

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

March 2013

Identity

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

-1 Peter 2:9

The summer following my first year in college I taught environmental education at a camp in northern Michigan. During late May and early June we'd get school groups from around the state as well as "city kids" from Chicago who'd come out to the great outdoors and learn about nature as well as canoe, swim, go horseback riding, learn archery and other camp activities. One of the "classes" I taught was about how the early non-Native pioneers lived off the land, what they would have eaten, what they brought with them, what they made do with, etc. It was a cool session that incorporated biology, ecology, and health along with history and geography. Perhaps one of the coolest aspects was that it was down in a circle around a campfire where the students assisted me in making "pioneer biscuits," a combination fried-corn-bread-pancake concoction which, depending upon weather conditions, quality of the fire, and the excitement of the participants were cooked to various degrees of doneness and possibly included a negligible amount of fire ash.

I probably taught these lessons to hundreds of students that summer, but one young person particularly stands out. He was acting out, misbehaving, and otherwise being disruptive—not entirely unusual for a ten, eleven, or twelve year old boy. He wasn't the first or the last to be somewhat problematic while teaching. What stands out, however, is what he said when I pulled him aside to chat about his behavior. "I'm a bad kid," he said. He wasn't smug or obnoxious but was entirely sincere. I'm a bad kid.

Now sure, his behavior was indeed bad. No sugar coating it. And he needed to shape up. But somewhere in his life he had begun to fill

a role, the role of the troublemaker. (Probably to get attention.) And he performed it well. And those in his life told him so—his family, his school, the other kids in his class. He was the bad kid. That became his identity.

And that has stuck with me, the student who identified as the bad kid. And it's wrong! It's a lie! Somehow somewhere after being told this for so long he began to believe it. So that day we learned about more than pioneer biscuits. We learned about identity, about who we are, and how easy it is to be defined by others. And how sad it is to be convinced they're right.

And this kid is not alone with this issue

Who are you? What is your identity? What or who defines you? What defines us?

Because similarly, I believe the Church has an identity crisis. Having bought into the ideas and idols of our surrounding culture, we find ourselves consumers and peddlers of spiritual products and services. And you know what? Maybe that used to work. (Although I'm personally not convinced it ever really worked well...) It doesn't work anymore. The world has changed. Church is simply not someplace you can come to get a spiritual injection. Church is not just something you believe and a place you go to meet your various needs. Because ultimately, the church will never be able to meet your needs. Not your real needs, your deepest ones. Only God can do that.

But that is also why the church is always pointing beyond itself, towards God. And although the church truly is the Body of Christ, it is not a static destination, but a growing dynamic organism that is in movement, that has a movement: the movement of God. We call that discipleship, the mission of God, following Christ in that mission.

You see, it's not enough to take on the identity the world gives you. It's wrong. You are more than that! Because God is more than that.

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



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These last few weeks in worship we have talked a lot about how Jesus grew to understand his identity, about what it meant to be the Son of God, what it meant to be the Messiah/Christ. In a few weeks we celebrate the penultimate expression of that identity in Easter. And in it, we also discover our own identity.

May you, may we, know and learn and grow into who we truly are. May we find our fullest and most significant identity not in the world but in God. And may we the church continue to identify with the one who called us to follow him, who defeated the powers of death, and shows us life and light.

In Christ's Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom

Lenten Bible Study: Hallelujah, A Musical Study of the Bible

The Lenten Season provides us an opportunity for reflection and study, to deepen our relationship with God and one another, and to become more open to the ways in which God is at work in Christ. During this season, we will open the scriptures and reflect on and explore various biblical passages that have been put to music, specifically connected to Handel's *Messiah*. Being musical or an appreciation of it is not necessary to participate in this study. All levels of bible understanding are welcome. We will gather in the church hall each Wednesday during Lent from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. All are welcome!

Coffee Hour

We wish to thank all of you who have been helping with the Coffee Hour by serving, cleaning up, and baking or buying cakes. More volunteers and cakes are always needed and appreciated. If you plan on baking or purchasing cake it would be helpful if you would let Linda Morton or Marieanna Trautmann know the week before so that we do not have too much. If you would like us to celebrate your birthday with a special cake it is your responsibility to supply the cake.

Good Friday Service

Please join us for our Good Friday worship service on March 29th at 7:30 pm. The Grace Notes will be participating in the worship service and we hope you too will be able to join us.

Easter Sunday Breakfast

All are invited to come celebrate the risen Lord and join together in fellowship before worship in a simple breakfast of bagels, toppings, and Easter Eggs on Easter morning at 8:30 am in the Church Hall. So that we may make sure we have enough for all to enjoy, please make your breakfast reservations with the church office no later than noon on Wednesday, March 27th. Thanks!

Consistory Elections

Consistory elections took place and with a unanimous vote the following persons were elected:

Elders: Theo Hassenius, Erik Huneke, Linda Morton, Marieanna Trautmann

Deacons: Karl Kurtz, Bill Voges

Their ordination and installation will take place during the worship service on March 10th. We are thankful that God is raising up leaders in the church!

