



First Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church



Sept.
2009

Dear "Brothers and Sisters In Christ",

As was noted in a letter that you should have received a few weeks ago, the 150th Anniversary of the Founding of First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will culminate on Sunday, September 13th. On that day there will be a special service of praise and thanksgiving to God at 10:30AM followed by a free catered sit-down dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00noon. If you did not receive a letter, please let me know so that I can get you one. I sincerely pray that everyone will be able to attend.

Just the other day I was thinking about the fact that our congregation is 150 years old. That's really, really, old. Think about it, our congregation was founded before the start of the Civil War. This means that there has been countless changes in technology, society, and even church life. When this congregation was founded, there were horses and buggies, pot belly stoves, gas lights, steam locomotives, and slavery in the South. When this congregation was founded, this country was almost entirely Christian. Even those who did not attend worship had a knowledge of God, sin and who Jesus was and what He did. When this congregation was founded, it was a German congregation. Worship was in German, catechism classes were in German, the children were taught German. Above all, outreach was directed toward the huge number of German immigrants who were coming to American because they were escaping religious persecution. Not only that but the church was the social center of people's lives.

Oh yes, there have been countless changes haven't there? Today we have cars, TV's, DVD players, cell phones, computers, airplanes, smart bombs, and on and on I could go. Today, society is predominantly non-Christian. And while 90% plus believe there is a god, a large majority of people haven't heard the stories of the Bible, have no idea of what sin is, and have no idea about Jesus. Today, we use English. There are no more huge groups of German immigrants coming to our shores. Finally, the church is no longer the social center for people.

I truly do believe that these changes have had and will continue to have a profound effect on the ministry of our congregation as we step out into the next 150 years. We have to realize that missions is not only in other countries, but at our door steps. We have to be people who do not look inward, but outward. We have to realize that the outreach is not to a select group, but all people. We have to be people who strive to share the Gospel with anyone, everyone, no matter who or what they are. We have to realize that the lost seldom will come to the doors of our church. We have to be a people who are out in the community serving others in love. We have to realize that many people know little, if anything, about the true God. We have to be people who patiently share the entire story of God's love in Christ. This is not easy. It requires changes in thought, attitude, and even actions. This is unsettling—very unsettling. We don't like change. I know that I don't.

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Special points of interest:

- 2nd Monday
Elders Mtg 7pm
- 3rd Monday
Cong. or Council Mtg. 7pm
- 1st Tuesday (APR-DEC)
Ladies Aid 7 PM
- 2nd Tuesday
Evan. Mtg. 4pm
Prop. Mtg 6pm
- 3rd Tuesday
Men's Club 6pm
- Saturday Bible St. 9:30am
Saturday Worship 7:30pm
- Adult Bible Study
Sunday 9:00am
Tuesday 9:30am begins 9/22
- Sunday Worship 10:30am

Pastor's message continues on page 2

However, there is a vital truth that we must remember! As we now begin the next 150 years of ministry, there are certain things that dare never be changed. You see, there are numerous church “experts” who declare that the church’s message must change. They declare we should preach about what God can do to make our lives on earth better for this message is “more appealing to the ear”. Well, this may bring people to the doors, but it doesn’t make them Christian. We, in no way, can make anyone Christian. Only God can do that. And He does that through His Word and the Sacraments. As Paul declared, “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation.” The bottom line is that we dare never forsake God’s Word, especially the Gospel, and the Sacraments. Instead, in all that we do, we must preach and teach God’s Word, especially the Gospel, and administer the Sacraments for it is through these means that God calls people to Himself. Through Word and Sacrament the Holy Spirit creates, renews and strengthens faith in Jesus as God’s Son and the Savior from sin and death. Through this faith, the person receives the forgiveness of sins Jesus won by His horrible crucifixion and glorious resurrection. With sins forgiven, that person is reconciled to God, becomes God’s beloved son or daughter, and possesses eternal life with God in the perfection of heaven. In short, that person becomes and is a Christian. It is my prayer that we as a congregation never, ever, abandon Word and Sacrament ministry. May we always clearly, boldly and faithfully proclaim God’s love in Christ.

There is something else that must never change. That something is our motivation for reaching out to the lost with the Gospel. So often, the motivation for outreach is to preserve the congregational organization or to add numbers in the pews (usually with the idea that more people will enable them to pay the bills). If our reaching out with the Gospel is based on such motivation, it will be pure drudgery. No, our motivation is to be based on our love for God because He first loved us. Jesus declared “For God so loved the world (including us—you and me) that He gave His one and only Son (Jesus Christ) that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”. Stop for a moment and seriously think about God’s love as stated by Jesus. We are a people who turn our backs on God, our creator, giver, sustainer, and deliverer. Instead of following His Law, we break His Law. We continually sin against Him in thought, word, and deed. Because God is holy and just, He has leveled His punishment on us, eternal suffering in hell. And God would have every right to say. “I have spoken. You must suffer hell. Period!” However, the sinned against God still desires us to be with God and live with Him forever in heaven. The only way He could deliver us is by having His Son suffer the punishment of our sin in our place. The truly amazing thing is He did just that. By Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross He defeated sin and death for us. Through our God given faith in Him, Jesus’ victory becomes our victory. Our sins are forgiven and we are God’s children now and will be forever in heaven. I didn’t deserve or earn this. I am a poor miserable sinner. Neither did you for the same reason. No one does for the same reason. No, He did it out of love. As Paul wrote, “While we were still powerless, sinners, enemies of God . . . God demonstrated His love for us . . . Christ died for our sins.”

