
OUR CHURCH PAPER

September 2009

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A Word from the Pastor During Pentecost

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12)

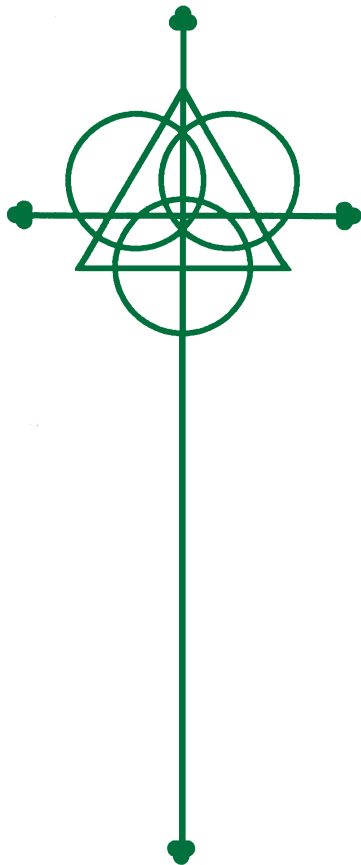
Dear Faithful people of Holy Trinity,

What does it mean to “live for the praise of Christ’s glory?” This is the question that 18 members of Holy Trinity’s youth group and six chaperones tried to answer during a week long trip this past July to New York City. After a long red-eye drive on The Mega Bus a sleepy, yet excited group filed off the bus in midtown Manhattan early Sunday morning, lugging their baggage down into the subway station, and after obtaining a weeklong Metro Card, clamored aboard the F train destined for Union Square Station. Soon I greeted the wide-eyed herd from Buffalo at Seafarer’s and International House, an ELCA ministry that was originally founded to provide hospitality to seafarers who were in need of affordable shelter, and which now also provides those same services for Lutherans from around the world who find their way to the city that never sleeps. This would be home for the week.

After a quick New York bagel, we were off to Saint Peter’s Lutheran Church, at 54th and Lexington for worship. During the beginning of his Sermon, Pastor Mandy Derr welcomed us warmly and informed me that since his voice was compromised due to a cold, that during the sharing of the peace, I would be asked to preside over Holy Communion. From this point on I think all of us began to understand that God was going to draw us closer than we had planned and that God was going to use us in amazing and unpredictable ways. After worship and fellowship we jumped on the subway uptown bound for The Cloisters to learn about 17th and 18th century religious art and architecture and dined at an all you can eat Dominican eatery that expanded our culinary horizons. We then hightailed it back to Saint Peter’s for Jazz Vespers and were again reminded of the spiritual power of this uniquely American made genre of music. Finally we got back to Seafarer’s and ordered a few pies (pizza that is) and gathered for closing devotions. It was on the evening of this first day that I raised the question, “What does it mean to live for the praise of God’s glory?” It was then that we all agreed to use this week in the pursuit of the answer.

Throughout our daily activities the answer seemed to emerge in dynamic ways. On Monday, after a briefing by Pastor Marsh Drege on the plight of modern day seafarers, we headed down to Battery Park to take the Circle Line to Ellis and Liberty Islands. The line for tickets was long, but as we waited we talked to an older, modestly dressed souvenir merchant. His warm smile was followed by

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Holy
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A Word from the Pastor

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gentle words and a constant acknowledgement of God to whom he was extremely grateful for his life, health and the day. It had seemed that this kind merchant was answering our question in his being...

Later that day, as we walked from South Street Seaport up through The Bowery, China Town and Little Italy, our young people sang camp songs that they had learned at LCLC. You should have seen the faces of the New Yorkers who experienced our joy-filled group singing - "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised!" We certainly collected a lot of smiles on that walk and started to discover that answering "the" question can be fun and spontaneous!

Tuesday we got up very early. We arrived at Saint Peter's a little after 6AM! The entire group was divided up into teams and together we helped feed over a hundred homeless children of God. Again, the people we met, both the diners and the other volunteers inspired us. We were again reminded that we have the ability to respond to the acute needs of others and that it does not have to be burdensome. It can be a true joy. Everyone agreed that this work, if you could call it that, was an activity that glorified Christ. In fact, I do believe that Christ dined at Saint Peter's that morning!

We went to Ground Zero and Saint Paul's Chapel and were blessed to meet Sister Grace, who coordinated the spiritual care for the rescue workers on 9/11 and the days thereafter. Her witness was powerful, as was her delight when she spoke of the privilege of being able to serve. I brought the group to a firehouse next to Ground Zero, and a wave of buried emotion stirred within me and our group knew that I was upset. I excused myself and walked away to regain my composure, but to my surprise when I turned around the entire group was silently on my heels all attentive to my pain and full of genuine concern. Our group's spontaneous compassionate response most certainly glorified God!

