

Dear Holy Trinity family,

"As there are many members in one body, so we, though many, are one body in Christ." (1 Corinthians 12.12) Our identity as people of faith is so much broader than our membership in the Holy Trinity family! Recently three representatives of our congregation served as voting members to the annual assembly of the New Jersey Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Tina Braender Shinn, Ron Cobb and I. We joined hands with other brothers and sisters in Christ to pray, to learn, and to conduct the business of ministry on a statewide level. In between annual assemblies, there is a Synod Council which serves as the decision-making body of the Synod. This is similar to our Congregational Council's responsibilities and governing authority between annual congregational meetings here at Holy Trinity. When the whole body cannot be gathered, elected representatives meet on its behalf.

Both Tina and Ron have prepared reports about the assembly which immediately follow this Pastor's Pen. I thank them for the gift of their time and interest invested in attending the June 5-6 gathering in East Brunswick, and in writing their reflections. The three of us will also be attending a follow-up assembly on Saturday, November 14, to vote on the Synod's 2010 budget.

Let me share some noteworthy points with you about our rich and sometimes challenging life as NJ ELCA Lutherans:

- **We have faithful, strong leaders, well-informed and courageous.** Bishop Roy Riley chaired the assembly with grace. Church business was conducted with both dignity and efficiency, and an incredible amount of ministry information was disseminated in interesting ways, orally, visually, musically. Our Holy Trinity benevolence dollars are being fruitfully used to feed the hungry here and abroad, to teach both young and old, to evangelize those who don't yet know the Good News of what God has done in Jesus Christ, to welcome immigrants, to lobby our government "to do justice, and to love kindness" (Micah 6.8), to plant new mission congregations, to care for "the least of these who are members of [the Lord's] family" (Matthew 25.40), to prepare new leaders for our church. Holy Trinity members Pastor Bruce Ewen, assistant to the bishop, LuAnn Barnes, confidential secretary to the Bishop, and Diane Guarini, President of the NJ Women of the ELCA, were all present, performing their various aspects of ministry on behalf of the larger church.
- **We live in stressful economic times.** The reason there will be a caboose session to this assembly on November 14 is because it is impossible to predict in June what financial realities will be for the Synod next January. At Holy Trinity we are blessed with faithful givers who are contributing generously and allowing us to honor our monetary commitment to the Synod thus far in 2009. Other congregations are stumbling under the weight of the poor economy. Synod receipts at the end of 2008 were \$200,000 below expectations. Thank you for **your** continued generosity to Holy Trinity, which we pass along in benevolence dollars to our Synod. We are truly blessed to be a blessing to others! The Synod passes along 50% of what it receives to the ELCA. Both Synod and the churchwide expression perform ministry far beyond our reach, but in our name, and most importantly, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of this Body.
- **We are here to welcome those who aren't here yet,** to our congregation, to our synod, to our country. There is a repeated and passionate refrain in Scripture that we should welcome the stranger (Deuteronomy 10.19, Hebrews 13.2). The stranger may be newly arrived among us or may simply be the "strange" one who is different from us in some way. Every year there is a representative from our national church who addresses the Assembly. This year that person was the Director of Advocacy for the ELCA, Andrew Genszler. Drew is an articulate young adult, impassioned to work for justice. He represents us in the halls of power in Washington, and serves as a resource person for other ELCA leaders who lobby the government. He encourages all of us to

be a voice for the voiceless and to encourage/exhort our lawmakers to pass just and compassionate legislation.

