

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

MAY 2011

Physical Spirituality and Spiritual Physicality

When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...

- Luke 24:30-31a

There are many voices and messages in scripture. Sometimes those voices speak more passionately or persuasively so as to get their point across as they bear witness to their experience of God's in-breaking into our reality. And as they stress various aspects of that experience, they may use language or share details of an extreme or superlative nature. There is a bit of that extreme in the sharing of the Resurrection story that we heard on Easter morning where the Gospel writer John tells us that Mary Magdalene, speaking to Jesus but supposing him to be the gardeners asks him if he has taken away the body of the Lord. "She turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus." (John 20:14) Amazing! There he is and yet she does not recognize him. It is only when he speaks her name that she recognizes him. The disciple Thomas too needs the extreme to believe. The risen Christ appears to the disciples while Thomas is apparently away. They share the good news with him. Yet he is unable to join them in their revelry until he can literally feel the nail marks and the wounded side of Jesus for himself.

Following the Resurrection, Luke shares the experience of some disciples traveling on the road to Emmaus. They meet up with Jesus, yet like others following that first Easter morn, they do not recognize him. It is not until they sit down at table and Christ breaks the bread that their eyes are open.

Mary, Thomas, and the Emmaus road disciples are not so unlike you and me or just about any of our neighbors nowadays. We too are sometimes blind and unaware of the risen Christ in our presence. We too

yearn for and need the tactile and physical reassurance for our doubts and fears. It is also, sometimes in the most banal and mundane—like the breaking of bread and the daily meal—that our souls can be awakened to the in-breaking of God and experience God's presence or grace or peace.

Sometimes in the bible one can get the impression that there is a battle between flesh and spirit, between earth and heaven, between the physical body and the spiritual soul. And sometimes there is. The Apostle Paul certainly emphasizes the flesh/spirit dichotomy (see the beginning of Romans 8). And even Jesus says to his disciples, "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41) These are some of the passionate and persuasive voices in scripture.

But simultaneously there are other voices and messages in scripture that do not set the spiritual over and against the physical. And perhaps the loudest voice is that of the very life and new life of Christ himself. The evangelist John speaks of the Word who became flesh (God who is Spirit indwelling most radically in the physical body, the incarnation.) In Easter we experience the final step in the mysterious journey of incarnation, where even death itself can not hold the physical body of Christ down. We celebrate Easter as the Resurrection of the Lord—body and soul, flesh and spirit, raised to new life!

May this Easter season be a time of resurrection for you. May you experience the fullness of God's in-breaking reality both spiritually and physically. And may we all continue to follow Jesus and bear witness in our lives—in word and deed, in spirit and in flesh—of the Easter hope that is born in us. Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord has risen indeed!

In the Risen Christ's Grace & Peace,
Pastor Tom

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

Vacation Bible School



Plans are already under way for this year's Vacation Bible School which will be held July 25 – 29 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. The theme will be "PandaMania – Where God is Wild about You!" If you would like additional information, please speak with Liz Burzynski.

Pray for the Consistory

Please Pray...

Every week the bulletin lists those in the congregation who have requested prayer. The list is preceded by a fragment of a Bible verse. "All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer." (Acts 1:14a). The "all these" were the apostles, the leaders of the really early Church, just after Jesus was taken into heaven at Pentecost. The apostle Paul later tells all believers to "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). It doesn't take many words to pray or to request prayer. I hope you pray for those on the prayer list, and please don't forget the bottom of that list: Pastor Tom and the Consistory.

Please pray for the new Consistory committees and their chairpersons: Worship (Karl Kurtz), Stewardship and Finance (Bill Voges), Property and Maintenance (Bob Bambach), Discipleship and Christian Education (me), Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism (Bobby Murphy), and Church Life and Fellowship (Erik Huneke). Each of these committees also includes members of the congregation.

So you see there are a lot of people to pray for. Let's see what God does in answer to our prayers.

Lenny Schiefer, Vice President of the Consistory

Gottscheer Proverb

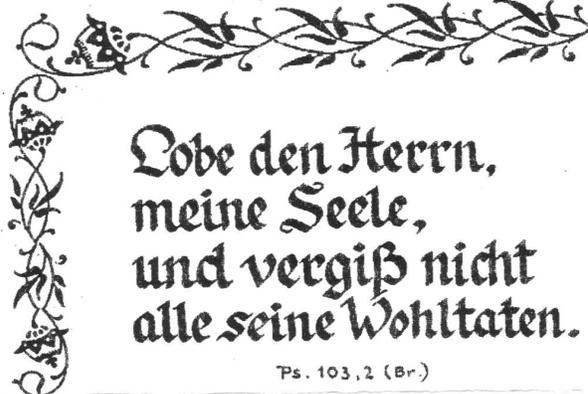
A bintschigai Offe triabet a grossai Lökkhe.

Ah BIN-chee-guy OFF-fe(r) TREAH-bet ah GROSS-sigh LOHK-ke(r)

A small frog muddies a large pond.

