

Trinity Lutheran School

# ALUMNI *connection*

Fall 2008

"but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

## *What's Happening...*

### December

5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> - Hope Shawnee, KS  
Basketball Tournament

### January

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> - Mid-Winter Basketball  
Tournament  
27<sup>th</sup> - Kindergarten Round Up and  
School Open House @ 6 PM

### February

7<sup>th</sup> - IDE Basketball Tournament

### March

13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - Freeport Basketball  
Tournament

**Want to know the latest? Need to  
change your address or add a  
friend? Contact TLS at  
[www.trinitycr.org/tls](http://www.trinitycr.org/tls)**



**From TLS  
to You,  
"Merry  
Christmas!"**

## *New Principal Vern Piering*



After a year of serving as our Principal of Record, Mr. Vern Piering has been called to serve as our Principal. In his former role, he worked in our building just a few days a week to help us maintain our state accreditation records. He now is serving us in a full-time, 5+ days a week, capacity as our Principal. Mr. Piering brings with him many years of teaching and leadership experience. We are thankful to have him, his wife Donnette and son Joshua as part of our Trinity family.

## *Letter from the "New Guy"*

Friends of Trinity Lutheran Church and School:

What an honor and privilege it is for me to speak with you briefly as the Principal of Trinity Lutheran School. As you know, being alumni of Trinity, Christian education has great value in today's society. Valued as a major mission arm of Trinity Lutheran Church, the school strives to meet the needs of its students and their families. Through the work of the Holy Spirit the staff members at Trinity Lutheran School present instructional materials in the light of the Gospel. As our theme this year we chose **Isaiah 40:31** *"but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."*

Our hope is that you will join us in the celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church and School. We also offer prayers for you as you continue to serve the Lord in His calling for you. If you have a chance to return to Trinity sometime during this school year, please take the time to come and shake my hand, I would love to meet with you and share the Lord's peace with you.

Serving the Master Teacher,  
*Vern C. Piering*

# 125 Years of School!

Trinity Lutheran Church and School will be celebrating 125 years of ministry in 2009. The vision of our founding fathers has remained our vision: *To Know Christ, To Make Christ Known Through Education.* Our current school mission statement encompasses our founding fathers' vision. They set out to spread Christ's love to the city of Cedar Rapids by opening a Lutheran school. You, as alum, can proudly tell others how the elementary/junior high Lutheran School you attended is still going strong after 125 years of dedicated mission work.



We currently have 188 students in preschool through eighth grade. We are still one of the top Cedar Rapids schools for ITBS scores and high school valedictorian and salutatorian honors.

Our students have fond memories of their years at Trinity School. Maybe it was a favorite teacher, coach or the life-long friendships fostered. Whatever the memory, it was based on a Christian foundation and still is for current Trinity students.

Trinity School offers many opportunities during the 2009 calendar year for you to attend an event or show your support. We hope you will remember Trinity Lutheran School and Church during this monumental anniversary year.

## Memories...

As we begin our journey through the

history books of TLS, we are looking for any memorabilia you may have stored away that you would be willing to loan us during the 2009 calendar year.



School Choir

Our plan is to collect items taking us through the 125 years of Trinity Lutheran School, and display them for our current school families, staff, students, and visiting alumni to enjoy.

If you have memorabilia to share, mark it with your name (if you wish for it to be returned) and drop it off in the school office or mail it by December 31, 2008.

## 45th MWT Basketball Tournament

As a kick-off to our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are inviting all of our alumni to return during the Mid-Winter Basketball Tournament weekend. This may bring back some great memories for many of you. The tournament is also celebrating a significant anniversary in January. The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Basketball Tournament will be played during January 16, 17, & 18.



Trojan Mid-Winter Champs

The weekend festivities include an alumni gathering and alumni

recognition which will take place prior to a boys' basketball game on Saturday. We hope you can join us for part or all of the Mid-Winter Tournament activities. The weekend is full of energy and excitement and is something you don't want to miss!



Varsity Girls' Basketball

### Mid-Winter Alumni Events

*Saturday, January 17*

4:00 pm – Alumni Reception in Mark Mueller's Classroom

5:15 pm – Tour of the newly renovated Library, new Science Lab, updated Computer lab

5:45 pm – Alumni Recognition in Gymnasium

6:00 pm – Church service at TLC

*Sunday, January 18*

8:00 am --Traditional church service at TLC

9:15 am – Contemporary church service in Gymnasium

So, call up your former TLS classmates and start making plans to meet at Trinity for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Tournament, January 16-18, 2009. We look forward to welcoming you *home*.

## Be Our Guest

This coming spring, you are invited to join us for dinner and fellowship at our *TLS Legacy Dinner* in celebration of 125 years of having a Lutheran School.

We have established a *TLS Legacy Program*. In November the Donald B. Kellerman family made the first donation to this newly created program. We are now able to offer a yearly scholarship because of this family's generosity.

The *TLS Legacy Program* is another way for our family and friends to support a Lutheran Education, in particular, Trinity School. Our *TLS Legacy Dinner* we will honor the Kellerman and Krause families who have designated scholarships in their families' names to be awarded to deserving Trinity School students.

