



Lake Breezes

Trinity Lutheran of Lake Johanna * 3245 New Brighton Road * Arden Hills MN 55112

MARCH 2013

YES, LORD, I'VE PENCILED YOU IN

Oh, he was a nice young man - happy and confident as he set off for work that day. He was college educated, had a wife and daughter that he loved, lived in suburbia and was now going to the type of work that he always dreamed of doing. But his schedule was terrible. He often worked late into the night, seldom got to church because he was also involved in community affairs. Obviously his family was frustrated because they never got to see him. And so it went day after day, month after month. Oh yes, he had been tired lately, that's true, but with his schedule what did he expect? But this morning, it wasn't just tiredness, but he also felt some pain in his side. In fact, it would be this day this young man's schedule would be interrupted by blacking out as he walked down the hallway to his office. 911 was called and he was taken to the emergency room where the doctors took his vital signs and did all the tests they always do. Time seems to go so slowly, doesn't it, when you await the diagnosis to find out what caused the problem. It was over an hour that he and his wife waited before the doctor finally came in and then the moment of truth. "You have cancer" were the words from the doctor that seemed to echo through the room. Then the shock, the fear, and the tears. All at once there was silence. What would he do now? After all, he had not put this down in his Day Timer. He had not written in time for doctoring, for sickness, and for therapy. So his wife reached over and they closed their eyes and folded their hands together in prayer. It was there that his mind and heart finally understood as he thought about his Day Timer schedule. He closed his prayer and said, "Yes, Lord, I've penciled you in."

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Easter Worship

Join us Easter morning at 9:00 am for Worship with Holy Communion as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!



Easter Breakfast

A light breakfast will be served before worship on Easter morning. Bring your family and join us between 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the Beltz Fellowship Room. A free-will offering will be taken.

The menu includes:

- Juice / Coffee
- Scrambled Eggs
- Sausage Links
- Fresh Fruit
- Cinnamon Rolls

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex so we can have your table space and food ready for you.

Set up and kitchen preparations will start on Saturday, March 30 at 9 a.m. Your help is welcomed and appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Schuster at 651-631-8956.



Call Update

Dear members of Trinity,

The Pre-Call meeting was held on Sunday, February 17 at 10:30 am with Pastor Mark Noren from the Minnesota South District offices outlining the Call process for Trinity Lutheran of Lake Johanna.

The Call Committee includes the following members:

Carole Leyk, Keith B. Cook, Monica Voegtli,
Harold Moe and James Dyvig

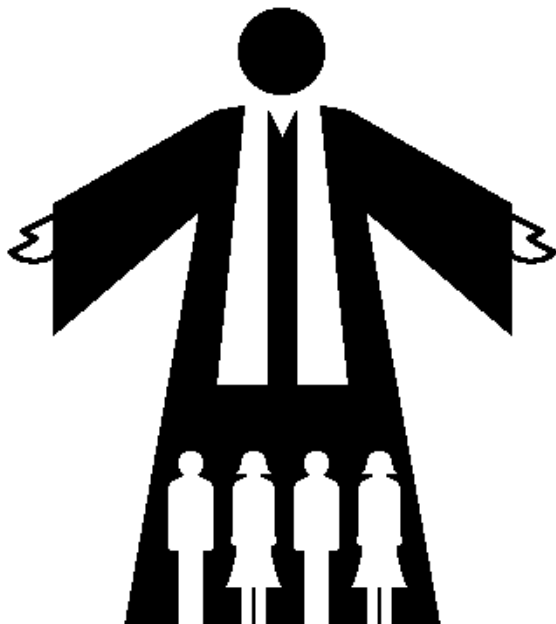
The Call Committee acts as a liaison between the congregation and the District offices. It is the congregation's responsibility to call a Pastor.

The Call Committee is accepting nominations for Pastor candidates until Sunday, March 10. Nominations must be submitted on the form supplied by the MN South District. Forms are available in the Narthex after church or by contacting Carole Leyk, Keith Cook or the church office. After nominations close on March 10th, the list compiled by the congregation will be provided to the MN South District President. He will review the list, add additional names and return the list to Trinity. At that time, the list of candidates will be posted and members will have 30 days to object to any of the candidates. The Call Committee will review the candidates and present a group of recommended top candidates at a Voters' Meeting for review. Additional updates will be provided as the Call process continues.

