



Tri-angles

Trinity Lutheran Church

300 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181

630/834-3440 www.trinitylutheranvp.com

January 2010



THE LION HAS
ROARED —
WHO WILL NOT
FEAR?
THE LORD GOD
HAS SPOKEN —
WHO CAN BUT
PROPHECY?
(AMOS 3:8)

THE LION'S ROAR

John 18:37-38 (ESV)

“Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world— to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’”

“Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’”

What is Truth?

Sometimes we get morality and theology in the wrong order. Now while one impacts the other, they have to be ordered correctly or we are left with the very question that Pilate asks, “What is truth?” See if I define life theology by morality, I may come up with different truth than you have. And morality changes with culture and society. This society says that body piercing and body art are acceptable expressions of one’s individuality. 35 years ago, body piercing was considered immoral and pre-WWII, tattoos were basically immoral. So if we place morality higher than theology, we are always on shifting sand and standing with Pilate, our hands in the air and asking, “What is truth?” What is true today may not be true tomorrow and what is true for these people may not be true for those people.

Now if we get it in the correct order, everything is much clearer. Theology comes first and everything we teach in the realm of morality has to be based on theology. Look at the 10 Commandments. Does it say anything about tattoos or body piercing in the 10 Commandments? You can find stuff about it in the ceremonial laws of the Israelites along with not eating pork and women not wearing their hair down, but nothing in the 10 Commandments which Jesus tells us is a summary of God’s moral law and which Jesus himself summarizes as; love God with all your heart and mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself. So what is truth? Truth is that it is wrong to offend God or your neighbor. Truth is that it is good to glorify God and help your neighbor. Let’s apply this to the questions with which we wrestle today.

Abortion. Wrong. We are not allowed to take life. Period. On the other hand. People who disagree and have abortions are still to be loved and forgiveness is just as available for them as for you.

Suicide. Wrong. We are not allowed to take even our own lives. Period. On the other hand, forgiveness is just as available to the person who commits suicide as it is to you for thinking evil thoughts about that co-worker who irritates you or that teacher who was unfair.

Sex outside of marriage. Wrong. Sex is given only to people who are in a life-time committed relationship (which we usually call marriage). Period. On the other hand, while this sin is more obvious than others, it is no greater than any sexual sin and all sexual sin is wrong and yet, COMPLETELY FORGIVABLE (homosexuality, pornography, lust, etc.).

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Our theology dictates that God sets the standards for us in hopes that we will follow those standards and have a better life on earth and please him. Our theology dictates that we all sin, that is fall short of those standards in many and various ways – some obvious, some secret, and we all stand in need of forgiveness. And finally, and most importantly, our theology dictates that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for every single time we fall short of God's expectations. So I can whole-heartedly hate the sin and still completely love the sinner because God paid for that sin. Nothing shifts when theology is first and morality flows from theology. Sin is always sin – no matter what the situation. And Christ is always right there to forgive that sin and empower his child to overcome it the next time.

And yes, there are still gray areas: gray for us not God by the way. There will always be areas of life where the right choice, the Godly choice is not completely clear to us. We live in a sin-fallen world and sometimes it is hard to know what "the right" choice is. Forgiveness is there too. Do your best to reason the situation out theologically and then proceed with absolute confidence that either you got it right or you will be forgiven but either way God will work good out of everything for those who love him.

In His Service,



A Letter From Rev. Dr. Shadrach Katari - Asian Indian Ministries

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your support to the Asian Indian Ministry, which gave us encouragement to go forward in the ministry of God among both Christians and non-Christians of the Indian immigrants in the Chicago area.

In the beginning of month, October 8, we had a special Thanksgiving prayer meeting in an Indian restaurant, where many Asian Indian people come to dinner. This was the first time we had this kind of meeting outside homes. We had a wonderful opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Christ openly in a restaurant owned by a Muslim. I had this opportunity to preach the Word and more than forty people both Christians and non-Christians were invited for this occasion. Soon after the meeting, some non-Christians came to me to ask questions about Christ. Some of them willing to attend our Sunday worship at Bethesda. We glorified God for this occasion.