- As Martin Luther once said, **we are a church that is always working for and always in need of reform.** This coming summer the churchwide assembly will prayerfully discuss and debate a proposed social statement on human sexuality. This proposed statement affirms sexuality as a gift from God, intended to be expressed in relationships grounded in love and trust. The family's role in teaching love and trust is emphasized, even while acknowledging that families come in many different forms. Our society's responsibility to protect those most vulnerable to sexual exploitation, especially children, is highlighted. The abiding value of traditional marriage is affirmed. These are bedrock beliefs people of faith are able and willing to support. Spirited debate occurred at the synod assembly, however, over the issue of the church's stance toward pastors who are homosexual. Currently the ELCA's expectation is that such pastors remain celibate. The possibility has been raised that the church change its expectation and allow homosexual pastors who are in committed, monogamous, lifelong relationships to perform the ministry of Word and Sacrament. As you can imagine, opinions vary widely. As members of the Body of Christ we are called to study the issue prayerfully, using Scripture to light the way, keeping the Good News central, and not isolating individual verses from their larger context. In Ron Cobb's reflections, he gives info about how to access the proposed social statement on-line. Time invested reading it will be well-spent.
- **We have much to celebrate.** Our mission developers are continually tilling the soil in new corners of the vineyard. The reception of St. Stephan's Grace Community in Newark as the newest congregation in our NJ Synod was a wonder to behold. Its pastors, Moacir Weirich and Maristela Freiburg, arrived in the synod from Brazil at the same time I arrived back from Illinois, almost 13 years ago. They have been working hard ever since to establish this multilingual parish in the Ironbound section of Newark. Our benevolence has helped to fuel ministry there. The congregation is now self-sufficient and fully-fledged. Thanks be to God! We also celebrated the 35th anniversary of ordination of our Bishop Roy Riley. If you'd like to see the baseball card created in honor of the occasion, just ask ☺. Bishop Riley is a faithful pastor, blessed with passion for the poor, gifts of vision, intellect and administration, and a terrific sense of humor. We are blessed to have him as our synod shepherd.
- **There is much work left to do.** In addition to the human sexuality resolution mentioned above, others were adopted regarding a) intentional development of outreach ministries to senior citizens, b) memorializing the churchwide assembly to take necessary steps to abolish racism throughout the church, c) education of congregations regarding immigration issues and advocacy of immigration reforms. Two resolutions referred to Synod Council are a) proposed requirement of full-time church leaders (both clergy and lay) to take two days off each week, and b) proposed paid parenting leave to care for newborn, newly adopted or newly arrived foster children.

Please read Tina and Ron's articles to learn more and to gain their perspective on the synod assembly proceedings. Keep "the church" in your personal prayers: Holy Trinity, the NJ Synod, our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and all Christians everywhere. Especially in this time leading up to the ELCA's churchwide assembly in August, may the Holy Spirit hover within and among us, calling, gathering, enlightening the many members of the one Body of Christ.

In the name of the Trinity, whose name we bear,

Pastor Mary Virginia Farnham

2009 Synod Assembly Reflections

By Tina Braender Shinn

On June 5 & 6, Pastor Mary, Ron Cobb and I attended the New Jersey Synod Assembly in East Brunswick. This was my first time attending and quite honestly I was unsure of what to expect.

As we walked towards the assembly there were numerous displays in the hallway. I was happy to see Diane Guarini at the WELCA table. Fair Trade coffee, CrossRoads, Mission on the Move, and Diakonia (coming soon to Holy Trinity) were also represented as well as many other ministries and programs.

There was a short service with Communion prior to the opening of the assembly. What followed reminded me of our annual meeting in January. A quorum was established, committee reports were reviewed, nominations were made for synod council and treasurer and retired leaders were recognized.

After lunch we really got down to business. New resolutions were read and then were opened up to the floor. Those who wanted to went up to the microphone to discuss/debate their feelings on the resolutions. I found this to be very interesting as many people were torn on some of the issues. Bishop Riley was very adept at monitoring the open forum and kept those speaking to a 2 minute time period. Some folks were cut off mid-sentence but were very respectful when told that their time was up.

Day 2 included a report from the Bishop, a report of the elections from Friday and a synod council report. A representative from the seminary let us know about enrollment and we also got a report from the candidacy committee as to candidates that were approved or endorsed for ordained ministry. A special reception occurred for St. Stephan's Grace Community, Newark as

we welcomed these newest members of the NJ Synod. It was great to see a congregation with the youngest member being 2 to 3 years old and the oldest being well into their 80s.

The Lutheran Social Ministries showed a short film of what they are involved in and spoke about their work helping NJ communities. I was very surprised at how widespread they are and how bountiful their good works are. The Youth CONVO presented a very humorous report. It was great to see so many young people happy to be serving the Lord.

