



The Ministry News of:
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

800 N. Sumner, Creston, Iowa

Rev. Jonathan C. Watt, Pastor

TrinityCreston.org 641.782.5095

Missionaries: Daniel Vogel, and Dennis Konkell

December 2009

**2009 Trinity Officers &
Board Members**

President - Karl Peterson

Vice-President - Tom Braymen

Secretary - Becky Hagen

Treasurer - Mike Lang

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Head Elder - Kevin Kruse

*Elders - Jim Nelson, Gene
Cook, Byron Bilderback, Bill
Magers, Chuck Bowman*

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Dena Chapman, Deb Clausen
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*Julie Lang, Chairman
Randy Roghair, Pat Stream
S.S. Supt. - Carla Roghair*

Worship/Altar Comm

*Janette Lang
(includes Altar Committee
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Steve Bradley*

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*Carla Roghair, Deb Clausen
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Dear Friends in Christ,

Here we are rapidly approaching 2010. Our synod faces critical changes in structure and governance, and budget shortfalls that are beyond the comprehension of most of the members of our churches. When all is said and done I believe the heart of our (LCMS) troubles still lie in worship practice. The competing factors are pulling the church in multiple directions and I fear that the only thing left for Missouri is the birth of multiple tiny groups of churches that will refuse to be in fellowship with each other. Maybe it is the only solution left to us. The coming year, I believe, will see the determination of these issues.

But I hold out hope for the Missouri Synod. After all it is the synod of my birth. We are at our heart traditional, liturgical, practical and faithful to the Lutheran Confessions. At our heart we confess the faith of our fathers. (In spite of some who insist that this isn't our grandfather's church see "Through the Ages . . ." <http://www.lcms.org/pages/wPage.asp?ContentID=418&IssueID=27>) At our heart we know that all worship must find its center in Jesus Christ Crucified for the forgiveness of sins. We know the best way to worship is to speak, sing and chant the same texts as the faithful church has done over generations. At our heart we bring the Word of God to the world from our unique (Biblical!) law and Gospel perspective. At our heart we revel in the confession of the faith that has been handed down to us in the Lutheran Confessions. On the surface is the foolishness described by Phillip Magness in an article by Terry Mattingly (Mattingly and the Lutheran Worship Wars <http://www.scrippsnews.com/content/mattingly-lutherans-and-worship-wars>)

"What I found out is that we're a lot like Forrest Gump's box of chocolates," he said. "It says 'Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod' on the sign, but when you go inside you have no idea what you're going to get. ... Some of our churches are playing with the structure of the liturgy and some are playing with the content and our whole synod is trying to find out how to draw some boundaries."

As one pastor in the synod has said, "Now is the time for Confessional Lutheranism." The world is unsettled and unstable. People are looking for stability. The message of God's great love for sinful people shown chiefly in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross is the message we have. It is the message the world needs to hear and see. What we need to show is a traditional, liturgical, practical, confessional worshipping community that clearly and uniformly presents Christ. The best way to do that is the way the faithful church has done it: Word and Sacrament administered according to Christ's command; Hymns, songs and spiritual songs that clearly confess God's work for us in Jesus Christ; Preaching the law in its full force to crush the hearts of the faithful as well as the unbeliever AND the Gospel in its full force to sooth broken hearts with the comfort of Jesus Christ. there is no church body that can do all these things at the same time as well as the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. God grant it for Jesus Sake.

+SDG+

Pastor Jonathan C. Watt

Contact Information

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Please visit at www.TrinityCreston.org. What will you find? the church calendar, newsletter articles, weekly church times, a link to pastor's sermons (text and audio), the favorite hymns list, and much more! You can also enter a prayer request.



Advent Services

Dec. 2—Supper 5:30/Worship 7:00
 Dec. 9—Supper 5:30/Worship 7:00
 Dec. 16 —Supper 5:30/Worship 7:00

Christmas Eve— 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Day— 9:00 a.m.
New Years Eve— 7:00 p.m.

