

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

OCTOBER 2009

It Takes a Village

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

-Acts of the Apostles 2:42

Just about once a month I gather with a small group of other "food processors" and we package olives and spices, nuts and fruit, as well as turning large wheels of cheese into manageable individual chunks. This happens at a local food cooperative that I belong to along with 14,000 people. The coop functions as a member-owned grocery store with each member contributing labor to the operation, doing a whole range of jobs—inventory, maintenance, office, stocking, childcare, and food processing among others. And although the food coop's primary objective is a philosophical one—food that tends to be more holistically healthy of the crunchy granola type, organic, local, etc.—it also delivers this product at a significant savings, sometimes 20 to 40% savings on groceries. It's a great idea and a great community.

That said, it has its challenging aspects. Basically, the members of the coop are volunteers. They may be writers or janitors in their "day job" but serve as a stock girl or cashier once a month. Don't get me wrong, but sometimes volunteers don't bring the most efficient tools to their assignments. That's the reality of a member-owned volunteer cooperative system. It's not quite the same thing as a bottom-lined oriented business. But good because for the food coop we believe some things—certain beliefs, ideas, values—take greater priority. But challenging because it's less efficient, a bit chaotic.

It's not too difficult to see where I'm going here. Churches sometimes function in much the same way. A community gathered around a particular philosophical idea, value, belief. Everyone having a task to do. And although I think we are much more than simply volunteers, we are that too. Along with that come challenges.

I'd like to focus on two aspects here though. In community, everyone has a place and a purpose. In the church we call that calling and vocation and fellowship. Everyone has a role, and the church is one of the places for us to live our vocations out to be in fellowship together and serve one another. We serve not simply in the church but outside of it as well. Everyone.

The other aspect is that it comes with challenges. And not always entirely clear what our specific vocational gifts may be. The church is a place where we can learn about who we are and our own giftedness. The challenge comes in are we willing to walk alongside others in discerning our gifts and others gifts, and help others learn and grow into their vocations.

You and I are in this thing together. We are called to be and do community. We are called to be and do fellowship, to learn and grow together, and to share who we are, our God given gifts, challenges and all.

In Christ's Grace & Peace,
Pastor Tom

Crop Walk Update

Four area churches including Trinity Reformed participated in the CROP Walk sponsored by the Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association on September 12. Twelve people represented our church and raised a total of \$ 640.00. We wish to thank everyone who walked or contributed. Special thanks again this year to Hanna and Theo Hessenius who secured two generous donations from an organization that they belong to.

Communication and Care

It is the responsibility of the Elders along with the Pastor to provide for the care and nurture of the church family. Especially during times of medical needs/concerns and hospitalizations, please communicate to an elder or the church office so that we may all minister God's grace most effectively.

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

Passing

Three long time members of our church passed away during August. They were Ruth Kamph, Elizabeth Lehr, and Madeline Toth. We are grateful for their participation in the life of Trinity Reformed Church over the years.

Congratulations to the Trautmanns

Amanda and Peter Mark Trautmann welcomed their new son, Noah David Trautmann, into the world at 11:00 p.m. on August 31. Noah weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. Congratulations also to Oma Marieanna and Opa Peter.



Finance Update

From January 1, 2009 until this September 30, we received a total in donations from the offering envelopes and church plate of \$58,391.00. During that same time, our expenses were \$75,784.00. In order to meet our expenses we had to use both principal and interest from our annuities to make up the difference. Obviously from a financial point this is not a satisfactory situation and we ask you to keep this in mind when budgeting how much you will give to your church.

In order to keep the congregation more fully aware of our church finances we will be publishing income vs. expenditures each month in the Sunday bulletin.

Newsletter Articles

If you have any news or something that you would like included in our newsletter, please submit it to Bill Voges no later than the third Sunday of the month.

Das Paradoxe unserer Zeit

Heute haben wir groessere Haeuser, jedoch kleinere Familien, schoenere Haeuser, aber gebrochene Heime.
Wir haben mehr Bequemlichkeit, aber weniger Zeit.
Wir haben einen hoeheren Bildungsgrad mit mehr Wissen, aber weniger gesunden Menschenverstand und Urteilsvermoegen.
Wir haben mehr Experten, aber mehr Probleme, mehr Medizin, aber weniger gute Gesundheit.

Wir haben unsere Besitztueemer multipliziert, aber unsere Werte reduziert.

Wir haben hoehere Gebaeude, aber niedrigere Temperamente, breitere Strassen, aber schmalere Standpunkte.
Wir geben mehr aus, aber haben Weniger von Wert,
Wir kaufen mehr, geniessen es aber weniger.

Wir sind die ganze Strecke zum Mond und zurueck gewesen, aber wir haben Muehe, die Strasse zu ueberqueren, um unsere Nachbarn zu treffen.

Wir haben das Atom, aber nicht unser Vorurteil gespalten.
Wir haben gelernt zu eilen, aber nicht zu warten.

Wir haben hoeheres Einkommen, aber niedrigere Moral.
Wir haben grosse Maenner mit wenig Charakter.
Wir haben mehr Computer, aber weniger persoennlichen Kontakt.
Wir haben mehr Quantitaet statt Qualitaet.

Was ist zu tun?

Verbringen Sie mehr Zeit mit Ihrer Familie und Ihren Freunden und Bekannten.

Sagen Sie ihnen, wie sehr sie sie lieben.

Lesen Sie mehr.

Beten Sie oeffter.

Setzen Sie sich ab und zu mal hin und bewundern Sie die Aussicht.

Schaetzen Sie jeden Tag, den Sie leben, als ein ganz besonderes Geschenk

Gottes und danken Sie IHM dafuer!

Worship Schedule for October

October 4, 11, 18, 25—Regular Worship Service

at 10:00 a.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on October 4.