

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

September 2012

The Time Is Now

“for just such a time as this.”

-from Esther 4:14

Just about ten years ago, in a little white church, Crossroad Chapel, on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and 12th Street in Holland, Michigan, surrounded by a sanctuary full of the children of God—congregants from that home church and new ones from upstate New York, family from Ohio and Pennsylvania, beloved friends from across west Michigan, and august members of the Classis—with the delicious lingering aroma of a decisively Mexican food bouquet wafting in the air, remnant of the noontime potluck feast and foreshadowing of the fiesta meal to take place following this worship celebration—I kneeled, and with the hands of the elders laid upon me and the prayers of the faithful assembled was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America. Then, I stood and with tears in my eyes and resoluteness in my voice declared the following:

*I, Thomas Craig Goodhart, in becoming a minister of the Word of God in the Reformed Church in America, within the Classis of Holland, sincerely and gladly declare before God and with you that I believe the **gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ** as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and as expressed in the Standards of the Reformed Church in America. I accept the Scriptures as the only rule of **faith and life**. I accept the Standards as historic and faithful witnesses to the Word of God.*

*I promise to walk in the **Spirit of Christ**, in love and fellowship within the church, seeking the things that make for **unity, purity, and peace**. I will submit myself to the counsel and admonition of the classis, always ready, with gentleness and reverence, to give an account of my **understanding of the Christian faith**. I will conduct the work of the church in an*

orderly way and according to the Liturgy and the Book of Church Order.

*Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I **pledge my life to preach and teach the good news of salvation in Christ, to build up and equip the church for mission in the world, to free the enslaved, to relieve the oppressed, to comfort the afflicted, and to walk humbly with God.***

*I ask God, and you His servants, to help me so to live until that glorious day when, with **joy and gratitude**, we stand before our great God and King.*

I share this memory with you now because, truth be told, when August 25th came and went last week I made no particular observance of my ten year ordination anniversary, no observance in a celebratory kind of way anyway. I was in the midst of mourning the loss of my dear friend, Sari, and hosting friends and colleagues from out of state, preparing for a meeting with General Synod officers, while also doing the regular weekly tasks of ministry. There really wasn't time or need for any other sort of observance.

And yet now as I pause to consider this milestone I celebrate it with you because I get to do daily what I declared I would a decade ago. Let me revise that, **we get to do it!**

You see, what Christianity teaches, and what the Protestant and especially the Reformed tradition stresses is that all believers, that all followers of Jesus, are given a ministry. And here I don't mean individual giftedness (as much as that may be true.) We are all called to be bearers of Christ. Also from that Ordination service were these words:

By the Holy Spirit all who believe and are baptized receive a ministry to witness to Jesus as Savior and Lord, and to love and serve those with whom they live and work.

We are ambassadors for Christ, who reconciles and makes whole.

We are the salt of the earth; we are the light of the world.

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



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All of us are to minister the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ in all areas of our faith and life.

Not only are all of us called to minister, but together, we as the church are given a mission. I hope you caught that above in the declaration where I said, "I pledge my life to preach and teach the good news of salvation in Christ, to build up and equip the church for mission in the world.

I share this memory of my ordination with you because it is not only my memory, it is not only my story, it is also yours! It doesn't matter if you were in the church sanctuary back in Michigan or not, the declaration and call are the same. We have a mission! We here at Trinity Reformed Church have a mission to be the very presence of Christ, to embody God's love, grace, and peace, to be instruments of the Spirit's continual work of unity, reconciliation, and justice in all of creations. Our mission is to follow Jesus, *to free the enslaved, to relieve the oppressed, to comfort the afflicted, and to walk humbly with God.*

It is for such a time as this for the time is now! Anniversaries have a way of making us look back—and well they should. As I look back I know I have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. But anniversaries also serve as reminders for the future. That is especially how I view this one. It reminds me of the call and promise that God has placed upon us, God's people. I am thankful for where God has brought me and us, and just as importantly, I look forward excitedly to the future that God is calling us towards as we follow Christ in mission!

In Christ's Grace & Peace,

Pastor Tom

SKY VBS

*No matter who you are...
No matter how you feel...
No matter what people do...
No matter what happens...
No matter where you are...*

TRUST GOD!!!

What an amazing and exciting week we all had at this year's **SKY** Vacation Bible School experiencing how EVERYTHING is POSSIBLE WITH GOD! From July 23-27, 95 children from our church and community learned to **TRUST GOD** through worship songs, hands-on Bible stories, tasty snacks, exciting experiments and fun games. We began each evening meeting as a group in the sanctuary for *Up & Away Sing and Play* where we sang songs, learned the day's Bible point and shared our God-sightings. Then it was off to soar through God's Word in our "flight crews". At *Wild Blue Bible Adventures* we read and heard scripture and participated in hands-on Bible stories. At *Imagination Station* we made crafts, played **SKY** Jeopardy and did some awesome experiments, including extracting our own DNA, all the while

