

“Vacancy Pastor”

A “Vacancy Pastor” works part-time (10 to 15 hours per week) to meet specific needs of a congregation while they search for a full-time pastor. Initially, we had planned on having an Intentional Interim Pastor in place at Trinity prior to Pastor Wiese’s retirement, and felt no need for a Vacancy Pastor. However, plans are one thing - actuality is another.

Having no pastor in place has caused some anxiety in our congregation, and the Board of Elders determined that a Vacancy Pastor was needed. On March 7, 2010 the Voter’s approved this position, to be managed by the Board of Elders. The Board reviewed several pastors who might fill our needs Our first choice was Rev. Phil Schmidt, but between his work at Juvenile Court and serving as Vacancy Pastor for Concordia, Jackson, TN, his plate is full to overflowing. For one reason or another, other possible choices did not work out.

When one door closes, I believe God always opens another. Just when we thought the door for the Vacancy Pastor position was closing, a side door opened and in walked Pastor Wiese – our new Vacancy Pastor. God, acting through our District President, Rev. Ken Lampe, convinced Pastor Wiese that he needed to take this position for Trinity’s sake.

Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran Church

“The mission of Trinity is to preach and teach the Good News as it is commanded by God (Matthew 28:18) and to reach out with the hands and arms of love to all humanity to do the work Christ commanded us.”

Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

154-year-old Congregation of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

CHURCH OFFICE	525-1056
CHURCH FAX	525-0697
Dr. Ronald Wiese, Vacancy Pastor	525-1056
Rev. Philip Schmidt, Pastor Emeritus	525-1056
Ms. Martha Israel, Parish Assistant	525-1056
Mr. Bill Kratzke, Bookkeeper	525-1056
Ms. Rosie Turner, Youth Director	525-1056
Mr. Mark Eble, Building Manager	525-1056
Mr. David Love, Comptroller	525-1056
Ms. Barbara Sharp, Nursery Director	525-1056

Pastor Wiese has agreed to serve as our Vacancy Pastor until we have an Intentional Interim Pastor in place or their house sells and he and June relocate to North Carolina. He will work part-time, visiting sick and homebound, and making sure our worship services are covered. We have steered around another pothole, and can now move forward to calling an Intentional Interim Pastor and, ultimately, calling a new permanent pastor.

Much of our previous anxiety could have been alleviated by better communication, both from the Board of Elders to the congregation - and from the congregation to the Elders. The Elders Responsibility Lists are now posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to contact any of our Elders with questions or concerns. Trinity’s Elders are: Dave Chester (937-1198 / 361-3510); Steve Zoeller (853-9495); Tom Sander (373-1347); Lee Monger (744-0526); Earl Williams (826-9871); Jim Hofer (682-7929); and Jim Eble (452-0509). In Christ, we go forward!

- Dave Chester, Chairman, Board of Elders

“Interim Pastor”

In November, 2008, Trinity’s Voters Assembly approved a resolution to call an intentional interim pastor when Pastor Wiese retired. There were some important reasons for this decision.

Why call an interim rather than proceed directly to calling a permanent pastor? Calling a pastor is a lengthy and intense process. First, the congregation is asked to devote several months to completing a self-study, designed to assess the congregation’s strengths, needs, and potential areas of ministry. This, consequently, helps us determine what gifts we seek in a new pastor. Then comes a call for nominations, which may be made by any Trinity member or area pastor. President Lampe then assembles information on each nominee. Trinity’s Call Committee reviews the information, holds telephone interviews with the nominees, and selects two or three finalists, who are invited to come for a visit. Finally, the voters meet and, seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance, issue a divine call to one of these. That candidate may decide to return for another meeting, and then needs time to make his final decision - perhaps as long as a month. Even then, he may decline the call, in which case, the congregation selects one of the other candidates – or begins all over. The entire process takes six to nine months.