What love! What love! There is no greater purer love than this. It is the love that moves us as a congregation and individuals to reach out with The Gospel. Why, we cannot help but reach out with the Gospel. Thus, in word and deed we share the Gospel with the lost. The rest is in God’s hands. Many times we will not know the outcome. By the power of the Holy Spirit a person may come to faith, but it may not be for days, months, years. Or a person may come to faith but, for various reason, not come to our congregation. But so what! We rejoice and praise God! This is because we are not here to preserve the congregational organization or count members, but extend and build the kingdom through God’s working through our witness of the Gospel. It is my sincere prayer that in the years to come we are always motivated to do all things, especially reaching out with the Gospel, because of the love of God in Christ. Truly, this will fill our hearts with joy.

How good and loving our Lord God is! 150 years! That’s a long time. May God grant us a joyful celebration, one in which we praise Him for His gracious gift of 150 years of ministry here and one which we rededicate ourselves to Word and Sacrament ministry and the witnessing of the Gospel to the lost out of love for God because He first loved us and gave His son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

In the blessed name of Jesus,
Pastor Bob

September is Christian Education Month: I'd like to share with you the following opportunities to study God's Word here at First Trinity:

1. Sunday, September 20th: Christian Education Sunday—Special Worship Service at 10:30AM.
2. Sunday School: Begins Sunday, September 20th at 9:00AM. Sunday School meets in Toddlers Room and Fellowship Hall. (For children Age 3 through Grade 8).
3. Teen Scene: Begins Sunday, September 20th at 9:00AM. Meets in the Meeting Room. (For High School Youth)
4. Sunday Adult Bible Class: Begins Sunday, September 20th at 9:00AM. Meets in the Dorcas Room. Topic is "The Book of Revelation".
5. Bible Breakfast: Begins Tuesday, September 22nd at 9:30AM. Meets in the Dorcas Room. Topic is "The Book of Exodus".
6. Saturday Coffee Clutch Discussion Class: Meets every Saturday at 9:30AM in the Church Lounge. Each week there are discussions on various Biblical topics.
7. The in-depth Bible Class: Meets once a month on a Sunday afternoon. Next class is Sunday, September 20th from 1:15-2:30PM. Meets in the Church Lounge. Topic is "1 Corinthians".
8. Confirmation Classes: There will be a meeting of all those youth in Grade 5 or older and their parents who wish to take Confirmation Classes and be confirmed. The meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th at 6:00PM in the Church proper.



Ladies Aid

Our meeting was opened with devotions done by June. This was followed by the secretary's and treasurer's report. The Ladies Aid were hostesses for the July 19th coffee hour in conjunction with our 150th birthday for Trinity. Janet Vargo, Sally Dannheim and Pauline Brown sold tickets at the carnival held on Saturday, July 11th for the Julie Shaver fundraiser.

Eleanor Cott will research a bit more on the Christmas ball we are planning on selling as a fundraiser for Julie. More information as it becomes available.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:10pm.

Respectfully,
Sally Dannheim, Sec'y.



Dorcas Guild

Dorcas Guild resumes on Monday, September 14 at 9:30am and will also meet on September 28 .
Please join us! All are welcome!





TRINITY CHRISTIAN DAYCARE

Daycare – A Busy Summer

Our summer has been alive with more children than usual. The school age program has numbered between ten and fifteen each day. The new playground has been wonderful addition to the summer fun, especially for these older kids.

The Allegany Art Association, through contact by Eleanor Cott, have done three different workshops – drawing, stick people, and rock painting. The rocks, actually boulder size, are on display in the Fellowship Hall. Many thanks go to Eleanor for arranging this extra perk for the daycare.

We have benefited from three college gals this summer – Leah Gallman, Karen Merry, and Laura Babcock. Their energy and enthusiasm will be missed. Leah returns to Brockport, Karen to Grove City College, and Laura to Alfred.

Fall enrollment is looking up. The “Toddler Turtles” are full! Nancy Link has room for one baby, and our Preschool Penguins have slots for three 3 or 4 year olds. School agers are also welcome to be here in the morning and afternoon with bus transportation to and from the Wellsville Elementary School.

TRINITY CHRISTIAN DAYCARE

will be electing Board Members in September.

