

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IS A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL | WACONIA MN | TRINITYWACONIA.ORG | 952-442-4165 | JANUARY 2012

## Great Chapters of the Bible JANUARY WORSHIP

*During worship in 2012, we will be studying great chapters of the Bible. Sometimes reading through the whole Bible is difficult. We get lost somewhere in Leviticus or Numbers. By studying the key chapters of the Bible, we will have touched on the major themes that God wants to communicate to us and the crimson thread of sacrifice that leads to the cross and empty tomb which secures our salvation. By the end of the year, faithful worship and study will leave you with a great grasp of the life-empowering Word of God.*

*In worship each week, we will focus on a specific great chapter of the Bible. For personal and family study, Pastor Phil and staff have written a devotional to help you better understand that chapter. The devotional will be available as a pull out piece within the 2012 Community Connections issues.*

*In addition, a Concordia Publishing House study guide is also available for personal study on each great chapter. If you are interested in receiving an e-mail or print out of this study, please contact Kim Taylor (952-442-4165 or [kim.taylor@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:kim.taylor@trinitywaconia.org)).*

*May you be blessed by God through 2012 as we become People in the Word.*

JANUARY 7/8

### Psalm 1

Our *Great Chapters of the Bible* series begins with Psalm 1. There are two kinds of people according to the Psalmist: those who are *People in/of the Word* and those who ignore the Word. *People in the Word* are blessed. People who are not are wicked. Sounds harsh, but that's what the Bible says. Which will you be in 2012?

JANUARY 14/15

### Genesis 1

Genesis 1 is the account of creation, one of the most challenged teachings of the Bible. Most Americans, and according to some surveys most Christians, do not believe in the Biblical account of creation. What about you? None of us were there at the beginning, so, what do you believe and how does that affect your walk with the Lord?

JANUARY 21/22

### Genesis 3 (Sanctity of Life Sunday)

Genesis 3 tells how sin came into the world and messed everything up. However, God loves us too much to leave us stuck in a hopeless, broken situation. The first promise of a Messiah who would save us from sin and death is announced in this great chapter of the Bible. Are you still stuck in sin in your life? Or, are you looking toward Jesus and the salvation He came to bring?

JANUARY 28/29

### Genesis 6

Genesis 6 gives us the account of the flood and God's judgment because "...every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time." More significant than the scientific and historical flood is God's loving heart, which prompts Him to save "righteous" Noah and his family. What can we learn about judgment and righteousness in this great chapter?

People in the Word

TRINITY  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL



BY PASTOR PHIL WAGNER

### What do you think of the results of the *Will You Grow?* Stewardship emphasis?

The results of *Will You Grow?* have been very positive for a number of reasons:

- This was a **Biblically based** appeal stressing that we give out of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ. We give joyfully, willingly, generously out of the blessings God has given us. We will never lose if we stay focused on Jesus Christ and His Word.
- Many people, 70-80% of those completing Goal Cards, were moved by the Holy Spirit to **increase their giving**. We are responding to God's call in 2 Corinthians to "grow in the grace of giving".
- Many **more people completed Goal Cards** this year than in the past. Even though we are still receiving Goal Cards, there are more than 100 more commitments than last year. God encourages us in 1 Corinthians to set aside a sum of money in keeping with our income. People are responding.
- For the first time since the building of our new school, **our income is projected to meet our expenses**. That difference between income and expenses has been gradually shrinking. For the 2011-12 year we passed a balanced budget, but we had to use some REACH appeal funds and special giving to get there. If we are able to keep our commitments and match the amount we put on our Goal Cards, we can balance our budget without extra help.
- Most importantly, the results of the *Will You Grow?* were so positive because **they reflect the growth of faith in Jesus Christ** that is happening at Trinity. Faith and generosity (giving) are always linked. As our faith in Jesus and His blessings increases, our generosity (giving) naturally increases. The fantastic response to our stewardship emphasis reflects your faith in God. There is nothing more important than that faith.