A Measure of our Response to God's Love for October

	Attendance	Communed	Offering
October 4, 2009	91		\$2,316.75
October 11, 2009	87	76	\$0.00
October 18, 2009	90		\$2,082.26
October 25, 2009	90	78	\$2,391.05
Total	358	154	\$6,790.06

Fellowship Hall Rent in 2009 —\$435

Circle Meetings

Rachel Circle will be have their annual Christmas party at Judy Bradley's (1200 W Jefferson) on Tuesday Dec. 8th at 6:30 p.m. Bring finger food to share and a gift if you would like to participate in the gift exchange.

Naomi Circle will meet Wednesday Dec. 9th at 8:30 a.m. at the Windrow for their annual Christmas breakfast. There will be a short Christmas devotion. All ladies are welcome. Please join us for some Christian fellowship.



Mark your calendars for Sunday Dec. 6th immediately following the potluck for Gary Theis from Mission Central, for the hanging of the greens. We will remove them on Sunday January 3rd.

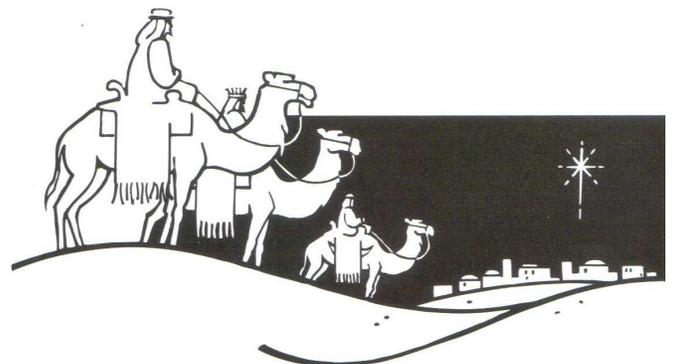
OFFICE DEADLINES
Bulletin Deadline - Wednesday at noon.
Newsletter Deadline for the January "Chimes" is **Friday December 18th**



Preschool will have their Christmas program on Dec. 13th at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Sunday School will have their program on Dec. 20th during worship service.

Flock will be meeting on Wednesday Dec. 16th at 6:00 p.m.





On Keeping Advent

IT is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord." Lamentations 3:26
Good to wait? It's hard to imagine any message more counter-cultural! In our time of e-mail, instant messages, fast food, and general impatience, the very notion that waiting can be good is unheard of. But here it comes: Advent—a season of waiting.

During Advent the church confesses the wisdom that Jeremiah spoke so long ago: "It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" (Lam. 3:26). The church's observance of Advent can serve as a quiet, peaceful oasis for people

who are harried and hassled and trying to run in every direction at once. The church invites her children and the children of the world to come aside during these days for some spiritual R & R—for rest and reflection on the promises of God! Rather than fussing and fuming about the commercialization of Christmas, the church quietly offers an alternate way of approaching December 25th.