Calling an intentional interim is a much shorter process. The District President provides a list of pastors available for interim work, who have been trained to help a church work through the loss of a beloved pastor, and help them develop a unified vision of the new pastor they need. President Lampe has seen this process at work in Mid-South District churches, and believes the intentional interim process helped make each congregation that used it stronger.

Please pray for God’s blessings on Trinity as we continue our search for an interim pastor.

“Repentance and Renewal”

A traditional Lenten theme is *repentance*, which leads to *renewal*, another common theme. The Gospel for the Third Sunday in Lent includes a parable centered on this theme. Jesus tells of a fig tree – one that hadn’t produced any fruit for three years in a row. The owner said, “Cut it down.” The gardener pleaded for mercy: “Ill dig around, fertilizer it, water it for a year. If after that there is still no fruit, I’ll cut it down.”

While in Seattle visiting my brother and sister, I had my own “fig tree event.” Glenn has two dogs, Bri (6 years old) and Foxie (11 months). They were BAD. They raided my barbecue table, ate the basting brush, spilled the marinade, ate my gloves, a corner of my hat, a new window squeegee, and, worst of all, attacked the neighbor’s cat. (It survived.) Sharon said, “It’s time to put those dogs up for adoption.” I said, “I came out here to get a break from delinquents.” Glenn said, “They have been bad, I agree, but they deserve another chance.”

Like Bri and Foxie, instead of getting what we deserve, God gives us another chance. On the one hand, the Kingdom of God is built on justice and fair judgment. There is a constant call for repentance and renewal. But this call is also connected with grace. The extra year, with proper care and guidance, gives us the opportunity for renewal.

And that opportunity comes out of Christ’s sacrifice. Jesus was not guilty of his accused crime, but was sentenced to death so that - by grace - we who are guilty can go free.

Repentance and renewal have never been easy. Jesus didn’t make it simple, either. The owner of the vineyard will be back in the fall to see if the tree has done any better. Judgement is not dismissed. Difficult as it may be to teach the dogs about judgment, it is no less difficult with us humans. Teaching children that there are consequences for their actions is tough – and we adults are not much better.

Repentance and renewal: a good reason to observe Lent every year.

- Phil Schmidt

Council Report

Trinity's Church Council met March 14. The chairman reported that Pastor Ron Wiese has been asked and accepted the vacancy pastor position for the next three months. There was much discussion concerning the calling of an Interim Pastor. The council will ask President Lampe to meet with them to discuss some of these concerns. The treasurer reported a deficit of \$3,500. The Board of Trustees plan to do some painting after Easter, and to remove the light fixture on the steeple. The Board of Evangelism is planning Trivia Night April 24.

In Old Business: renovation of the Fellowship Hall continues. The stove has been replaced and fitted with a fire suppression system that meets the current fire code. The motion was made and approved to allocate \$300 to install cabinets next to the new stove. The two cemetery plots remain unsold.

In New Business: Volunteers are needed to do the Children's Message on Sundays. Rosie Turner will work with Martha Israel on coordinating volunteers. Current volunteers are Deborah Reilly & Skylar Eble, Bethany & Barbara Sharp, Rosie Turner, and Melody Konnerth.

The next Council meeting will be April 11th, pending Pastor Lampe's ability to attend. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosie Turner, secretary *pro tem*

Lutheran Children's Camp

LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CAMP will be held June 14th to 18th at Camp Clark Williamson, near Humboldt, Tennessee. This camp is for children who are presently in grades 3 through 6. Activities include Bible study, crafts, swimming, drama, and more. Cost is \$215, with discounts for additional children from the same family. Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall or through Trinity's Church Office.

Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean

Too young or too old for the Camp Clark Williamson event? Week-long camps are also held throughout the summer for youngsters from kindergarten through high school at the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain, in Arkansas.