We see the *TLS Legacy Program* as an ongoing scholarship source. As an alum, you can play a significant role in not only our history, but also our future by committing to donate \$5.00 for every year since your Trinity graduation. If you a 9<sup>th</sup>-grade student, one year out of Trinity, your contribution would be just \$5.00. If you were a 1980 Trinity graduate, your contribution would be 29 years times \$5.00 or only \$145.00.

These amounts may not seem like much, but if all of our alumni would participate in the *TLS Legacy Program*, we can raise a significant amount of scholarship dollars. Consider giving someone else the gift of a Lutheran education by participating in the *TLS Legacy*, and watch for your *TLS Legacy Dinner Invitation* in the mail.

## Tax Benefit...Benefits Trinity

During this holiday season, some of you may be planning ways to reduce your tax burden, while at the same time providing benefits to your favorite charitable organizations.

Please consider one of the many tax-friendly, charitable donation opportunities TLS provides:

- The Iowa Lutheran Student Tuition Organization (ILSTO) provides tax credits as an incentive for helping pay tuitions for students attending non-public Iowa schools. Visit <http://www.iowalutheransto.org>
- General donations with company and Thrivent matching funds (Thrivent form is included).

- General donations. Note: We encourage you to give first to your place of worship before considering this option. Your church should come first!
- IRA distributions. Note: Please pass this information on to your parents and grandparents. The bailout bill had an "earmark" that benefits TLS. We are a 501c (3) charitable organization. \* *On October 3, 2008 the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the "Emergency Act") was signed into law. Better known as the "Bailout Bill," the Emergency Act was signed in large part in response to the mortgage and banking crisis facing our U.S. economy. However, amidst the pages and pages of bailout provisions was a major benefit for charitable organizations and philanthropic Americans age 70 1/2 or older.*

We appreciate your past TLS support and are thankful for your consideration again this year. We have much to be thankful for at TLS, and a lot of those things have happened because of generous support from our friends, family, and alumni. Please contact Jodi Jonasson or Chuck Wilson at the school if you have any questions.

## Donald B. Kellerman Scholarship

We are launching our *TLS Legacy Program* and the first legacy is the Donald B. Kellerman Scholarship. It will be awarded to a Trinity Lutheran Church member with a desire for his/her child to receive a Christian education and is willing to support our school through volunteer hours. Funds have been set aside spanning the lifetime of Mrs. Kellerman and each spring she will assist in the recipient selection process.

The Kellermans' children, Michael, Mark and Janara, are all model graduates from TLS. We are blessed to have this scholarship available to

a deserving family, but more importantly we are blessed to have the continued support of the Kellerman family.

## Golf Tournament Nets \$4,200

In September, TLS held its annual Golf Tournament at Gardner Golf Course. Seventeen teams competed in the four-person best shot event and raised \$4,200.00 to assist flood victims and support TLS. Through generous sponsorships, community support, and dedicated golfers, Trinity was able to help several families who lost much during the flood of 2008 and provide dollars for Trinity School's electronic sign fund.

We hope to install an electronic sign on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue near the school's playground. The electronic sign will keep Trinity School's name visible to the community and allow us to announce up-coming events at our school. The sign will cost between \$6,000-\$8,000 to purchase and install. We currently have approximately \$5,000 in the fund.

Thank you to all the golfers and sponsors who participated in this year's golf tournament. Trinity Lutheran School will host its annual golf tournament again next fall. A date and details will be in the 2009 spring issue of *The Alumni Connection Newsletter*.



From left to right: TLS Alumni Andy Krenz, Matt Krenz, Clinton Dietrich, and friend Andy Terrell



**School Staff:**

Vern Piering	Principal
Vonnie Andrlé	Secretary
Jim Freese	Maintenance Engr.
Ellie Wenndt	Transportation Dir.
Kirsten Swain	Extended Care Dir.
Teri Hirschfeld	Cafeteria Manager
Jodi Jonasson	Development Dir.

**Faculty:**

Tracie Payne	Preschool
Mary Becker	Kindergarten
Lois Nord	First
Joan Tietz	Second
Karen Kroemer	Third/Resource
Donna Quick	Fourth
Josie Hester	Fifth
Kelly Fischer	Sixth
Kris Boyles	Seventh
Mark Mueller	Eighth
Judy Schroeder	Life Skills/Art/Lit.
Leslie Drees	Band/Music
Susan Benya	Choir

**Library Committee**

Florence VonKampen  
Diane Wolf  
Laura Holt  
Brook Adkins

**PTL Officers:**

Stacie Eastman	Co-President
Connie Powell	Co-President
Lisa Osborn	Treasurer
Deb Williams	Secretary

**Board of Christian Schools:**

Chuck Wilson Chair  
Carl Barshinger  
Connie Cannady  
Stacie Eastman  
Andy Freymark  
Rhonda Martin  
Dana Oxley  
Connie Rutz  
Mindy Staab  
Bob Tiedtke

**Church Staff:**

Jonathan Offt	Senior Pastor
Carol Goldfish	Deaconess
Pat Ehler	Business Director
Vicki Oakley	Secretary