

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior whose advent we prepare to celebrate:

The great writer and Christian apologist of the 20th century, C.S. Lewis, who came to faith during the middle years of his life, wrote in his book *Mere Christianity* "Christianity [in the broad sense] is more like a hall out of which doors open into several rooms. If I can bring anyone into that hall I shall have done what I attempted. But it is in the rooms [Christian denominations], not in the hall, that there are fires and chairs and meals. The hall is a place to wait in, a place from which to try the various doors, not a place to live."

What C.S. Lewis knew and was saying is that, to believe in Jesus as your Savior, to consider yourself a Christian in the broad sense, to be part of "Christ's team" as opposed to "Mohamed's team" or "Buddha's team" is the beginning of living in faith, but it is not true living in faith, because it is only in the fellowship and community (the rooms) of Christianity in which the actual living occurs, the fellowship, the mutual support, the nurturing of body and soul, and the like.

The New Testament book of Acts gives us a glimpse of what it is like to actually live in a room rather than forever camping in the hall. "They all joined together constantly in prayer..." (Acts 1:14). "They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people" (Acts 2:46, 47). I encourage you to read the book of Acts and discover for yourself how the Holy Spirit worked in the life of those living in the "rooms" of the early church.

Unfortunately, there are some who, having chosen to live in the room known as Trinity Lutheran Church or as the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, do not actually "live" here. There are those who may hang a coat or hat on a hook in the room from time to time, who may even on occasion take a walk around the room before going back out into the "hall of Christianity" or even slipping out of the building altogether. In any case, for those individuals, the meals in the room go uneaten, the fire goes unattended, the chairs go unused, the room, for them, is not "lived" in.

We give thanks that through our heavenly Father's Son, Jesus Christ, there is a building, a hall, and rooms. We give thanks that because of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection that all have access to the house, that the door has been opened for us, not only into the hall but also into this room of the Lutheran Confession in which the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity and God's Sacraments are rightly celebrated.

Only the Lord can look into your heart and know if you truly live in the room, if you only camp in the hall, or if you have slipped out of the house altogether. If you find yourself in the hall, come into the room where the living is. If you find yourself outside the house altogether, reach out your hand in prayer to the Lord, as Peter reached out his hand on that night on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14), and the Lord will save you, then come into the room where "there are fires and chairs and meals."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Schmidt



Saint Andrew, Apostle

November 30

“The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, [36] and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God!’ [37] The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.” (John 1:35-37).

With these words of John the Baptist recorded by the apostle John in his account of the Gospel, Andrew, originally a disciple and follower of John the Baptist is pointed towards Jesus. Andrew understood that Jesus was greater and immediately left John to follow Jesus. He visited in Jesus’ home and later brought his brother Simon Peter, who Jesus also called to be an apostle.

Andrew was born in Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee (John 1:44) and later lived at Capernaum (Mark 1:29). Andrew along with his brother Simon Peter were fishermen by trade and were the first apostles to be

appointed by Jesus.

Not much is mentioned in the Book of Acts concerning the life of Andrew. Tradition teaches that after Jesus’ resurrection, Andrew preached the gospel in Asia Minor and in Scythia as far as Kiev. It is believed that Andrew was martyred by crucifixion at Patras in Achaea in Greece where tradition teaches he asked to be tied to a Crux decussate or an X shaped cross because he did not consider himself to be worthy to be crucified on the same type of cross on which Jesus had been crucified. Tradition teaches that Andrew did not die right away but instead he was left to suffer for two days while he continued to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ until he finally died.

The X shaped cross is now commonly known as the Cross of Saint Andrew and appears on flags of nations around the world. The feast of St. Andrew is observed on November 30 in both the Eastern and Western branches of the Church.

Sources include: New World Encyclopedia and Catholic.org

Artwork is courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

December 28

“Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. [17] Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

[18] ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.’ ” (Matthew 2:16-18 ESV)



The infants, known in the Church as the “Holy Innocents”, have been claimed as the first Christian martyrs. Traditional accounts number them at more than ten thousand, but more conservative estimates put their number in the low dozens. Considering the relatively small population of Bethlehem and the surrounding area, the smaller number is probably more close to being correct.

It is impossible to determine the day or the year of the death of the Holy Innocents. All we know is that: 1) the infants were slaughtered within two years of the appearance of the star to the Magi; and 2) that the church remembers these children as martyrs and the first of the church killed by persecution.

As he does so many times in his Gospel account, Matthew connects the dots between the prophecies of the Old Testament and the events of Jesus’ life. Here he recalls the words of the prophet Jeremiah speaking of the lamentation of Rachel. At Rama is the tomb of Rachel, representative of the ancestresses of Israel. There the remnants of the nation were gathered to be led into captivity. As Rachel, after the fall of Jerusalem during the Old Testament, from her tomb wept for the sons of Ephraim (Israel), so she now weeps again for the male children of Bethlehem. The ruin of her people, led away to Babylon, is only a type of the ruin which threatens her children now, when the Messiah is threatened with murder and is compelled to flee from the midst of his own nation to escape the sword. The lamentation of Rachel finds its ultimate fulfillment in the downfall of her people in the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and the subsequent dispersion of the nation by their Roman conquerors.