All in all I found this to be a very interesting experience. It helped me to see how our Synod is there to help us and to work with us. Representing Holy Trinity as a voting member was a great honor and I hope that I will be able to attend again next year.

By Ron Cobb

Let me begin by stating that the Lutheran Church in New Jersey is alive and well. The deepening economic crisis in our country certainly has had an impact on some of the initiatives planned for the future but this has not diminished the enthusiasm and excitement that this, the Twenty-second Annual Assembly evidenced.

The opening of the assembly was conducted by Bishop E. Roy Riley, Synod Pastor, in a room that was cavernous. It was filled with all types of humanity in all shapes and sizes and all manner of dress but we all had a common goal and that was to "challenge to change the culture of this church" and not to let our "stuff" get in the way of our best laid plans.

The homily was about Nicodemus, the puzzling rabbi who came in secret to visit Jesus one night. Nicodemus was a nationally-known religious leader and a member of the Sanhedrin as well as a Pharisee. Some bible scholars say Nicodemus did not do enough for Jesus, others say he was a

secret disciple of Jesus. At least he had the courage to give Jesus a decent burial.

Courage [the ability to conquer fear or despair] may well be what some of us will need in the ensuing months as the Lutheran Church meets in churchwide assembly to continue discussing a proposed policy on human sexuality that allows “congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long monogamous, same-gender relationships.”

If you want a more explicit statement go to www.elca.org and type in Studies on Sexuality. If you want still more information load your printer with a lot of paper and again go to www.elca.org and type in Human Sexuality; Gift and Trust [34 pages; both sides]. The statement on human sexuality was one of several resolutions that were voted on at the assembly but it was the one that was for some the most contentious and polarizing.

I'm happy that we live in a democracy where everyone is entitled to their opinion but sometimes, after awhile, I would vote for a benign dictator who would stop the rhetoric and go on to other matters. We finally did. This is not to denigrate those people who spoke, they certainly had strong feelings, but this was not a final promulgation and we will have time to slog through this process however painful it may be for some.

There were four Hearings [opportunities to be heard]. They were: A Conversation on the ELCA Human Sexuality Study, led by Bishop Riley. Why and How Do Lutherans Speak to Government, led by Andrew S. Genszler, a young and very dedicated Christian who presented his material in an exciting and informative way. Book of Faith: Why It Matters, led by the Rev. Paul E. Lutz, and, lastly, Board of Pensions—Financial Wellness, led by Mary Eckman. These took place in four different rooms so you could spend

some time in each room or choose a topic that was the most interesting to you.

While seated at the table, waiting for dinner to be served I struck up a conversation with the person to my right, whose name is Matthew O'Rear. Matthew is the Associate Director of Admissions at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Seated across from us were two people from India and in that three-way conversation it was discovered that Matthew had gone to the same school in India as the two Indians had gone to and knew many of the same teachers. Talk about a small world!

One of the many items on the agenda was Diakonia. Diakonia is a two-year process of spiritual formation and education. It is taught by pastors and lay people and the good news is that one is being formed at Holy Trinity in the fall (or at least that is the plan). More can be learned by talking to our pastors and reading related articles in this Lamplighter.

St. Stephan's Grace Community Church, in the Ironbound section of Newark, was officially received into the Synod. Pastors Moacir Weirich and Maristela Freiberg presided over the colorful, noisy, happy group of people of all walks of life who paraded up to the dais. This was an endeavor 10 years in the making, so their joy and excitement was truly contagious. It was a great sight to behold.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention Resolution II. This is a resolution concerning guidelines for weekly days off for pastors and rostered persons. There were a lot of 'whereas's (eight, in fact!). My favorite, though, was “whereas clearly burnout is a clearly demonstrable phenomenon.”

It's good to know that there is now a policy under consideration that will allow our pastors more time for themselves.

Luke 5:16 states, “Jesus modeled withdrawing privately to be refreshed.”

The Assembly voted to pass the resolution along to Synod Council for its practical consideration.

There were more than 100 pages of various topics that we were given to read, many items to vote on and many resolutions to pass. At the end of the day, I felt privileged to be a small part of this important process.

