
Dec 9	Morris, Carl	Birthday	Dec 18	Scaletta, Emily	Birthday
Dec 9	Ramirez, Alexander	Birthday	Dec 19	Cobb, Jackson	Birthday
Dec 9	Scott, Elaine	Birthday	Dec 19	Dittmer, David	Birthday
Dec 10	DiBlasio, Kim	Birthday	Dec 19	Neubauer, Craig	Birthday
Dec 10	Dowdle, Cheryl	Birthday	Dec 19	Oakley, John	Birthday
Dec 10	Ramirez, Nayeli	Birthday	Dec 19	Schimmelpfennig, Janyce	Birthday
Dec 11	Crowell, Neal	Birthday	Dec 20	Oesterle, Steve	Birthday
Dec 11	George, Brooke	Birthday	Dec 21	Emling, Rick & Joni	Anniversary
Dec 12	Butterfield, Chuck	Birthday	Dec 21	Finnell, Cristian	Birthday
Dec 12	Christiansen, Arnold	Birthday	Dec 21	Hamidi, Hedy	Birthday
Dec 12	Hagerman, Connie	Birthday	Dec 22	Barrett, Michael K.	Birthday
			Dec 22	Becker, Jason	Birthday
			Dec 22	Harris, Lisa	Birthday
			Dec 22	Kunze, Christopher	Birthday
			Dec 23	Horas-Hash, Catherine	Birthday
			Dec 23	Mayer, Patricia	Birthday
			Dec 23	Rummells, Melissa	Birthday
			Dec 23	Smothers, Kayley	Birthday

Birthdays, continued from page 14

Dec 24 Earle, Katherine	Birthday	Dec 28 Sabin, Carrie	Birthday
Dec 24 Holshek, Shirley	Birthday	Dec 28 Springer, Stephanie	Birthday
Dec 24 Schoembs, Michelle	Birthday	Dec 28 Van Deest, Nora	Birthday
Dec 24 Walberg, Jane	Birthday	Dec 29 Dobson, Diane & Gary	Anniversary
Dec 25 Boogher, Chuck & Ellen	Anniversary	Dec 29 Gatti, Pat Jr.	Birthday
Dec 25 Hamidi, Holly	Birthday	Dec 29 Hahn, Christopher	Birthday
Dec 25 Jezek, Holly	Birthday	Dec 29 Hohman, Mary	Birthday
Dec 25 Keene, Jim	Birthday	Dec 29 Horton, Kris	Birthday
Dec 25 Merrick, Carolyn	Birthday	Dec 29 Sanborn, Raquel & Charles	Anniversary
Dec 25 Mills, Judy	Birthday	Dec 29 Sarubbi, Jonathan	Birthday
Dec 25 Wilde, Holly	Birthday	Dec 29 Thomas, Megan	Birthday
Dec 25 Yawman, Hannah	Birthday	Dec 30 Graft, Sherry	Birthday
Dec 26 Boggs, Heather	Birthday	Dec 30 Haney, Michelle	Birthday
Dec 26 Boston, Alex	Birthday	Dec 30 Lange, Ted & Mary	Anniversary
Dec 26 Brink, Mark & Mary Beth	Anniversary	Dec 30 Munoz, Daniel	Birthday
Dec 26 White, Tom & Roseann	Anniversary	Dec 30 Rawlings, Ed & Patti	Anniversary
Dec 27 Cape, Karen & Charles	Anniversary	Dec 30 Reyes, Victoria	Birthday
Dec 27 Engstrom, Dean & Doris	Anniversary	Dec 30 Ricker, Sara	Birthday
Dec 27 Hagerman, Bob & Connie	Anniversary	Dec 30 Shultz, Samuel	Birthday
Dec 27 Yeager, Cole	Birthday	Dec 31 Horton, Dale	Birthday
Dec 28 Boogher, Sarah	Birthday	Dec 31 Mayer, Jeremy & Nicole	Anniversary
Dec 28 Clark, Ian	Birthday	Dec 31 Regan, Eileen	Birthday
Dec 28 Diaz, Erika	Birthday	Dec 31 Tzuanos, Leah	Birthday
Dec 28 Green, Clayton	Birthday	Dec 31 Yawman, Jonathan	Birthday
Dec 28 McCaleb, Steve	Birthday		

Development Committee, continued from page 11

Until now both properties had been available only on a long-term lease basis.

A representative of a Lutheran organization out of Chicago, which develops and operates senior citizens facilities, will be in town the week of the 14th to look at the Travelodge with a view towards participating with Trinity in the purchase and development of that property.

Trinity continues to have discussions with Lutheran Towers about a joint project to develop the Ministry Center in conjunction with the Daley property and the Travelodge property.

Finally, Orlando Lutheran Academy continues to express and interest in developing a downtown campus for the expansion of it's ministry.

Please keep Trinity and specifically the Development Committee in your prayers so that all that it and we do is in accord with God's will and that He will provide the guidance to all involved that the gospel may be proclaimed at Trinity, in downtown Orlando and in the world.

Truly these are exciting times and our excitement is in the Lord and His saving grace!

Yours in Christ, Ronald H. Roby, Chairman, Development Committee.

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*OUR MISSION is to proclaim the
Gospel of Jesus Christ through
ministries which strengthen and
equip people for Christian witness
and service in downtown,
metropolitan Orlando
and the world!*

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