Trinity is doing some amazing things in our world to advance the Kingdom of God. From our missionary support in Peru, Haiti, and Madagascar to the countless acts of kindness and love that happen in the Waconia area. People are being touched with Jesus' love. At a school chapel service in December, I was telling the students that Jesus died and rose for us so that we could "soar". I asked them what it means to "soar for God". One student answered, "When we Gather, Grow, Serve, and Go". It is really something when the children are catching the mission and vision of God that we carry out through Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

Have a blessed New Year!  
Pastor Phil

## POWER OF THE WORD

SUNDAYS 9:30–10:30 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
ALL ADULTS WELCOME

### JANUARY 8

How did the Bible come to be in its current form? Why can we rely on it? Today's study delves into the history of this book—the inspired Word of God.

### JANUARY 15

God created the heavens and the earth. Do you realize how amazing that truth is? Today, we view a video which reveals this amazing creation and how finely tuned it is to life.

### JANUARY 22

The fall is another foundational teaching of the Bible. What do we make of this? What does a Christian take from this account?

### JANUARY 29

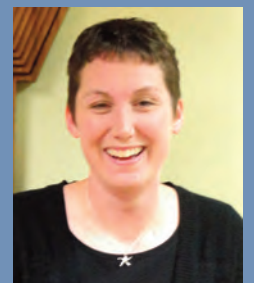
The flood is debated and argued. Some think they have discovered the ark. Today, we consider this account which is included in almost all annals of histories around the world.



## Silent Servant



Always working behind the scenes, MARIA KRAMER, our Silent Servant for January, donates countless hours of time to Children's Ministry and Trinity Lutheran School. She serves on the Children's Ministry team, helps weekly with Pointe Kidz and helps to plan and prepare Vacation Bible School (VBS) and VBS in the park. Maria, and her husband Brian, have three daughters that attend Trinity Lutheran School. She is often found helping in the school library or volunteering for various school events. Thank you, Maria, for silently serving and sharing your gifts and talents with Trinity!





# PD's Perspectives

BY PASTOR DAVE LARSON

Mark this date on your calendar—December 15, 2011. That is the date I

originally wrote these ten predictions for the year 2012. Undoubtedly, all of the predictions will come true. Well, probably not. But I feel really good about 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10!

**1** Tim Tebow guides my beloved Denver Broncos to their first Super Bowl victory since 1999. Each game he becomes exponentially better, resulting in a crushing defeat of the Green Bay Packers as Tebow throws for 500 yards and five touchdowns and runs for another 100 yards and two touchdowns.

**2** The 2012 presidential election is the most tumultuous and divisive election in the history of the United States and provides an amazing opportunity for Christians to be witnesses for Christ as we respect our authorities (Romans 13), pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2), and truly love people, especially those who

aren't on "our side" (Matthew 5).

**3** The prophetic movie 2012 turns out to not be so prophetic – the world does not end at the end of 2012.

**4** The Timberwolves shock everyone, including themselves, by sweeping the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals.

**5** This is the best time yet to join a Community Group at Trinity. As we go through the *Great Chapters of the Bible*, most of our Community Groups track right along. You hear the sermon and discuss it in your group. You find yourself growing in your faith and in your love and knowledge of God's Word.

**6** By heavily utilizing my "foot wedge" and questionable math, I finally break 80 in a round of golf.

**7** The Lord uses our Community Groups to bless the Waconia area in incredible ways. Our groups already serve at the Food Shelf, Feed My Sheep, First Street Center, Good Samaritan Home, etc. As more people join groups and as more Community Groups are started, our impact in the community will grow by leaps and bounds as we live out the

truth that we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

**8** The Lord uses our Community Groups to bring many people to faith in Jesus Christ. Through prayer, encouragement, and the conviction that Christ has saved them to work for the Kingdom of God, our groups share the Gospel through words and actions and many people return to the faith they abandoned and many more are baptized and receive a faith they never had.

**9** My beard becomes synonymous with greatness.

**10** The Church Plant Feasibility Team completes its report. This team, consisting of myself and six others, seeks to answer the question "What will it take for Trinity to plant a new church?" The team reads about the Biblical basis and theory of church planting. We survey staff, leaders, and members to gauge readiness. We also interview many people in search of details such as potential budget, timeline, staffing, etc. This report is presented to leadership in the spring. God's blessings in 2012!



