



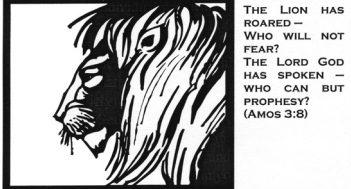
Tri-angles

Trinity Lutheran Church

300 S. Ardmore Avenue, Villa Park, IL 60181

630/834-3440 www.trinitylutheranvp.com

October 2009



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

The Lion's Roar

"If anyone thinks that he is not behaving properly toward his betrothed, if his passions are strong, and it has to be, let him do as he wishes: let them marry—it is no sin." 1 Cor. 7:36 (ESV)

Dating, Engagement and the LONG, LONG WAIT!

I love the matter of fact way that St. Paul talks about sex. We tip toe around the issue and act like no proper people have sex and certainly no proper people talk about it. I once was leading a retreat on Sex and Christianity with middle school youth and before we went, I sent some information home for the parents. One mother told me that her child did not need to be exposed to sex because she was too young and that a pastor certainly should not be teaching her about human sexuality. I said, "The parents are always the first teachers of almost everything a child learns both negatively and positively, but who better to describe and discuss one of God's greatest gifts to human beings and the proper use of that gift than her pastor?" Her daughter did not attend the retreat. Sadly, her daughter lost her virginity in the 7th grade to a 9th grade boy she hardly knew and who apparently used her for status among the other 9th grade boys. Apparently she was not too young to learn about human sexuality and God's plan for its use.

Human beings have taken a beautiful gift from God and done what we do to everything else (e.g. the Church, the environment, our gifts and talents). We have made sexuality dirty by misusing it and building all manner of secrets around it. And that gift is not just sexual intercourse but human sexuality. Whether we are married or not, we all have the amazing gifts of being male or female and all that entails, all the emotions, the thinking processes, the physical attributes, the joys and the challenges. We are sexual beings, created that way by God and being sexual is nothing of which to be ashamed. In fact, we would do well to celebrate our individual sexuality and stop trying to psychologically neuter everyone so that we all fit conveniently in the same box

Having said that, there are some realities about the human sexual drive that concern me in our culture today. In days past, young men and women became sexually mature in their early teens, began dating, became engaged and were married by their early twenties. Today, young men and women still become sexually mature in their early teens and still begin dating but are expected to wait to be married until their late twenties or early thirties so that they can be educated and have a proper job first.

cont. on pg.2

In This Issue

Roar Cont.	2
Roar Cont.	3
Announcements	4
Dorcas	4
Memorials	4
Financial Rep.	5
Seniors	6
Youth News	6
Calendar	7
Thank You's	8
Church Services	8

cont. from pg. 1

My question is this. Is it realistic to think that human beings are going to wait 10 -15 years to begin sexual exploration and consummation? I think we are shutting our eyes as a culture and creating schizophrenic teens. The reality is that it is natural to want to have sex and unnatural to have to wait 10-15 years after maturity to do so. We teach them two conflicting ideas. .



1. Wait until you are married to have sex.
2. Don't get married until you are educated and have a good job.

So what are we to do? Well, the given is that God gives sexuality to all people but sexual intercourse only to those who are married. It seems obvious that God would prefer for us not have hideous diseases and certainly not to bring a baby into the world unless the parents are in a stable relationship and prepared to rear it. Obviously abortion is never an option for God (go through all the horrible what ifs that you want, but you cannot make God say that abortion is okay). God's ideal is that, except for those with the gift of celibacy, that is no desire for sexual union, we would all marry and grow in love and faith together until life's end. Obviously we know that in this sin-fallen world, God's ideal is rarely realized although I am sure all of us can think of some people who seem to have approached that ideal (and if they will be candid with you, you will learn that it was very difficult work).

So we know God's ideal. What can we do to help our children (and ourselves) strive for that ideal?