☞ ARNIE'S CORNER ☜

Five years ago I was attending seminary and was taking a class entitled "Lutheran Confessions." The teacher was and still is The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert. At the start of the semester, we received a list of books that were divided into "must have" and "good for your library."

This was one of them.

In 1535 Martin Luther wrote a letter to his barber on how to pray. The letter is as applicable today as it was 474 years ago. On and off for the past 14 months the question of "How do I pray?" has arisen in more than one conversation. It is for that reason that I am including part of Luther's letter to Peter, the Master Barber.

The entire letter is found in
Martin LUTHER'S
BASIC THEOLOGICAL WRITINGS
Edited by
Timothy F. Lull
Second Edition
Edited by
William R. Russell
Foreword by
Jaroslav Pelikan
Fortress Press
Minneapolis

"Dear Master Peter: I will tell you as best I can what I do personally when I pray. May our dear Lord grant to you and to everybody to do it better than I! Amen.

First, when I feel that I have become cool and joyless in prayer because of other tasks or thoughts (for the flesh and the devil always impede and obstruct prayer), I take my Book of Psalms, hurry to my room, or, if it be the day and hour

for it, to the church where a congregation is assembled and, as time permits, I say quietly to myself and word-for-word the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and, if I have time, some words of Christ or of Paul, or some psalms, just as a child might do.

It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night. Guard yourself carefully against those false, deluding ideas which tell you, "Wait a little while. I will pray in an hour; first I must attend to this or that." Such thoughts get you away from prayer into other affairs which so hold your attention and involve you that nothing comes of prayer for that day.

...I confess and acknowledge great sin and wicked ingratitude on my part because all my life I have made disgraceful use of the Sabbath and have thereby despised God's precious and dear word in a wretched way. I have been too lazy, listless, and uninterested to listen to it, let alone to have desired it sincerely or to have been grateful for it. I have let my dear God proclaim the word to me in vain, have dismissed the noble treasure, and have trampled it underfoot. God has tolerated this with great and divine mercy and has not ceased in his fatherly, divine love and faithfulness to keep on preaching to me and calling me to the salvation of my soul. For this I repent and ask for grace and forgiveness.

...I pray for myself and for the whole world that the gracious Father may preserve us in his holy word and not withdraw it from us because of our sin, ingratitude, and laziness.

...Likewise, a good prayer should not be lengthy or drawn out, but frequent and ardent."

Dr. Luther provides us with a model to utilize in our prayer life. If we approach prayer as a conversation, incorporating some of Luther's suggestions, perhaps we would be more

apt to pray, frequently. I hope you consider Luther's words and they provide you another option for your prayer life.

~~ Pastor Arnie

Spend Quality Time with Your (Faith) Family This Summer

Whether you're planning a 'staycation' or vacation, please be sure to reserve time for worship with your Holy Trinity faith family.

Remember, the worship schedule is the same year 'round: Holy Communion is at 5 p.m. Saturdays, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Sundays and 7 a.m. Wednesdays. We also offer a healing service with Holy Communion at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month.

✠ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ✠

Library

Sunday School is closed over the summer months, but you can still borrow books from the library. During the Sunday School recess you may keep your books for three weeks instead of two. Be sure to sign them out, following the borrowing guide posted on the bulletin board over the library cart downstairs or on top of the library kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

We have over 800 books and CDs in our library. How many have YOU read? Tell us your favorites☺.

For Your Enjoyment

Here are two poems about books:

So I picked out a book
on my own
from the shelf
and I started to read
on my own
to myself.

And nonsense and knowledge
came tumbling out,
whispering mysteries,
history's shout
the wisdom of wizards,

some songs of the ages
all wonders of wandering
wonderful pages.

-- Karla Kuskin

Hello Book!

Hello book!
What are you up to?
Keeping yourself to yourself,
shut in between your covers,
a prisoner high on a shelf.
Come on book!
What is your story?
Haven't you ever been read?
Did you think I would just pass by you,
And pick me a comic instead?
No way book!
I'm your reader.
I open you up. Set you free.
Listen, I know a secret!
Will you share your secrets with me?

-- N. M. Bodecker

Calling All Harry Potter Fans!

FYI – The movie based on Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince opens in July!

