

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
April, 2011
Newsletter

Holy Week and
Easter Season at Trinity



April 17 - *Palm Sunday* - SPECIAL MUSIC -
Palms distributed to all worshipers!
Sermon: **"THE RABBI KING"** - Isaiah 50:4-9a

April 20 - **WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK -**
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 7:30 p.m.
Walking the Way of The Cross together, we
will pause for meditation and prayer.

April 21 - **MAUNDY THURSDAY - SERVICE OF**
HOLY COMMUNION - 7:30 p.m.
Sermon: **"LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER..."**
I Corinthians 11:23-26

April 22 - **GOOD FRIDAY:**
11:00 a.m. Children's Service - includes light
snack refreshments
1:00 p.m. Service with Mt. Calvary at Trinity
7:30 p.m. **TENEBRAE** - The Service of
Shadows

April 24 - *Resurrection Day*

HOLY COMMUNION - 8:30, 10 AND 11:15 a.m.
Sermon **"A 'NEAR' DEATH EXPERIENCE"** - John 20:1-18
Special Music by Senior Choir and Senior Handbell Choir

Easter Breakfast will follow the 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Services.



As you read this newsletter we are at the midpoint of Lent. Three Sundays down, three to go. We are half way through our Lenten discipline and toward our goal of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. As we approach Easter we are surrounded by signs of new life, the weather is becoming warmer, grass is growing, trees and shrubs begin to bud, crocuses and other plants have begun to sprout up in our gardens and we notice the sounds of birds singing early in the morning and throughout the day. Yes, the signs of spring surround us and enhance our anticipation of Easter joy! You may have noticed signs of new life in our congregation.

Pastor's EASTER MESSAGE

For several weeks now we have been seeing more visitors than usual. People visit us for many reasons. Some visit because they are visiting with family and friends and they come to worship because they may have been a part of Trinity many years ago. Some are traveling and sought out a nearby Lutheran church to worship the Lord. Some visit because they bought a home in Runnemede and thought they would give us a try. Some visit because they have not formally worshiped God for many years and they are trying to re-ignite their love of God.

We are always happy to have visitors worship with us. However, the recent influx of visitors is the result of an unfortunate event. On March 6th, the congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church in Westville closed as a congregation. They had their last official Sunday morning service on that day. I attended the formal "closing" service on March 20th along with Doris and Warren Smith, fellow members of Trinity who grew up at St. John's. Although we were told that amidst this loss, the service was one of joy for the many years of ministry served at St. John, it was difficult to muster that enthusiasm knowing that the place where so many had been baptized, confirmed, married, buried and communed for generations would no longer be. Yes, it may only be a building; but buildings often provide a comfort zone in which we may feel we are more receptive to God.

Remember that these visitors are seeking out a new place to call their church home. They may have to visit many churches over a long period of time before they find a new comfort zone. Warmly welcome them, but be aware that they come to us at a great price. The loss of their church has the same impact to their lives as the loss of a loved one. They will be mourning this loss for months, maybe even years. Be considerate and understanding of their suffering.

As we consider their loss we ponder the same question that they have before them; "How could God let this happen." This is a simple question that we save for times of trial and loss. The best answer I can ascertain comes from reading the scriptures. Sometimes God moves us from our comfort zones to new places in order to push us into deeper faith and commitment to Him as well as to bring our faith into the presence of others. In the third chapter of Genesis God calls Abraham to leave the comfort of his extended family and journey to a new land that God will reveal to him at a later date. Abraham follows God's call in hope of the promise of a future blessing, to a place that will not be immediately revealed to him. God's plan for salvation begins with displacing Abraham from his kindred, from his father's household, from a place of familiarity and comfort based on a promise of future blessing.

The apostles' were happy following the Lord, they did not want Him to die on the cross and leave them, destroying their comfort zone. Upon His death, the apostles hid in the upper room in fear. However, God choose to call them from their comfort zone as simple followers of Jesus to spirit

filled proclaimers of the risen Christ. God moved them from followers to leaders, from scared to bold, from lost to saved. Another phase in God's plan for salvation of the world came through their moving out of their comfort zone to new places. Jesus commanded them to do this in Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV) "¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

They moved out of the comfort zone of their little group of followers and began to lead others to faith in Jesus. Later in Acts 8:1-4 (NRSV) we read "...That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria...Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word." Here we read that the church in Jerusalem was besieged by a severe persecution (definitely not a comfort zone) that led people out of the confines of Jerusalem to other places. And they went to those places proclaiming the word.

As the people from St. John's worship and join other congregations, they will bring to those places new and different ideas, challenging others to move out of their comfort zone for the sake of the gospel.

