TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH MAY 2009

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
1 Peter 4:10

I imagine that if you are reading this edition of the *Trinity Chimes* then the Trinity Reformed Church is important to you. Maybe you are an active member of our congregation or perhaps you once were and now live away from this church but still want to keep up. Maybe you were baptized here, made profession of faith (confirmation), or even got married here. Or maybe, while you are not, nor have ever been, a member at Trinity, there is something else that connects you to us, as part of the extended wider Trinity church family and friends. For some reason Trinity Reformed Church is important to you and has meaning in your life.

I invite you to ask yourself why. Why is Trinity Reformed Church important?

Now imagine that you are not, in what ever way, a part of the Trinity church family. Trinity Church is no longer. How ever you answered the above question no longer exists. That is, the event, the role it plays in your life, that experience, whatever—it no longer exists. Which is not to say that the need for it doesn't exist. For example, let's say that Trinity is important to you because of the social role it plays in your life. Spiritually speaking, we'd call it fellowship, community. Every person is wired to various degrees as social beings. We are made, we evolved, to need one another, to be in community. But imagine if Trinity did not exist. How would that need have been met in your life? Would it have been met? Another example: Trinity, in whatever way, connects you to the divine. You experience God in worship, or in service at the soup kitchen, or in teaching Sunday School, or in small group bible study, or *Couples and Friends Club*, or… the list could go on. In some way you experience God at Trinity Reformed. Now imagine that that never happened (or happens). Would you be who you are?

I suppose this is the big question. If Trinity Reformed Church never existed, would it make a difference? And perhaps in a slightly different way, for those who are not yet connected to Trinity in some way (or to any church for that matter,) does it make a difference? I'm focusing on our congregation Trinity not to be exclusivist, but rather, to be particularly personal. As one pastor asked of his congregation, "Of what use to this neighborhood, this community and these people can we be?" What difference does it make? Of the hundreds of people who pass our church building every day, does Trinity Reformed Church make any difference?

Our American culture is a culture of consumption. We are consumers. We bring this mindset to our religion. I have to confess that I don't care for this attitude and I don't just say this as a preacher who may not always give people what they want to hear. At my core, I don't believe we go to church—or *are* church—simply *to get* something. For instance, someone might say, "I didn't *get* anything out of worship." Well, the truth is, worship isn't *about you*. Worship is about God.

And yet church is about getting. It is about receiving God's grace. It's about sharing God's love. Church is a place and a people who give and receive from one another. We are stewards of God's grace, called to serve one another with what ever gift we have been given. For God has given <u>everyone</u> a gift. And God calls <u>everyone</u> to serve, to share. And this, ultimately, is what the church is to be about, who the church is to be. That the world might know God because they see how God's children serve one another. Even, how God's children serve the world, their neighbors.

Generally friends, I'm just raising various questions that I hope you think about. Church? Life? God? Meaning? But specifically, this is a stewardship message. This is not merely a message about giving more money to Trinity. (Although, you are most certainly welcome to do so!) This is a message about each and every one of us using the various gifts God gave us to share God's love, grace, peace, and hope—the good news of Jesus.

What kind of steward are you? How are you serving?

In Christ's Grace & Peace
Pastor Tom

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TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

Our vision is to help people find New Life in Jesus Christ!

Ladies Aid Cake Sale

The Frauenverein Ladies will hold a Cake Sale on Saturday May 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Refreshments and a sale table will also be available. Over the years we have come to know that these home baked goods are truly delicious – so support the sale and buy the best. Save on time baking by getting these wonderful treats.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is officially open while Elaine, our church secretary, is in Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm. (Possibly subject to change.) If you get the church answering machine, you are encouraged to leave a message, as there are many times when Pastor may not be able to take your call immediately but will return your message as soon as he's able.

Spring Cleaning and Fix-up Day

We plan on having a church clean up day on Saturday, May 30th. This will involve cleaning and dusting the sanctuary and fellowship hall as well as doing some outside raking and trimming of bushes. Everyone is welcome to assist. If you would like to help out or want more information, please speak with Theo Hessenius, Marieanna Trautmann, or Pastor.

Anniversary Day

This year's Anniversary Day Parade will be held on Thursday June 4 and will be the 100th anniversary of the parade in this area. The Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association which sponsors the event hopes that people will march to celebrate the occasion.

The theme of this year's parade is "Forever Rooted in Christ's Love" based on Ephesians 3:17.

The parade route will be on Catalpa Ave., and there is a strong possibility that there will be a marching band as part of it. If you would like more information, please speak with Gerard Tate or Bill Voges

New Office Equipment

Much of our office equipment had either broken down or was in need of repair, and we are grateful to several members who donated new equipment. Included were a new computer and monitor, copy machine, and color printer. These generous donations meant that we did not have to dip into our reserves to purchase them. Thank you!

Gebet zum Muttertag

Gott, lass uns in Deinen Armen ruhen wie ein Kind im Schosse seiner Mutter.
Erfuelle uns ganz mit Deiner Waerme und gib uns die Sicherheit Deiner Liebe.
Wenn wir auf unseren Wegen stolpern, faengst Du uns auf und stillst unsere
Traenen.
Du zeigst uns die Wunder dieser Welt und lehrst uns Tag fuer Tag ,
was Lebensglueck bedeutet.

Du bist uns Vater, Mutter, Bruder und Schwester zugleich, oh Gott!
Solange Du uns beistehst, wie sollten wir uns da verlassen fuehlen?

Wir danken Dir fuer Deine Guete und Barmherzigkeit. Amen.

. . . . . .

Wenn du noch eine Mutter hast, so danke Gott und sei zufrieden.
Nicht allen auf dem Erdenrund ist dieses grosse Glueck beschieden.
Wenn du noch eine Mutter hast, so sollst du sie mit Liebe pflegen,
dass sie dereinst ihr muedes Haupt in Frieden kann zur Ruhe legen.
Sie hat vom ersten Tage an fuer dich gelebt mit bangen Sorgen.
Sie brachte abends dich zur Ruh und weckte kuessend dich am Morgen.
Sie lenkte deinen Kindersinn, sie wachte ueber deine Jugend.
Der Mutter danke es allein, wenn du noch gehst den Pfad der Tugend.
Und hast du keine Mutter mehr und kannst du sie nicht mehr begluecken,
So kannst du doch ihr fruehes Grab mit frischen Blumenkraenzen schmuecken.
Ein Muttergrab, ein Vatergrab, fuer dich die ewig heilige Stelle.
Oh wende dich an diesen Ort, wenn dich umtost des Lebens Welle.

- aus dem Erinnerungsalbum von Lydia Walz, eingetragen im Jahre 1919

Worship Schedule for May

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31—Regular Worship Service

at 10:00 a.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on May 3