✠ EVANGELISM ✠

diakonia® Coming to Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity is now a teaching site for the diakonia® mission of the New Jersey Synod. We will be starting a class in September and we anticipate a good response from the local churches because of our location.

diakonia® is a series of 12 classes presented over a two year period (one night a week, agreed upon at the outset by student and teacher). The courses are set up in a Series A and B format. At Holy Trinity we will begin with Series A and the first course will be Introduction to the New Testament. The length will be three hours, one night a week, for five weeks.

The second course will be Church History–The First 400 Years, and the last course will be Practical Ministry I –Biblical Images of the Life of the Church

(diakonia, koinonia, leiturgia and kerygma).

These three courses will end prior to the start of Advent to allow the student to participate in the Advent celebration of the church.

I can tell you that there is an excitement that builds up among the students that is almost electric. There is also a bond that develops and continues. I still maintain contact with some of my fellow classmates.

Yes, I am a diakonia® graduate and went on to enter ordained ministry. I am proud of the program and the students who go through it. I also understand that two years is a significant chunk of time to commit to, but approaching it class-by-class does make it seem less daunting. The reading assignments are not difficult and can be quite interesting.

The fees related to the program amount to \$300 per year, which includes books, a one-time registration fee of \$25, the cost of retreats (typically one a year) and a graduation fee of \$25 to \$40, which includes a commemorative diakonia® cross.

The above information and more can be found in the booklet "diakonia®, Program Overview and Course Descriptions," which is available at Holy Trinity.

If you are interested in becoming a student and/or seek further information, please see me. 'hope to see you in class!

~~ Pastor Arnie

Congratulations to the Class of 2009

Our thanks to those of you who responded to our request to publish information about Holy Trinity graduates.

Please join us in congratulating:

Melissa Rose Barrella, who graduated with a JD degree from Seton Hall University Law School on May 22, 2009. She will be clerking for a criminal judge in Monmouth County next year. Melissa plans to pursue a career as a

criminal attorney in the prosecutor's office.

Jeffrey M. Beal, Jr., who graduated from Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Ct. on May 17, 2009. Jeff graduated with a BS degree in Biomedical Science from the school of Health Sciences. While attending Quinnipiac, Jeff was a member of the Phi Sigma Honor Society for his research work in vaccines. He is currently studying for the MCAT exam and plans to attend medical school in the future.

Emily Dodenhoff, who graduated from Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, in December, 2008. She attended the graduation ceremony on May 17, 2009.

Emily will attend Montclair University in September.

☞ BLANKETEERS ☞

The Trinity Blanketeers will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, July 13 in the classroom in the back of Fellowship Hall.

We welcome all who enjoy knitting, crocheting or sewing blankets for fragile children. We also appreciate those who work at home and drop blankets off at the church office.

For more information about Project Linus, please call me at (732) 449-1942.

Thank you all for your support!

~~ Gloria Smith

☞ CHILDREN OF GOD ☞

During the month of June, Holy Trinity welcomed the following children into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Name: Henry Patrick Petrie

Date of Baptism: June 14

Sponsors: Dawn and Ehab Ali

Henry was born June 15, 2008 to Vicki and David Petrie. His brother, Will, is 22 months old.

Name: Matthew James Forester

Date of Baptism: June 21

Sponsors: Andrew Harman and James Harman

Matthew was born Feb. 17, 2009 to Matthew and Kate Forester. He is the grandson of Holy Trinity members Jim and Shirin Harman.

Name: Matthew Reagan Lopes

Date of Baptism: June 28

Sponsors: Susan and Frank Del Toro

Matthew was born March 25, 2009 to Shalena and Brett Lopes. His big brother, Justin, is two and one-half years old.

☞ WEDDING BLESSINGS ☞

Carol Vizcarra and Norman Noe were married by Pastor Mary on Saturday, June 13, in the Holy Trinity sanctuary.

Their Best Man was George Ward and Amie Hotchkiss was the matron of honor.



Catherine Bioni and Peter Larrabee were married by Pastor Mary on Friday, June 26, in the Holy Trinity sanctuary.



☞ REST IN PEACE ☞

Our love and prayers are with the family of

† David "Larry" Shirley, who died April 20, 2009.

