



# Ev. Trinity Lutheran Church

Activities Newsletter

Fall 2009

## Message from Pastor Gramit Reformation Reflections

When we consider the Reformation, we may think about Rev. Martin Luther and how he endeavored to return the Christian Church to its foundational teaching of our justification, by God's grace, through faith in Christ. Because the eternal Son of God became, in time, true man, and because He took our place under God's Law to keep it perfectly and, moreover, was the sacrificial payment for our sins, we have the hope of the heavenly kingdom. You may, in fact, recognize the term "vicarious atonement", having heard it here recurringly -- this means that Christ, in our place (vicariously) paid the price (atoned for) our sins.

That is the foundation, and Luther would settle for nothing less. Yet it is also noteworthy that Reformation Day is the last day of October, known to many as Halloween. What some folks *might not* realize is that the very name "Halloween" relates *very closely* to the name "All Saints' Day", the former term literally meaning "Eve of All Hallows", or "Eve of All Saints".

But there's much more to the Lutheran Reformation than just those points, although they *are* key. At the *very* least, there's much more we can take from the Reformation lesson than just an understanding of history;

rather, the Reformation, and that which has been fostered *by* it, affects our present day *lives* as Christians. For instance, consider this past Reformation Sunday's (October 25, the last Sunday of the month) sermon theme - "Therefore We Conclude", based upon Romans 3:28. Lutherans are not simply content to make a statement and then leave it to everyone for his own interpretation. Neither do Lutherans define Scriptural authority on any supposed authority of their own! Rather, we ponder what Scripture says and, *it* being the authority, recognize *its meaning*. There's nothing lacking on the part of Scripture; it's our own human sinful condition which interferes with Scripture's clarity.

Therefore, we must consider what Scripture *says*, as *well* as what it means. To this end, there are two questions we must consider as Christians when contemplating God's Word -- "What does it say?" and "What does this mean?" (Yes, we've heard this two-question discourse before and, Lord willing, we'll hear it again soon.) *Luther's Small Catechism* not only does this well; its very being is built upon this principle. Consider, as example, the First Commandment. What does it say? "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." What does this mean? "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

*[Continued on Page 4- Message from Pastor]*

## Contact Information

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## Calendar of Events

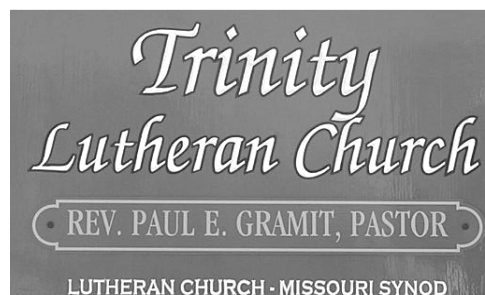
### November

14 – 9:30am – 2:00pm Ladies Aid Fair  
15 – 10:00am, Divine Service  
22 – 10:00am, Service of the Word  
25 – 7:30, Eucharistic Vespers  
29 – 10:00am, Divine Service



### December

2 – 7:30, Carol Sing and Evening Prayer  
6 – 10:00am, Divine Service  
8 – 7:30, Budget Meeting  
9 – 7:30, Carol Sing and Evening Prayer  
13 – 1:00am, Office of Matins  
16 – 7:30, Carol Sing and Evening Prayer  
20 – 1:00am, Divine Service  
24 – 7:30, Carol Vespers  
25 – 10:00am, Christmas Day Divine Service  
27 – No Sunday School  
27 – 10:00am, Service of the Word  
31 – 7:30, New year's Eve Eucharistic Vespers



### Service Times Sept - June

Sunday School 8:45AM  
Sunday Service 10:00AM

### Service Times July & August And Labor Day Weekend

Sunday service 9:00AM

➔ **Master Calendar:** A master calendar has been started in the entry way of the church basement. Please utilize it when planning activities for your group at Trinity; and be sure to include them by writing them in on the appropriate date

## Master Plan Committee and Other Updates:

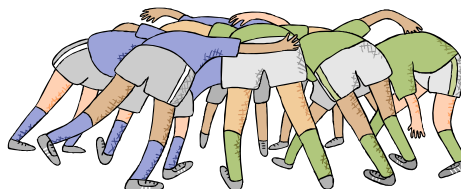
The master plan committee continues to put their efforts in support of areas and activities needing assistance. This includes items such as participating in the recent Clinton Old Home Days celebration and seeing that there are occasional social gatherings for the Trinity community. Our active youth group and Ladies Aid groups have made the second task easy.