First observed sometime between the end of the fourth century and the end of the fifth century, the date of observance varies within the church although it is nearly universally observed during the week following Christmas Day. Today, the date of *Holy Innocents’ Day*, also called *Childermas* or *Children’s Mass*, is observed in the Lutheran, Roman and Church of England branches of the Church on December 28.

The death of the “Holy Innocents” is remembered in the hymn “Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band” (TLH 273; LW 188; LSB 969) where the Holy Innocents, the first martyrs for Christ, are pictured gathered up to heaven and there, by the side of God’s altar, playing childlike with the palms and crowns, the tokens of their rewards.

1. Sweet flow'rets of the martyr band,
Plucked by the tyrant's ruthless hand
Upon the threshold of the morn,
Like rosebuds by a tempest torn;

2. First victims for th' incarnate Lord,
A tender flock to feel the sword;
Beside the altar's ruddy ray,
With palm and crown, you seemed to play.

3. Ah, what availed King Herod's wrath?
He could not stop the Savior's path.
Alone, while others murdered lay,
In safety Christ is borne away.

4. O Lord, the virgin born, we sing
Eternal praise to You, our King,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Sources include: Catholic Encyclopedia; Wikipedia; Americancatholic.org; and Lutheran Worship Hymnal Companion

Artwork is courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

BITS 'N PIECES

Be sure and set your clock BACK 1 hour when going to bed Saturday night, November 5, 2011. Remember daylight savings time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning! Don't be late for church!

On November 13, 2011, there will be an Altar Guild meeting. It will be held in the church basement at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to attend even if you are not currently a member of the Altar Guild. If you want more information, please contact Margaret Koch at 834-2624 or Pastor Schmidt.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH OF HIGH SCHOOL AGE AND UP.....there will be a meeting for the Youth Group on Wednesday evening, November 16, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. More information will be in the Sunday bulletin.

Thanksgiving Day is November 24, 2011. There will be a worship service of Thanksgiving on the eve of November 23, 2011 beginning at 7:30 p.m. We all have so many things for which to be thankful. Count your blessings!

The Mary and Martha Group will meet on Sunday afternoon, November 27, 2011, for the purpose of decorating the church basement for Christmas. For more information, see Joan Hardy.

We will have a "trim the church" potluck lunch after service on Sunday, December 4, 2011. ALL members are encouraged to partake of the lunch and stay to help decorate the church for Christmas. This get-together replaces having a special Christmas Committee. We will set up and decorate the Christmas tree, hang garland, wreaths, decorate windows, and any outside decorating that needs to be done.

Advent services will be held the evenings of November 30th, December 7th and December 14th. The Elders will provide the meals beginning at 6:30 p.m. and worship service will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Elders are encouraged to "draft volunteers" to help...either with preparing, clean-up, or food! If asked to help, please smile and say "OK!"

The Mary and Martha Society will have their annual Christmas Party on Saturday night, December 3, 2011. More information will be available as the date nears.

On the second Sunday of December (11th), everyone is invited and encouraged to go Christmas Caroling. The recipients of the caroling are always so appreciative. If you know of someone that would enjoy having the carolers come by, be sure and give their name to Merlyn or Janice Hartz. The Merry Makers are in charge of this activity and more information will be published as the 11th gets closer.

The annual children's Christmas program is being planned for Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011. This service and program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Practices will begin on December 7th.

Christmas Day is on Sunday, December 25th and we will have worship service with communion. Start time will be 9 a.m. as usual.

Ashley Holcombe, daughter of Kevin and Robin Holcombe (and sister of Emily) graduated from Central College in Pella, Iowa in May 2011. She passed her certification test in July 2011 and is a Certified Athletic Trainer. Ashley is currently working as a Graduate Assistant in the athletic training department at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA. She is working towards a master's degree in higher education. Nicholls State University fields 14 athletic teams as a member of the NCAA Division I and the Southland Conference. There are 6 men's and 8 women's athletic teams. In the spring she will be traveling with the baseball team. Ashley's address is 230 Gloria Street, Apartment D, Thibodaux, LA 70301. We know she would enjoy hearing from her friends at Trinity.

Thank you to Jon and Micah Dallman and Jean and Ashley Johnson for being greeters for September and October respectfully. If anyone would volunteer to greet for November and December, you would make our Chairman a "happy person"!