Pastor Mary presided at the memorial service for Larry on Saturday, June 13 in the Holy Trinity sanctuary.

Larry's wife is Holy Trinity member Jane (Kutz) Shirley. Their family includes Holy Trinity members Doug Kutz and his wife, Donna.

† Everett Morgan, who died June 20, 2009.

Pastor Mary presided at the funeral liturgy for Everett on Saturday, June 27 in the Orender Funeral Home, Brielle.

Everett is the father-in-law of Holy Trinity member Allison Morgan and grandfather of Taylor and Scott. We extend our condolences to Allison's husband, Elliot, and his entire family.

☞ BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY ☞

On the first Sunday of each month, Holy Trinity offers bereavement support to those grieving a loss or a change of some kind. The group will meet at 8 a.m. on July 5 in the Sunday Church School classroom on the first floor in Fellowship Hall. Chris Ann Waters, author and certified bereavement specialist, leads the discussion. Consecutive attendance is not required and people are welcome to attend as needed.

The most recent "Transitions," a monthly devotional written by Ms. Waters that addresses matters of grief and change, is printed here for the benefit of Lamplighter readers:

Fathers and Days

*A word spoken in due season,
how good it is. Proverbs 15:23*

Early June brings a host of personal remembrances and historic accounts of D-Day. When this anniversary is marked, it is moving to read or listen to elderly war veterans speak of their experience. This year I had the opportunity to listen to a veteran speak specifically about the brotherhood the men felt. He explained that the danger and the unknown created a bond between the men that was strong and unusual.

One point this gentleman made that was of particular interest was when he spoke about hidden wounds. He and other soldiers were inclined to conceal their wounds as best they could in order not to be taken out of combat. They wanted to stay with their fellow soldiers. Moreover, he explained that men were embarrassed to be wounded and taken out of combat. Therefore,

they would hide injuries as best they could in order to continue participating in battle. This same desire was expressed to me by a soldier I once met at Walter Reed. The officer put it this way, *all I want to do is heal and get back to my buddies. We have to be there for each other.*

Several years ago I was invited to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. to meet with wounded officers who had returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. I was moved for many reasons. However, the camaraderie among the officers was particularly impressive. A friend of mine arranged for my visit there as he had affiliation with Walter Reed and he felt my skills in bereavement and communication would be effective in helping these men and their families. I met one-on-one with officers; each had completed two to three tours of duty in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. Each had serious injuries, which would not allow them to return to combat although they wanted to. They were informed about my visit and who I was, and through their pain each shared some thoughts and feelings about their experience. Woven into each conversation was gratitude for the others they served with and those who had served before them. As I looked at these once healthy and strong bodies now maimed and, in most cases, altered for life, their heroism was palpable. I felt gratitude within me for all their sacrifices yet these humble patriots stunned me with their generous expressions of gratitude *to me* for coming. Before I left each room, I asked if I could pray for them; not one declined prayer. As I took each hand and prayed, I was mindful to include the "buddies" they specifically mentioned in our conversation.

For these men, and our women, in the armed forces, *being there* for fellow soldiers and for their country is a priority. However, we know that to fulfill this calling is costly. There are various losses involved such as loss of limb,

mental soundness, emotional equilibrium, and loss of life. Moreover, for every soldier serving in the military, there are those at home who wait, pray, or grieve. Each soldier's life is representative of a group of people behind the scenes trying to carry on to raise and educate children, stretch finances, and cope with the realities of war. These sacrifices are real and challenging. They are protracted when a death occurs and grief is a daily weight. For those who have been touched by such a loss, the emotional toll is heavy. For those who have a peripheral view of these losses, reading comments by family members of soldiers allows one to enter into their grief.

