

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

APRIL 2010

Agenda

*I came that they may have life,
and have it abundantly.*

John 10.10

You should be receiving this issue of the *Trinity Chimes* on Easter or right around Easter morning, the high point of our covenant life together, when we celebrate that Christ has defeated even the powers of death. We will proclaim; we will sing, “Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

However, in our excitement of the season I’d like to ask a basic question, “So what?”

I don’t mean to be dismissive of this most holy of holidays, but genuinely inquire, so what? What difference does it make?

After the chocolate bunnies have been eaten, the Easter lilies have dropped their petals, and the colored eggs long since made into egg salad, what difference does Easter make? Christ is risen. So what?

Well, I believe it makes all the difference.

We Christians are considered an Easter People. Even in the central act of our communal life—gathering to worship together every week, going to “church”—is a celebration of the Lord’s Day. Most Christians do not gather on the Sabbath, but rather, gather on Sunday morning, a purposeful act to celebrate weekly that first Easter Sunday morning when the disciples went to the tomb and found it empty, that Christ had risen, that Christ is alive.

So what difference does it make? Well perhaps the first answer that comes to mind is death and eternity. Certainly important subjects! Part of the significance (the so what) of Easter is the reality of redemption, that God in Christ destroyed the power of death over us. We believe in the resurrec-

tion of the body. We believe in the life eternal. Pretty important and amazing stuff!

While not to deny the great importance of life after death I believe that Easter has even greater significance for the here and now. Christ is risen means Christ is alive. By the power of the Holy Spirit Christ is present. Here. Today. Now. The hymn that we sing, *Gather Us In*, puts it wonderfully,

“Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years
away—here in this place the new light
is shining, now is the kingdom, and
now is the day.”

So what? What difference does it make? The difference is that the risen Lord is with us and is making all things new. The difference is that our eternal life does not begin after we die but is happening even now. The difference is that everyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The difference is that because of Easter, we are an Easter people. Everything about us is because and about God in Christ.

Which brings me to the title of this message, agenda. Easter is the agenda of God. And as such, Easter needs to be the agenda of God’s people the church.

Sometimes we forget. Sometimes we get off track. So we need a reminder. We celebrate Easter. We live Easter. We are an Easter people. Christ is risen. He is alive. And perhaps even most amazing, Christ is working in and through his people, his body, the church, and Christ’s agenda is ours. That God would live through us bringing in a new creation, making all things new. That the church would be a place where new life is celebrated and nurtured. That the church would be a place where people and

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

Communities are transformed, where justice is lived, where peace is practiced, where grace abounds, and love is experienced.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed Alleluia!

P.S. I will be traveling to Israel and the Palestinian Territories from April 6-19 on a delegation from the RCA and our sister denomination, the Christian Reformed Church. We will be visiting holy sites to be sure, but we will also be experiencing contemporary life in the Holy Lands. I will be quite excited to share my experiences with you once we return. But in the mean time, I dearly covet your prayers. Please lift up our delegation as well as all the people of Palestine and Israel. Pray for Peace.

Stewardship and Finance Report

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>February 2010</u>
Personnel Expenses	7369.00
Utilities	1834.00
Ministry/Supplies	503.00
Maintenance	75.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	90.00
Other Disbursements	50.00
Total Expenditures	9921.00

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>February 2010</u>
Weekly Envelopes	5109.00
Weekly Plate	198.00
Benevolences	396.00
Memorial Fund	1205.00
Special Offerings	1450.00
Other Receipts	120.00
Total Receipts	8478.00

Music Program

The Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association will sponsor a music program on Sunday April 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Ridgewood Presbyterian Church, 5914 70 Ave. (off of Forest Ave. near Myrtle Ave.) There will be choral speaking, instrumental music by children and adults, liturgical dance, "Name That Hymn", and an old time hymn sing. A free will offering will be taken for the Queens Federation of Church's Food Pantry.

All are welcome. Come to sing or listen.

Morgenglanz der Ewigkeit

Morgenglanz der Ewigkeit,
Licht vom unerschöpfem Lichte,
Schick uns diese Morgenzeit
Deine Strahlen zu Gesichte
und vertreib durch deine Macht
unsere Nacht.

First stanza of a hymn by
Christian Knorr von Rosenroth
(1636 - 1689)

Morning light, eternal glow,
Light from never-ending Light,
Shed your radiance here below
And dispel by thy might,
all our night.

Building Repair Fund Drive

The building repair fund drive is underway with a goal of \$20,000.00. The money will be used for new energy efficient windows for the fellowship hall, renovations to the church office, and upgrades to the electrical system. As of the end of March we have received donations of \$6,595.00. Thank you to all who have contributed so far. Additional offering envelopes for the fund drive are available at the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex.

Worship Schedule for April

Good Friday—April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday—April 4

April 11, 18, 25—Regular Worship Service
at 10:00 a.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on April 2 and 4