Our third quarter voters' meeting was held on October 26, 2011. Twenty three members answered roll call. The Elders reported that transfers were received for Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, wife Deanna and daughter Katie. Motion made and seconded to accept them as members. Transfer out requests were received for Doug Lindval and Mark Ziemann. We commend them to the care of Lutheran churches in Illinois and Kentucky. Elise and Alex Hills were granted a release from Trinity. We will keep these all these members in our prayers and ask God to continue to guide them in His ways.

The Board of Elders approved a proposal by Pastor for bulk rate boxholder mailings for Christmas and upcoming events.

The new copy machine and computer are up and running.

The treasurer's report was approved and a budget for 2012 was adopted. A copy of the 3rd quarter treasurer's report is included in this Newsletter.

Discussions were made regarding the restrooms and how to make them more handicapped accessible. Discussion was also held regarding the possibility of making the current "cry room" into a restroom.

Frederick W. Martens volunteered to be our lay representative to the Circuit Forum which will be held in January or February 2012.

A lay delegate to the District Convention to be held in June 2012 is needed. If you could volunteer to represent Trinity, please let Larry Ory know. A decision must be made at our January 2012 voters meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to purchase a Koala changing table for the cry room. The current baby crib is outdated and needs to be replaced. A high chair will also be purchased.

The 2011 Christmas Committee was discussed. It was decided that December 4th would be set aside for a church decorating party. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in a potluck lunch after worship service on December 4th and then help decorate the church. The Council proposed we purchase a new nativity for outside decorating...probably at the end of the holidays this season for use in 2012. Mike and Cindy Koch will look into this.

There is approximately \$11,000 in the organ fund. That money comes from the interest earned on Esther Storck's memorial money which has been designated specifically for a new organ. Anyone can contribute to this fund at any time. It is anticipated a new organ will become necessary within the next five years.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Pastor Schmidt to the position of Secretary of Iowa District West. The nomination paper has been sent to Pastor Sieveking.

Your new officers for 2012 are: Larry Ory as Chairman; Linda Kamm as secretary; Darrell Jamison and Jon Dallman as elders; Larry Cross as trustee; and Wm. D. Martens to the cemetery board.

Thank you to all retiring officers, and thank you to the above members for agreeing to serve Trinity.

A CHURCH DIRECTORY will be made available to members of our congregation in the not too distant future. Information to be included in addition to names, will be: address, phone number, e-mail address and, month and day of birthdays and anniversaries. Please contact pastor if you wish any of these items to not be included for your listing.

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED to fold the Readings insert for the weekly bulletin. The inserts are printed in batches of eight to ten weeks at a time so there is time to fold several weeks of inserts at a time in advance. Contact pastor if you are interested in helping. You can help just once or on a regular basis. Thank you in advance.

UTENSIL HOLDERS AND SMALL CROCKS commemorating Trinity's 125th anniversary are still available. Limited supply!

MADISON COUNTY FOOD PANTRY is in need of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and paper goods. The Mary & Martha Circle asks you to join them in helping our neighbors in need by bringing needed items and placing them in the basket in the Narthex. Contributions by cash or check are also accepted by placing your gift in the collection plate in an envelope marked "Mary and Martha Food Pantry".

2012 ELDER LIST

Ted Albrecht	996-2650	May, June, October and November
Warren Brott	996-9967	March, April, November and December
Jon Dallman	987-2098	April, May, September and October
Kevin Holcombe	758-2094	February, March, August and September
Darrell Jamison	996-2743	January, February, July and August
Gary Smith	996-2718	January, June, July and December

Inclimate weather: Even though the sun is shining and bad weather is not in the immediate picture, it is bound to come. After all, this is Iowa, right? In the event services need to be cancelled here at Trinity, it will be shown on WHO TV (Channel 13), KCCI TV (Channel 8) or WOI TV (Channel 5). It should also be announced on WHO Radio (1040 AM). However, our website is now up and running and it will be posted as soon as the announcement is made. Our address is: www.trinity-vm.org. Another choice is to call an elder listed above.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS		DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Irene Koch	2	Greg Radke	5
Zach Scadden	2	Chris Jamison	6
David Garlich	5	Chelsea Soper	17
Helen Martens	6	Jayne Brott	20
Kendall Koch	7	Lily Garlich	21
Ray Hardy	9	Luke Garlich	21
David Johnson	9	Rita Martens	22
Katie Johnson	13	Doyle Marquardt	24
Dennis Brott	15	Andrew Algreen	26
Larry Cross	18	Darrell Jamison	31
Lauren Jones	19		
Robin Ziemann	20		
James Marquardt	24		
Stacey Soper	24		
Joan Hardy	26		
NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES		DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES	
Robert and Nancy Radke	17	Jeff and Sharon Mittag	9
Francis and Luana McAllister	19	Charles and Marilyn Smith	29
Warren and Jayme Brott	28	Gary and Jodine Smith	29
Steven and Julie Ory	28		