K-2nd Grade: "Pathfinders" July 7-10; \$195

3rd-5th Grade: "Explorers", June 13-18, July 11-16,
or July 25-30; \$265

6th - 8th Grade: "Traiblazers," June 20-25, or July 18-23; \$265

9th - 12th Grade: "Owl Camp," June 27 - July 2; \$265

For specifics, go to www.lutherancamp.org.

Tuition Assistance for Camp

Attention, Parents: Trinity's Board of Education will pay *half the camp tuition cost* for any Trinity child who *comes to Sunday School at least 8 Sundays this spring!* It's a winning situation for all! For information about assistance, contact Eileen Sander.

Education News

SUNDAY ADULT CLASSES:

The Fellowship Hall Bible Class continues a study of “The End Times,” led by Dr. Douglas Morrison. All adults are cordially invited - bring a friend!

WEEKDAY HOME BIBLE STUDIES:

- * Tuesday Morning Ladies Covenant Bible Class at Mary Henderson’s (458-3657), meets 10 a.m. April 6th and 20th to continue their study of “Heroes of Faith.” Pat Ellis is the leader.
- * Tuesday Evening Study at the home of Dave and Dot Love, (662-781-0730), meets 7 p.m. April 6th and 20th, and is studying world religions. John Konnerth is the study leader.
- * Tuesday Evening Study at Mary Henderson’s home (458-3657), meets April 6th and 20th at 7 p.m., continuing their study of “Exodus,” with Dr. Doug Campbell as leader.
- * Wednesday Evening Study at the home of Tom and Eileen Sander (373-1347), is studying “The Minor Prophets,” with David Chester as leader. They have been on a break, but will resume meeting in April. Call for meeting dates and times.
- * Downtown Bible Study (Mud Island) at the home of Ron and Brenda Pfeiffer, (529-0983), continues a study of Hebrews. Check the Sunday bulletin for meeting dates and times, or call the church office.

We cordially invite all adults to check out one of more of these studies. All are welcome!

Prayer, Patience & Perseverance

Our congregation, as it goes through this transition period, will require much prayerful consideration - both individually and collectively - asking God to help us make the best decision in the selection of our new pastor. We will need a lot of patience as this process takes its course, and much perseverance.

The Board of Evangelism, for its part, will strive even harder to visit prospective members. We want to encourage all Trinity members to welcome our visitors and make them feel glad they came. Of course, we will assist the new pastor in any way we can to bring in the unchurched. Finally, in cooperation with the Board of Elders, we will help integrate new members into the life and work of our church.

- John Konnerth, Bd. of Evangelism

Board of Finance

We welcome new members Sharon Wright and Martha Hays, and thank them for offering their time and talents in service to the Lord and to Trinity.

A special offering was taken on March 21 for the Mid-South District “Hearts for Jesus” mission project for 2010. These funds will go to the Mission India “Rice Bag” project, to support a Bible Club program that currently reaches millions of children in India each year. If you missed the March 21 door offering, you can still contribute: make your check payable to Trinity, and mark it “Hearts for Jesus.” Here is a wonderful opportunity to take an active part, through your offering, to “Go, ye, therefore and teach all nations.”

We are pleased to report: because of God’s grace, mercy, and love; because of your commitment to the principles of good stewardship, sacrificial giving, and your love for Him and each other – the financial books for 2009 closed “in the black!” Praise the Lord! At the end of February, however, our contributions are slipping a little and we are below budget. Good stewardship is part of a Christ-centered life. May we all use our time, talents, and treasure wisely and faithfully in service to God and His kingdom! -Bill Otte, Bd. of Finance

Gifts & Memorials

In honor of PASTOR RON & JUNE WIESE, gifts were given to Trinity Ministry by Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Rogers, Mrs. Connie Tilton, Rev. & Mrs. David Harr.

In memory of E.W.HELMs, JR., a gift was given to Trinity by Ms. Betty Jo Cole.

In honor of KATHERINE ANDERSON on her baptism, a gift was given to Trinity by Ms. Martha L. Smith.

