

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
September, 2011

Newsletter



September Activities

Sept, 11 - **RALLY DAY** will be held during
Sunday School

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION will
follow the 11:15 Service. All 7th and 8th
grade students and at least
one parent are asked to give this
time top priority.

Sept. 13 - 7:00 pm - Sunday School Staff
Meeting.

Sept. 14, 1 & 7:30 P.M. - .Bible Study
begins

Sept. 18 - 10 AM, Promotion Sunday and
Teacher Appreciation

**12:30 pm-Confirmation Classes I & II
begin.**



The first week of August is *Shark Week* on the Discovery Channel. I have been watching *Shark Week* for over twenty years (I think next year is the twenty-fifth anniversary). My son Jake has joined me in my annual "sharkfest" and sits by my side as we learn more and more about these fascinating creatures. This year as we were enjoying *Shark Week* the Discovery Channel ran a commercial for its new series airing on Sunday evening titled *Curiosity*. According to their website, "Discovery Channel's *Curiosity* Is a Thought-Provoking Hour of Television. Most everything you've ever wondered about will be explored in this ambitious new series."

The first episode was being advertised, *Did God Create the Universe*, hosted by Stephen Hawking who "takes us on a trip back through time tracing the 'ancient discoveries of Aristotocus and Galileo to the scientific breakthroughs of Einstein' to explain his vision of how we came to be." I said to Jake, "I think I already know the conclusion to that episode." "What is it?" he replied. "Stephen Hawking will conclude that there is no God." "How do you know that?" Jake asked. "Because Stephen Hawking does not believe in God," I said.

Being interested in science, a man of faith and the type of person who likes to say, "I told you so," I watched the program. Although there were a couple of moments were I felt I was being teased into thinking that Stephen Hawking was going to admit the power and presence of God (I am sure those moments were created to dramatize the program) he stuck to his "science wins over God' mantra.

On the one hand I could say that I was not disappointed with his conclusion that there is no God. If you know anything about Stephen Hawking you know two things, that he is brilliant and he does not believe in God. Hawking believes in the Big Bang theory and through his study of the universe believes that time did not exist before the Big Bang. Therefore, there was no time in which God could create the universe.

Hawking ends the program by saying, "We are each free to believe what we want, and it's my view that the simplest explanation is that there is no God. No one created the universe and no one directs our fate. This leads me to a profound realization. There is probably no Heaven and no afterlife either. We have this one life to appreciate the grand design of the universe and for that I am extremely grateful."

I have to wonder, if there is no God, then to whom is Stephen Hawking grateful? Is he grateful to a universe that came into existence due to a cosmic accident? Is he grateful to a universe that does not care that he even exists? Although Stephen Hawking is brilliant I have to disagree on his conclusion (I would imagine you are not surprised by this). I believe that God created the Heavens and the Earth and that all we have is due to His care for His creation. I may not be brilliant but I have nothing to prove. It is my calling to convince others of the creative, redeeming powers of God without proof. It is my calling to join those who have witnessed the power of God since the beginning of creation to today. As David Fasold once observed, "Intellectual brilliance is no guarantee against being dead wrong."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Andy

SERMON PREVIEWS

Sept. 4 - PENTECOST 12
HOLY COMMUNION
Sermon: **Pastor Dallas Dorward**
Matthew 12:15-20

Sept. 11 - PENTECOST 13
HOLY COMMUNION - 10 A.M.
Sermon: **"IN MEMORIAM"**
Exodus 14:19-31

Sept. 18 - PENTECOST 14
HOLY COMMUNION
Sermon: **"PUSHING BEYOND THE LIMITS"**
Philippians 1:21-30

Sept. 25 - PENTECOST 15
HOLY COMMUNION-10 AM
Sermon: **"IT'S WHAT YOU DO, NOT WHAT YOU SAY!"**
Matthew 21:23-32

Oct. 1 - PENTECOST 16
HOLY COMMUNION
Sermon: **"IPOD GOD"**
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Oct. 9 - PENTECOST 17
HOLY COMMUNION - 10 A.M.
Sermon: **"WEDDING ENTERTAINMENT"**
Matthew 22:1-14

Oct. 16 - PENTECOST 18
HOLY COMMUNION
Sermon: **"WITH GREAT THANKSGIVING"**
I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Oct. 23 - PENTECOST 19
HOLY COMMUNION - 10 A.M.
Sermon: **"GETTING THE 411 ON MOSES"**
Deuteronomy 34:1-12

RALLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 11TH
10:00 A.M.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION
will follow the 11:15 Service. All 7th and 8th
grade students and at least one parent
are asked to give this time top priority.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

begin Sunday, September 18th at
12:30 p.m. Please note the new
time and day.

PROMOTION SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 18TH
10:00 A.M.

TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 18TH

Social Concerns Ministry

Hope everyone enjoyed their summer even though there was a lot of rain.

On our July pantry day, we had **85** families and 5 were new. Every month our numbers increase and needless to say our shelves are **BARE**.

The items listed below are what we are in real need of:

Crackers, peanut butter & jelly, applesauce, canned vegetables, canned fruit, mac & cheese, pasta & sauce, pork & beans, kids cereal, soap bars, paper towels and toilet paper.

Any donation to the pantry is greatly appreciated and Social Concerns sends many thank you's to all who contribute and help us to help the surrounding communities.

