

Grapevine – March 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.

MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Will be on held Wednesdays at **First Lutheran Church**. -- www.firstlutheranportland.org.

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

Service of The Word For Healing

(Please let Alice know if you can bring dessert/fruit or crackers/cheese on 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.

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



REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR THORP

On Ash Wednesday, we marked the beginning of Lent. Originally this was a season of fasting and penance for converts preparing for Baptism at Easter.

Lent is a period of forty weekdays, from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It corresponds to Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness in preparation for His ministry. (Actually a period of 46 days for us because Sundays were days when fasts could be broken and never included in the 40 day count.)

When Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire in the fourth century, the church felt endangered by the throngs of new untutored members. To counter the former Emperor worship of these new converts, the Lenten fast and practices of self renunciation became requirements of all Christians. Fasting and self renunciation were symbolic ways to identify with the suffering of Jesus.

Lent became a time of recommitment to ward off the threat of becoming assimilated into popular culture. We might do well to examine the popular culture of our time and see how it stands in contradiction to the values of Christianity for example in sports, business, education. We emphasize "being number one". Jesus asks us to consider the "least of these." I am sure each of us reading this can find our own complicity in celebrating popular culture.

Lent is a time to examine our baptismal vows: To live among God's faithful people; to care for others; and the world; to work for justice and peace.

Lent is a time that leads to repentance, that is getting a new point of view on the self indulgent sides of our lives;

Lent is about reflecting on what it means to be a disciple, that is a follower of Jesus.

This is the history. Yet the texts for Ash Wednesday and lent focus on reconciled living.

They have in mind not preoccupation with failure and inadequacy, but rather a future-oriented embrace of new life that God will accomplish through a daring obedience.

The daring obedience of "the new fast" in Luke, Mark and Matthew is the recovery of neighborliness alongside the oppressed, the hungry, the naked, and the homeless poor.

In the words of Walter Bruggemann, a Hebrew Scripture scholar, these texts desire for us to be reconciled, to overcome the alienations. "What strikes one is that these texts are buoyant and hope-filled.

Psalm 51, the most familiar of all psalmic confessions, does not grovel in guilt. By verse 10, it eagerly petitions for a new life and never doubts that God will give it. The cluster of imperatives in Psalm 51:10-12 anticipates God's ready capacity for restoration and sustenance, and a new heart and spirit—in short, a life fully in sync with God's good purposes."

Paul speaks to the imperative "be reconciled"—be reconciled to God, with no doubt that what will surely follow is reconciliation with the neighbor. These texts turn Lent away from personal piety toward a world that may be healed. For us Lent is now set in a world of deathliness, profiled as poverty, violence, greed, and acres of inhumanity. The good news is that it need not be so!

Consider the divisions each of us now face. This Lent may we ponder how a reconciled, reconciling life may be lived.

CAMPERSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Guidelines for granting Camperships:

1. The recipient must be active in Sunday school, youth group, and/or church.
2. Camperships must be for a Christian camp.
3. A letter requesting a campership by the applicant must be made in a timely fashion with the deadline set forth by the Church Council on an annual basis.
4. The amount to be granted for each campership will be the amount set in the annual budget and any additional funds received prior to the decision making deadline divided by the number of recipients.
5. The recipients must be present to receive their campership at a worship service.

Guidelines for granting Education Scholarships:

1. The recipient must be an active attending member of Trinity Lutheran Church.
2. A letter requesting a scholarship must be made in a timely fashion with the deadline set forth by the Church Council on an annual basis.
3. The applicant must be accepted for the first time to an institution of higher learning.
4. The amount to be granted to each recipient will be recommended by the Finance/Stewardship Committee and approved by the Council as part of the budget process each year. The approved amount will be presented at the annual meeting.
5. The recipients must be present to receive their Scholarship at a worship service.

The deadline for camperships in 2010 is March 31, 2010.

The deadline for scholarships in 2010 is April 30, 2010.

BILL GAITHER CONCERT

Civic Center -- April 23, at 7:00 PM

Tickets \$37.50 Closer to the stage or \$27.50 further from the stage

Tickets are going very quickly and Alice has blocked off sections for both prices. The tickets have been reduced due to the fact that she has sold over 10 tickets. It's not too late to sign up, but, be advised the sooner the purchase the better. Please make check out in Alice's name.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS COMING UP

This is just a friendly reminder that the new offering envelopes for **2010** now have the Special offering envelopes included. You will notice they are color coded and labeled. If the holiday/offering is an ecumenical service please remember to drop your envelope either the Sunday before or the Sunday after, at Trinity's worship service.

Maundy Thursday and **Good Friday** offerings will be combined and designated for the Good Samaritan Fund in Westbrook.