**CommunityGroups**  
gathering † growing † serving † going

Brad House, author of the book *Community*, comments on Ephesians 2:4-7, "This is the purpose of community. We have been saved so that we would express the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Living together in community, reconciled and united by the cross, is a physical demonstration of the grace of God."

Now is an ideal time to join a Community Group. These are groups who live the Christian life together. Together, they study God's Word, serve, and live out the mission of Jesus Christ. Community Groups are a straightforward way to grow as a disciple and grow closer to your brothers and sisters at Trinity.

Details regarding Community Groups can be found at the Connections Center. There are several ways to join a Community Group. You can fill out a Community Group Interest form, which can be found in the Community Group booklet at the Connections Center or on the Trinity website ([trinitywaconia.org](http://trinitywaconia.org)). Simply fill out this form and return it to Pastor Dave. You can also contact Pastor Dave ([dave.larson@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:dave.larson@trinitywaconia.org)) with any questions you may have concerning Community Groups.



## MissionU: Witnessing Methods: Seven Styles of Faith-Sharing

Saturday, February 11  
9 am–12 pm

Trinity Fellowship Hall  
\$10 (includes lunch)

Trinity will be hosting a workshop which identifies, examines, and applies different evangelistic styles. Learn to identify an effective witnessing style as you encounter unique individuals and scenarios. We hope you will be able to join us for this practical workshop.



# TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

by Randy Ash, Principal



## Trinity Students Get Published and Earn Literacy Award

Last year, Trinity Lutheran School hosted Charlie Maguire, as an Artist in Residence during National Lutheran Schools week. Charlie is a singer, song writer and jaw harp instructor. With Charlie's help, students learned to play the jaw harp and write songs. One of the songs Charlie wrote with the third grade students, "1865", was selected to be published in the anthology of student writing entitled *My Little Red Balloon*. Anthology pieces from over 200 schools across the state of Minnesota were judged. Trinity was awarded the Lillian Wright Award for Creative Writing. This award represents high literacy achievement, and is the result of a yearlong selection process. Several students, now fourth graders, received this award at a special Landmark Center Celebration in St. Paul on Saturday, December 10. In addition to being published in the anthology and being given a certificate in honor of the Lillian Wright Award, Trinity was also given a \$100 US Savings Bond and a \$100 check for books for the school library.

*The Artist in Residence program is part of Trinity's Student Literacy Enrichment program. This is one of many "best practices" that earned Trinity the honor of being selected as a 2011-12 National Lutheran Exemplary School.*

Photo (front row, left to right): Maddie Lang, Becky Oelfeke, Caitlyn Beck, Whitney Morton, and Emily Luedloff; (back row) Charlie Maguire, Mrs. Hilk (Trinity third grade teacher), and Reagan Mathistad

## Enrollment for the 2012–2013 School Year

Trinity is excited to offer families a Christ-centered education for their children. Children receive an exemplary education that equips them for success at the high school level while Christian values are reinforced. Enrollment information for the 2012–13 school year will be available in mid-January. This allows parents of children entering preschool–8th grade to take advantage of an early enrollment period that offers priority to their enrollment application. Early enrollment will close on February 1st. On February 2nd, an open enrollment period will begin which allows the general public to fill remaining openings in preschool–8th grade.

For additional details regarding enrollment and the admissions process, please contact Terri Hartman (952-442-4165 or [terri.hartman@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:terri.hartman@trinitywaconia.org)).

### Do you prefer your inbox to your mailbox?

In an effort to be good stewards of our resources, we are now offering the option of receiving the *Trinity Community Connections* and/or weekly *Trinity School News* via email link. If you prefer this method, please send your email address to Kim Taylor ([kim.taylor@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:kim.taylor@trinitywaconia.org)).