Formal German: Ein winziger Frosch trübt eine grosse Lacke

Bless The Lord, O My Soul



**Den hat der Herr gar reich gesegnet,
dem Er des Lobes Harfe stimmt,
der alles, was ihm auch begegnet,
voll Dank aus Gottes Händen nimmt.**



Bless the Lord, o my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

Psalm 103:2

God richly blesses those who give Him praise and those who accept with thanks whatever comes, as from His hands.

Kitchen Confidential...

OK, there's really nothing confidential here. A few weeks ago Trinity was approached by Brother Michael (a Capuchin Friar) who is on staff at St. Matthias R.C. Church serving as youth pastor. A side-gig that he and a few other folks from his parish have is the preparing of a hot meal every Wednesday for day laborers who gather on Woodside Ave. They usually cook a huge pot of hearty soup or rice and beans and distribute it along with coffee to approximately 50 to 100 people. Because St. Matthias' soup kitchen and school kitchen are also in use at that time, Brother Michael was seeking another location to prepare the food and sought our assistance. Thus, we have opened our kitchen doors to aid them in this very important ministry and outreach. So if you come by the church some Wednesday around noon, be prepared to likely encounter the enchanting aroma of soup lovingly prepared by head chef Rosanna. And if you are interested in joining Brother Michael and his cadre of soup sharers, please speak with Pastor Tom and he'd be happy to connect you to this mission.

The Ten Commandments of Kitchen Etiquette

The Trinity Coffee Hour after each Sunday worship service has provided our congregation with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship and delectable treats. An important way to contribute to the atmosphere of fellowship is to support the work that goes into making the Coffee Hour run smoothly.

It has been said that cleanliness is next to Godliness. Trinity's kitchen belongs to everyone and therefore everyone is responsible for keeping it clean. To this end, we ask Coffee Hour volunteers and congregants to keep the Ten Commandments of Kitchen Etiquette in mind:

- 1) If thou art volunteering to serve food and beverages at the Coffee Hour, thou shalt help to clean up the tables, dishes, and kitchen afterwards. The Trinity Reformed Church has a *self-cleaning* kitchen...in the sense that everyone needs to clean up after him- or herself! Pitching in to help is easy and fun!
- 2) Thou shalt do thy part in making the planet green...but that does not mean that the inside of the refrigerator should be! In German, the term for Jell-O literally means "food of the gods." If God were to place His Jell-O (or any other food item, for that matter) in the refrigerator, He would label it with a name and date—and so should you. Even better: whenever possible, please take leftovers home, since the refrigerator is not a long-term food motel—items will be discarded after two weeks.
- 3) Thou shalt wipe clean all surfaces, whether they be countertops, sink basins, the stove, refrigerator, or tables.
- 4) Thou shalt maintain the neatness of closets, cabinets, and drawers.
- 5) Thou shalt put everything back into its proper place.
- 6) Thou shalt make sure that the coffee maker is ready for its next use.
- 7) Thou shalt dispose of garbage properly and place recyclables in the appropriate receptacles.
- 8) Thou shalt replenish ice cube trays when appropriate.
- 9) Thou shalt take home used dishcloths, wash them, and return them to the kitchen during thy next visit to church.
- 10) Thou shalt leave a note in the office if anything in the kitchen needs attention.

We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve food and drink, baked or purchased cake and cookies, and/or made a donation to offset the cost of refreshments. New volunteers and monetary contributions are always welcome! If you have questions or concerns about any of this, please contact Linda Morton or Marieanna Trautmann.

Growing Pains and Keeping House

God is active at Trinity! Both in the life of the congregation and the friends and neighbors of our community, we are blessed to be able to share God's love and engage in following Christ in ministry and mission. But our growing activities can also give us growing pains. Thus, we need to be ever more vigilant in communicating schedules and activities with the church office. It also means each and every group and activity that uses the church building needs to be respectful that this is all common space that we share. Please keep the space neat and tidy. Clean up after yourselves. Put things (supplies, tables, chairs, etc.) back where they belong. All your efforts help!

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>March 2011</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 5,472.00
Utilities	\$ 634.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 550.00
Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 411.00
Other Disbursements *	\$ 3,465.00

Total Expenditures **\$10,532.00**

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>March 2011</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 4468.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 152.00
Benevolences	\$ 354.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 250.00
Special Offerings	\$ 1124.00
Other Receipts	\$ 485.00

Total Receipts **\$6,833.00**

***INSURANCE & CLASSIS ASSESSMENT PAID**

Worship Schedule for May

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on May 1

* Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am

* Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am

May 2011

Rev. Thomas Goodhart
(718) 821-2700

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship Service With Communion 10:00 am				UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	UPC Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm	Ladies Aid Bake Sale 10 am-2 pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship Service 10:00 am Happy Mother's Day						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship Service 10:00 am * Second Sunday Symposium			Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm			Couples and Friends 6:30 pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship Service 10:00 am			Consistory Meeting 7:30 pm			
29	30	31				
Worship Service 10:00 am			Their Daily Bread collection 1st. Sunday of the Month	Junior Church Sundays at 10:00 am	Prayer Meeting Sundays at 9:00 am	*Date Change