This is an exciting time for Trinity! Please pray for God's continued guidance of our calling Pastor, that we may be diligent and thoughtful in finding the pastor that God has already chosen for Trinity.

Blessings you to all—

Keith Cook, Call Committee Chair



Well, your schedule is tightening up, too, and your Day Timer lines are filled with soccer, football, hockey, wrestling, and basketball games...no room for anything else. Well, you know how I am. I can't let this go without bugging you with a question! Have you written some time with God on your Day Timers? Most of all, have you scheduled in Sunday services? Remember, you have been invited by your Lord and Savior - invited to receive heavenly food, God's Holy word that nourishes you, to the waters of Baptism that cleans and scrubs you with the blood of the Lamb, and to the altar to be fed on Christ's body and blood for forgiveness and strength. All this so He can dress you with His white garment of salvation.

Certainly we can shout with King David, "I was glad when I could come into the house of the Lord." But look, have you scheduled it in? Is there room for worship when you have to decide between Sunday morning hockey practice, soccer game, wrestling match, or drum line practice from 7-10:30 p.m.? But Lebahn, if my boy or my girl or grandchild is going to be on the team, they have to go to these practices and games. Take a good look and check out how you did on the decision. What is now written on that line just below the word Sunday?

You see our lives are made up of decisions day after day, hour after hour. For husbands and wives it's being with your spouse or staying at work or an after work drink with your fellow workers. As Fathers and Mothers it's having supper with Junior and Sis talking and listening to what's happening in their lives, their school, friends, or their concerns and fears or being so involved with the things that draw you away from them whether that's at work, meetings, or social events.

Take another glance. How many times a week do you see penciled in a Dad and Mom evening with the kids. Be honest...what do you see? Well, I took a peek - a glance - at my schedule as a retired pastor only to discover I, too, often place my priorities, my importance, where I should have put God and family. Sort of you're first after me!



But how is it possible to make those hard decisions and always keep the things of God and family as the #1 priority in our schedule and life? St Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians tells us the method, the formula. "He died for all that those who live should no longer live to themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

It sounds so simple doesn't it? - Just focus on the cross, live in, with, and through Jesus, the One who gave his life for you. But how hard it is sometimes in our busy lives to see the Lord let alone depend on Him. That's why St. Paul adds to that, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

As we prepare for a new pastor, it can be a whole new beginning as we, through faith, take a page out of Luther's book and begin a reformation in our own lives. Recognizing that when we are held in the arms of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can set our schedules around the things of God, around repentance, forgiveness, and strength from the Lord, and guidance from His word. Only then will you schedule in Sunday for worship, time for prayer, time for listening to your spouse, time to listen and share with the kids, and finally schedule time to serve the Lord by caring for the hurting, listening to the lost, uplifting the weak as you walk together in His grace, mercy, and love. Yes, Lord, I've penciled you in!

Pastor Lebahn



On the back of the March calendar is a schedule for those volunteering to serve at Trinity. Please look for your name under the appropriate category (or categories) to see if you have been scheduled to serve during the month.

If you are scheduled and unable to serve, please find a substitute and let the church office know who will be taking your place. Thanks for your help!



Lenten Suppers

During the Lenten season, there will be supper served on several Wednesday's at 5:30. Come and enjoy a light meal with great fellowship!

Maundy Thursday—the Trinity Seniors will provide a light supper on March 28 at 5:30 pm.

Watch the weekly bulletins for more information!

Lenten Worship

We will be looking at the Journey to the Cross in our Lenten Worship Services. Each of us has a journey of faith to walk. But that journey's high point is when we walk with Jesus on the Via Delatorosa and hear the words of Jesus from the cross and finally stand at the mouth of the empty tomb and celebrate Jesus' victory over death.

March 6

"My God, my God...why have you forsaken me?"

March 13

"I Thirst."

March 20

"It is finished."

March 28, Maundy Thursday

"The Upper Room"

March 29, Good Friday

"People around the cross"

Join us for worship.



Easter Flowers

Trinity will be ordering Altar flowers for the Easter season. Order forms are available in the weekly bulletin. All orders need to be into the church office by Sunday, March 17. If you have any questions, please contact Carole Leyk.



Birthday Celebration

The March birthdays & anniversaries will be celebrated during fellowship time on Sunday, March 3. Please remember to bring your pennies! We support Nicole Decker (missionary teacher in South Africa) with our donations.