We have also started taking a look at larger needs and opportunities for Trinity. Thanks to all those that shared their viewpoints by filling out the congregational survey we made available earlier this year. The master plan committee will be assisting the stewardship committee in their upcoming efforts. We are also looking into the possibilities of outreach efforts towards the Worcester area. Stay tuned for more developments on that!

The results of the survey are listed here.

### Key:

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Uncertain
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree (Highest Priority)



<b><u>Priority Description</u></b>	<b><u>Average Result</u></b>
Repair roof	4.77
Handicap accessible sanctuary	4.58
Make disciples of all nations, etc	4.38
Add visitor and handicapped parking	4.33
Handicapped accessible, improved rest-rooms	4.17
Faithful stewards, sharing first-fruits, etc	4.15
Outreach toward Worcester	4.08
Improve parking surface	4.00
Handicap accessible basement	3.83
Promote annual giving	3.75
Additioanl parking spaces	3.67
Increase Sunday School space	3.38
Increase narthex space	3.25
Increase storage space	3.15
Enlarge office and make accessibility easier	2.83
Improve library's accessibility	2.67
Increase worship capacity	2.46

**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:** Thank you to all who recently help pack over 75 boxes of clothes, linens, shoes, and bags; as well as 1 box of hard hats, 1 of personal hygiene items and a pair of crutches. *Please see the back page for guidelines on OGT donations.*

**Truck driver needed:** If anyone has several hours to donate to drive the donations to the Orphan Grain Train warehouse in upstate New York, please talk to Paul Martin.

**Choir news:** The Choir regrets losing Anna & Michael to Hawaii. They are very much missed. We are happy to have Marla back with us. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00. If you have suggestions, requests, or questions, please contact Doug Bittner.

**Church Roof:** The roof restoration is complete. Along with re-shingling the church, a support structure was put in place to fix the bow. Please consider donating to the Building Fund as this cost over \$70,000!



**Faithfully departed** of the congregation who have entered glory in the year from All Saints' Sunday 2008 through All Saints' Sunday 2009 are --

Mona Seuss Rellstab  
Ruth Steinau  
Rita Martin  
Malcolm T. Kleinknecht  
Miriam Hennis

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*[Message from Pastor - Continued from cover page]*

Also with our doctrinal stands -- the Scriptural basis passages answer the question, "What does it say?" and the position we take, not adding to Scripture but repeating its truth, answers the "What does this mean?" An example of this may be found in our Communion liturgy. The Words of Institution, spoken right after the sung conclusion to the Our Father, are, essentially, an answer to the question, "What does it say?" as they quote Jesus -- that is, "Jesus said, 'This is My body and blood.'" The words of distribution, namely the bidding to "take, eat" and "take, drink", answer the question, "What does this mean?" as they proclaim, from our own, responsive perspective, "This is the body of Christ and this is the blood of Christ."

In the spirit of the Reformation, we may boldly proclaim, as our own belief, albeit "not by our own reason or strength . . . but (by) the Holy Ghost" (Third Article of the Creed), the blessed Gospel of Christ and all that goes with it -- that is, the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen (i.e. "What does it say?") is for each one of us Christians specifically (i.e. "What does this mean?"). May God grant it for Jesus' sake.

The Peace of the Lord be with You!  
Pastor Gramit

Welcome David and Zachary from our confirmation class of 2009.



*David Notaro, Jr / Pastor Gramit / Zachary Schade*



**Worcester Outreach;** The Council would like to run a quarter page invitational ad in the local newspaper inviting visitors to join our worship services. Contributions



to this outreach effort would be appreciated. Donations should be marked for “newspaper ad.”

**Sunday School :**

Attendance has kept steady during this past quarter. There are still children we are missing and hope to see them soon!

**Ladies Aid Society:** The Ladies’ Aid Christmas fair will be November 14<sup>th</sup>. Baked goods, crafts, luncheon and a white elephant table will be available. Plan to be there.

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## Youth Group News -

The Trinity Lutheran Youth Group continues to prepare 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana this Summer. In 2007, Rick and Kathy Waller accompanied 9 youth to the convention in Orlando, and so far 5 of our youth have registered for the convention in New Orleans. It should be very hot down there, but we're expecting a fun-filled time of worship, Bible study and fellowship with Lutheran youth from across the US and beyond.

*[Continued on Page 7– Youth Group]*

## Overview of Advent Midweek Worship, Other Services

by Rev. Paul E. Gramit

Looking ahead to the Advent season . . .