Also, a big thank you to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Collingswood for donating some fresh vegetables to us for our July pantry day.

Our "Back to School" project had 45 children who needed clothes, shoes and back packs with school supplies to get them ready for school. Thank you to all who helped with this project. You really came through and answered the call!

A reminder that the Clothes Closet is open to members of the congregation on each Share Sunday (2nd Sunday of the month) from 9:30am-10:00am and from 11:00 - 11:30am.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 11.....Share Sunday

September 22.....Pantry open from 9-11 am and 6-7pm.

"Each of you has received a gift to serve others." 1 Peter 4:10

Carin' and sharin'
Sharon Fetters



"The Bible is the story of God's love and mercy."

How true these words are for all of us. Each Sunday our boys and girls learn about God's love and mercy as they study the lessons within our Sunday School curriculum. Don't forget to read God's word each day, and stay focused on Him.

Our new program for the summer - "Sunday School Bible Blast" was a big success, and the teachers did a great job with teaching a Bible lesson, as well as having a craft for all the children to make. We were happy to have a good number of our children each Sunday, and we are looking forward to the Fall.

Vacation Bible School went very well, and everyone enjoyed each day being a part of "Son Rock Kids' Camp." Elaine Ranck, Jennifer Smith and all the staff are to be commended for a "job well done." We're looking forward to their VBS program next year. Oh yes, the singing was terrific at the 10:00 a.m. Service on July 31st.

Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 11th at the 10:00a.m. Service with all classes going to the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the beginning of a new year in Sunday School. A variety of things are planned for all, as Karen Cundiff and Elaine Ranck are in charge.

Promotion Sunday and Teacher Appreciation Day will be held on September 18th. All classes will be "promoted" to the next grade level during the Sunday School 10:00 a.m. time. This will give each teacher an opportunity to get acquainted with their new class.

The next staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.

A final thought: *"Find time for being still with God and you will find deliverance."*

To God be the glory,
Pat Henry

A clean slate

One of the best things about heading back to school is the chance for a fresh start. A new year, new teachers, perhaps even a new school offer students the opportunity to try a little harder and do a little better than the year before.



Praise God that he allows us to always start over. Jeremiah writes that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a). With God's help, we can begin each day with a clean slate and a new attitude, determined to make some changes for the better.

• "Life will only work out successfully one way, and that is God's way."

—Leslie Weatherhead

Junior Choir Notes

Hi, everyone! I hope you have had a wonderful summer of fun, Bible School, and the opportunity to see lots of family members and friends you don't often see! By the time you read this, school will be starting as well as a new season of Junior Choir. We will be welcoming several younger family members of those already in the choir. We would also like to have some more of the children who are in grades 1-6. Know any? Tell them about us.

The Junior Choir meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. and is finished with the rehearsal in time for the children to go to their Sunday School classes by 10:00. This year we need to make a special effort to be on time as Mrs. Dilks will be accompanying us for a while and needs to get upstairs to play the organ for the church service at 10:00. (Mr. Kraemer will be watching his youngest daughter play soccer with the other members of the team of the United States Naval Academy.)

We sing the third Sunday of the month at all three services and choir members are expected to sing at two services. In addition, we sing on Thanksgiving morning at 8:30 and on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m.

In September we will be singing "This Little Light of Mine" as it has been done before and will allow older children to lead the younger ones.

Parents, please note my telephone number and don't hesitate to call me with questions. It is 856-939-4411. We have an answering machine if you call and we are not at home.

I am looking forward to this new choir season and trust the congregation is, as well. We are in need of several people who would be willing to robe the children when we sing and then hang up their robes after the service. If you are interested, please give me a call.

Love to all,
Mrs. Schmidt



LUTHERAN HOME NEWS

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. The Auxiliary doesn't meet during July and August. Our first meeting of the 2011-12 year will be held on Thursday, September 8th at 11 a.m. Everyone will bring a dish to share for a potluck luncheon and meeting. I will have more to update you after the meeting.

Our Fall Fund Raiser this year is going to be an Italian Festival and is scheduled for Saturday, October 8th. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. The menu includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, Italian bread and homemade desserts.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year and the summer months as well.

I look forward to partnering with you for another eventful and exciting year!

Sincerely,
Sandy Counsellor
856-939-4411

*"All good gifts around us come from heaven above. We thank the Lord, for His love."
Lyrics from the musical Godspell*

Faith

I will not doubt, though all my ships at sea

Come drifting home with broken masts and sails;

I will believe the hand which never fails,

From seeming evil worketh good to me.

And, though I weep because those sails are battered,

Still will I cry, while my best hopes lie shattered,

"I trust in Thee."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox



Trinity's Altar Guild has been busy as usual all summer long. The weekly cleaning and communion does not go on vacation. Everyone is doing a great job.

It is almost that time of year again when we do our fall cleaning of the ENTIRE sanctuary. It is such a great help when we get a few extra hands that day.

We have someone who is able to put to good use our discarded candles. Recycling is always a good thing to do.

Thanks again for the grape juice coupons. If you have any coupons for Pledge spray, we would appreciate them also.

Hope you had a nice summer and look forward to the new fall weather ahead.

In Christ's Service,
Terry Paradise



The Handbell Choirs have been on hiatus since June and will resume rehearsals soon.

If interested in joining, come join us on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th.**

Juniors meet at **6:00 pm**, **Seniors** at **6:30 pm**. No experience necessary! See you then.