The **Easter** offering will be split between the Salvation Army and the Westbrook Food Pantry.

SOCIAL MINISTRY REPORT

Westbrook's Interfaith Council has been very active in bringing about awareness of Social programs for the city's residents. Trinity joined forces with the Vineyard church, Pride's Corner and Westbrook Warren and local social services to bring a Community resource Fair to Westbrook. The fair was held at the Mission Possible Teen Center on Feb. 27th.

Social Ministry is preparing to start planning for the Annual **Bean Supper** in May and participation in the **Westbrook Together Days** in June. These programs receive some matching funds from Thrivent. We would like to try something a little different this year for a vendor booth in the park for the Together Days event. We would welcome your suggestions and ideas. The fundraising that is done goes back into the community for local programs.

Social Ministry is also helping to support the newly revived Youth Group and supporting their efforts at fundraising also. The first event was the **"Souper Bowl of Caring"**. This project raised funds for Haiti relief to be combined with the Talent show. Nearly \$300 was raised. The Youth will help the Interfaith Council distribute brochures for the Resource Fair on Feb. 20th and their next project will be a **30 hr. Famine for World Vision**. The youth will fast on Sat. March 13th starting at 6 am thru Sunday March 14th at noon. They will begin their project with a food "fest" Friday night at church with games, a movie and lots of food. After church on Sunday the kids will have a pizza party at Gorham House of Pizza. Please support their efforts when they ask for pledges.

The Youth group will help with Parish Care events like the annual **Easter egg decorating** and sandwich Potluck on Palm Sunday, March 28th. If you would like to join in the fun, please bring some cooked white eggs and something to share for lunch. After the worship service, there will be fellowship time for "kids" to create some colorful eggs. The following Sunday the Youth group will help cook and serve **Easter breakfast** before the worship service.

NEW ENGLAND SYNOD NORTHERN MISSION AREA ASSEMBLY 2010

Saturday, April 10th, 10 AM to 3:00 PM -- See flyer on bulletin board for information.

MOVIE and DISCUSSION -- "For the Bible Tells Me So"

The church council has approved the request for the showing of this award winning documentary with a facilitated discussion. A preview and study guide are available on line at www.forthetelldmeso.org/film.htm Dan Karlake's documentary tackles one of the most politically and religiously divisive issues in contemporary America and even within Trinity Lutheran Church. "Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson -- we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity. " This movie has adult content and is not appropriate for young children. The facilitator will be Pastor Thorp and the date is to be announced. See Beth for more information.

TRINITY'S COUNCIL

A huge thank you to Council members who have finished serving their term of office. -- Betsy, Merilee, Becky, Bob, and Charles. And also to Jenn. Thank you for a job well done.

A huge thank you to new term members – Roberta, Joyce, John (beginning a new term after stepping in to fill a vacancy), and Doug for accepting the call.

Officers: President – Dennis, Vice President – Ken, Secretary – Joyce, and Treasurer – Jane

PAUL'S PALS

Sun, March 7 Paul's Pals at Ledgewood in Windham

Wed, March 17 Sr Saints at Woods at Canco in Portland

HELP NEEDED

For the Kitchen Coffee Hour after worship service on Sunday mornings for the months of April and October. Substitutes also needed.

THANK YOU LETTERS FROM:

Peg and Howard –“It is with much thanks I write to you. Don't know really where to begin – cards, cookies and mug arrangement at Christmas, visit and calls – overwhelming. Thank you ever so much. It has helped both of us. We know the Lord is the Great Healer. He can do great things. Please keep us in your prayers.”

Preble Street - Thanks TLC for so many donated items. They write “Thanks to you our clients were able to experience the holiday spirit in a way that would not have been possible otherwise. *“Giving connects two people, the giver and the receiver, and this connection gives birth to a new sense of belonging.”*

WESTBROOK FOOD PANTRY ITEMS FOR MARCH

Coffee, Tea, Kool-Aid

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

JUST FOR LAUGHS – excerpts from

SINGING WITH THE LUTHERANS by Garrison Keillor

-I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota ?

-But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

-We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

-Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on

the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony.

-I do believe this: These Lutherans are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

-The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCS bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage. (For those of you who are not Lutherans, ELCS is Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod and LCMS is Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, two different divisions of the same Protestant religion. And when and where I grew up in Minnesota, intermarriage between the two was about as popular as Lutherans and Catholics marrying.)
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add too much color.
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

-And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when:

*It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service;

*You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can;

*Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee;

*The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight;

*When you watch a 'Star Wars' movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, 'and also with you';

*And lastly, it takes 15 minutes to say, "Good-bye". -- May you wake each day with His blessings, Sleep each night in His keeping, And always walk in His tender care.