In honor of BERTHA HUFFMAN on her 100th birthday, a gift was given to Trinity by Doug & Betty Troxel.

A Note from the Parish Assistant: If your special gift is not noted or is listed incorrectly, please contact Martha in the church office.

LWML Spring Zone Rally

Please join us at the LWML Spring Rally Saturday, April 17, at Immanuel Lutheran Church (6325 Raleigh-Lagrange Rd.) Rose Klimek, a past president of the Mid-South District LWML and current president of Immanuel's LWML, will speak on her recent journey through stage 3 breast cancer, entitled, "Walking Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death."

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting and program begin at 10 a.m. The \$5 registration cost includes lunch. Our ingathering will be donations of money and new or gently used wigs, scarves, hats, caps, turbans, head bands, lap robes, small quilts and covered pillows to aid cancer patients at the West Clinic. Childcare will be provided upon request - contact Diane Reimold at 679-0626 or dianereimold@hotmail.com.

If you would like to attend or need more information, contact Susan Jones at 358-6772 or e-mail her at susandjones4memphis@yahoo.com.

Mar. Church and Sunday School Attendance

	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>AVG.</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>AVG.</u>
2009	339 (4)	85	157 (4)	39
2010	375 (4)	94	172 (4)	43

Communion Attendance

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
3/1/09	31	0	31
3/15/09	80	6	86
Private 3/08	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>12</u>
	119	10	129
3/7/10	62	0	62
3/21/10	90	10	100
Private 3/10	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>16</u>
	166	12	178

District Singles Retreat

The Annual Mid-South District Singles Retreat will be held April 30 - May 2 at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park, in Camden, TN. Our Bible study leader is Rev. Chuck Neugebauer of Christ the King. Cost is \$50 for the entire weekend. For more information and registration forms, pick up a copy of the District Singles Newsletter in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Diane Reimold by phone at 679-0626 or via e-mail dianereimold@hotmail.com. If you've not attended one of these retreats before, give it a try!

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle met at the church in March to complete their events planning for the year. We look forward to interesting speakers, fund raising projects, and social events throughout 2010, including an April trip to Holly Springs.

- Jean Schmidt, Reporter

Naomi Road Trip

The Naomi Circle members are going to the Holly Springs Pilgrimage of homes on Saturday, April 17th. Meet at the church at 7:30 a.m., and bring a sack lunch and drink. Tickets for the home tours are purchased at Holly Springs, and homes toured at each person's choice. Come, join us!

Von Bora Circle

The Circle met in March to take care of altar duties and mail out the "Portals of Prayer." Afterwards, we joined the "Young-at-Heart" folks for a delicious potluck lunch. Everyone is invited to come Tuesday, April 13 at 11:00 a.m. for our workshop. And plan to stay for another delicious lunch in the company of the "Young-at-Heart." Please bring a dish to share.

Young at Heart

On Tuesday, April 13 at noon, all seniors, retirees, and anyone else with a "young-at-heart" attitude, are invited to a potluck lunch in Trinity's Fellowship Hall. The Von

Bora Circle will join in the lunch. The food is great and the company superb. Whip up your favorite dish and join in at noon, Tuesday, April 13th.

Youth News

Easter Eggs mean something a little different when you are a Trinity Youth!! . . . it means scrambled, with sausage and pancakes on the side, and "He is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!!!

EASTER LOCK-IN APRIL 3-4:

We are making plans for a NIGHT OUT, before we are locked in for Easter Sunrise. Plan to be at Trinity by 5:00 p.m. for breakfast prep. WE NEED ALL YOUTH FOR THIS! And you Old Folks, too, to help lead our

newest flock through the annual Easter Lock-In!! Bring all of your Lock-In gear: sleeping bag, pillow, pj's, Sunday clothes. This night we will head out on the town, so dress warm! Your pick of movie, laser tag, or arcade! Everyone also will need \$10 for food and fun; we'll supply the rest! Friends are welcome!