The Friday, October 16, our Church women, under the leadership of my wife, Mamatha, had a All Night Prayers at Schiller Park, in a home. They spent there for whole night in singing and praying for all sick people and for the new believers in Christ. I was with them until midnight and preached the Word. In the morning, my wife said that it was a joyous night they ever had before.

It may sounds strange to you but this is the way we depend on the Lord for our support and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in reaching non-Christians also strengthening our faith in the Lord, who promised to us to be with us always. Asian Indian Ministry is serving and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ among Indian immigrants in the Chicago area through your faithful prayers and support.

We are honored to receive your support and gifts for all these years and we are very thankful to you and to our faithful Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose from the death for our justification.

I am preparing two kids for conformations and to some adults for Baptisms. If its God's will they will receive in the end of this month. Please continue to pray for this ministry as we are praying for you.

Thank you. Yours in His ministry, Pastor Katari

Pastor

Rev. Robert A. Rogers

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Roger

Pittelko

Asst. to the Pastor

Mary Stahlke

Kantor

Judy Bruschuk

Youth Director

Debbie Johnson

Parish Nurse

Margaret Cotterill

Secretary

Lay Leaders

Dave Heuser

Executive Director

Jeff Blankensop

Asst. Executive Director

Warren Sheridan

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Jerry Graunke

Dir. of Evangelism

Debbie Johnson-Long

Dir. of Human Care

Rich Kumnick

Dir. of Lay Ministry

Carol Boettger

Dir. of Parish Fellowship

Matt Thompson

Dir. of Stewardship

Mike Ticaric

Dir. of Youth Ministry

Vacant

TCNS Chair

Heather Grant

*Dir. of Trinity Christian
Preschool*

Jenn Ellsworth

Public Relations Dir.

Kathy Golz

Housekeeping

Marilyn Felz

Altar Guild President

Suzanne Gagliano

Dorcas Guild President

Mary Rinda

LWML President

ORGAN DONATION

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13 NLT

How much thought have you given to how you can help others? Organ and tissue donation is one way to offer help. It can be as simple as donating a pint of blood every 6 months or as complicated as donating a kidney to a relative. Even at death you have an opportunity to share life-giving measures since thousands of people across the country wait every day for another chance at life through organ donation.

Through multiple tissue and organ donation, one donor has the potential to help from 1 to over 35 people. Some common organs that are removed include the heart, eyes, skin, bones, liver, lungs, and kidneys. The people waiting for these organs suffer from conditions like heart disease, kidney disease, cancer or accident reconstruction surgery, corneal damage, incurable lung diseases, and even curvature of the spine. A donation of bone, tissue, or organ is their only chance at a better quality of life.

Although approximately 90% of Americans say they support organ donation, waiting lists continue to grow because the availability of organs and tissue is extremely low. Only 35% of those who support donation have taken steps to do so and about a third of them do not donate because of family dissention or misunderstandings. Many times the problem is the misunderstanding that donating organs creates a cost to the donor family and prevents the option of an open casket at the funeral. Neither is true.

Educating people about organ donation is an important part of the solution. If you choose to be an organ donor, discuss it with your family. Help them understand why it is important to you and how it can help others. Most all religions approve of some type of organ and tissue donation and see it as a gift to humanity. Act now and become a donor. Talk with your family today about this important act of faith, hope, and love.

(Source: US Dept. of Health and Human Services www.organdonor.gov)

In January 2006, Illinois law changed and a new donor registry was launched. By joining the first-person consent registry, you will ensure that your decision to donate will be honored. To learn more about the State of Illinois program go to www.lifegoeson.com.

Debbie Johnson-Long, RN, Parish Nurse

A Thank You...

On behalf of Lutheran Child and Family Services and Dorcas Guild, thanks for the overwhelming support of the annual Giving Tree. We received much more than what we asked for and considering the current economy, we understand what a blessing your generosity is. We were able to provide gifts to over 100 kids and adults. We wish you many blessings in this brand new year!

Youth News

Since Mike Ticaric became the Director of the Board of Youth in June 2009 he has done an excellent job of leading the board through some big changes and a significant growth spurt. For an inside look at the workings of youth ministry at Trinity please read Mike's report for the first 6 months of his term as director.

