

# Grapevine – February 2010

## Trinity Lutheran Church

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*During our pastoral vacancy, the Rev David Thorp – 892-9158 is on call for pastoral concerns.*

*The Rev. Bruce Meyer conducts services at 10:30am.*

*Sunday School and Confirmation Class meet at 9:15am.*

### **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

#### **FAT TUESDAY AT EMMAUS**

The State Street Traditional Jazz Band will be offering a full blast of Mardi Gras on Fat Tuesday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m. They'll be performing their New Orleans-style jazz at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 265 Middle Road, Falmouth. Let this dynamic group send you off on your Lenten journey with a powerful array of jazz classics. Suggested donation: \$10 per person, children under 18 free. For more information call 781-4820.

**ASH WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE**, Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 hosted by Prides Corner Congregational Church, near the intersection of Forest Ave/Rt. 302 and Pride Street, northeastern part of Westbrook.

#### **MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

The First Sunday of Lent this year is on February 21 and mid-week worship will be on Wednesdays at **First Lutheran Church, starting on February 24.** [www.firstlutheranportland.org](http://www.firstlutheranportland.org).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Who Brings Desert</u>	
February 24	The Will of God	Alvord	<b>Trinity Bring Desert</b>	<b>Supper @ 6:00 pm</b>
March 3	The Rule of God	Gustavson	Emmaus Bring Desert	
March 10	Free to Forgive	Alvord	<b>Trinity Bring Desert</b>	<b>Choir @ 6:20 pm</b>
March 17	No Temptation	Gustavson	Emmaus Bring Desert	
March 24	Deliver From Evil	Barter	St. Ansgar Bring Desert	<b>Worship @ 7:00 pm</b>

*Service of The Word For Healing*

**(Please let Alice know if you can bring dessert/fruit or crackers/cheese on Feb24 & Mar 10)**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE** at Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Meyer – Time TBA.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE-** TBA

**EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**, here at Trinity at 10:30 pm. **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** served prior.

**ASH WEDNESDAY ENVELOPE OFFERINGS**

will be donated to Friendship House.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE OFFERINGS MADE IN THE “SPECIAL OFFERING” ENVELOPES ARE BEST PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATES DURING SUNDAY WORSHIP AT TRINITY OR SENT TO TRINITY CHURCH, ATTENTION: JANE SINCLAIR.**

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**AS WE START A SECOND YEAR WITH A PASTORAL VACANCY, WE THANK OUR CONTACT PASTOR, PASTOR THORP, FOR HIS FAITHFUL SERVICE IN VISITING THE SICK, THOSE IN NEED, AND THOSE WHO REQUIRE PASTORAL SERVICES, — AND WE THANK OUR SUNDAY SUPPLY PASTOR, PASTOR MEYER, FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS IN BRINGING US THE WORD OF GOD AND COMMUNION ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, — AND PASTOR BUMBY WHO SO WILLINGLY AND LOVINGLY FILLS IN WHEN NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.**



**REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR THORP**

The baptism of Jesus is a story that is familiar to most of us. Jesus is with the crowds and is baptized with them. After being washed in the Jordan Jesus turns to prayer. And as he is praying the heavens are opened up.

As we enter into the season of Lent we may do well to recall our baptisms and watch the heavens opened before us to new possibilities.

The heavens were opened as Jesus was praying and we are told that the spirit descends upon Him. This too seems to be important for it suggests something about the place and purpose of the spirit.

The experience of the early church was similar to Jesus. The church was in prayer awaiting the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, 14; 2:42; 3:1; 6:4; 12:12; 13:3).

With such deep prayer comes the opening of heaven, possibility, a voice of affirmation.

When the heavens are opened for Jesus he hears a voice and is told three things:

You are my child

You are beloved

You are pleasing

Hear that for yourselves for just a moment...it is the promise of each of our baptisms.

For those of us who have been parents, perhaps you can remember the first time you brought one of your children home, or saw your child for the first time in the hospital.

How would you put into your own words that experience?

Certainly there is a moment of awe, almost breathtaking. Remember the first time you took this tiny almost bird like being and held him/her close.

Was there not something within you that held this child close, marveled and allowed you to say: this is my child, my beloved child, with who I am well pleased?

And for each of us there must have been such a moment. Somewhere in the recesses of our brains there must be memory of our mother and father's perfect love. A memory of being held in the same way that many of us have held our own children. At some point in our lives someone held us close and declared us their beloved child with whom they were well pleased.

Yet in our relationships to our parents or to our children, or to God, we forget to remember our primal bond.

We displease each other too often, we forget that we or our parents who were once held by their parents, or our children, all those around us are beautiful, lovable children of God born for the purpose of being loved.

Like our parents who once crooned over our breathtaking beauty,  
Like our parents who gazed breathless into our eyes to see their love reflected back.

Perhaps we can remember that, so it is that God gazes upon each of us.  
Even when we displease so often, God gazes, names us child of God, loves us, and is pleased.

Perhaps this was Jesus prayer that morning that he could always remember the depth of such love. Perhaps that might be our prayer as we pray for the Holy Spirit to rest upon us as we enter into Lent. Warmly, Pastor Dave

### **PEG ANNOUNCES BEGINNING ACTIVITIES FOR NEW YOUTH GROUP**

The Youth Group will be sponsoring a day at Calumet on February 20th. You will need to attend the January meeting if you plan to attend or if you are unable to attend please call Peg before January 31st. This year we anticipate a resurgence of the Christian fellowship and community service previously led by Hartley . There are several opportunities addressed in the letter mailed to each of our youth members. If you are interested and did not get a letter, please see Elsie in the church office for a copy.