EQUIPPING - EMPOWERING - EXCEPTIONAL



**Preschool, Kindergarten & First Grade**

# OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, January 26 6:30–8 pm**

Please join us for an informational Open House. Experience Trinity's distinctive education that led to being named a **2011–12 National Exemplary School!** Visit classrooms, meet teachers, and review daily schedules and curriculum.

**Program Overviews:**

**1st Grade–6:30–8 pm; Kindergarten–6:45 pm; Preschool–7:15 pm**

- *Licensed Child Care Center*
- *Spanish, Athletics, Drama*
- *Preschool (3 & 4 year olds)*
- *School of Music*
- *Full Day Kindergarten–8th Grade*
- *Literacy Emphasis*
- *Before & After School Care*
- *Technology in the Classroom*
- *Education grounded in spiritual truth*

Contact Terri Hartman for more information at [terri.hartman@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:terri.hartman@trinitywaconia.org).

**TRINITY**  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL  
*Faith in Education*

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

*Legacy of Learning*

CELEBRATION EVENT

**Saturday  
March 24, 2012**

Trinity Lutheran School will host the second annual ***Legacy of Learning*** celebration on Saturday, March 24 at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The evening will include dinner and entertainment featuring Jen Bostic and various Trinity students. Jen, who was raised in Waconia, has performed at many local establishments. She now lives and performs in Nashville. Her genre of music includes pop, soul, folk and blues.

Pastor Howard Krienke, former Trinity student, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the evening which will feature alumni presentations.

We are very excited to have these special guests for this celebration!

Please plan to join us as we celebrate the ways God has used Trinity Lutheran School to bring Christ into the lives of children through a successful educational experience.

This legacy in Christian education has been passed down for over 145 years.



## Mission Spotlight

### Saving Grace Lutheran Church Delano, MN

Saving Grace Lutheran Church is now in its fifth year of reaching out in Christ's name to the Delano area. Planted by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 2006, with 30 members, Saving Grace currently worships at Delano Middle School.

The Lord has led Saving Grace to reach out to individuals who have walked away from their faith and church. Over the past two years, Bible classes and outreach efforts have sought to bring these people back into the church and a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Several area women have enrolled in weekly Bible studies, and a few of their families have also joined Saving Grace in regular worship. The work is slow, but extremely rewarding as the Lord of the harvest brings prodigal sons and daughters back into a relationship with Him.

As Saving Grace looks toward their future, they continue to pray for a permanent church building which will make them more visible in the community. Saving Grace also continues to partner with the local food shelf and Love INC to help the community in ways that are needed.

The members of Saving Grace extend a very heartfelt "thank-you" to everyone at Trinity Lutheran Church for their prayers and support. While Saving Grace planned to be on their own within five years, the downside to reaching people who are not used to going to church, or no longer trust the church, is that it takes several years for them to become faithful in their giving. As Saving Grace continues to reach out to the community, their most difficult struggle is becoming financially viable. Trinity's gifts are an answer to their prayers and a reminder to them that God is faithful!

*Through the missions portion of the Unified Fund Budget, Trinity provides \$1,200 in annual financial support to Saving Grace Lutheran Church.*

### Christmas at Trinity



Christmas Eve at Trinity—a beautiful place to worship the King!



### Multigenerational Summer Mission Trip 2012

Cheyenne River Reservation,  
Eagle Butte, SD

**Limited spots are available!**  
**Start planning now to join the 2012**  
**Go! Team in South Dakota.**  
**The registration deadline is January 15**

### June 17-21, 2012

The Cheyenne River Reservation is located 181 miles northeast of Rapid City, South Dakota (approximately 7½ hours from Waconia). The reservation has a current population of nearly 10,000. Nearly half of the population is under the age of 18, and 62% of those youth live in poverty.



Trinity will again partner with YouthWorks to serve this reservation in areas of light construction, painting, serving at the soup kitchen, and working with Kids Club. Please prayerfully consider joining the team.

The registration fee is \$238 per person (plus additional expenses). A \$50 deposit is required at sign up. The registration deadline is January 15. For more information, please visit the Connections Center or contact Traci Kohls (952-442-4165 x 274 or [traci.kohls@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:traci.kohls@trinitywaconia.org)).

