

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

May 2013

Location, Location, Location

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating... The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

-Isaiah 65:17-18a-25

You've heard this line before, maybe even from me: It's location, location, location! The mantra of real estate agents and business experts expresses that *location* matters—be it the place in which you want to reside or the place where your business will have the most impact. *Think location, location, location.* I suggest that it's similar with God and the Church. And not in the fashion of glib marketing or as a buy-in to an un-Christ-like value of consumerism. It's about where God is in our world and lives. And it's about where you and I are in God.

Where is God? Surely you've asked this before. "Where are you, God?" Especially when life throws us curveballs, unexpected challenges, and tragic circumstances, we long to know—and sometimes audibly cry out—where are you God? And why shouldn't we? This is a part of being human.

The collected story of our faith as shared in scriptures tells of a people who cried out and who longed for God. And it tells of a God who reached out to them and was present to them and their situations in a variety of ways. The people of God experienced God's presence in a particular way in the person of Jesus. In him was experienced *Emmanuel*, God with us. Our faith teaches us that in Christ, the fullness of God resides, and that that very fullness went to hell and back defeating even the powers of sin and death, so that in the Easter resurrection we celebrate a risen Lord, that Christ is alive, that God lives!

This is not just some nice quaint story of special religious holidays of Christmas and Easter. No. This is about a new way of understanding and a different way of relating to the world and our lives. For we are different because of it. God is with us and God in Christ has been and goes to anyplace with us, even, and especially, those places where we feel lost or abandon or alone or fearful. God is there. We are not forsaken or separated from Christ. Where is God? God is with us. God is with you.

But there is more. When Jesus lived and walked, taught and healed among us during his earthly ministry, he announced an in-breaking of a new world, of a new reality, upon our present one. Sometimes called the Kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God or the Reign of God, this new world was one that had come in him, yet is still to come. It is a "place" which is still to arrive and yet is here and now. The *Reign of God* is a true location but not so much fixed on a particular geography or located in a someday escaped-to-heaven. Rather, the reign of God is a location in which we are invited to dwell, a way of being through which we are encouraged to live, even a body of people—the church—who witness to it. It is as God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, God creating—or re-creating—a new heaven and a new earth. The church is not the reign of God but we are part of God's new creation, but we witness to its reality, we live into this location in our work and rest and relationships.

In some ways it seems that Christ's ministry culminated following his life, death, resurrection, and ascension—once he ascended into heaven and reigns at the right hand of God. Sure. But Jesus also promised to send the Holy Spirit—the advocate and guide—to continue to walk with us. In the Holy Spirit, God continues to be with us, empowering us, encouraging and strengthening us to be image bearers of God, ministers of Christ good news, instruments of love, justice, grace, and peace. Where is God? God is with us. God is with you.

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



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Location, location, location. God is with us. And where are you? Where am I? We are invited to join God where God is, to follow Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and sight to the blind, to plant trees and vineyards, to be new creations, always participating in this new and radical world God is making!

In Christ's Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom

Ordination and Installation



On Sunday April 14, Erik Huneke was ordained and installed as an Elder. Prior to this Erik had served as a Deacon. The members of Consistory also elected Erik as the Vice President of Consistory for this year.

Mission Bulletin Board

The mission committee has put together a bulletin board in the fellowship hall which highlights the different programs we support both locally and around the world. When you're in the fellowship hall stop and take a look. You will have a better understanding of where the money you donate in the "Benevolent Fund" envelopes goes.



VBS-Save the Date

Trinity will once again engage the children of our church and community with Vacation Bible School July 22-26. Please mark it on your calendars. More information will be forthcoming.

Ascension Day Worship and Luncheon

Trinity Lutheran Church, 63-70 Dry Harbor Road (corner of Penelope Ave.) in Middle Village have invited their Trinity Reformed friends and family to worship with them on the Day of the Ascension of the Lord, Thursday May 9th, at 10:30 am followed by a catered community fellowship meal. All are welcome to come! In preparation for the meal, if you do think you'll be able to attend, please let the church office know by Sunday, May 5th.

