

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2008

POWER LAB – A BUBBLING SUCCESS

Once again this year our annual Vacation Bible Camp was a huge success! This year's theme was "Power Lab". From July 21 to July 27, Trinity was transformed into an exciting Science Lab where 63 children learned about God's Word and Power through scientific experiments, crafts, Bible stories, games, and songs. It was an electric week the campers and adults won't soon forget!

As part of this year's camp, we participated in the International Bible Society's "Operation Kid-to-Kid". In 2010, the FIFA World Cup soccer event will be held in South Africa. Our campers, along with thousands of other children from around the world, decorated soccer balls – GO (Gospel Outreach) Balls, which are being sent to the children of South Africa! It was a wonderful way for our children to share God's Love and Power and make a difference in the life of a child in another part of the world!

The Power Lab Team would like to thank all the members of Trinity for their support, prayers and generous donations, without which we could never offer this wonderful experience to the children of our community.



And to the Power Lab Team – thank-you, thank-you, thank-you! Your hard work, energy, dedication and love are just

overwhelming. Year after year you give so much of yourselves to these children so they can learn of and experience the joy and greatness of our Lord.

God bless you all and see you next year at **CROCODILE DOCK!!!**

Liz Burzynski and Marieanna Trautmann

PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Since our last report in the *Trinity Chimes*, the Pastor Search Committee has been busy looking for a new minister to lead our church. First we completed our church profile and sent it off to the denomination. We then began to receive a number of ministers' profiles which we had to read and evaluate and several of these men and women were contacted. Some of them already had received a call from another church or were not interested in a church in New York City. As of now, we are considering two potential candidates. One of them has been to Trinity for two interviews and four members of the committee went upstate a few weeks ago to hear him preach at his current church. The second candidate will be interviewed shortly and we will also hear him preach. A decision will then be made as to whether we should continue to pursue one of them or continue our search.

This process takes time and can sometimes be frustrating. It is also important that we make sure that we choose the right person. If you have any questions about the pastor search committee please speak with either Bill Voges or Marieanna Trautmann.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Power Lab	1
Pastor Search Update	1
Summer Sermons	2
Lied Für Die Erde	2
Relay For Life	3
Gideons International	3
CROP Walk	3
Worship Schedule	3



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

FROM THE PULPIT THIS SUMMER—HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER?

Summer always begins patriotically, and it was no different this year at Trinity. Our guest speaker on July 6 was Rev. Douglas Estella, who spoke on “Faith and Patriotism.” Rev. Estella said that until 300 A.D. the church was persecuted by the Jews and the Romans and in the process grew. “We Christians did our best stuff when we were persecuted,” Rev. Estella said. Then Emperor Constantine legalized and patronized the church in 312, which was a disaster for the church that lasted until 1787 and the U.S. Constitution, which separated church and state. This is not a Christian nation, Rev. Estella asserted, but as a Christian people we, like Abraham and his descendants in Hebrews 11:16, are looking for a “better, heavenly country.”

The next week, Rev. Estella again spoke, this time on forgiveness, from Romans 8:1-11. He made three important points: (1) Forgiveness means we are not condemned. (2) We are set free. (3) We entered a new way of living; Rev. Estella quoted C.S. Lewis, who said that we “start living in a colony of heaven” here on earth.

On July 20, when our Vacation Bible Camp team was dedicated, Rev. James Long took up “the idle word,” from Matthew 12:22-37, especially verse 36. This is the passage in which the Pharisees say Jesus’ power comes from the devil. The idle word, Rev. Long said, are “criticisms, judgments, and conclusions arrived at without adequate thought.” So Jesus says in verses 36 and 37, “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Rev. Long quoted Rev. Peter Marshall’s three questions to tame the idle word: (1) Is it kind? (2) Is it true? (3) Is it necessary?

Elder Brigitte Brady gave a short sermon woven into the Power Lab VBC Finale. “Long before he laid down earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love,” she quoted from Ephesians 1:4 in The Message translation. “Do you believe you are the apple of God’s eye,” she asked.