Father's Day honors fatherhood and all that our dads do, and have done, to shape our lives. They include the fathers who are overseas now—or have been—who shape our country and others. Honoring dads will be as grand as special breakfasts of burnt toast or odd shaped pancakes made by young hands that thrill a dad's heart. There will be handmade cards written in crayon as well as a multitude of carefully chosen greeting cards hand-delivered or mailed for a timely receipt. There will also be a longing for those who are not present to share the day. Absences may be due to military service, distance—emotional or physical—illness, or death. For some, Father's Day will be one of bittersweet memories that stir emotions in unexpected ways. However Father's Day is spent, for those who believe in God through Christ, every thought and feeling will be accompanied by God the Father's love.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit provides comfort, encouragement, and support when memories or absence touch a heart. Be they good or odd remembrances, God the Father is present with each one of us to help us comprehend matters in relationships, and offer unspoken support in matters inexplicable. For the Christian, life's realities are no different than for those

who go without faith in God. However, faith in God assures His presence and the advantage that one will never go through life's difficulties alone. God is there. Finally, faith in God promises that because of Jesus there will be a reunion one day with those we love who have gone ahead.

Fathers can be acknowledged on all days for their gifts, contributions, limitations, and attempts. Their courage of character is evident on the battlefield and in the hospital room. It is there and easy to see when they are coaching little league or attending Father-Daughter dances. It is still there on days when they lose their tempers and ask for forgiveness or lose their jobs and ask to still be needed. There are days when they are full of hope and faith, and times when life seems to get the upper hand and they are depleted. Whatever the days bring, life and all its predictable and unpredictable happenings make dads what they are and what they are not. The God of all fathers accepts dads just the way they are. God loves and honors fathers—on their days of victory and days of defeat. For in all days, these men are God's and He loves them so. May we.

Lord God, be with fathers today and each day. Strengthen their faith and their conviction to do what is just in Your eyes. Give them courage to stand for what is right even when it is unpopular with their children or in our turbulent society. Be with fathers who miss their sons and daughters for reasons known to You. Thank You for Your abiding presence as their Father, as our Father. With love in Jesus Your Son, Amen.

☞ WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (WELCA) ☚

The Circle of Faith will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, July 20.

Elisabeth Circle will resume regular meetings in the fall. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. Monday, September 14, at church.

During the summer, our members will collect items for health kits to go to Lutheran World Relief. These will be assembled at our next meeting. We welcome all newcomers. Call Louise Moenke (732-899-6846) for more information.

The annual summer luncheon will be at Noon on Sunday, August 9, in the Union Landing restaurant, Brielle. The cost is \$25. All women of Holy Trinity are welcome to attend. Watch weekly bulletins for registration forms.

☞ WORSHIP AND MUSIC ☜



The Holy Trinity Choir School

A Complete Music Education Experience
in the RSCM Tradition

Enroll Your Child Today!

Music Education for all children age 3–grade 12.

- The 2009/2010 program year will feature
 - A new ensemble for junior high and high school age girls
 - A new ensemble for children in grades 1 & 2
 - Access to piano and organ instruction (limited spots available)
 - A field trip to Washington National Cathedral
 - Two major performances with orchestra

When does the Choir School meet?

Cherub Choir Rehearsals (age 3–Kindergarten) are held on Wednesdays, September through June. The rehearsal time will be finalized once prospective families are consulted. Children spend time discovering their singing voices, developing their sense of rhythm, and learning age appropriate repertoire. The Cherub Choir sings approximately six times per year at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A complete performance schedule will be distributed at the beginning of each term (Fall/Winter & Winter/Spring).

Jr. Chorister Rehearsals (grades 1–2) are held from 4–5 p.m. on Wednesdays, September through June. The Jr. Chorister Choir is the training choir which prepares children to enter the Holy Trinity Chorister Program. Rehearsals are based on the RSCM curriculum but are more relaxed. Jr. Choristers sing at regular intervals from September through June. A complete performance schedule will be distributed at the beginning of each term (Fall/Winter & Winter/Spring).

Chorister Rehearsals (grades 3–8) are held from 4–5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, September through June. Choristers use the RSCM curriculum *Voice for Life*, which focuses on age-appropriate vocal training, sight-singing, and music theory. The Holy Trinity Choristers sing at regular intervals from September through June. A complete performance schedule will be distributed at the beginning of each term (Fall/Winter & Winter/Spring).