Their Daily Bread Food Collection

Our Daily Bread devotional guides are available in the sanctuary in a rack on the wall. These should not be confused with **Their Daily Bread Food Collection** which is listed in the Sunday bulletin once a month and in the *Trinity Chimes* calendar. On the first Sunday of each month we collect canned and non-perishable foods which are then taken to the St. Matthias Church food pantry. They distribute the food to needy individuals and families within our community.

Their Daily Bread Food Collection is a way of showing Christ's love and ministering to those less fortunate than we are right here in our own community. When you do your grocery shopping, consider buying a can or two of something on sale and bring it to Trinity on the first Sunday of the month. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Easter Flowers

Please use the insert provided to order Easter flowers *In Memory Of* and/or *In Honor Of* loved ones, or simply as a gift to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Flowers may be taken home on Easter Sunday after the worship service. Orders must be received by the church office by March 17th. Thank you.

Happy March Birthdays

Betty Klaar	2 nd	Anni Seeliger	2 nd
Trudy Bambach	4 th	Erika Huneke	6 th
Anna Pretzer	11 th	Theodora Sirghi	12 th
Luis Ramos	14 th	Siegy Burger	18 th
Danielle Carrasquillo	22 nd	Philipp Kuhner	24 th
Louis Graniti	25 th	Bob Bambach	27 th
Kathy Burger	27 th	James Wtorkowski	27 th
Andrew Mains	28 th	Elisabeth Roth	28 th
Brigette Brady	29 th	Reinhard Groezinger	30 th
Denise Villamia	31 st		

Prayer List

Please be mindful of the following members and friends of our congregation in your prayers:

Sister Kaethe, health; Janet Roth, health; Martha Bauer, health; Frederick Dalm, healing; Groezinger Family; Philipp & Hildegard Febel, healing; Laura Kurtz, health; Debra Meraglia, health & healing; Eleanor Rizzo, health & healing; Donna Dowd, healing; Doris Church, healing; United Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood and Pastor Henry Fury; Bill Albanese, health & healing; Susan Gebhart, health & healing; Maritza Garcia-Castro, health & healing; Fritz & Betty Klaar, health & healing; Anibal Segarra, safety & protection; Martin Seidl, health & healing; Elisabeth Roth, health & healing; Teri Alyse Meyer, health & healing; Anna Jackson, health & healing; Barbara Burger, health & healing; Clara Gomez, health & healing; Evelyn Meditz (Lenny's mom), health & healing; Felder Williams, health & healing; Gloria Vergara, health & healing; Family of Nicholas (Helga's grandson), peace and comfort; Family of John Lunz, peace & comfort; Reformed Church in America, Queens Classis, and Regional Synod of New York; Dave & Char Alexander, RCA missionaries in Taiwan; Doug Leonard, RCA missionary in Oman; Peter Mark Trautmann, The Navigators at NYU; Leonard & Linda Schiefer, Gideons International; Pastor Tom and the Consistory.

Worship Schedule for March

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 –Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
 Good Friday – March 29 - 7:30 p.m.
 Easter Sunday – March 31- 10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on March 3 and 17
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Guter Rat von Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"Willst du immer weiter schweifen?
 Sieh, das Gute liegt so nah.
 Lerne nur das Glueck ergreifen,
 denn das Glueck ist immer da."

Why do we continue to seek elsewhere when all the good we need is so near?
 We must learn to reach out and accept it, because it is always there.

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>Jan. 2013</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 6,104.00
Utilities	\$ 1,353.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 26.00
Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 133.00
Other Disbursements*	\$ 1,537.00

Total Expenditures \$ 9,153.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Jan. 2013</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 3,869.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 147.00
Benevolences	\$ 527.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 730.00
Special Offerings	\$ 1,154.00
Other Receipts**	\$ 4,548.00

Total Receipts \$ 10,975.00

*Insurance, Coffee Hour, Flowers, Sunday School and Office Supplies

**Classis Assessment, Flowers, NA and Alanon Groups, Coffee Hour, General Use/Memorial

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am					1	2 NA Mtg. 7pm
3 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i>	4 NA Mtg. 7pm	5 Al-Anon 7:30pm	6 Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	7 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	8 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	9 NA Mtg. 7pm
10 Worship Service 10:00 am NA Mtg. 7pm	11 NA Mtg. 7pm	12 Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:30pm	13 Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	14 NA Mtg. 7pm	15	16 Couples & Friends 6:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm
17 Worship Service 10:00 am NA Mtg. 7pm	18 NA Mtg. 7pm	19 Al-Anon 7:30pm	20 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	21 NA Mtg. 7pm	22	23 NA Mtg. 7pm
24 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am NA Mtg. 7pm	25 NA Mtg. 7pm	26 Al-Anon 7:30pm	27 Lenten Bible Study 7:30 pm	28 NA Mtg. 7pm	29 Good Friday Worship Service 7:30 pm	30 NA Mtg. 7pm
31 Easter Sunday Breakfast 8:30 am Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am NA Mtg. 7pm	April 1 NA Mtg. 7pm	April 2 Al-Anon 7:30pm	April 3	April 4 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	April 5 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	April 6 NA Mtg. 7pm