# YOUTH

Upcoming Good STUFF



## Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study

Sunday mornings @ 9:30 am  
"The Room" (Youth Room)

Bring change for coffee or hot chocolate and settle in. We'll read a Psalm and discuss how to apply it to life. Contact Traci Kohls for more information (952-442-4165 x 274 or [traci.kohls@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:traci.kohls@trinitywaconia.org)).

## [un]Paved— Courage 2012

This Lutheran Church Missouri Synod youth gathering, for Junior and Senior High students, is focused on equipping youth to imitate Christ. For more information, visit [www.unpavedministries.com](http://www.unpavedministries.com) or contact Traci Kohls ([traci.kohls@trinitywaconia.org](mailto:traci.kohls@trinitywaconia.org)).

**January 27–28, 2012**  
Mayer Lutheran High School  
Cost is \$65. Sign-up at the  
Connections Center.

**COURAGE**  
Joshua 1:9

## Women's Weekend

Have you ever wondered what God's calling on your life is? Servant Life Ministries, along with the teaching of Chip Ingram, will navigate you through a study entitled "Holy Ambition." Together, we will embark on the exciting and important journey of discovering and implementing your God-given dreams. This is not a retreat with some teaching, but an intense teaching with some retreat. Join us as we gather with other sisters in Christ to study, learn, worship, pray, and hear from our God.

**February 24–26, 2012**

**Camp Kingswood**

7301 Kingswood Road, Minnetrista, MN

Cost: \$100

(includes Chip Ingram's book, five meals and two overnights)

Space is limited.



For more information, please visit the  
Connections Center or contact Les Bauer  
(952-467-9644 or [lesbauer57@yahoo.com](mailto:lesbauer57@yahoo.com)).

## Men's Retreat

### Man Up! 2012: Wired to Be Men

**April 27 & 28, 2012**

**Camp Omega**

Weekend includes worship, teaching on Genesis 1:27 that God created men to be men, a steak dinner, and plenty of games and fun.



Watch for more details coming in February.

AS GOD'S PEOPLE, we exist to **GATHER** to worship Christ, **GROW** in His word, **SERVE** Him and one another, and **GO** into the world and share His love.



## POINTE KIDZ

Start the New Year  
with Pointe Kidz!

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature  
and in favor with God and men. Luke 2:52*

Pointe Kidz, Trinity's  
Sunday School program,  
reaches children 18 months–6th

grade. This practical, fun, and engaging program helps children learn and apply a different virtue each month. A Family Campfire Gathering, held the first Sunday of every month, brings families together to learn about the month's virtue, participate in activities, and sing songs. Afterwards, children go to their classrooms while parents learn how to apply this virtue at home. It is never too late to start Pointe Kidz since each month features a different virtue. Registration forms are found at the Connections Center.

### POINTE KIDZ

#### Family Campfire Gathering

The next Pointe Kidz Family Campfire Gathering will be held on **January 8** at **9:30 am** in the gym.

The virtue for January is **Self-Control**:  
*Choosing to do what you should do  
instead of what you want to do.*



### Trinity Lutheran Church Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 10  
12–7 pm

Make a life-saving blood donation  
and help save and sustain lives.  
Contact Beth Pogatchnik at 952-913-6624  
to schedule an appointment.



### Birthright Annual Pancake, French Toast, and Sausage Breakfast

January 22 | 7:30 am–12:30 pm

St. Joseph's Catholic Church–Waconia

Tickets for adults and children over 10 years are  
\$7 (under 10 is free).

St. Joseph's Church is sponsoring a bus leaving at  
10:30 am for a mass at the cathedral followed by a  
prolife rally at the Capitol.

*Sponsored by St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus and  
Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Waconia.*

### Trinity Worship & Education Hour

Saturday 5:30 pm • Casual

Sunday 8:15 am • Traditional

Sunday 10:45 am • Contemporary

SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR • 9:30 am

Pointe Kidz • Power of the Word • Bible Studies

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 7:30 am–4 pm

952-442-4165

[trinitywaconia.org](http://trinitywaconia.org)