

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2009

Plans & Goals

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:12-14

The alarm goes off at 6 am. From 6 to 6:30 I check my email, *Facebook*, and peruse the *NYTimes.com* while I drink my morning coffee. At 6:30 I do my stretching while the boys (Sarii and Prince) do their “morning routines”. Hopefully, I’m out the door before 7 for a morning run.

That’s part of the plan anyway... It doesn’t always work out that way.

The plan is to run a couple of miles every few days with the goal of better health. Better health? Surely we all want better health; a worthy goal, right? But how does one attain that goal? Usually you have to plan and then follow through. I’ll be honest with you, I’ve been planning to go running for sometime. But so many things got in the way. First, it was too cold. (Like, back in April.) Then it was too rainy. (Most of June.) Then it got too hot, at least too hot for me. There was VBS, and then traveling, then one more excuse after another. But now that it’s autumn—my most favorite season—the weather has been excellent for running. And there is something else about the Fall, it’s a time of new beginnings: it’s back to school time, a “new” year. Therefore, it’s a good time to make new plans and to set goals.

Now about that goal, better health—it may seem sort of broad but that’s ok; it’s an important goal. But how does one “measure” how well one is achieving that goal? Again, I suppose there’s a broad spectrum of measurements, a multitude of ways to measure one’s

health. For one, there’s the weight thing. Always nice to loose a little extra weight. Then there’s muscle tone. There’s also an issue of endurance. But mostly, I just want to be healthier. So I’m hoping that by running I may better deal with stress. By better dealing with stress, I may sleep better. By sleeping better, I may have more productive wake-full hours. You see where this is going. I simply want to be healthier.

One more thing about better health, the plans and goals to gain it don’t come to a conclusion. Running happens to be part of the process for now, but perhaps later I’ll end up biking more. Who knows. The reality is that exercise is not just some “program” I have to go through or complete, physical activity has to become part of my “lifestyle,” part of the process of my life. Also, healthy eating. And sleeping, etc. Better health is not something that I will ever completely arrive at, that is, the goal will never come to a conclusion once I reach it and end. Rather, the plans and goal will be something that continue throughout my life (or that should continue.)

Now here’s the spiritual application: it’s the same with faith and the church. Our faith life is not some program that once we complete we’re done. No. It’s a process of becoming more healthy, of being transformed to become more Christ-like, of, as the Apostle Paul says, “pressing on.” We press on to reach the goal. That’s how the church is. It is never static but always changing, being remade, renewed, transformed. The church, the healthy church, is not something that is simply attained or achieved but is something that we continually press on together to be.

Let me be clear here, God is the one who has done the work. But in faith, we respond, actively and in relationship, we live out that fellowship in community that is the church. It is our nature however, to come up with excuses and well, to be honest, become spiritually lazy. A lot like how I can find many reasons to not go running today. So in the same ways, we need to make plans. And perhaps most importantly, evaluate goals.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Plans and Goals	1
Day by Day	2
Write it Down	2
Old Clothes Needed	2
Evening Bible Study	2
Recycle Bins	2
New Members Class	2
Confirmation Class	2
Crocodile Dock	3
CROP Walk	3
Worship Schedule	3



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

(Continued from page 1)

What is your goal? What is the goal for your faith? What is your goal for the church? Have you ever thought about that before? What is Trinity Reformed Church's goal? Take some time and seriously consider it. And I hope you'll share it with me too. We'll "strain forward" and "press on" together in the weeks and months ahead. But for now, I need to go running.

In Christ's Grace & Peace,
Pastor Tom

These are the words in German to the Swedish hymn: " Day by Day" by Lina Sandell

Nur von einem Augenblick zum andern,
Gar nicht besser ich es wuentschen kann!
Liegt ja alles in des Vaters Haenden,
Soll ich, als Sein Kind, wohl klagen dann?
Er mich traegt auf Seinem Vaterherzen
Und Er gibt ja einen jeden Tag
Treulich mir mein Teil von Freud und Schmerzen,
Denn Er weiss, was mir nur nuetzen mag.

Er selbst ist mir alle Tage nahe,
In der Not besond're Gnad' Er hat.
Taeglich will Er meinen Kummer tragen,
Denn der Herr ist sowohl Kraft als Rat.
Ja, Sein teures Erbteil zu bewahren,
Diese Sorge lud Er selbst auf sich;
Wie der Tag, so soll die Kraft auch werden,
Dies Versprechen gab Er auch fuer mich.