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learning how special we are to God and how we can **TRUST GOD** no matter what. *All Star Games* had us running, crawling with cotton balls on our noses, blind-folded at times and just having some good old fashioned fun. By the time snack-time came along we were all ready to dig into the delicious treats the ladies had prepared for us. At the end of each night we again met as a group in the sanctuary to see pictures and videos of our fun-filled evening and to share what we had learned, with each other and our families and friends. They were so excited to share this time with us and many of them had learned our worship songs and were singing right along with us! Our fun-filled week was capped off on Sunday with our VBS finale worship service and church-wide BBQ. It was a tremendous success with over 150 of our Trinity and VBS family sharing fellowship with each other and enjoying all the delicious food that everyone brought. You can see pictures of our adventures on Trinity's website www.trinityqueens.org

This year we again participated in "Operation Kid To Kid"—one of the world's largest child-to-child service outreach programs. The mission this year was to help in eradicating malaria from the African nation of Mali by raising money to purchase mosquito nets which will help protect the children from malaria carrying mosquitos. Each net cost \$6.00 and I am so happy to report that we collected over \$525.00 which will buy over 87 nets! Thank you everyone for your support.

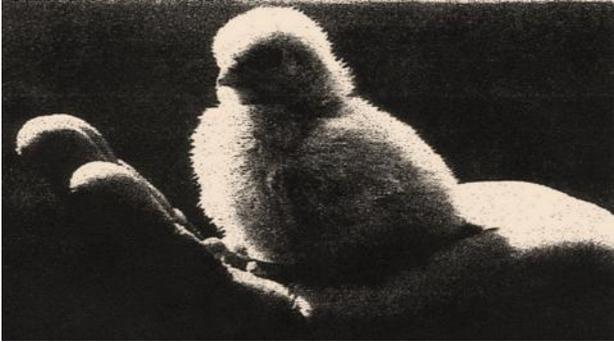
Our **SKY** team would like to extend a special thank you to our Trinity family for your prayers, love and support and generous donations. Without you, we could never offer this wonderful experience to the children of our church and community.

And to the 48+ tireless volunteers—thank you for your hard work, your enthusiasm and endless energy, and the love you share with all our children. It is because of all of you that they keep coming back from year to year. You have been a blessing and I look forward to seeing you all next year for **KINGDOM ROCK...Where Kids Stand Strong for God!**

Love and Peace,
Liz ☺



In God's Hand



Jeder Mensch auch der geringste, ist so in Gottes Hand, als wäre er Gottes einzige Sorge.

Every individual, even the most insignificant, is so sustained in the Hand of God as if he were God's only concern.

CROP Walk

The Ridgewood Glendale Church Laity Association will sponsor another CROP Walk on Saturday October 6 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 \$ 1,645.00. 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.

Summer Maintenance Projects

The Property and Maintenance Committee was busy this summer with several projects. The painting of the outside fence and church kitchen was completed and new covers for the fellowship hall ceiling lights were installed which should make things a little brighter. Fifteen people showed up on Saturday August 4 to help with the Couples and Friends cleanup day. The sanctuary pews were cleaned, the church kitchen was washed down, and a lot of trimming and weeding took place on the Palmetto Street side of the church. We thank everyone who helped out. Unfortunately we could not get to everything, so there are still some things that have to be dusted and polished.

Back to School Sunday & Blessing

Sunday, September 16th will be a special and important day in our worship and church lives as we kick off a new Sunday School Junior Church Year once again using the excellent lectionary based curriculum Spark. But before the kids go downstairs for Junior Church we will take the opportunity to pray and bless them and all those adults too involved in education as we begin a new school year. Then following worship and fellowship time, we will enjoy a Second Sunday Symposium with special music. Please make sure you're here!

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>May, June, July 2012</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 17,790.00
Utilities	\$ 2,842.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 1,115.00
Maintenance	\$ 3,621.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 0.00
Other Disbursements *	\$ 5,633.00

Total Expenditures **\$ 31,001.00**

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>May, June, July 2012</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 15,042.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 705.00
Benevolences	\$ 1,513.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,865.00
Special Offerings	\$ 1,031.00
Other Receipts **	\$ 10,139.00

Total Receipts **\$ 30,295.00**

*VBS, Classis and insurance paid

**Transfers from Benevolence, Memorial, Children's Ministry

Because the weekly offerings could not cover the expenses, \$ 6,000.00 had to be taken from the Benevolent Fund to make up the difference.

Worship Schedule for September

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 –Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on September 2 and 16
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 NA Mtg. 7pm
2 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i>	3 NA Mtg. 7pm	4 Al-Anon 7:30pm	5	6 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	7 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	8 Couples and Friends 6:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm
9 Worship Service 10:00 am	10 NA Mtg. 7pm	11 Al-Anon 7:30pm	12 Consistory 7 pm	13 NA Mtg. 7pm	14	15 Steuben Day NA Mtg. 7pm
16 Worship Service 10:00 am Back to School Sunday & Blessing <i>Second Sunday Symposium</i>	17 NA Mtg. 7pm	18 Al-Anon 7:30pm	19 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm	20 Last day for newsletter submissions to Bill Voges NA Mtg. 7pm	21	22 NA Mtg. 7pm
23 Worship Service 10:00 am	24 NA Mtg. 7pm	25 Al-Anon 7:30pm	26	27 NA Mtg. 7pm	28	29 NA Mtg. 7pm
30 Worship Service 10:00 am					Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am	