In a sermon titled, “prayer as Jesus taught us to pray, worship as the Scriptures teach,” Rev. Long explored The Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:5-15, on August 3. “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name” is, Rev. Long said, “an indirect way to worship, not in God’s face. We are asking that God’s name be hallowed,” set apart, “by us.” In praying this familiar prayer, we are asking God to “set your name as holy where my feet go, where my eyes go, . . . This is a humbling admission, that we can’t worship God properly.”

How we are to worship God was the second part of Rev. Long’s sermon. He outlined four practical points for worship: (1) the Biblical motif (“God is not looking for creativity, but faithfulness,” said Rev. Long; Psalms and Revelation contain examples of praise: “love what He is, thanks for what He has done”), (2) the theological motif (how does worship reflect my church’s theology), (3) the catholic (“worldwide church”) motif

(how has the church always worshipped [for example, with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)]), and (4) the pastoral motif (consideration of the people you are ministering to now).

Lenny Schiefer

LIED FÜR DIE ERDE

Lasst uns singen für die Erde,
dass sie nicht durch Gifte oder Waffen
frentlich und blind vernichtet werde.
Du, o Gott, hast sie geschaffen!

Lasst uns bitten, dass die Erde,
die du uns zur Pflege hast gegeben,
unsere Kinder noch erfreuen werde.
Jesus liess für sie sein Leben!

Lasst uns kämpfen für die Erde,
dass der Mensch für ihre Pflanzen, Tiere
statt zum Fluch zu einem Segen werde.
Gott, dein Geist uns treib und führe!

Lasst uns tanzen auf der Erde
und von Herzen der Verheissung trauen,
das sie einmal Gottes Reich noch werde,
wo wir Heil und Frieden schauen.

Kurt Marti

(aus einem Neukirchener Kalender)

Thanks to Rosemarie Walz for submitting the German material for the newsletter.

RELAY FOR LIFE—A GREAT SUCCESS

A big thank you for all that participated in the American Cancer Society's *Relay for Life* event on June 20th. Members of Trinity Reformed not only supported the event with their generous gifts but also came out in full force to walk around the track for fifteen hours. Many contributed to the sign that was placed outside the track, while others bought luminaries for their loved ones battling with cancer.



The event started off with a survivors' walk around the track. After that the Trinity Reformed team had a person walking around the track for the next 15 hours. We set up three tents at our campfire and were a part of the opening Luminaria Ceremony as some sang songs of love and hope. The most impressive part of the event is always the lighting of all the candles around the track. We were surprised during the night to get free Dominos Pizzas delivered to our campsite and then were treated to free Starbucks coffee. There were many fun activities during the night which some took part in while others slept through.

What a privilege for us to go beyond our church doors and show our community that as Christians we do indeed care about those suffering from cancer. Great job everyone!



GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

A member of Gideons International will visit us on September 14 and give an update on their ministry during our Worship Celebration. The Gideons International serves as an extended missionary arm of the church. Their sole purpose is to win men, women, boys and girls to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through association for service, personal testimony, and distributing the Bible in the human traffic lanes and streams of everyday life.

If you wish to make a special contribution to their ministry, please bring it with you on September 14. For more information on the Gideons, please feel free to speak with Elder Leonard Schiefer.

CROP WALK

The Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association will sponsor another CROP Walk on Saturday October 4 at 9:00 a.m. at Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village. The money that is raised will be donated to Church World Services to help alleviate world hunger. Last year Trinity Reformed Church raised \$ 740.00. We hope we can do at least as well this year.

If you would like a little exercise, then plan to walk with us and be at the park at 9:00 a.m. If you can't walk, then sponsor a walker. If you have any questions, please speak with Gerard Tate or Bill Voges.

Worship Schedule for September

September 7, 14, 21, & 28 —Worship will be at 10:00 am

Communion will be celebrated on September 7