This is always a great way to celebrate the day of salvation in the Resurrection of our Lord.

Any questions or suggestions? TXT, e-mail or call me! At 901 626-6719.

Easter Blessings to you ALL!

- Rosie Turner

Dates of Special Significance

Birthdays in April

- 1 - Peggy Hart
- 4 - Fred Heyer, Katrina Hill, Christopher Jones
- 5 - David Love, Kay Seek
- 8 - David Murphy
- 9 - Ritissha Knight, Judy Smith
- 11 - Neil Burton
- 13 - Wanda Eble, Vicki Grant
- 14 - Ron Pulliam
- 17 - Erin Dennis, Heather Gentry
- 18 - Sylvia Keith
- 20 - Tillie Anderton
- 22 - Mindy Shafer, Tim Stamey
- 24 - Emma Chester
- 27 - Terry Turner, Sarah Wiese
- 28 - Steven Schmidt
- 29 - Dorothy Martens, Richard Pulliam
- 30 - Carolyn Roberts, Corrie Rushing

Wedding Anniversaries in April

- 1 — Tim & Molly Hansgen (4)
- 5 — Angelo & Jeanie Boone (2)
- 10 — Steven & Tanya Welden (11)
- 11 — Ed & Caroline Sheely (29)
- 14 — Nat & Pat Ellis (32)
- 16 — Kevin & Ashley Baskette (5)
- 21 — Steve & Judy Sondheim (25)
- 23 — Jim & Wanda Eble (55)
- 27 — Hank & Johnnie Mowry (66)
- 30 — Gabe & Anthia Inman (5)
- 30 — Paul & Sarah White (4)

If your special date is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please call Martha in the church office.

News of Members and Friends

CONGRATULATIONS:

to Alexandria Pinkins on the birth of baby boy Rodericc Laton Pinkins, February 15, 2010.... to Sarah Wiese and James Harr, who are engaged to be married; the wedding is set for August 14, 2010, at Trinity.... to Bertha Huffman, on her 100th birthday March 19; she celebrated with family and friends at a luncheon at Trinity March 21....

MAY GOD COMFORT THE BEREAVED

Mary Bettersworth, mother of Carol Doss, died March 16. (Carol is a former Trinity member, and served as Trinity's secretary for many years.)

ILL AND HOMEBOUND MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Please remember in prayer Nettie Snapp, Rita Purdy (both hospitalized in March), Cam McDonald, Brett Rehberg, Kimiko Schreiber, Steven Stenwall, Tom Willington; Dale Anderson, Jeffrey Dennis, Gertie Eddleman, Mary Lee Henard, Hank Mowry, Doug Oldham, Doug Reed, Molly Wilkens-Reed, Louise Alspaugh, Gene Breimon, Robert Casper, Jessica Crociata, Susan Coffman, Harriet Davis, Rosemarie Davis, Adele Harrison, Mary Jo Ibrahim, Terry Karnes, Rose Klimek, Shirley Laster, Kimberly Lee, Kathy Liebman, Carla Mathena, Paul Norman, Kathy Stracener, Carrie Szumila, Joyce Thuftedal, Donald Thuftedal, Barbara Westberg, Betty White.... Florence Carter, Dorothy Homann, Marjorie Parham, Elsie Rice, L.V. Schmidt, Helen Denio, Dannie Lee, Beulah Montgomery, Ray Pulliam, Irene White....

Easter Vigil

Two years ago Trinity held its first Easter Vigil service on the Saturday night before Easter. It was well-received and meaningful for the 60 or so people who attended. We will not be holding a vigil this year, but hope to return it to our Holy Week schedule in 2011.

Sixth Annual Trivia Night

Just a reminder about Trivia Night, Saturday, April 24, 2010. All who are interested in participating, please complete a registration form (available in the church office and fellowship hall), or contact John Konnerth (266-4704) or Kathy Zoeller (853-9495). Admission fee is \$10.00 per person, which can be paid the night of the event or in advance through your team leader.

