

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
March, 2011
Newsletter*

*Mid-Week
Lenten Programs*

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 P.M.

Our Mid-Week Lenten Programs are co-sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church and the Gardner Funeral Home, Runnemede, New Jersey.

Join us for Supper - Each Wednesday starting at 6:00 p.m. Soup, Bread and Beverage will be ready for you - just come!

March 16th - MOVIE NIGHT, "FAITH LIKE POTATOES" is an inspiring true story of a rugged South African farmer, Angus Buchan, and is set in the turbulent hills of the KZN Midlands. Angus' manic quest for material success is slowly transformed into a wild love for God and people, as he wrestles with faith, hope natural disasters and tragic personal loss.

March 23rd - The Franciscan Mystery Players will present "The Way of the Cross". You won't want to miss this.

March 30th - The Midiri Brothers will perform for us. Join us and hear the multi-talented and personable Joe and Paul Midiri "jazz" it up here at Trinity!

April 6th - Jim Hughes will present Gethsemane. An angel follows Jesus from the garden to the cross, then to victorious life. Hear his story.

April 13th - Trinity's own PRAISE BAND will perform for us. Don't miss the special music and solo performances.



FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this letter I am encouraged that after a cold, snowy winter, spring is almost here. And as we approach spring, the season of Lent will be upon us quickly. Since the Middle Ages, Lent has been a penitential season. That is, a season in which the faithful have focused upon their sinful nature.

Over the centuries various forms of service or self-denial have been adopted by Christians as a way of recognizing their sinful lives and showing some kind of external remorse. One of the more popular and more recent disciplines of Lent is that of giving up some kind of indulgence or vice. For example a person might give up alcohol or gambling during Lent. Someone who loves ice cream might forego ice cream during the season of Lent. Roman Catholic Christians are more likely to observe this practice. However, Protestants over the years have been known to observe the Lenten season with some form of self-denial as well. Seeing that Lent falls on the heels of so many broken New Year's Eve promises to live a better life, one can see why changing our behavior for a limited period of time might be a more successful venture for more people. We may find great joy in restoring our former behaviors at the conclusion of Lent. If we love and enjoy ice cream just think of how good the first dish of that cold, smooth, sweet treat will taste at the end of six weeks.

Many people meet this challenge and succeed easily while others struggle. I wonder how many things we could do without for forty days? We might be able to make two lists: 1. Those things that are easy to do without for forty days. 2. Those things that are difficult to do without for forty days. On which list would you place broccoli? On which list would you place coffee?

Fifteen years ago my Doctor put me on a medication upon which I could no longer eat grapefruit. Grapefruit was one of those foods that I disliked as a child but began to like as an adult. Although I was not devastated by this circumstance, I knew that I would miss not having grapefruit in my diet. I have one of those special grapefruit knives, the curved one with the serrated edge that is perfect for cutting around the circumference of the grapefruit. I also have two grapefruit spoons, narrower than a regular spoon and with a serrated edge. For fifteen years I clung to these relics of my grapefruit eating past just in case the day would come that I could enjoy grapefruit again! At a recent visit to my Doctor, he decided to change one of my medications. As he was writing the new script he said, "Do you like grapefruit?" "Yes," I replied. "You can eat grapefruit with this medication," He said as he smiled. The eternal Lent of my grapefruit had come to an end! No longer a forbidden fruit! I could not wait to start the new medication and delight in eating that wonderful fruit again! When the day came I took a large, beautiful, pink grapefruit from the refrigerator. I dug deep through the utensil drawer in search of my special knife. I looked for the spoons. Then I carefully cut my grapefruit in half and using my special knife. I cut my way around the circumference of each half, then I sliced between each segment of the half. Now I was ready eat. I savored every morsel of its flesh and every drop of its juice....and I ate both halves. Yes, all 72 calories in one sitting.