State of the Youth-ian

November 2009

Growth/Success/Evolution

Our Youth program is growing. This year we have over 80 participants in our youth program. Over 30 of those youth are regularly active high school Trinity members, and over 30 of them are active junior high youth.

The success of the Youth program is measured by more than just the number of members. Not only do we have consistent active participation by most of our members in weekly studies, worship, and activities; but we also consistently have a large percentage of our youth participate in retreats and extracurricular events.

Beyond our own members' participation, we have seen a growing trend in guest participation. Our youth often invite their friends outside of Trinity to join us. It is not uncommon to have friends of our youth become active youth participants themselves.

To remain successful, our Youth program needs to evolve to accommodate the growth. This year begins our Youth Leader program, where the older high school youth are mentored by Pastor Rogers to become mentors themselves. Among other things, the mentors plan and run bible studies and activities for the rest of youth. Also, Dolores Johnson recently joined Lisa Ticaric and myself as an adult leader. Through close interaction and participation, adult leaders are able to earn and build relationships and serve as role models. To accommodate the changing needs of our junior high youth, Camp CHAOS (Chocolate Holiness And Other Stuff) was born. Camp CHAOS is designed to provide the youth with healthy doses of free time, fun time, worship, and reflection.

The challenge before us is to continuously find the means and the resources needed as we adapt to meet the evolution of our program. This challenge is placed before the congregation as a whole. Our youth must know they can depend on their Church Family to provide them with spiritual support, financial support, moral support, and a lot of prayer as we guide them in this stage of their faith walk.

Youth Director

Judy Bruschuk has been doing an outstanding job meeting the challenges associated with our expanding Youth Program. Having over 80 youth in our program requires a lot more than the patience required to work with about twice as many kids as you used to. Planning activities and events is time consuming. Tracking down consent forms after a deadline is frustrating and unnecessary. Coordinating and managing youth workers at medium- and large-sized events is exhausting. The list is much larger than that small sample. In the past, Judy has been able to manage this and all the other things that were piled on her plate. But due to the rapid and significant growth of our Youth Program, meeting these demands and everything else she is asked to do is far too much for a part-time employee.

The Youth Board will be putting a strong focus on freeing Judy's time as much as possible so Judy can focus on building relationships with our youth. This effort requires the cooperation and support of our congregation, youth, and parents.

The Youth Board asks that you perpetuate these messages in the highly respectful way they are meant to be delivered.

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1) If Judy (or anyone from the Youth Program) contacts you, whether through email or telephone, please read/listen to the message and respond promptly if a response is required. We rely on these communication tools to spread important news and messages to over 80 youths' families.

2) If Judy is to be with the youth (bible study between services, for example) please do not stop her to ask questions that are not urgent. Judy can be reached through email and telephone communication much more conveniently.

3) If there is a deadline approaching for anything, we expect that deadline to be met, early if possible. Deposits, fees, and consent forms that are late cause problems, waste Judy's time, and in many cases cost the Youth Program extra money.

4) The Youth Board and its Fundraising Committee will be assigning parents of youth and even the congregation to fulfill roles and complete tasks for upcoming youth events. We ask that those assigned to their important roles be respectful and responsible in meeting the needs of the youth. Those not able to fulfill their assignment are asked to secure a substitute and notify the appropriate member of the Youth Board or Fundraising Committee of the substitution.

5) Please take an active role in freeing Judy's valuable time so she can dedicate her available time to our individual youth and the success and growth of our Youth Program.

National Youth Gathering – July 15-24, 2010

The National Youth Gathering is coming up fast. We currently have 31 Trinity high school youth planning on attending. Trinity sent 19 youth to the last Gathering. The youth Board has a Fundraising Committee in place to help raise the over \$30,000 it will require to send our youth to New Orleans for the Gathering. The congregation is encouraged to not only attend and enjoy these fundraising events themselves, but also is strongly encouraged to invite friends, neighbors, and family to these events as well.

Youth Bucks Youth Bucks are how our youth offset the financial obligations of our youth events and outings. The Youth Bucks accounting was a little behind in the summer, as the proper data was difficult to track. As of now, Youth Bucks accounting is caught up.