Ladies Luncheon

Join us at our monthly luncheon on Tuesday, March 19 at 11:30 am. We will meet at D-D's in New Brighton. Come and enjoy the great food and fellowship of other Trinity members.

Trinity Seniors

Join the Trinity Seniors for a meatloaf lunch on Thursday, March 21. Devotions will begin at 11:00 am followed by a short meeting. Lunch will be served around 11:30 am.

Following lunch, we will view "Joseph: Master of Dreams" from the DVD mysteries of the Bible, "The Bible's Greatest Heroes." Sold into slavery by his brothers because of his gift of prophesy, Joseph is finally rewarded with great political power when he uses his divine gifts to save Egypt from famine. A sign-up sheet is posted downstairs to give us a number for lunch.

NOTE: This is the 3rd Thursday of the month due to Maundy Thursday falling on the 4th Thursday.

A note from Nicole Decker

Hello, everyone!

I hope you are doing well this February! I had a wonderful birthday on the 14th and am so thankful for the Lutheran schools back home who are currently working on their Hearts for Jesus project to raise money for my mission work. What a blessing! I have heard that I made it into the Lutheran Witness again for the Southern Illinois District. I have also heard that so many people have been looking at my newsletter, blog, and face book page to learn more about what I am doing here in South Africa. It is overwhelming at times to discover how many people are praying for me. Your prayers are definitely making a difference. It isn't always easy being a teacher, especially a first year teacher, especially a first year teacher in a different culture, but God has been giving me the strength and guidance throughout all of this. He also gives me wonderful moments with my students that make it all worth it.

I hope you enjoy my newsletter. Thank you for your support. God bless!

Nicole Decker



March Meetings

Board of Lay Ministry

Sunday, March 3 at 11:30 am

Church Council

Wednesday, March 13
following Lenten Worship



We are including a Financial Synopsis in the newsletter so you are aware of the financial position of Trinity. Within our congregation, God has blessed each one of us differently. As you consider these figures and how God has blessed you, please keep in mind these words from St. Paul: *Remember this – Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*
 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Giving vs. Expenses for January 2013				
	January Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year Budget	Remaining Budget
<u>INCOME</u>	\$9,327.81	\$9,327.81	\$122,594.00	\$113,266.19
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Education	\$61.78	\$61.78	\$1,900.00	\$1,838.22
Lay Ministry	\$10,612.97	\$10,612.97	\$101,870.00	\$91,257.03
Outreach	\$249.59	\$249.59	\$9,500.00	\$9,250.41
Properties	\$7,262.43	\$7,262.43	\$34,750.00	\$27,487.57
Mortgage Interest	\$290.54	\$290.54	\$3,600.00	\$3,309.46
Total Expenses	\$18,477.31	\$18,477.31	\$151,620.00	\$133,142.69
Net Excess/(Shortfall)	(\$9,149.50)	(\$9,149.50)	(\$29,026.00)	

*A budget shortfall of \$29,026 was approved by the Voters – November 18, 2012

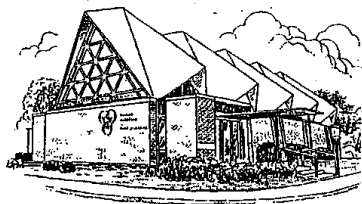
Money Thoughts

- ⊗ Money talks – about you.
- ⊗ When Christ has our hearts, He will change the way we use our money.
- ⊗ Unless your money is on the altar, it is not likely that your heart is there.
- ⊗ Acquisition makes the money; distribution makes the man.
- ⊗ Giving is the outward expression of an inward grace. The mind grows by what it takes in; the heart grows by what it gives out.

Receiving and Giving

There is a phrase that states, “The mind grows by what it takes in – the heart grows by what it gives out.” Interestingly, stewardship involves both taking in and giving out. What God gives us, we are to receive graciously and thankfully. Recognizing that the many God-given gifts we receive can be used to further God’s kingdom, we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:11). God gives so we can give. Thus, the cycle goes: God gives, we received, we give and God replenishes.

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3245 New Brighton Road
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Worship Service—9:00 am

Education Hour—10:15 am

Please join us

Palm Sunday Worship at 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday Worship
with Holy Communion at 6:30 pm

Good Friday Worship at 6:30 pm



Holy Week

Easter Breakfast
served between 7:30-8:30 am

Easter Worship
with Holy Communion at 9:00 am