Here are some ways to let the quiet spirit of Advent permeate our homes and congregations as we prepare with great joy for the celebration of our Lord's birth. Use an Advent calendar for daily devotions at home. Little children (and the little child inside of adults, too) enjoy the discovery of the picture and Bible verse that hide behind the windows. As a family, learn by heart one of the Advent hymns of the church. "Savior of the Nations, Come" is a great one, and so is "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel." Both of these hymns express the quiet waiting and fervent longing for Christ's threefold coming: his great appearing at the end of time, his coming to us now in Word and Sacrament, and his coming in our human flesh at Bethlehem. Check out the Commission on Worship's web site for further helps for family devotions during Advent. Use the Advent wreath as the primary symbol for the season. At home, put it on the table in the dining room, and light it for all evening meals. (If you don't have one, they are very easy to make—and that's a great family project, too). At church, don't let the Advent wreath's growing light be overshadowed by the brighter lights of Christmas decorations. Even if the tree is up, hold off lighting it in church until Christmas Eve, and then, let it shine for the Twelve Days of Christmas and for Epiphany. For midweek services, instead of using specially designed Advent liturgies, let the congregation learn to savor the spirit of peace and quiet that pervades the Order of Vespers, Evening Prayer, or Compline. Try not giving into the temptation simply to replace the many hymns of Advent with the beloved hymns of Christmas. Use both and use them richly. At the very least, why not let the hymn of the day in the Divine Service for each Sunday in Advent be one of the great Advent hymns? Pastors might want to consider an Advent sermon series that unpacks the rich meaning of the Great "O" Antiphons (on which the hymn "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" is based). A search on the World Wide Web for "Great O Antiphons" will result in a plethora of material. You will be amazed at how many rich little surprises are hidden in these Antiphons. For example, if you take the initial letters of the titles given to Christ on each of the days and read them backwards, you get a message from the Lord in Latin: *ero cras*—"I will be [with you] tomorrow." Fitting, because the antiphons are used from Dec. 17—23! If a nativity scene is used, don't set it out all at once; put it up progressively. During the first week of Advent, set out the stable alone. The second week, add the animals. The third week, place Mary and Joseph at some distance from the stable. The fourth week, have Mary and Joseph in the stable. On Christmas Eve add the Christ Child and the shepherds. On January sixth (Epiphany) add the wise men to the scene. You might even consider leaving your nativity scene up until February 2nd, the day when the church celebrates the Presentation of Our Lord and the Purification of Mary. Years ago in the Lutheran Church, Christmas hymns were sung in church until that day! Speaking of hymns, whenever the congregation has services during the Twelve Days of Christmas (for example, the Sunday after Christmas, New Years Eve, Epiphany), why not set aside 15—20 minutes prior to each service as a time to sing Christmas carols? Children in the congregation who play musical instruments could also be scheduled to play during this time. In all these and many other ways, we confess as a church that it is good to wait for the salvation of God, and that preparation is part and parcel of celebration. A blessed Advent to one and all!

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Thank You

Curley and Pat Stream thank everyone who kept Curley in your thoughts and prayers since his heart attack. Please take back pain between the shoulder blades, headache, persistent heartburn, and jaw pain with chest pain very seriously. Blockage won't show up with just a stress test with echo monitoring. It only shows up on an angiogram with dye. Please take care and God's Blessings!

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN

Have you been listening to Issues, Etc.? Issues, Etc. is a live radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.



REMEMBER THE LUTHERAN HOUR

December 6

Luke 3:1-14

"Nobody Tells Me What To Do"

Half-hearted repentance is not really repentance at all. Jesus didn't come into this world to live, suffer, die and rise for those who think they are doing just fine on their own.

December 13

Luke 7:18-19

"Imagine No Heaven"

What would the world be like with no heaven? We Don't have to imagine. The evidence from history is clear.

December 20

John 1:9

"Light For Our Loneliness"

Even as the Christmas angels brought a message of Light and hope to the lonely souls in Bethlehem Long ago, the birth of our Savior is good news that Brings light for our loneliness today.

December 27

To be announced

Listen on the Web at www.lutheranhour.org
Hear the broadcast available to our military at:
www.lutheranhour.org/AFN/listen.htm

(For updates, check www.lhm.org)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>City</u>
6:30 a.m.	KFAB	AM 1110	Omaha
6:30 a.m.	KWBG	AM 1590	Boone
9:30 a.m.	KJAN	AM 1220	Atlantic
9:30 a.m.	KDLS	AM 1310	Perry
7:30 a.m.	WHO	AM 1040	Des Moines

The Lutheran Hour comes to you through the outreach of the International Lutheran Laymen's League



December Assignments

ACOLYTES

- 2- 7:00 p.m. Madison Peterson
Joshua Reed
- 6- 9:00 a.m. Hannah Watt
Jacy Eklund
- 9- 7:00 p.m. Alex Brown
Dorian Peterson
- 13- 9:00 a.m. Devon Peterson
Danielle Riley
- 16 - 7:00 p.m. Kessler Tomas
Jay Wolfe
- 20- 9:00 a.m. Cali Foglesong
Alexandra Bird
- 27- 9:00a.m. Reagan Brown
Sammantha Reed