Thank you

Trinity Church was blessed to host for an evening on Saturday, March 16th fifteen college students and their advisor from Hope College in Holland, Michigan. The students—mostly from the Midwest—were part of the college's campus ministry spring break immersion trips that send young adults out across the country and internationally to serve during the holiday break. The students who stayed with us worked with Project Hospitality helping with Super Storm Sandy rehab and relief work. They had planned to stay overnight with us that Saturday on their way to the worksite on Staten Island, but unexpectedly remained a little longer so as to worship with us on Sunday morning. Scott Englesman, advisor to the students and RCA development coordinator for Global Mission shared in a thank you note to Trinity: "As we went around talking about highs and lows from our trip on Thursday night, three kids called out spending time with your members after the service as a high. They made quite an impression and were so welcoming." Thank you!

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; Anna Jackson, health & healing; Barbara Burger, health & healing; Clara Gomez, health & healing; Evelyn Meditz (Lenny's mom), health & healing; Felder Williams, health & healing; Mildred Schleeauf, health & healing; Edgar Mayorga, health & healing; 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.

Light of Heaven

Trotz Traurigkeit und Angst
 Trotz Leid und Verzweiflung
 Trotz Krankheit und Hoffnungslosigkeit
 Trotz Versagen und Schuld
 Trotz Bitterkeit und Resignation

DAS LICHT VOM HIMMEL LOESCHT
 NIEMAND MEHR AUS !!

Licht der Hoffnung und des Trostes
 Licht der Liebe und der Zuversicht
 Licht der Versoehnung und des Vertrauens
 Licht der Freude und des Gluecks
 Licht aus dem Himmel, Licht von Gott

(Stiftung Marburger Medien)

In spite of sadness and fear
 In spite of sorrow and despair,
 In spite of sickness and hopelessness
 In spite of failure and guilt
 In spite of bitterness and resignation

THE LIGHT FROM HEAVEN WILL
 NEVERMORE BE DIMMED!!

Light of hope and comfort
 Light of love and confidence
 Light of reconciliation and trust
 Light of joy and happiness
 Light from heaven, Light from God

Happy May Birthdays 

Margret Shea May 1 Rosemary Famighetti May 5
 Dorothy Mertens May 5 Linda Schiefer May 16
 Erna Lehfellner May 18 Alexander Burzynski May 18
 Dorothy Keeber May 22 Puselia Ghioalda May 25

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>Mar. 2013</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 7,685.00
Utilities	\$ 1,400.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 226.00
Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 25.00
Other Disbursements*	\$ 3,245.00

Total Expenditures \$ 12,581.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Mar. 2013</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 4,788.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 95.00
Benevolences	\$ 499.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 80.00
Special Offerings	\$ 1,481.00
Other Receipts*	\$ 440.00

Total Receipts \$ 7,383.00

*Insurance Paid

Worship Schedule for May

May 5, 12, 19, 26 –Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

- Communion will be celebrated on May 5 and 19
- Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer Meeting Sundays 9am Junior Church Sundays 10am			1	2 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm	3 UPC Welcome Kitchen 4:00 pm	4 NA Mtg. 7pm
5 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>Their Daily Bread Collection</i>	6 NA Mtg. 7pm	7 Al-Anon 7:30pm	8	9 Ascension of the Lord Service & Fellowship Meal @ Trinity Lutheran Church 10:30am NA Mtg. 7pm	10	11 NA Mtg. 7pm
12 Worship Service 10:00 am Happy Mother's Day	13 NA Mtg. 7pm	14 Al-Anon 7:30pm	15 Frauenverein/ Ladies Aid 1:00 pm Consistory Meeting 7:00pm	16 NA Mtg. 7pm	17	18 Couples & Friends 6:00 pm NA Mtg. 7pm
19 Pentecost Worship Service 10:00 am	20 Last day for newsletter submissions to Bill Voges NA Mtg. 7pm	21 Al-Anon 7:30pm	22	23 NA Mtg. 7pm	24	25 NA Mtg. 7pm
26 Worship Service 10:00 am	27 NA Mtg. 7pm	28 Al-Anon 7:30pm	29	30 NA Mtg. 7pm	31	