First, know that every romantic relationship between a boy and a girl, given enough time and privacy, will culminate in sexual union. It is physiological and it cannot be stopped, and to think it can be stopped is a lie to yourself as you stick your head in the sand. It is the way we are created. Men and women will not spend 10 years cuddling on the couch in front of a movie in the family room and be satisfied. In fact, they will be inflamed and that much closer to the inevitable. You cannot stop biology, but you can slow it down.

Second, knowing that romantic relationships will eventually lead to sexual union, teach our children that people are children of God and not tools for our pleasure. C.S. Lewis said in "The Four Loves."

We use a most unfortunate idiom when we say of a lustful man prowling the streets, that he "wants a woman." Strictly speaking, a woman is just what he does not want. He wants a pleasure for which a woman happens to be the necessary piece of apparatus.

cont. on pg. 3

Pastor

Rev. Robert A. Rogers

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko
Asst. to the Pastor

Mary Stahlke
Director of Music

Judy Bruschuk
Youth Director

Debbie Johnson
Parish Nurse

Margaret Cotterill
Secretary

Lay Leaders

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Executive Director

Jeff Blankensop
Asst. Executive Director

Warren Sheridan
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Scott Golz
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Jerry Graunke
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Vacant
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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
Nursery School*

Jenn Ellsworth
Public Relations Dir.

Kathy Golz
Housekeeping

Marilyn Felz
Altar Guild President

Suzanne Gagliano
Dorcas Guild President

Mary Rinda
LWML President

cont. from pg.2

Do all that you can to teach our children that human beings are not just sexual apparatus and that there is nothing acceptable about using another human being to achieve personal pleasure. Sexual union is given to people who are committed to one another for life and to use the gift outside that context destroys lives. Similarly, a scalpel is an important tool and an amazing gift in the hands of a surgeon, but one would never want to brush his teeth with it. Tell our children that the boy or girl that he or she is dating is a loved child of God to be treated with honor and respect, not as a sexual apparatus.

Third, limit the amount of private time that your sons and daughters spend with the opposite sex. Time is your enemy here. The more time they have together privately, the closer the relationship will progress toward sexual union. Allowing your child to host the opposite sex in a dimly lit family room with no parents close by is inviting disaster. I don't care how wonderful your child is (and I do think they are wonderful), I know that the sexual drive is stronger than anything any human being can resist given the opportunity to act on it. Please don't be naive or "ostrich like," unless you enjoy nursing a broken heart or look forward to rearing your grandchild of unmarried teen parents.

Fourth, knowing that society pressures them to wait to marry until well into their twenties, don't encourage or enable boyfriend/girlfriend relationships when they are too young. Why should boys and girls start having private time together when they are 12 or 13 years old? The lingo doesn't matter. "We're going out." "We're going steady." "We're hooked up." I don't care what they call it so long as they know that they are not going to be together without chaperones until they are well into high school. No middle school child has the emotional stability to maintain a romantic relationship and to give them that latitude is parental irresponsibility. It is heaping more than they can handle on their growing psyche. The issue is not what they say about having a boyfriend or girlfriend. The issue is that they do not spend un-chaperoned time with one another. That means checking to see if parents are going to be home and knowing those parents well enough to know that their expectations are similar to yours. Then, when they get into high school, the amount of private time should be limited to daylight, well lit and adult occupied family rooms, the library, the coffee shop and other similarly public places. Can they have sex? Certainly, but remember what you are engaging here. You are not trying to be a human chastity belt, but rather to slow down the natural process so that if there is to be a long term relationship (i.e. marriage), they have time to grow and mature so that they are ready for sexual union when it happens and it can be a glorious event and not an awkward grab and tickle in the backseat of a Chevy.

I am not opposed to young marriage when it is supported by family, the Church and pastoral pre-marital care. Given the support, there is no reason to say that 18 or 19 is too young to be married. We all grow in life. I am not the same person today by any means as I was when I was married at 22. Should we wait till 45 to get married? What if I grow some more? Should I have waited until 55? The point is that we all grow until we die and the challenge of marriage is to grow together and that is hard work. Any two people can have a successful marriage if they are committed to that fact. If, however, people are going to insist on waiting until they are in their late twenties to marry, we would do well to pay attentions to the reality of our physiology. Or we can just keep sticking our heads in the sand and saying that nice Christian boys and girls don't have sex until they are married. If you choose the latter option, I have some beautiful land in interior south Florida to sell you with abundant water and wildlife on it.