USHERS

- Charlie Bowman
- Mike Lang
- Gene Cook
- Kevin Kruse

ELDER ON DUTY

- Kevin Kruse

ATAR COMMITTEE

- Judy & Steve Bradley

FINANCE TEAM

- Steve Bradley
- Lyle Scheel

ORGANISTS/ PIANISTS

- 2 - Julie Lang
- 6 - Janette Lang
- 9 - Janette Lang
- 13 - Janette Lang
- 16 - Julie Lang
- 20 - Sharon Eklund
- 24 - Sharon Eklund
- 25-
- 27 - Julie Lang
- 31 - Sharon Eklund



Birthdays

1. Byron Bilderback, Holden Hanson
2. Jeff Bird
8. Becky Hagen
11. Rev. Noel Herr
12. Terri Hudson
15. Paula Bowman
17. Marsha Magers
19. Tara Trost
22. Jack Quee
23. Melody Stoner
25. Warren Kruse, Alyssa Cook, Waunita Watt
27. Gene Cook, Don Keeler
28. Rev. Jonathan C. Watt
30. Reagan Brown, Kayla Petersen

Anniversaries

1. Dennis & Jean Foglesong
21. Pastor Dave & Sherri McKnight
31. Warren & Jean Kruse

Remember those
who are less
fortunate



TRINITY LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING (UNAPPROVED MINUTES)

11-11-09

Members present: Kevin Kruse, Pastor and Waunita Watt, Mike and Janette Lang, Becky Hagen, Cindy Nelson, Phil Wardenburg, Julie Lang, and Joy Brown.

Pastor led us in devotion from "Word for Today" for tomorrow.
Julie moved to accept the minutes from October, Phil seconded, carried.

Treas. Report: Budget to present to voters. Current budget . Phil moved to accept, Julie seconded. Carried.

Pastor's report: Meetings on Wednesdays in December need to be moved to another night. Let Pastor know of change. Thanksgiving Eve, Advent services on Dec 2, 9, and 16 will at 7:00. Sunday school Christmas program will be Dec. 20 during worship service. No teacher meeting in December. Pastor has been elected to be synod delegate for the convention next summer. He will go to Minneapolis in January for a caucus.

Board of Ed: Youth are working on sign for lighted Christmas parade. Would like to see library utilized more. Sunday school teachers are meeting monthly with no meeting in Dec. Christmas program Dec. 20 during worship service. Seven kids attended Flock and 2 attended confirmation retreat in Storm Lake Nov. 6 & 7.

Fin. Secr.: none

Elders: Two new members by baptism - Maclayn Owen Hirsch and Austin Stoll.

Missions: Ivan Rasch will be here Nov. 20th. Cookies and coffee will be served. Gary Theis will be here on Dec. 6th with a potluck to follow. Talking about community involvement project that we can do. Dr. Lamb will be here on May 2nd with potluck to follow.

Stewardship: none

Trustees: new refrigerator for parsonage. Discussed long and short term goals.

Preschool: 20 in morning class and 18 in afternoon. Christmas program Dec. 13 at 2:00. Thanks to all who helped with the Harvest Supper. Board of education will be checking preschools Jan. 19 and 20.

Youth: working on the room and a sign for parades and our church yard. Bible studies going good. Youth will be serving meals on Dec. 9 and 16.

Worship/Altar: none

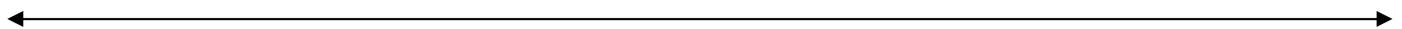
Old Business: Proposed budget will got to voters on 11-15-09. Julie moved to propose the new copier/printer to the voters, Becky seconded. Carried.

2010 nominations: see sheet

New Business: Discussed making chimes better. Decided not to put ad in East Union school calendar. Voters meeting is Sunday 11-15-09. Cradle roll will be done by Rachel Circle.

Becky moved to adjourn, Waunita seconded. Carried. Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Becky Hagen



Have a Blessed New Year