If only Jesus had just stayed in the tomb, life would have been easier for those who had followed Him. But he did not stay in the tomb for He is risen and has burst out of bonds of death bringing the promise of new life to those who would leave their comfort zones and follow Him. We who believe in Him should always make our faith a priority in our lives. If we fail to do so, our faith remains hidden in the tomb, but when we boldly follow the call of God to proclaim our faith, to reach out to those in need and leave our comfort zones behind, we begin to realize the new life we have in Christ Jesus, the first born of the dead and the first fruits of the resurrection. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Andy



BEHOLD,
CHRIST HAS RISEN!

SERMON PREVIEWS

April 3 - LENT 4 - HOLY COMMUNION
Sermon: **"THE PUBLIC WORLD OF PRIVACY"**
Ephesians 5:8-14

April 10 - LENT 5 - HOLY COMMUNION-10 AM
BAPTISMS/SHARE SUNDAY/TEMPLE TALK
Sermon: **"THE GREAT AWAKENING"**
Ezekiel 37:1-14

April 17 - PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE
PASSION - HOLY COMMUNION
JUNIOR CHOIR AND JUNIOR BELLS
Sermon: **"THE RABBI KING"**
Isaiah 50:4-9a

April 24 - **EASTER DAY - HOLY COMMUNION**
The Resurrection of Our Lord
Sermon: **"A 'NEAR DEATH' EXPERIENCE"**
John 20:1-18



COME FOR SUPPER

Every Wednesday during
Lent at 6:00 p.m. soup,
bread and a beverage will
be ready for you - just
come! Then join us upstairs for our Lenten
Program.

Clothing Drive



Saturday, April 30th

Sponsored by Social Concerns
Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Coming in May ...



May 1st
Donut Sunday

Following the 8:30 and 10:00 Services

JOIN US!



Coming Soon

MAY 7TH
4:00 PM - 7:00PM

Trinity Council members are raising funds to
replace the Narthex (back) of the church
carpet with a stone marble floor. At the March
Council meeting we decided on a spaghetti
dinner.

The cost is \$10 per person, children 12 and
under, \$5 each. Stay tuned for more details as
we get closer.

Thanks in advance,
Trinity Church Council

More April Activities



As we all plan to start our home spring cleaning, it is once again time to plan our spring cleaning of our church sanctuary. The Altar Guild members will meet on Saturday, April 9th at 8:00am to do just that. It is pleasing to God when we show pride in making Trinity Lutheran shine.

We are always in need of help and would like to extend a call out to anyone who is available on that day. It generally takes about 2 1/2 hours to complete. Even 1 hour of your time is fine, just show up any where from 8am to 9am. We would really appreciate it. Thanks and God Bless!

In Christ's Name,
Terry Paradise

Handbell Choirs

The Junior Handbell Choir will next perform "Praise to the Lord" in May. The Senior Handbell Choir will perform "Easter Rejoicing" on Easter Sunday.

Both choirs need more ringers. If interested, please join us on Thursdays. The Jr. Bells meet at 6:00 PM and the Sr. Bells meet at 6:30 PM.

There will be NO rehearsal for the Jr. Bells on Thursday, April 21st due to the Maundy Thursday Service. Sr. Bells will have a brief rehearsal that night. There will also be NO rehearsal the following Thursday, April 28th. After that we will have rehearsals until their final performances in May.

Florence C. Adler



Winter got you down? Looking forward to spring? Have you looked around your yard? Is it in need of some T.L.C.?? Sure it is! And we have the solution ... come visit our annual Trinity Youth Plant Sale – Saturday, April 30th (9:00 – 1:00) rain or shine ... clouds or sun!

As always, we'll have an amazing assortment of Dazzling Dogwoods, Awesome Azaleas, and Brilliant Brooms, not to mention the Remarkable Roses. Don't miss out ... get your gloves on, your shovels out and head to the church parking lot. We'll be waiting for you.

Again, we thank you for your continued support of our youth programs.



**JOIN US
FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUMMER BIBLE BLAST!**

Grades K thru High School
June 19th - September 4th

Meet in the Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Bible Stories
Crafts
Games
Movies

News from Sunday School

"Take time to allow God to calm your soul."

Begin each day with your devotions to God and you will have a calmness come to your soul. Often times, we lose sight of the need to seek peace and quiet. Meditating and talking with God will bring inner peace that enables you to work and serve more productively.

The Sunday School classes will be busy during this month collecting non-perishable items needed for our needy families this Easter. Slips will be passed out to all classes on April 3rd to let them know what to bring. These items will be packed in the Easter boxes after the 11:15 Service on April 17th. The families will pick them up on Tuesday, April 19th from 9 -10 a.m. and 6 - 7 p.m.