In His Service,
Pastor

Memorials

In Loving Memory of Hugo & Ida Eiler

Given by: Irene Dodge

In Loving Memory of Marshall Kaiser

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. James Smelter

In Loving Memory of Lois Phillips

Given by: Mrs. Gloria Froula

In Honor of Carl & Rev. David Ritt

Given by: Jim Van Ewyk



The Deadline is ...

The 13th of October for the November Triangles 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.

Attention all Trinity Men!

The Dart League has started a new season! They meet every Tuesday evening in Kenreich Hall. Call the office for more details!

Dorcas Guild Invites You To...

The program for the October 6 will be a presentation on Springerie, the traditional holiday cookie. The owner of House on the Hill will talk about the history and making of this traditional treat. If anyone has a family springerie board, please bring it to the meeting.

Our 25th annual OCTOBER CRAFT FAIR is Saturday, October 24, 2008 from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM in Founders Hall.

Over 40 crafters! Large selection of holiday items, gifts & more! All items handcrafted. HUGE Bake Sale!

Come in for breakfast or lunch. Our kitchen will serve coffee & homemade desserts in the morning adding light lunch items, snacks & soft drinks later in the day. FREE admission. Proceeds support local charities.

Dorcas would like to also invite you to a VERY SPECIAL meeting to celebrate the Reformation in November. Katherine Luther (as portrayed by Dramatic Story Teller Gerri Smith of Living Word Ministry) will share her life experiences with us. Mrs. Smith does a one-woman show in which she gives an enlightening picture of the Catherine's life. After seeing Gerri's portrait of Katherine Luther at the Alter Guild Federation, Marilyn Felz and I have been wanting to share this experience with ALL the ladies at Trinity. The show was so powerful that we both laughed and cried. The presentation will open the Dorcas November 3 meeting. Please feel free to invite friends from the community.

August 2009 Financial Comparison

Income	2009	2008	Diff.
Basket	2,644	4,505	-1,861
Unified Envelope	186,903	167,393	+19,509
Special Envelopes	15,472	15,663	-191
Debt Retirement	28,769	28,507	+262
Budget Income	233,788	216,068	+17,719
Non-Budget Income	4,291	3,537	+755
Income	238,079	219,605	+18,474
<u>Expenses</u>			
Budgeted Expenses	239,227	243,317	-4,090
Non-budgeted Expenses	1,178	671	+507
Total Expenses	240,405	243,988	-3,583
General Operating Fund	-2,598	-24,573	-21,975

Our income/contributions are up \$18,474 over last year, which includes \$11,750 from special pleas. Our expenses are down \$3,583 from last year.

Our General Operating Fund is negative \$3,583 which is better than last year and last month. Now that Summer is over, hopefully attendance and contributions will increase to help balance our budget.

Contact me if you have any questions on this Financial Comparison. Warren Sheridan, Treasurer.

Adopt-a-Student Financial Report – 8/31/09

Income	\$3,774.50
Paid to Jack Gilbert	929.00
Pending Distributions	748.00
Jack Gilbert gave to TLC-Social Ministry Fund	2,097.50

**New Computer/Phone System Fund (\$29,000 approved by 11/07 Voter's Meeting)
(\$2,500 approved by 11/08 Voter's Meeting)**

Expenses-Computer	
Dell Marketing L. P.	8,346.23
CDW	9,689.67
Chris Saunders - Software	139.30
M.R. Keith & Associates	4,517.62
Expenses-Phone	
Phone	4,964.00
Total Expenses	27,656.82
Income	
Donation by Members	1,000.00
Net Amount Spent	26,656.82
Beginning Balance	\$31,500.00
Total Expenses	26,656.82
Fund Balance (2/28/09)	\$4,843.18

Youth News

Success

What is success? After the youth held a recent fundraiser I was asked many times if it was successful. With 30 plus high school kids planning on attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer at \$1000 apiece financial success is foremost on our minds.