--Mike Ticaric

November 2009 Financial Comparison

Income	2009	2008	Diff.
Basket	3,836	5,885	-2,049
Unified Envelope	256,830	234,440	+22,390
Special Envelopes	20,096	21,297	-1,201
Debt Retirement	40,446	39,476	+970
Budget Income	321,208	301,098	+20,110
Non-Budget Income	5,356	4,574	+782
Income	326,564	305,672	+20,892
<u>Expenses</u>			
Budgeted Expenses	326,306	328,626	+20,322
Non-budgeted Expenses	1,518	881	+637
Total Expenses	327,824	329,507	-1,683
General Operating Fund	-1,532	-24,026	-22,494

Our income/contributions are up \$20,892 from last year, which includes \$13,094 from Special Pleas. Our expenses are down \$1,683 from last year. Our General Operating fund deficit is -\$1,532, which is better than last year by \$22,494 and \$8,670 better than last month. We have spent \$33 each week more than we have taken in.

Should you have any questions on this statement please contact Warren Sheridan, Treasurer.

Memorials

In Loving Memory of Peggy Bainer

Given by: Anonymous

In Loving Memory of Mary Madsen

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. John Kelly

The Deadline is ...

The 9th of January for the February Tri-angles Newsletter. Please send any information or articles to Jenn Ellsworth at 134 E. Jackson in Villa Park, 60181, drop in the Church mail box marked Newsletter or e-mail me at jennart64@comcast.net.

Music – Continuity and Variety

A liturgy is a rite, or set of words and actions, prescribed for public worship. A key element of the liturgy is its juxtaposition of continuity and variety, exemplified in the Ordinary and Propers.

The parts of the liturgy that do not change from week to week are called the Ordinary:

Kyrie	“Lord, have mercy”
Gloria	“Glory to God in the Highest”
Credo	Apostles’, Nicene, or Athanasian Creed
Sanctus	“Holy, Holy, Holy”
Agnus Dei	“Lamb of God”

While the musical style may vary, the texts remain the same from week to week. Some of the Ordinary texts have been in continuous use for more than 1,500 years. As a group, the Ordinary texts express different ways that we address God, including penitence, praise, and confession.

The texts of the Propers change from service to service, providing an explanation of the particular Gospel theme for that day. Their texts are usually taken from the Psalms. The primary Propers that have been used throughout church history are:

Introit	A song of entrance from the Psalms
Gradual	Usually a portion of a psalm that changes with the season of the church year
Alleluia and Verse	An acclamation of praise (“Alleluia”) with a psalm verse directly related to the Gospel reading
Offertory	A choral setting of a Psalm passage sung while the congregation’s offering is carried forward
Communion Mass	Usually a psalm text sung during the distribution of the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Mass

Some of the Propers for the Divine Service in the Lutheran tradition differ from their traditional form. For example, rather than the singing of the Communion by the choir during the Eucharist, Lutheran congregations sing the Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) as a Post-Communion Canticle.

The youth group’s fundraisers, Breakfast with Santa and Santa Paws were great successes because of the help of the following people:

*Mary DeJong - for all the costumes she let us borrow
 Santa Dave Bruschuk - outstanding job!
 Kim Pennacchio - Puppy Wrangler
 Chef Dino Apuzzo - as always, DELICIOUS food and a well-run kitchen
 Debbie Barry - Queen of the Christmas decorations
 Jill Kelly and Karen Magnuson - crafty crafters
 Dolores Johnson - photographer
 All the parents and youth who set up, worked and cleaned up.*

Jerry Graunke and the Board of Evangelism - thank you for the wonderful Visitor’s Center and the friendly welcome you provide for Trinity’s guests. You are making a great impact on our visitors.