Our Spring session will end on June 12th and the teachers are working on the new program - "Sunday School Bible Blast!" We encourage the students to continue coming to Sunday School through the summer, as this will be a most interesting Bible study for all grades, Pre-K to High School from June 19th through September 4th at 10:00 a.m.

Looking for some plants, trees, or flowers for your yard? Set aside Saturday, April 30th to come to the church parking lot to find just what you need. You may also stop in and pick up your hoagies from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.



Vacation Bible School will be held on Monday, July 25th through Friday, July 29th. There is a change in time - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The theme will be "*Son Rock Kids Camp*" so mark your calendar with these dates and be a part of the fun!

The next staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Have a warm spring, a Happy Easter and remember, "*Solitude with God restores the soul.*"

To God be the glory,
Pat Henry

Junior Choir Notes

Because we are supposed to sing the third Sunday of the month and that is Palm Sunday this year, we will not be singing again until May 15th. And as amazing as that sounds, it will be the final time for us to sing for this season!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Lisa for her service to the Junior Choir over the past MANY years. She needs to be at the church to robe the children before all three services and put the robes away each time, including pushing the robes on the rack back into the closet in the choir room at the end of the 11:15 Service. Now it is time for her to move on in her personal life and she will not be working with us when we resume choir after the summer. Many thanks, Lisa. Over the years you have relieved me of many hours of work and I am grateful.

NOW since Lisa will not be with the Junior Choir beginning in September, I would like to challenge someone to accept the call to become our "choir mother." This could be one person or we could have a different choir mother for each service. If you would like more information, please feel free to call me at 845-3485.

ALSO thinking especially towards fall, the girls have had a great time singing all year. However, we would like to have boys join us. Won't you boys in grades 1-6 think about joining us? And if you would like to "give it a try" just come to rehearsals every Sunday EXCEPT Palm Sunday and Easter from 9:45-10:00 a.m. in the choir room. We'll see that you get the words to our song for May 15th!

So: Adults (or senior high students) think about becoming a "Choir Mother." Boys in grades 1-6 won't you join us?

Thank you all for prayerfully considering these requests.

Love to all,
Mrs. Schmidt



Social Concerns News

Social Concerns wants to thank everyone for their generous donations and help for the pantry and clothes closet.

On our March pantry day, we had a total of 71 families. Items needed for the pantry are: Paper towels, fruit cocktail, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, cookies, pork & beans, kids cereal, spaghetti, syrup & soap bars.

We also need items for the Easter baskets for our pantry families as there are 77 signed up. Candied yams, canned pineapple, applesauce, 1 lb. box of brown sugar and mac & cheese.

We need 3 lb and 5 lb canned hams that need to be brought in by April 17th as the pickup date is April 19th.

Also, the clothes closet will be open on April 19th from 9 -10 am and 6 -7 pm and help is needed for those times.

If you can spare an hour a month from 6 -7 pm at the clothes closet, please contact Karen Bal at kb08012@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10.....Social Concerns meeting in 7th grade classroom/Share Sunday

April 17.....Hams due back/Pack Easter baskets

April 19.....Easter basket pickups 9 -10 am and 6 -7 pm

April 30.....Spring clothing drive from 9 -11 am

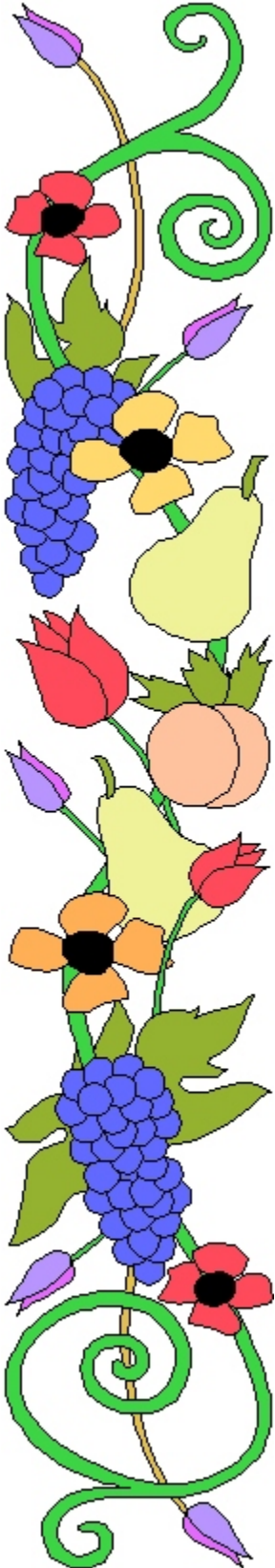
May 1.....Donut Sunday

May 14.....Flea market 8:30 am -1:30 pm Church parking lot--set up from 6:30 am - 8 am The cost for the spaces if you have your own table and chairs is \$15.00. If you need a table and 2 chairs the cost is \$20.00.