Consider being a Team Captain, who will be responsible for gathering a team and collecting the entry fee. If you are not connected with a team, you can still play: we will assign you to a team. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. and play begins promptly at 5:00 p.m. Come early, so you can be assigned a table and get your name placed for door prizes. Team leaders, please line up your teams of six (include people from outside our congregation, if possible) and get your entry forms and fees in! This is a fun event, with lots of excitement.

Clothing Drive

It's time for Spring Cleaning, and Trinity's Board of Social Ministry invites you to clean out your closets, and bring those out-grown clothes to Trinity, to donate to the downtown Clothes Closet. We are in special need of clothes for women. Look for the box or barrel in the Fellowship Hall, marked "Clothes," and leave your donated items there. We'll be accepting clothes through April 25th, so you've got plenty of time. Help us help those less fortunate.

Trinity's Graduates

May and June is graduation time for many grade schools, high schools and colleges. If someone in your family is graduating this spring, please contact the church office so their name can be listed in next month's "Candle."

Area Church News

In addition to camps for children, the LUTHERAN CAMP at Petit Jean offers activities for adults.

- A WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held April 9-11, with guest speaker Mary May Larmoyeux;
- SPRING FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND is April 23-25;
- A SCRAPBOOKING RETREAT will be held April 30 - May 2.

For more information or to register, call Chris Lawrenz at (501) 727-5656 or go to their website for more information: www.lutherancamp.org.

The LUTHERAN SINGLES ASSOCIATION (LSA) will be gathering in Memphis, TN June 26, 2010 for their biennial tour. The group will visit Graceland, the National Civil Rights Museum, and Beale Street. This is a great opportunity to meet Lutheran singles from across the country, and tour our local sights, too. Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall or church office, and in the current Mid-South District Singles Newsletter (also available in the Fellowship Hall.) If you have questions, call Diane Reimold at 679-0626.

Just a note about the NEWSLETTER: "The Candle" is a great tool for communicating with Trinity members and friends. Please help keep everybody informed by letting Martha know what's going on. *Deadline for the May issue is Sunday, April 18.*

Thank You!

Dear Trinity Family,

I can't tell you how touched I was by all of the love that was shown to my dad during his retirement celebration. You are all so special! And thanks to all who worked hard to make the weekend a blessed event our family will never forget!

Love to you all,
Rachel Wiese

April, 2010

APR. 1	Maundy Thursday Communion		7:30 p.m.
APR. 2	Good Friday Tenebrae		7:30 p.m.
APR. 3	Youth Lock-In		5:00 p.m.
APR. 4	RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD		
	Easter Sunrise Communion Service		7:00 a.m.
	Easter Breakfast		8:00 a.m.
	Sunday School		9:15 a.m.
	Easter Festival Communion Service		10:30 a.m.
	Easter Egg Hunt		11:45 a.m.
APR. 5	Church Office CLOSED		
APR. 11	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER		
	Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.	Worship -	10:30 a.m.
	Church Council meeting		11:45 a.m.
APR. 13	Von Bora Workshop -		11:00 a.m.
	Young-at-Heart luncheon		12:00 noon
APR. 17	Naomi Circle, at Holly Springs		7:30 a.m.
	LWML Zone Rally at Immanuel		9:30 a.m.
APR. 18	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER		
	Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.	Holy Communion -	10:30 a.m.
APR. 24	Sixth Annual Trivia Night		4:00 p.m.
APR. 25	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
	Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.	Worship -	10:30 a.m.
APR. 30	Mid-South District Singles Retreat begins		

See page 9 for a listing of Home Bible Studies meeting in April.

*Tune in to "The Lutheran Hour" Sundays at
8:30 a.m. on WMC (790 on AM dial).*

*Web site: www.trinitymemphis.org
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