Hilf mir drum, zu ruhen still und sicher
Nur an Deiner Brust, Herr Jesu Christ,
Nicht durch eignen Eifer zu versuchen,
Was in Dir allein nur moeglich ist.
Hilf mir, Herr, hier immer froh zu leben
In dem Schatten Deiner Vaterhand.
Nur von einem Augenblick zum andern,
Bis verklaert ich geh ins Heimatland.

Write It Down

If you have a particular announcement for the bulletin, prayer update, or any vital information especially for Pastor Tom or Elaine, please, please, please write it down.

Old Clothes Needed

Do you have old jeans or t-shirts that you don't really need any longer just taking up space? Someone could use them. Deacon Sands from St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church has asked for donations of old jeans and t-shirts (not undershirts). They are used for our local homeless populations. Please leave items in the narthex. Thanks!

Wednesday Evening Bible Study and Fellowship

Our Wednesday evening Bible Study and Fellowship has returned and will continue every other week. Our next gathering will be Wednesday, Sept. 23rd. All are welcome!

Recycle Bins

Maybe you have noticed that a generous member in our congregation has given the Church new recycle and trash bins in both the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen. One thing we could all do better is disposing of our refuse in the appropriate marked container. All unsoiled paper products including cardboard should be placed in the bin with the clear bag and green label. Plastic, glass, and metal cans and bottles and such should be placed in the bin with the clear bag and blue label. Finally, remaining trash should be placed into the bin with the black trash bag.

New Members Class/Profession of Faith

A new members class will be taking place beginning Sunday, September 20th from 11:30 to 1 p.m. and will continue for four weeks. If you are an adult interested in church membership, or even if you have been a long time member here at Trinity but would like to deepen your understanding of church membership, please sign up! A sign up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Confirmation/Profession of Faith

A confirmation/profession of faith class for young people will be taking place beginning in mid September. If you are a youth interested in further living out your baptismal vow in church membership, please stay tuned for more information in coming bulletins and newsletter.

“Crocodile Dock” – A Huge Success!!!



“Crocodile Dock” was the theme of this year’s Vacation Bible School. From July 20 to 24, Trinity was transformed into a misty bayou where 69 children, ages 4 – 12, learned to **“Fear Not”** because “God is with us,” “God is powerful,” “God does what He says He’ll do,” “God gives us life,” and “God cares for us.”

What a fantastic week we all had! Every night the children experienced Jesus’ Love and learned about God’s Word through hands-on Bible stories, rockin’ worship songs, scrumptious snacks, fun crafts, and exciting games. The week ended with a Celebration Service on Sunday July 26 followed by a BBQ attended by some 150 people! Thank you for coming and all the donations of food and drink. A great time was had by all! Check out Trinity’s website at www.trinityqueens.org for pictures of all the fun.

Once again this year we participated in Operation Kid to Kid, which is one of the world’s largest child-to-child service outreach programs. Every child made a “comfort critter” for children in North America who have been victims of disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, or fires. Each “critter” held a special message from the child who made it. There were messages of God’s love and promises, and messages of hope and encouragement. The empathy shown by our VBS’ers for these children was just remarkable. This was an experience they won’t soon forget.

Our Crocodile Dock Team would like to thank all the members of Trinity for their prayers, love and support, and generous donations. Without you we could never offer this wonderful experience to the children of our community. God Bless you all!

And to the over 43 volunteers of our Crocodile Dock Team, a special thank you! Thank you for the hours and hours of hard work, your energy and dedication, and most of all for the genuine love you have for these children. Because of you all they have experienced the Love and Promises of our Lord and have learned what an exciting adventure our Faith in God can be. We at Trinity are so lucky to have you as part of our family!

It has been such a pleasure sharing this experience with all of

you and I hope to see you all next year when we embark on our “High Seas Expedition”!!

Love and Peace,

Liz Burzynski



Some of the VBS Staff

CROP Walk

The Ridgewood Glendale Sunday School Association sponsored another CROP Walk on Saturday September 12 at Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village.

We thank the people from Trinity who participated and will report more fully about the event in the next issue of the newsletter. If you would like to make a donation to help in the fight of world hunger, please speak with Gerard Tate or Bill Voges.

Worship Schedule for September

September 6, 13, 20, 27 —Regular Worship Schedule
10:00 a.m.

* Communion will be celebrated on September 6.

* Prayer Meeting each Sunday at 9:00 am

* Junior Church each Sunday at 10:00 am