No matter what we give up for Lent, the joy of returning to those old vices or indulgences pales in comparison to the true joy of Easter. No matter what we give up for Lent, we will reunite with that past again on Easter morning. But the truth of Easter is that on the day of resurrection, when our Lord calls forth all the faithful from their graves, we will not be rejoicing by reuniting with our past, we will be rejoicing that our sinful pasts will stay dead as we are resurrected into the eternal joy of living in the light of God's glory.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Andy

SERMON PREVIEWS

Mar. 6 - TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
HOLY COMMUNION

Sermon: **"THE DAZZLING SON OF GOD"**
Matthew 17:1-9

Mar. 13 - LENT 1-BAPTISMS/SHARE SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION - 10 AM

Sermon: **"THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE"**
Genesis 2:15, 12-17

Mar. 20 - LENT 2 - HOLY COMMUNION
JUNIOR CHOIR/JUNIOR HANDBELLS

Sermon: **"BEING FAITHFUL TO THE CALL
OF GOD"**
Genesis 12:1-4a

Mar. 27 - LENT 3 -HOLY COMMUNION - 10 AM
PRAISE CHOIR/SENIOR BELLS

Sermon: **"WAITING OF GOD"**
Exodus 17:1-7

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



MARCH 9TH - 1:00 & 7:30 PM

We will hold TWO Services of Holy Communion at 1 and 7:30 p.m., the regular times of our Bible Study.

You will have the opportunity to be marked with ashes on the forehead with the sign of the cross as a mark of repentance. No one is under obligation to do this. The ashes may be removed as you receive Holy Communion as a sign of forgiveness.

Sermon:
"THE CRYING GAME"
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

"The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God."

-Author unknown



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

**MARCH 8TH
5:00 P.M.**

Our menu consists of pancakes, link sausages, tea, coffee, juice and dessert. Circle **"P"** on the Worship Card in the pew along with the number attending and place it in the Offering Plate.

JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!



COME FOR SUPPER

Every Wednesday during Lent beginning on March 16th - 6:00 p.m.

Soup, Bread and Beverage will be ready - just come! Then join us upstairs for our Lenten Program.



*"To guide your children on the right way,
you must go that way yourself."*

This is good advice for all parents, grandparents and those who are great-grandparents. Yes, as a matter of fact, any who are involved and working with children of all ages should heed these words.

Our Spring Quarter is here, and the classes are learning more about God's love as they study each Sunday. The curriculum, "Shaping Hearts with God's Word" helps them to find that Bible learning can be fun!

We will begin to talk about collecting food items for our needy families Easter baskets. Papers will be given to each class on Sunday, April 3rd asking them to bring the items needed for the baskets. Every item must be returned by Sunday, April 17th in order for the families to pick up their Easter baskets on Tuesday, April 19th.

The entire Sunday School staff is busy working on plans for a Summer Bible Study program which is to replace the regular Sunday School sessions for the summer months.

Tired of the snow? How about: "Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your many blessings, see what God has done!"

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

Remember: *"The best gift you can give to your children is your time."*

To God be the glory,
Pat Henry

God's Kids Say the Funniest Things

Posted by a pastor on Facebook: "On Ash Wednesday, a nine-year-old girl who had never been in a church service asked my wife what I was putting on people's foreheads. When my wife whispered 'ashes,' the girl looked horrified and asked, 'Whose?'"

Grace under pressure. During his sermon one Sunday morning, a pastor's five-year-old son suddenly entered the church, started making loud beeps and noises like a car without a muffler, then "drove" down the center aisle toward his father.

The pastor stopped his sermon, pointed at his son, and commanded, "Luke, park the car immediately beside your mother in that front pew, turn off the ignition, and hand her the keys."

He then continued the sermon undisturbed.

*-via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Glassboro, NJ*

"There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness."

-Josh Billings

Junior Choir Notes

How did you like our Hasidic melody song on February 20th? The children really worked on the timing for it but when they learned it decided that it was pretty neat!

March 20th will bring our "story in song" for the story of Abraham and Sarah. As we hear the news from the Middle East today we are drawn back to that early time when Abraham listened to God as He told him to go with his family into the Land of Canaan. What courage and trust Abraham must have had to pick up his family and livestock and move everything into an area with which he was not at all familiar. Could we have done the same thing?