Then we journeyed to the Bronx, to Epiphany Lutheran Church. There we reclaimed their overgrown gardens, cut the grass and cleared a large vacant lot. We worked like army ants, but we laughed and smiled as we worked. The people of the neighborhood came out to see who we were and what we were doing, especially because the church's yards had not been in order for years. We greeted them all with smiles and kind words and we received smiles and encouragement in return. We must have moved several tons of debris, and filled hundreds of garbage bags. As some of the boys were clearing the lot of large pieces of timber they discovered there was a dead tree without any branches protruding

Our Church Paper

English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Upstate New York Synod

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Pat Mohr, Parish Nurse
Roger Griffiths, Youth Ministry
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Patrick Ryan, Steward of Buildings and Grounds
Phillip Schlueter, Curator of the Organs
Melissa Foster, Director of Children & Youth Music Ministry
Justin Pomietlarz, Senior Youth Choir Director

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from the ground and they could not knock it down. We decided that it was meant to stay put and instead fastened a cross beam from a large branch and it became a free standing cross. It was at the cross that we said our parting prayer and sang songs of praise before bidding Deacon Bob a farewell. We were living, we were praising, and God was being glorified!

We also had similar experiences as different groups did maintenance projects at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in the Bronx, sorted clothing at a Catholic Charities clothing distribution site in the Bronx and helped lead a VBS program at Advent Lutheran Church in Manhattan.

If I were to include all of our NYC experiences I would quickly exceed the space available in this article, but perhaps I can share one final and I believe to be the pinnacle moment of the whole week. On the last day of the trip, our herd from Buffalo packed up and said farewell to Seafarer's and Pastor Marsh. We then made our way to Penn Station in front of Madison Square Garden to wait for the Mega Bus scheduled to come around 7:30 PM. We soon discovered that they overbooked and that we would have to wait a few more hours until the next bus arrived. At this point Roger Griffiths, Jeremiah Smith and I went in search of bread and wine and returned to the group. We took a stainless steel sheet pan that we brought with us from Holy Trinity which we used in Seafarer's kitchen, and placed it atop a suitcase and it became our altar. We made a general announcement to the hundreds of folks in earshot that they were welcomed to join in our worship and then without a hymnal or bulletin, from memory, and with the help of the Spirit, we celebrated Holy Communion. Our witness was powerful and true. God fed us there on the street and we were alive in every way. We learned that when living for the praise of God's glory, that God's glory surrounds you, uplifts you and flows through you.

Now that we have learned to live in such a dynamic way in a foreign land, can we dare to do so in the City of Good Neighbors? Forgetaboutit! With God's help we can and will live for the praise of God's glory!

Alive In Christ,

Pastor Eric Olaf Olsen



Did You Know.....

Many parishioners have been bringing in empty cartridges from their home printers and placing them in the box found in the Sacristy. For this we are very thankful and urge those who have not as yet done so to join the group. Simply place your old cartridge in a plastic sandwich bag and deposit it in our collection bin in the Sacristy.

We encourage you to help us continue this program and thus being rewarded in two ways: (1) it has a positive impact on the environment; nearly 1 million inkjets are thrown into our landfills every day and less than 5% of the cartridges produced are recycled and (2) our youth will benefit from additional funding. Thank you for helping!



Flu Immunizations Will Be Given At Holy Trinity Church

OCTOBER 11, 2009

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

The Single Best Way To Protect Against The Flu Is To Get Vaccinated Each Year.

The flu shot is an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is given with a needle, usually in the arm.

Who should get vaccinated?

- Children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years and older
- People of any age with chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular , renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurological/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus)
- People who live in nursing homes and other long term care facilities
- Health care personnel
- Household contacts and caregivers of children aged less than 5 and adults aged 50 or over
- Household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza

Who should not get vaccinated?

- People who have an allergy to chicken eggs
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination
- People who developed Guillain Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks of receiving an influenza vaccination
- Children less than 6 months of age
- People who have a moderate to severe illness with a fever

Vaccine side effects: The viruses in the flu shot are killed (inactivated) so you cannot get the flu from a flu shot.

Pat Mehr

Your Parish Nurse



The Concert Committee of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

presents the
2009 — 2010 Concert Season
OPENING CONCERT

September 9, 2009 at 8 O'Clock P.M.

Suggested Free Will Donation of \$10.00 at the Door

Chants of the Russian Orthodox Church



and

Russian Folk Songs

performed by

"LYRA"

Vocal Ensemble

Lyra is a vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia. All singers are professional musicians, singing in different churches of St. Petersburg. Some of them are also soloists at musical theatres of the city. Through their performances, they want to introduce enormous musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as traditions of Russian folk music to all people taking great interest in Russia, its history and its culture

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Join the Prayer Chain

If you believe in the power of prayer and are willing to pray for between five and eight people daily, you could do this important job in the comfort of your own home. We pray for people of all ages who are facing surgery, mental and physical illness, and a variety of life transitions. There is only one meeting per year; the annual meeting. Each month members receive a list of the people who currently need prayers. Family or friends contact us with the names. Sometimes people speak to the pastors requesting that someone be put on the list. Please call the church office (886-2400) or Prayer Chain Coordinator, Pat Ulrich at 881-0777 if you would be willing to serve.