This program will be developed by our members and their interests. Let's make it fun and fruitful for our Church community.....join us and make a difference. See you Sunday, January 24th and Sunday February 14th at 2:00 in the Church education building. I do look forward to a fun and faithful year.

### **FUN TIME TALENT SHOW NIGHT**

The Parish Care Committee is sponsoring a Talent Show on February 27 at 7 pm. The monies raised will be donated to Earthquake Haiti. We are **looking for all kinds of talents** that you could share with us. See Betty for sign-up sheet. This will be a Care in Community Event and Trinity will be applying for matching funds from Thrivent Financials for Lutherans. **Come and enjoy an evening of great fun with refreshments following.**

### **BILL GAITHER COMING**

to Portland Civic Center April 23. More details to come. See Alice ASAP.

### **WORDS FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY**

As we move into the second month of the New Year we should reflect on all that was accomplished in 2009. It is with many thanks to the congregation, family and friends that we thank you for all your support of the many projects Social Ministry presented to the congregation. Without the participation of volunteers and the financial and donated support from everyone, we never could have accomplished all that we did. As the Annual report will detail, we should be extremely proud of our "Caring Congregation". The months ahead will bring us more projects, some new and some traditional. With the help of Parish Care and the newly revived Youth Group we hope to be able to bring about some exciting activities for more fellowship outside of church AND for all ages!!!!!! We will try to keep everyone informed through the weekly bulletin and future Grapevines. Be on the lookout.....we may be asking for your support and participation.

With many thanks from the Social Ministry Committee, Brenda

### **WESTBROOK INTERFAITH COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES**

is sponsoring "Westbrook Cares: Community Coming Together." Members of the Social Ministry Committee have been meeting with other churches to help organize this project which was suggested by Police Chief Baker. A brochure of Westbrook resources is being developed to be distributed to various neighborhoods and followed up by a Resource Fair which is being held in conjunction with a school winter festival. The Resource Fair is to be held on February 13, 2010 at Westbrook High School from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This is an exciting opportunity to help citizens of Westbrook.

### **MUSIC OUTREACH FROM ROGER**

Paul's Pals: February 7 at Wardwell Retirement Center in Saco.

Senior Saint 59+: February 17 at Park Danforth.

**Trinity's Annual Report is** ready for distribution. You can pick one up in church or call the office if you wish one sent to you.

### **WESTBROOK FOOD PANTRY ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY**

Flour & Sugar

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY IS COLLECTING....**

Trinity Lutheran Church continues to support the Adopt-a-School Project. In January, snacks were purchased for prides Corner School. Please continue to save Box Tops for Education, Campbell Soup Labels, and aluminum tabs on cans. These items will be donated to the school and Ronald McDonald House. Please donate Gently used clothing to the box in the education building. It will be donated to the schools and Amistad. Thank you for your help.

Joyce

### **HAITI DISASTER**

We have received letters of appeal for the cause of helping the people in Haiti after their disastrous earthquake. One letter is from Bishop Hanson, ELCA, and the other is from ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response. Both have information about sending funds to help this cause. If you would like a copy of either or both letters, you can email Elsie in the office and a copy can be forwarded to you via email, or you can call the office and Elsie will send these letters out to you. Contact information can be found at the beginning of this newsletter.

### **A HUGE THANK YOU TO**

**Peggy** for volunteering to be Youth Leader.

**Kat** for volunteering to head up the Nursery Committee.

Pat, Alice, Ted, and Dieter for their volunteer help in the office.

### **THANK YOU LETTER TO COORDINATORS FROM THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS FOR CARE IN CONGREGATION**

“With the Care in Congregations Program ending on December 31<sup>st</sup>, we would like to thank the Thrivent Financial Congregational Coordinators -- Jane , Merilee , & Kristen. These dedicated volunteers have served for several years and we appreciate their time and their accomplishments through the Care in Congregation Program. A new giving program will launch in the Spring of 2010.

### **THANK YOU LETTERS CAME IN FROM:**

Seafarer’s Friend for our gift to them. “Your thoughtfulness of strangers to our shores will bless many.”

Wayside Soup Kitchen for our gift to them. “Obviously no one person can stem the tide of hunger alone. Together we have a chance. Thank you for being part of the effort.”

Long Creek Youth Ministry for our gift to them. “May God Bless your family as you help children in Maine who are standing the need of prayer. Your kindness and generosity touched the lives of young men and women who desperately needed support and compassion as they experienced the holiday away from their homes and families. For some of these young men and women all they have is the kindness of strangers and it is a valuable lesson you have taught them.”

Salvation Army Angel Tree for our participation. “Through your generosity we were able to help over 100 children with toys for Christmas day.”

Lutheran World Relief – “Thank you so much for your generous gift!”

Martha “ Dear Friends at Trinity Church: Thank you so much for the thoughtful Christmas gifts and for your visit (from Jane). The cookies were delicious, and I ate two right after you left. The green arrangement in the fancy mug looked like a little Christmas Tree. I appreciate your visit, and I know it is a long way for you to come. Thank you again for the visit and the gifts. Trinity is a very caring church. Sincerely, Martha.”

Eva “Jane – Thank you again for your visit yesterday and all the goodies. As always, I truly enjoyed your visit. Please express my heartfelt thank-you to all those who were involved, making me happy.”

### **JUST FOR LAUGHS**

#### **From Alice**

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, *'Jesus knows you're here.'* He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard *'Jesus is watching you.'* Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. *'Did you say that?'* he hissed at the parrot. *'Yep'*, the parrot confessed, then squawked, *'I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you.'* The burglar relaxed. *'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'* *'Moses,'* replied the bird. *'Moses?'* the burglar laughed. *'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'* *'The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'*