Teen Girl Rehearsals (Jr. High–Young Adult) are held from 6–8 p.m. on Thursdays, September through June. The first hour of rehearsal focuses on group vocal training, ear training, and instruction in music theory. During the second hour of rehearsal, the girls will join the adult choir for rehearsal and be dismissed at 8 p.m. Teen Girls use the same RSCM curriculum as the Choristers and are eligible for all awards, trips and courses. The ensemble sings at regular intervals from September through June as their own choir and as members of the Adult Choir. A complete performance schedule will be distributed at the beginning of each term (Fall/Winter & Winter/Spring).

Young Men whose voices have already changed are invited to join the Adult Choir which rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7–9 p.m. Young Men use the same RSCM curriculum as the Choristers and are eligible for all awards, trips, and courses. A complete performance schedule will be distributed at the beginning of each term (Fall/Winter & Winter/Spring).

Is there any cost?

The core of the Holy Trinity Chorister Program is offered free of charge as an outreach program of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. However, when major events are planned, parents are asked to cover the cost of registration fees and/or take an active role in fund-raising activities.

How do I apply?

By Phone: Call (732) 223-0533 x14 to speak with Mr. Ned Perwo, the Director of Music

By Email: NPerwo@holytrinity-nj.org

Online Registration forms are available at www.holytrinitynj.com under "Choir School."



Psallam Spiritu et Mente- I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also.

✂ MAILBAG ✂

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Pastor Mary and Pastor Arnie for their faithful visits with prayers and Holy Communion shared with my husband, the Rev. Robert Wuchter while he was hospitalized and in various care facilities over the past several months. We are also very aware of the fact that many of the congregation were holding us up in prayer and we are so very grateful as this brought us much comfort.

The outpouring of Holy Trinity members past and present that sent cards and well wishes and then expressions of sympathy as well as visitation to the funeral home and/or the service at Atonement in Asbury Park, many from some distance, was just overwhelming. We cannot tell you how much this has meant to our entire family. The stories that many shared with us will also remain as very special memories that we will cherish for many years to come.

Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one and may God richly bless you.

With love and gratitude,

Eleanor F. Wuchter
and the entire Wuchter family



Dear Faith Family at Holy Trinity,

The reception into your midst on Sunday was so warm and wonderful. I must say "Thank you" to everyone for all the planning that the day required. The luncheon was so enjoyable; the people were all so welcoming and friendly. Thank you also for the Bible. It is a most precious gift. When I went to Prague this past month, I visited the church where Jan Hus preached. One of the goals he had 100 years before Luther was to translate the Bible into the Czech language so people could read it for

themselves. He was burned at the stake for this effort. It took another 100 years—and Martin Luther—to translate the Bible. How fortunate we are that we can each own a Bible and read it in our own language! We take it for granted, but it is truly a precious gift. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Lucille Adelman



Gloria Smith would like to share this letter she received from Blankie Depot:

Hi Gloria,

I received the quilted, knitted and crochet blankets from the Holy Trinity Blanketeers. One was more beautifully made than the next.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all the gals who contribute so compassionately to our mission.

We will be delivering handmade "hugs" and hats to children undergoing treatment and care at Raritan Bay Medical Center next week and the group's contributions will be part of that donation.

I wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer. Many blessings.

Hugs from here,
Hillary



Dear Ministerium Members:

I last wrote to you in early April to report on the February/March/Easter activities of the Food Pantry. I now want to bring you up to date on our activities for April and May.

In the month of April we served 68 families (235 people) of which 20 families were new recipients. In May we served 82 families (273 people) with 14 new families requesting our services. In addition to the food, we provided \$3330 in Acme gift cards during the two-month period. We also spent approximately \$1600 on food purchases from the

Monmouth-Ocean Food Bank and local grocery stores.

We are anticipating the move back into our new pantry facility at Manasquan Presbyterian during the first week of July. We continue to need your donations of food and funds. Grocery items that are needed on an on-going basis include cereal, pancake mix and syrup, canned meat and stew, spaghetti sauce and pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, boxed potatoes and rice, juice, mayonnaise, coffee and tea,

cake mixes and icing, cookies and snacks.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mickey Kuntz,
Chairperson
Manasquan Food Pantry
(Sponsored by local churches.
Administered by deacons of
First Presbyterian Church)