Thank you to the following faithful prayer chain members for 2008-2009:

Janet Archer, Sister Donna, Gail Camilleri, Carol Griesmann, Deanna Haddath, Melissa Haller, Jeanette Heiss, Karen Koehler, Jennifer Lindemann, Alberta Matesick, Merriejann Miller, Marina Multari, Margaret Pagano, Jean Roesch, Helen Santi, Ruth Schmidt, Karen Stoelzle and Barb Wozniak. Many thanks to Betty Reidpath who was recently presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of faithful service to the prayer chain.



News from our Rwandan Family

Fidele was a supervisor for the Mayor's Job Corps during the summer. He was assigned to Front Park. He has since started Canisius College after going through the orientation with the International Students. He also signed up for the Campus Ministry program where he will be doing community service. Patrick also worked for the Mayor's Job Corps.

Yves assisted Vicki Ross with the Peaceprints Summer Camp which stresses non-violence.

Both Patrick and Yves have been accepted to City Honors High School for the fall.

Providence has started a part-time job sewing with an upholsterer on the West Side.

Jean-Baptiste is still seeking employment and Kezia applied to a nursing assistant program through the Catholic Health System.

Yvette attended Waterfront School over the summer.

The three boys particularly enjoyed their trip to New York City with Pastor Olsen, Roger, Jeremiah and the LYO. They did a variety of service projects at churches – serving breakfast to the homeless, sorting donations to the poor, doing church repairs, and gardening at a church that had burned. They also loved the energy of the city as they did sight-seeing and were able to climb the Statue of Liberty which had special meaning for them.



News from the Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet on Saturday, September 12 at 8:30 a.m. at the Family Tree Restaurant, 4346 Bailey Avenue, Amherst. We will work on details of the Oktoberfest and plan for future projects. Individuals will be responsible for the cost of their breakfast.

RESCHEDULED GOLF OUTING: Due to the recent rain storm, the 3rd annual "Beat the Pastors" golf outing has been rescheduled for Monday, September 14. The event will still be held at Tan Tara Golf Club in Wheatfield. Registration/breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. with golf following at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to join us for lunch only, cost is \$12. Please call Chuck Rojek or the church office (886-2400) for more information.

Mark your calendars: Oktoberfest is scheduled for Sunday, October 25 from 12 Noon – 3:00 p.m. and will feature The Frankfurters. All are welcome to attend. More details to follow.



Social Ministries Committee

Once again it is time to ask the support of the congregation in providing school supplies for the opening day of classes for School 17. Any piece of equipment, from pencils to notebooks to markers to colored paper would be greatly appreciated. Even no longer used children's books would be desirable. Any donations may be brought to the church office, placed in the Sacristy or deposited in the collection box outside the Chapel. Thank you once again for your overwhelming generosity.

Our first meeting of the new term will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at the church. Our expanding program requires the addition of new members to the Committee. Please feel free to stop by and see what we're all about.

John Knipler



Women of ELCA

Our program year will begin on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 5:30 pm with Bible study. Based on Paul's letter to the Romans, "Be Mutually Encouraged" will guide us in sharing our faith journeys. Bring a "dinner" and chat before the study begins!

HT Needlers will resume meeting that same night at 7:00 pm. Our goal is to create Prayer shawls for the nursing home ministry in addition to the needs of the congregation.

You are invited to gather with us at either or both of these events. We will continue meeting on the first Wednesday of each month beginning in October.

If you would like further information, please contact Millie Nikischer or Barb Wozniak.



Fall 2009 Adult Education Program

“Concerning the Future of Buffalo” will be the theme of fall 2009 Sunday morning Adult Education programs. This theme is a continuation of the well-received presentations from this past spring.

There will be presentations by political figures, community development agencies, neighborhood associations, and social service agencies. The common thread will be a focus on programs which are in place or are planned to improve life in the Buffalo area. These programs will encompass the economic, social, and political spheres. Special focus will be given to the city of Buffalo and especially to those neighborhoods close to Holy Trinity.

The programs will run each Sunday between the two services, from 9:30 to 10:25 a.m., beginning on September 13 through December.

Dave Ulrich will present an overview of the program on September 13 and a representative from the Allentown Association will be the featured speaker on September 20. The specific speakers and dates will be announced at the September 13 presentation. At this point, we have commitments from County Executive Chris Collins, and representatives from many diverse agencies including the New York Power Authority, the Massachusetts Avenue Project, the Road Less Traveled Theater, Loaves and Fishes Dining Room, UB 20/20 and Hispanics United of Buffalo.

I hope to see you on September 13 for the opening of this exciting series.



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