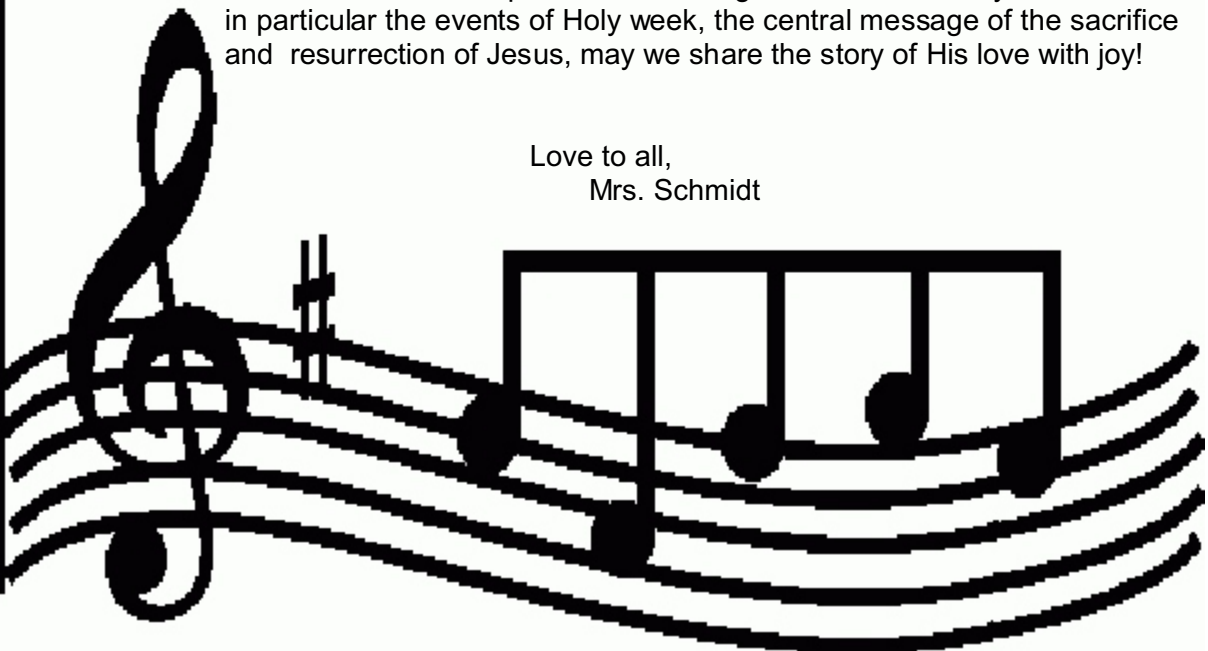
Palm Sunday will fall on the third Sunday in April and so we will not be singing (nor the Junior Bell Choir playing) that day. There is always a much larger attendance that day and Easter and so to make the transition to all parts of the Service go more smoothly we will be going to our Sunday School classes on that day. The Junior Choir will still have rehearsals during March and April except for Palm Sunday (4/17) and Easter (4/24).

While it is difficult to believe that 2011 is zipping right on by, the next time we will sing after Easter is May 15th and the final time for the 2010-2011 season!

Know any children in grades one through six who have a nice singing voice? Be sure to encourage them to come to our rehearsals on Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. in the choir room. Children then go right to their Sunday School classes.

As we look forward to the Lenten experience of reliving the life and ministry of Jesus and in particular the events of Holy week, the central message of the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, may we share the story of His love with joy!

Love to all,
Mrs. Schmidt



Youth News



The youth at Trinity divided their time between fun and service events in February. On February 12, we had a Valentine's dance. Everyone in attendance had fun as a live DJ, one of our own youth, played both old and new music. Everybody got in on the act, as even some advisors braved the dance floor.

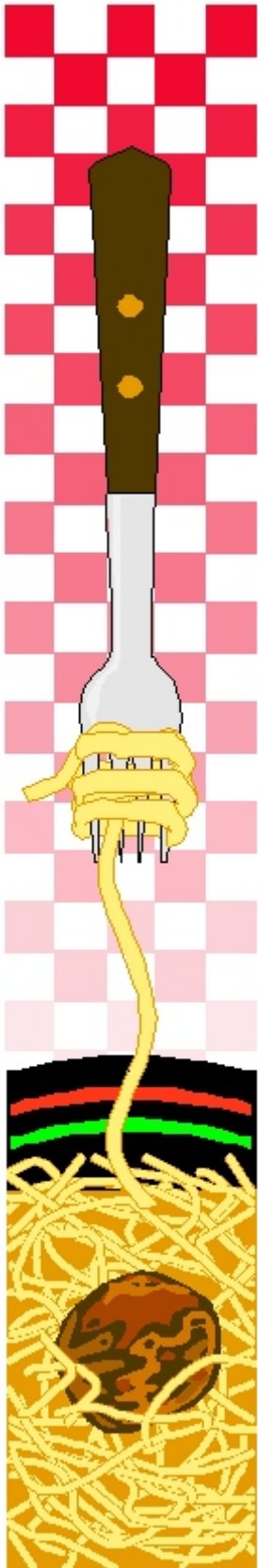
On February 27, 15 youth participated in the annual IHOC walk for the homeless. Trinity was again recognized as the top group with over \$1,400 in donations!!! We can be very proud of our group, as well as everyone at Trinity who donated to this worthy cause. The grand prize, a very large cookie, was gone in about two minutes.