This past Lenten season, we at Trinity Lutheran congregation worshiped on Wednesday evenings using an Evening Prayer order of worship, based chiefly upon the Evening Suffrages from *The Lutheran Hymnal*. The service was led from the focal point of the baptismal font (except for the sermon meditation, offered from the pulpit solely for the purpose of recording).

Feedback from those attending was overwhelmingly positive; therefore, for the three Advent midweek services this coming season, we will follow the same basic format, with the addition of a brief Christmas carol sing to begin each service. In addition to helping us look forward to the Christmas season, the carol sing will give us opportunity to, in our congregational worship assembly, again enjoy familiar songs we may otherwise only sing on Christmas Eve or Day itself.

All services will again be held Wednesday evenings, 7:30 PM, with the theme "Blessed is He", based upon Luke 19:37-38, on December 2; "Prepare His Way", Luke 3:4-6, on December 9; and "Anticipate His Return", Revelation 22:12-13 and 20, on December 16.

Please join us for these lower-key, yet *very* "traditional", liturgical, and historical, opportunities for seasonal worship.

Also, for those who love the Vespers service, we've hardly jettisoned it, even though we've taken to using the Evening Prayer order. Thanksgiving Eve will feature Eucharistic Vespers, and Christmas Eve, a Vespers Carol Service similar to the one we've been using each Christmas Eve, but incorporating the Office of Vespers. Please join us for these also!

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The **Women's Book Club** will be taking a break through the holidays, resuming on January 13 at 6:30. The book discussed at that time will be Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, by Joanna Weaver.

**Book description:** The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet...but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him...yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy.

Then comes Jesus, right into the midst of your busy Mary/Martha life---and he extends the same invitation he issued long ago to the two sisters of Bethany. Tenderly he invites you to choose "the better part"---a joyful life of "living-room" intimacy with him that flows naturally into "kitchen service" for him.

*[Youth Group - Continued from page 5]*

So far this year, the youth have put on several fund raisers to include Easter breakfast (with the ever popular Easter Gazette), a Polynesian Dinner, and the annual Oktoberfest. The Oktoberfest meal included homemade sauerbraten, red cabbage, and a braunsweiger appetizer. Of course, we did the Schnitzelbunk with Pastor Martin, (I mean, Professor Caesar Martin) and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The kids who are planning to go to the National youth gathering are Lindsay Johnson, Amy Waller, Katie Waller, Rachel Matthew and Andrew Moore. We can still add more kids if there are any who are interested.

Overall, we've had good participation by the youth of Trinity. Even kids who were active in the youth group but have moved on to work or college have pitched in on several occasions to help out. We have a wonderful group of teens and young adults at Trinity, and their willingness to serve shows their true character. The kids all work well together and have served meals so many times now they could do it blindfolded!

Putting this article in the newsletter provides a great opportunity to express our thanks to the members of Trinity who have been so generous in their support of the youth, both financial and otherwise. Supporting the youth is a way of encouraging Christian youth who we hope and pray continue to stay active in their faith and committed to serving others.

If you are a teenager who would like to join us, we'd be happy to have you and encourage you to come to our next meeting. Meeting times can be found in the Sunday bulletin, but also please e-mail us at [TLCyouthgroup@Gmail.com](mailto:TLCyouthgroup@Gmail.com) to be added to our e-mail list so that we can keep you informed.

[Proverbs 22:6](#) *Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

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The Stewardship Committee will be reconvening soon to consider its next project, the design of which is still in the workings. There will most likely be more attention to a "one-on-one" dynamic than simply scheduling study meetings and sessions.

Everyone is urged to consider how our Lord has blessed each of us and, in joyful response, how each of us can be more supportive of the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, in this time, in this place. Remember, this involves time and talents as well as treasure.

## GUIDELINES FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN DONATIONS

Clothes – New or like-new condition (too good to throw away). Underwear only if it's new.

Blankets – New or like-new condition

Medicines – Medicine cabinet supplies, new toothbrush, toothpaste - No expired medicines

Medical supplies – Crutches, walkers, braces, etc. Gauze bandages are only useful if they are in unopened packages.

School supplies – New items, exception being backpacks (gently used).

Baby supplies – New or like-new only

Consider donating stained or worn clothes, sweaters that are pilled up, pants frayed on the bottom, used office supplies, dishes, and curtains to another recipient.

For more information, visit the Orphan Grain Train website; <http://www.ogt.org>

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