Any members of Trinity who are interested in joining the Daycare Board, please contact Linda Gridley.

September Birthdays

- 1 Betty Wood
- 2 Carol Fanton, Ed Flurschutz
- 3 Ed Fahs, Chris Gallmann
- 5 Bernie Gridley, Julianna Patrick
- 10 Cathy Farwell, Jackie Harris
- 11 Robert Broughton, Earl Wright
- 12 Judson Scutt
- 13 Barbara Delity
- 16 Scott Patrick
- 17 Aaron Helms, Adelaide Wightman
- 19 Roger Mallory, Alice Stevens, Patricia Taylor
- 21 Matthew Cornelius, Kate Lamberson
- 23 Patrick Lynch, Marilyn Osgood
- 25 Michele Rech
- 26 Phyllis Graves
- 27 Jodi Austin
- 29 Gary Havens II, Ann Weinbauer
- 30 Julia Wesche

& Anniversaries

- 4 Chuck & Jane White
- 7 Arnold & Linda Hurd
- 11 Randy & Deb Moll
- 13 Mike & Kate Lamberson
- 14 Dave & Jane Pinney
- 16 Brad & Anne Ball,
Randy & Deirdre Roeske
- 18 Gary & Julie Shaver
- 28 Howard & Linda White
- 29 Bill & Ann Weinbauer





A from the DCO.

As it is written in Ecclesiastes chapter 3, there is a time for everything. And now it is time to return to the routine of school and fall activities which will quickly lead into the holiday season. The summer, however, with unusual temperatures, was very busy with the Allegany County Fair in which 174 copies of Sermons and 48 Children's Parables were distributed. Thank you to Pete Carlin for this Audio Ministry. A little extra bonus, was winning first place for our booth. Thank you Gary and Nancy Link for doing a great job! The theme this year was, "Follow in His Footsteps". Another outreach was VBS. There were approximately 60 children on average that attended. What an exciting time and opportunity to help so many children grow in the knowledge of Jesus, as their Lord and Savior. Hats off to a wonderful staff!

In July was the very successful fundraiser for Julie Shaver and family. Despite the wild weather that day, with the help of Hope Lutheran in Rochester, at total of approximately \$9270 was raised with supplemental funds from Thrivent. Julie continues to make progress, but still has a very long road ahead of her. Please remember her in your prayers.

Soon to be arriving will be our 150th Anniversary Edition of our church directory. Hours of hard work went into this by Eleanor Cott. Thank you Eleanor.

Our Daycare continues to thrive and we anticipate full capacity in September. One age group that still has room is the 3 and 4 year olds. If you know of anyone who has children in this age group, please encourage them to contact Carol English at 593-3820.

Now after having a very busy summer, we look to the Fall. We have several exciting and fun activities planned; the first major event will be the 150th Celebration Service of Worship and Praise on Sunday, September 13 followed by the dinner. Please return your RSVP card as soon as possible. In October, on Thursday the 1st, there will be musical concert at the David A. Howe library auditorium to benefit the Compassion Clement Mission in India. Right now it looks as Sheba will be here visiting at this time. Construction has begun on the land. How exciting to see progress and know that we are providing food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for these children. But more importantly we are sharing the Gospel of Jesus with them. One way that you can support this outreach is by picking up a "Crayon Bank" found on the small table in the lounge. Once it is filled, you can drop it off in the office. And finally for this newsletter, remember the Hearts and Hands Festival on Saturday October 24th. Contact Karalee Morris for more information.

Food for thought: Cell phone vs. Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go.....hmm... where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Trust in the Lord and *ASAP (Always say a prayer)

**First Trinity Ev.
Lutheran Church**

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Minister: Reverend Robert S. Morris (585) 593-4439

Director Of Christian Outreach: Betty Wood (585) 593-2405

(DCO)

Daycare Director: Carol English (585) 593-3820

Director Of Music: Carole A. Aldrich



**HANDS AND HARVEST
CRAFT FESTIVAL**

Everyone! Please help us to make this year's craft festival a success. All money that we raise will be used to support the efforts of Sheba to care for the children and teach them about Jesus. This is a great opportunity for all of us to be stewards of the talents God has given us!

The festival will be on Saturday, October 24th from 10AM to 3PM in our Fellowship Hall and Dorcas Room.

Do you do any type of handcraft? Please consider making an item or two to donate to the church table or, renting a table for \$15 and selling your crafts.

Do you like to bake? Do you make jelly, jam, pickles, relish, etc.? We'd love to have any of these items for sale.

Do you speak?? Please invite friends and neighbors to come to the sale (and have lunch! We'll be serving food all day!). Ask anyone you know who is a crafter if they would be interested in renting a table (cheap! \$15).

We will need lots of help the day of the sale. We'll need a few strong men the night before the sale for set up. Please volunteer to help and help willingly if asked!

Call Karalee Morris at 593-9032 or Shelly at 596-6602 for more info.