We will be sponsoring the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 8 from 5 - 7 pm. Hope to see everyone there.

We are also planning a Youth Night in mid-March. Keep on the lookout for details.

Finally, The Youth will be selling Tshirts to help raise money for our retreats and other activities. They will be going on sale in mid-March for a cost of \$12.00, and the design includes the Trinity logo. Please support our growing Youth program here at Trinity.

In His Name,
Youth Advisor Team



Social Concerns Ministry

On our February pantry day, we had 65 families, 9 of which were new to the pantry. We want to thank all of you for your generous help with food and monetary gifts. We very much appreciate it.

Items needed for March are:

Peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit, tuna, toilet paper, box potatoes, spaghetti sauce, toothpaste, soap and napkins, paper towels.

HELP NEEDED: Can you spare an hour a month? We need help staffing the Clothes Closet in the evening from 6-7 pm on our pantry days. If you could help us out, please contact Carol Sheairs at cassheairs@RWSRA.comcastbiz.net or Cheryl Morris at cmorris157@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13.....Share Sunday/Social Concerns meeting at 11:30 am in 7th grade classroom.

March 19.....The Clothes Closet will have an "Open House" from 10-2 for the members of Trinity. We are asking for a small donation to go towards fixing the porch at 17 Knight Ave.

March 24.....Pantry and Clothes Closet open from 9-11 am & 6-7 pm.

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

May 1.....Donut Sunday

May 14.....Flea market in Church parking lot. Details to follow.

"We make a living by what we get.....we make a life by what we give."

Caring & Sharing
Sharon Feters

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Welcome to March! Spring can't be too far away. (It says here!)

I'm writing this article on Sunday and want to tell you the Senior Handbells did a beautiful song today. It was "Come Christians, Join to Sing". It was just lovely with the additional little note "thumps". I'm not a musician myself, so I do not know the correct word age. All I know is they were sure enjoyable. This must take a lot of work and practice. Good job, Handbells!

The PSM met on Friday, February 4, 2011. In attendance were Elaine Alspach, Val Colasuonno, Cathy Hornibrook, Sally Miller, Mary Raws, and this chairman. We received Baptismal Blankets from Elaine Alspach, Beverly Bethany, Dolores Keller, Carolyn Lunn, and Sally Miller. Prayer Shawls were received from Beverly Bethany, Val Colasuonno, Carolyn Lunn, and 2 from Marie Thatcher. Cathy Hornibrook made 2 scarves which are going to Afghanistan. Nice work, everyone! Talk about going above and beyond the call of duty, our Beverly Bethany delivered her items even though she had some medical problems and couldn't stay. Thanks, Bev for going above and beyond in the name of the Lord. We hope you are feeling much better.

Our Vice President, Sally Miller, reported that Kathy Donachie was in the hospital and Helen Cuvler was ill. A former church member, Barbara Dunda, also is under the weather. Pastor visited our meeting and reported he was going to Children's Hospital taking a prayer shawl with him. We discussed our shawls and blankets and decided we have enough on hand for the time being. Pastor also brought a check from Carol & Robert Hird for \$30 as a donation and thank you in memory of their late daughter, Cassandra Bonder. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Hird Family in their loss and for their kindness. We also received an anonymous donation of \$10 for which we are very grateful. Thank you, anonymous!

Our Baptismal Historian, Mary Raws, reported there are to be 2 Baptisms in February. There are enough blankets on hand to cover these events.