The event was well publicized -articles were written for the local papers, a professional looking flyer was created to distribute around the community, an event page was made to invite others on Facebook, and even the giant root beer mug was brought out to draw attention to "Mustang Sally's Drive-In Diner".

Sharon Montag made a grid that would make any math teacher's head spin with the names of youth and adults volunteers. Elaine Bruschuk, Carrie Brockie, and Marilyn Felz donated delicious homemade cookies. The Villa Park VFW lent us their giant grill and sold burgers and hot dogs to us at their cost. Food was purchased, decorations were made, a plan was created for the layout of the parking lot, and the many other little details were in place. NOW it was time to begin.

The youth and parents gathered – close to 50 of them. The weather had suddenly turned hot and the wind was gusting. Grilling on the blacktop and trying to hang the decorations were going to pose a challenge. Not everything was going as smoothly as our well-laid plans promised but through team work, ingenuity, and plain old hard work the event was up and running right on time.

People from the church and the community poured into the parking lot, some arriving in their classic cars, to dine on burgers and root beer floats. With background music provided by Randy the kids and adults enjoyed a variety of activities from face painting to a "Happy Days" look-alike contest to a good old fashioned hula hoop competition.

With the tables and chairs back in the closet, bags and bags of trash in the dumpster, and the last of the dishes washed the questions were asked– "How much money did we make?" and "Was it all worth it."

If the two questions are tied together the answer to the second question could be "no". Did this event in any way make the youth who are looking forward to the Gathering any closer to their financial goals? Not by much. But was it worth it? Was it a successful event?

Working together creates the relationships that are necessary for a successful youth ministry and problem solving (or character building as Mr. Magnuson likes to call it) strengthens those relationships. Through this hard work the group was able to provide food, fun, and fellowship to more than 100 people. These people in turn continue to support our youth by attending our fundraisers, encouraging them, and praying for them. Members of the community hung our flyers, helped us financially, and attended our event.

God is at work at Trinity. He has woven us into each other's lives and taught us to care for one another. I will continue to fret over fundraising even though I know He will take care of us.

So, was Mustang Sally's a successful event? I think so. - Judy Bruschuk

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF HUMAN CARE

TRINITY SENIORS— Our scheduled events for the coming year:

OCT 21—MORTON ARBORETUM TRAM TOUR AT 1:30 PM—COST \$11/PERSON, LUNCH WILL BE DISCUSSED.

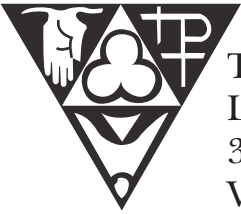
NOV 19— SPEAKER TBA— MEETING AT 1:00 PM.

DEC 16— CHRISTMAS PARTY-LUNCH AT 12:00 NOON.