A sign-up sheet is located on the Johnson Avenue side of the church. All proceeds will go to help repair the 17 Knight Avenue porch. There will also be food available in the church kitchen for breakfast and lunch. There will be a small charge.

"The heart is happiest when it beats for others."

Caring & Sharing
Sharon Feters



SOCIAL CONCERNS MAY 14TH FLEA MARKET REQUEST

Social Concerns is seeking donations for our sale table at the May 14th Flea Market. We will be selling donated items to help raise the funds needed to repair 17 Knight Avenue's porch (Clothes Closet).

Any items you would give to the Social Concerns sale table that are not sold at the Flea Market will be donated to a non-profit group at the end of the day, as we do not have storage space to hold items. Please understand once donated, it will be either sold on the 14th OR will be donated to a non-profit group.

We would certainly appreciate any and all donations and would need them to be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall between Sunday, May 8th and Thursday, May 12th which would give us time to price and sort prior to Saturday, May 14th. Hours for drop-off to be announced. Again, not having storage area at Church, we can not accepted donations before May 8th.

Items sought are:

linens, yard toys, lamps, dishes, glasses, knic- knacks, electrical appliances, jewelry, board games, puzzles, books, crafting supplies, house hold items, sporting goods, pots & pans, "man" tools, yard tools, decorations (Christmas, Easter, Spring, Fall), collectibles, garden supplies

NOTE: Electrical items and equipment need to be in good working order.

Please, but no thank you, to:

- 1) infant/baby cribs, car seats, strollers, high chairs, play centers, bouncers, walkers, swings, etc. due to manufacturer/government recalls on baby equipment
- 2) furniture, unless small I. E. chairs, end tables, plant stands, shelving, bins
- 3) clothing - should go directly to the Clothes Closet at 17 Knight Avenue
- 4) inappropriate books, DVD's, CD's, videos, games, weapons, Quija boards, any and all occult items,

Any questions, please contact: Carol Sheairs @856-939-4411



SUNSHINE CLASS NEWS



I would like to give a big shout-out to our choir. Are they not “the best voices” ever? Week after week they absolutely shine. Hearing them sing is a wonderful way to start Sunday mornings. Thank you to Pat Henry for the excellent job she does and thank you to all the dedicated choir members.

GOOD JOB!

Now, back to Sunshine. We met on March 8, 2011. JoAnn O’Couch and Ann McRothman were the hostesses for our St. Patrick’s Day meeting. They had everything decorated in green for that day and it looked very Irish. Of course, everyone is Irish on that day! Even the cookies were in the shape of shamrocks.

Our next meeting will be on April 12, 2011, at 12:00 noon. We don’t have designated hostesses for April so we are all bringing different foods and desserts.

Join us for a kind of potluck lunch. It should be fun!

God’s Love at Work,
Pass it on,

Linda Brown
President

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

To My Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent surgery and hospitalization.

Also, a special thanks to Pastor Andy. His visits did much to brighten my day.

Sincerely,
Millie Balzer

LUTHERAN CARE - MOORESTOWN

The Lutheran Home Auxiliary met at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 10th.

Plans continue to be underway for June Day. This year the auxiliary will also be selling hoagies as an additional source of income for the fund raiser and we will again have the Bounce Unit for the young ones. Lutheran Social Ministries will help to pay for the unit. Trinity still plans to have the sale table for June Day. Any items you wish to donate for the sale table may be placed in the blue Lutheran Home bin on the Johnson Avenue side of the church from May on.

Trinity raised \$844.00 from the February Fund Drive and this has been turned into the auxiliary. As always, I thank you for your continued faithful support to the residents of the Home.

Needed are:

Helpers for crochet and knitting, large print word search books (given to residents for free), chess sets, checkers, bingo chips and markers, birthday, get well and sympathy cards.

Thursday, April 14th- 10 a.m. - Auxiliary Meeting
Tuesday, April 26th- 12:00 Noon - Residents Birthday Lunch
Thursday, April 28th- 11:00 a.m. - Residents Tea/Tour at Ines Keep House
Saturday, June 11th - 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. - June Day

Have a safe and happy Spring and Blessed Easter to you and yours. He is risen indeed!

Sincerely,
Sandy Counsellor

“Sing unto the Lord a new song, Sing unto the Lord all the earth. God is great and greatly to be praised!”