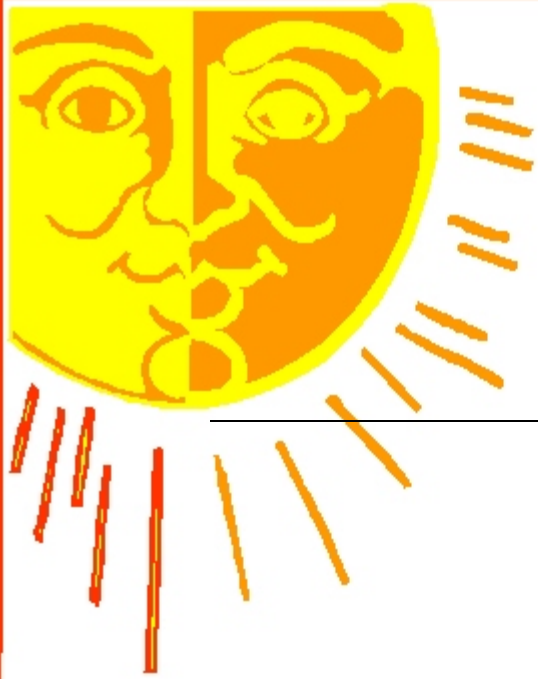
A thank you note was received from Joanne (Leavey) Parsels for the Prayer Shawl she received during her chemotherapy. She wrote that her mother's name was Anna Ronning. Joanne attended Trinity during Pastor Lott's era. She taught Sunday School and was married here. She explained that the Prayer Shawl had a special significance to her. Thanks to Joan Mancill for delivering her the Prayer Shawl.

And, so you can see, our Prayer Shawls are sending the Trinity Family's blessings and prayers far and wide. Praise God that we can be of service to Him in this ministry. We ask God's continued blessings on all of our recipients. Thanks be to God.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at 10 am. We meet on the lower level of Trinity. We are always open to guests. Any questions, please call Carol at 856-939-4411.

"Until we meet again, May God Hold You in the Palm of His Hand."

The Prayer Shawl Ministry
Carolyn Lunn, President



SUNSHINE CLASS

THE GIRLS OF SUNSHINE

Six of them have left us over the last few years And with each passing, we grieve for them. Then we celebrate their life. They will always be missed at our meetings but I think they are having their very own Sunshine Meeting in Heaven as we speak!

Pauline is there now to call the meeting to order! If they are making too much noise, Leona will tap on her glass to ask them to stop. Mary was usually pretty quiet so it didn't bother her. Madeline would have to try to stifle her infectious laugh while Doris would be thinking of her next shopping spree. And Connie was telling everyone that she had stayed up all night making the cakes that she was serving.

GIRLS, CARRY ON UNTIL WE GET THERE TO JOIN YOU!

Our next meeting (on earth) will be on March 8th at 12:00 p.m.

God's Love at Work,
Pass It On!

Linda Brown,
President

LUTHERAN CARE AT MOORESTOWN

The Lutheran Home Auxiliary met at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 10th. Rev. Jack Solterback has been hired to replace Pastor Steel who is now ministering with her husband down in Hagerstown, MD. Your prayers are appreciated for Rev. Jack and the Steeles as they transition in their new endeavors.

As of this writing, February 26th, I do not have a final total for our February fund drive as we have not taken the final offering for this years drive, but I will relay that info to you this month.

Last year the Auxiliary contributed approximately \$17,000 to the residents for wheelchairs, lunches out and entertainment for parties, birthdays, Christmas and Christmas gifts.

Needed are:

Volunteers to help with crocheting and knitting and as always birthday, get well and sympathy cards. Large print word search puzzles, button down cardigans, bathrobes, nail polish and remover and cotton balls, and small stuffed "birthday" bears are always needed. * Cards are free to residents.

Thursday, March 10 - Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 17 - St. Patty's Day Party, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 24 - Lunch at Perkins, 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 29 - Birthday Luncheon, 12:15 p.m.

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,
Sandy Counsellor

HANDBELL NEWS



Junior Handbell members Ashley and Jessica Hobgen and Becky Kraus welcomed Becky's sisters, Caroline and Emily Kraus into Junior Bells. We still need two more ringers to have an all children Handbell Choir.

The Senior Handbell Choir is also short a couple ringers. No experience is necessary. If interested, please join us on Thursdays at 6:00 pm for the Juniors and 6:30 pm for the Seniors. See you then.

Florence C. Adler