Calendar

January Events

1-2- Office Closed

Sunday the 3th-

9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour

4- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon

6:00 p.m. Boxing

6:30 p.m. ESL Class

5- 6:00 p.m. Boxing

7:00 p.m. Epiphany Service

8:00 p.m. AA & Darts

6- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Confirmation

5:30 p.m. Camp Choas

6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner

6:15 p.m. ESL Class

6:30 p.m. Big House

7- 6:30 p.m. Boxing & TOPS

7:00 p.m. Bells

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

8:00 p.m. Vocal Workshop

8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir

8- 6:30 p.m. Boxing & TOPS

Sunday the 10th-

9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour

BLOOD DRIVE

New Member Luncheon

11- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon

6:00 p.m. Boxing

6:30 p.m. ESL Class

7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

12- 6:00 p.m. Boxing

8:00 p.m. AA & Darts

13- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Confirmation

5:30 p.m. Camp Choas

6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner

6:15 p.m. ESL Class

6:30 p.m. Big House

14- 6:30 p.m. Boxing & TOPS

7:00 p.m. Bells

8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir

16- 9:00 a.m. LCFS Foster/Adoption
Awareness Meeting

Sunday the 17th-

9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour

FOOD DRIVE

DINERS CLUB

18- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon

6:00 p.m. Boxing

6:30 p.m. ESL Class

19- 6:00 p.m. Boxing

7:00 p.m. BCE Meeting

8:00 p.m. AA & Darts

20- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Confirmation

5:30 p.m. Camp Choas

6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner

6:15 p.m. ESL Class

6:30 p.m. Big House

21- 6:30 p.m. Boxing & TOPS

7:00 p.m. Bells

8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choirr

Sunday the 24th-

9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour

25- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon

6:00 p.m. Boxing

6:30 p.m. ESL Class

7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

26- 6:00 p.m. Boxing

8:00 p.m. AA & Darts

27- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Confirmation

5:30 p.m. Camp Choas

6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner

6:15 p.m. ESL Class

6:30 p.m. Big House

28- 6:30 p.m. Boxing & TOPS

7:00 p.m. Bells

8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir

29-31- Youth Quake

Sunday the 31st-

9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour

January Birthdays

1- Carol Papanek

Eva Rundgren

Victoria Sniegowski

2- Adele Heuser

Daniel Ohman

4- LaVerle Hall

Dawn Head

Elizabeth Stearns

5- Kay Benzin

Lori Varno

Brittany Wendorf

6- Glen Frindt

7- Richard Van Swol

8- James Mora

DJ Nack

Mike Reschke

Abigail Ritt

Mary Stahlke

10- Brooke Farmer

12- Jonathan Stahlke

11- Craig Musa

12- Jonathan Stahlke

13- Gerald Graunke

14- Mike Dickmann

15- Andrew Thompson

17- Jamie Klonowski

18- Talyr Torrence

19- Tom Banks

Judy Buehre

20- Max Batjes

Cassandra Heaney

Tom Jones

21- Justin Heaney

22- John Batjes

Steve Towne

23- Matt Cochran

24- Donna DeRobertis

Jamie Golz

25- Kevin Corral

Clifton Sperry

Gina Stolzman

26- Bonnie Dale

Kelly Dickmann

Jamie Wass

27- Clifton Sperry III

28- Paul Varno

29- Debra Banks

Darin Cwik

31- Darlene Edwards

Allison Gagliano

Michael Gagliano

Dave Richardson

Jackson Scofield

January Anniversaries

2- Will & Casey Tessler

10- Tom & Dorothy Jones

11- Frank & Marilyn Felz

13- Paul & Susan Stolzman

16- Warren & Judy Sheridan

22- Doug & Pat Gray



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

*Thanks to all that donated Blood on Nov. 8, 2009
There were 15 units donated.*

*Those who have supported the local and in house food
drives.*

*To all that have and continue to provide meals for our
families in need.*

Divine Services

*Saturday, January 2- 5:30 Chapel
Sunday, January 3- 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.*

Epiphany Service

*Tuesday, January 5- 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 9- 5:30 p.m. Chapel
Sunday, January 10- 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.*

*Saturday, January 16- 5:30 p.m. Chapel
Sunday, January 17- 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.*

*Saturday, January 23- 5:30 p.m. Chapel
Sunday, January 24- 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.*

*Saturday, January 30- 5:30 p.m. Chapel
Sunday, January 31- 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.*

*Please note that Holy Communion will be
served at all of the January Services.*