Calendar

October Events

- 1- 6:30 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Bells
7:00 p.m. Church Council
8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir
- Sunday the 4th-**
9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour
- 5- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon
6:00 p.m. Boxing
6:30 p.m. ESL Class
- 6- 6:00 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Dorcas Guild
7:00 p.m. Teaching of Christ
8:00 p.m. AA
8:00 p.m. Darts
- 7- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 p.m. Camp Chaos
6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner
6:15 p.m. ESL Class
6:30 p.m. Big House
- 8- 6:30 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Bells
8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir
- Sunday the 11th-**
COFFEE HOUR
9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour
- 12- Tri-angle Deadline
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon
5:30 p.m. Boxing
6:15 p.m. ESL Class
- 13- 6:00 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Teaching of Christ
8:00 p.m. AA
8:00 p.m. Darts
- 14- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 p.m. Camp Chaos
6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner
6:15 p.m. ESL Class
6:30 p.m. Big House
- 15- 6:30 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Bells
8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir
- 16- 7:00 p.m. Scouts
- 16-18 High School Retreat**
- Sunday the 18th-**
9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour
- 19- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon
6:00 p.m. Boxing
6:15 p.m. ESL Class
- 20- 6:00 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Teaching of Christ
- 20- 8:00 p.m. AA
8:00 p.m. Darts
- 21- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 p.m. Camp Chaos
6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner
6:15 p.m. ESL Class
6:30 p.m. Big House
- 22- 6:30 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Bells
8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir
- 23- CRAFT FAIR SET-UP
- 24- 9:00 a.m. CRAFT FAIR
HARVEST GALA
- Sunday the 25th-**
9:15 a.m. Christian Ed. Hour
- 26- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon
6:00 p.m. Boxing
6:15 p.m. ESL Class
- 27- 5:30 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Teaching of Christ
8:00 p.m. AA
8:00 p.m. Darts
- 28- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 p.m. Camp Chaos
6:00 p.m. Youth Dinner
6:15 p.m. ESL Class
6:30 p.m. Big House
- 29- 6:30 p.m. Boxing
7:00 p.m. Bells
8:00 p.m. Jubilate Choir
- October Birthdays**
- 1- Robert Finch
3- Traci Dale
6- Susan Grant
7- Noah Brockie
Lynn Freese
Megan Janopoulos
Joanne Ruble
- 9- Dawn Boettger-Mudd
Samantha Devermann
- 10- Timothy Marchewka
- 11- Robert Rundgren
Alisa Snyder
Julia Suriano
- 14- Stephanie Doyle
Jessica Elliott
Jacob Felz
Joyce Gatz
Robin Ohman
Andrea Ritt
- 15- Diane Lussow
Karen Ross
- 16- Merle Barta
Sara Biladeau
Jeff Kaiser
- 17- Marna Rundgren
Carol Speers
- 18- Avery Corral
George Donchenko
Leroy Reinke IV
- 19- Diane Rodenbostel
Noah Scofield
- 20- Chase Sanderson
- 21- Harley DeJong
Frank Felz
Ethel Hoffrage
- 22- Ryan Zeman
- 23- Susannah Scherer
- 24- Art Jones
Rachel Korman
- 25- Brian Guillemette
Laura Guillemette
Jeff Jaras
Jerry Juzwiak
Ashley Klonowski
Robert Siessenbuettel
Sean Tyree
- 27- Jonathan Ritt
- 28- Dave Bruschuk
Dan Musa
John Zientara
- 29- Robert T. Devermann
Daniel Knudsen
- 30- Russ Dyer
- 31- Micheal Meissner
- October Anniversaries**
- 1- John & Wendy Dorn
Bruce & Shelby Kampert
- 2- Mark & Sandi Wolski
- 3- Scott & Evelyn Gunderson
Jesse & Erica Mora
- 4- Matt & Kathryn Weiner
- 10- Jake & Jessica Koors
- 11- Gary & Carol Knudsen
- 17- John & Joyce Price
- 18- Michael & Denise Meissner
- 22- Tom & Kathy Jones
- 23- Dale & Robin Ohman
- 25- Jeff & Karen Magnuson
- 27- Rodger & Nancy Neubert
- 31- Martin & LeVera Levin



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Ed Schulz who after years of tending our building and grounds has retired. Ed has been a remarkable example of service to all of us. Thanks be to God for such role models.

Thanks to all who took time to donate a pint of blood. There were 30 donors on September 13. The next blood drive will be November 8.

Sue and Heather Grant who for the youth family dinner. They served over 100 people delicious home-made pulled pork sandwiches then cleaned it all up.

The high school youth would like to thank ***Mike Bruschuk*** for providing 2 meals at Big House this summer. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

The guys on the dart team who set up the tables and chairs for the youth family dinner.

Divine Services Fall Schedule

Saturday, October 3-	5:30 Chapel
Sunday, October 4-	8:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 10-	5:30 Chapel
Sunday, October 11-	8:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 17-	5:30 Chapel
Sunday, October 18-	8:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 24-	5:30 Chapel
Sunday, October 25-	8:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.

Please note that Holy Communion will be served at all of the October worship services.