



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

On 28th Avenue between Lake & 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 612-729-8358
 Web site: www.htlcmpls.org email: office@htlcmpls.org

Volume 92, Issue 10

March 9, 2008

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am

CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am

SPIT AND HEALING MUD

In last Sunday's Gospel from John 9, in the presence of a blind man, Jesus announces *I am the light of the world* and then he spits. I love it. He spits to make mud which he smears on the blind man's eyes to give him sight. His spitting seems to be political to provoke a reaction from the religious leaders – strategically healing on the Sabbath in violation of Sabbath law. Even making mud involved 'kneading' which was one of 39 tasks forbidden on the Sabbath.

He spits to reveal himself as the light of the world. When you turn a light on in a room, it reveals what's there. Everyone knew the poor beggar was blind, but Jesus' spitting was a catalyst that exposed the blindness of everyone else in the story. The disciples are blinded by the prevailing theology of their culture – somebody must have done something wrong to cause the beggar's blindness. Who's to blame? The man's neighbors are blinded by his change. They don't know if he's the same man! The man's parents are blinded by their fear of the religious authorities. The Pharisees are blinded by their definition of 'sinner' based on their interpretation of keeping Sabbath law. In the presence of the light, much hidden blindness is exposed. The One who is the light turns the tables by giving sight to those who know their blindness...and exposing the blindness of those who claim to see.

In the presence of the Light, we can begin to see more clearly. But light exposes and reveals. Often we are like the Pharisees: Surely, we are not blind, are we? We note the splinter in the vision of a family member, co-worker, fellow church member...while blinded to the log in our own eye. How often do we seek to assign blame rather than seeing how to reconcile differences and find solutions? Do you want to see more clearly into your own heart? Do you want Jesus to lay mud on your eyes? If we had a liturgical rite like the imposition of ashes where we invited everyone to come forward during worship and have mud placed on their eyes (made without spit)...would you receive it?

The One who is the light of the world has been opening countless eyes since those of that blind beggar so that we can see ourselves, each other, and our world in new ways...beyond the blindness of the theological and partisan political boxes we get stuck in, beyond the blindness of our definitions of who's in and who's out, beyond the blindness that race, gender, sexual orientation, wealth, position and privilege can give us. For the blind beggar, life after receiving his sight brought a whole new set of challenges in his relationship with his neighbors, parents and faith community. (He was driven out of the synagogue.) Do you dare to step more fully into the light...risking the discomfort such exposure may bring...accepting the challenge of living with clearer vision? Do you want Jesus' healing mud?

Bruce C. Arnevik,
 Interim Pastor
arnevik@htlcmpls.org

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Today's lessons tell the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, and Ezekiel's prophecy of God breathing new life into dry bones. These stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection:

In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.



LESSONS
 Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Psalm 130
 Romans 8:6-11
 John 11:1-45

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM
 9:55 am Library

March 9 "Job - Trusting God in Spite of Suffering"
Dr. Marbury Anderson (retired Lutheran pastor)
 The book of Job does not attempt to explain the mystery of suffering, but it certainly probes the depths of faith in spite of suffering.

March 16 "Holy Week and Easter as seen through the Biblical Texts" – Randy Nelson
 The journey of Passion Week is told by each of the Gospel writers. We will make that journey this year as described by the writer of the Gospel of John.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE
 As we are moving forward, let's take a moment to reflect on the call process to date. The Call Committee was installed in July 2007 and began our work in earnest in September 2007. Since then, we have met over 30 times. We've spend approximately 100 hours in meetings and at least as many hours working outside of meetings. We've received 40 names of possible candidates, reviewed mobility papers for nearly half of those candidates, interviewed 7 candidates, listened to two pastors preach and are finalizing second interviews for candidates.

And through each step of this process – at each meeting, reading each mobility paper, interviewing each candidate, hearing pastors preach – every one of you has been there with us. You are there through your input into the COMPASS report, through your comments to Call Committee members and through your involvement in making Holy Trinity the unique congregation that it is. We, the Call Committee of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, are your representatives, as faithfully and conscientiously as we can be.

– Dawn Wiczorek, for the Call Committee

PARISH INFORMATION

CONCERNING PEOPLE

Our prayers are with the family of Betty Fredrickson, longtime member of Holy Trinity, who died on February 27 at the age of 85. Her funeral was held at Holy Trinity on March 5.

Please pray for Molly Davison, recovering from surgery at St. Paul Children's Hospital; Pam Blomgren, recovering from a second surgery; Jim Schneiders, as he begins chemotherapy for lung cancer; Kathy Hollander's mother, **Evelyn Hollander**, as she enters hospice care; **Carolyn Garman**, being treated for kidney stones.

LOAVES & FISHES – March 12

Holy Trinity is responsible for cooking and serving a meal at the Loaves and Fishes site at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 18th Ave. and 24th St. There is a need for cooks, servers and a clean-up crew. The schedule is: 2:00 pm Cooking 5:00 pm Serving 6:00 pm Clean-up. Please sign up in the Community Room contact the church office at 612-729-8358 or office@htlcmpls.org.

From the Heart, Too – Lent 2008

The congregation will gather on Wed. evening, March 12, for soup at 6:15 (please make a reservation) and evening prayer service at 7:00. Margaret Peterson will share a word about her own faith and what Holy Trinity means to her.

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD – SPRING FORWARD

Reminder: Daylight saving time begins at 2 a.m. on March 9. Set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!

BOTTLED WATER AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Tap water standards in Europe and the United States are higher than those governing bottled water. Some substances can be more difficult to manage in bottled than tap water because bottled water is stored for longer periods and at higher temperatures than water in piped distribution systems. Also, control of materials used in containers and closures for bottled waters is of special concern. Micro-organisms normally of little public health significance can grow to higher levels in bottled waters, and the public health significance remains little understood, especially for vulnerable individuals: infants and children, pregnant women, immuno-compromised individuals, and the elderly. For infants, as bottled water is not sterile, it should be disinfected before use in formula. Sources: World Wildlife Fund and World Health Organization

LIBRARY PARKING LOT

The East Lake library has put up signs saying that only library patrons may park in their lot. Holy Trinity has an agreement with the library that allows Holy Trinity members and visitors to park in the lot on *Wednesday evenings* and *Sunday mornings*. The church door next to the library parking lot will be unlocked during worship services on those days.

A HEALTHY NEW WAY TO DONATE TO MN FOODSHARE

Minnesota FoodShare has a new way to help the state's food shelves stock healthy fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy, and meats. During the March Campaign, supporters can purchase March Money coupons in denominations of \$1, \$5, or \$10. The real money goes directly to the local food shelf to help it stock fresh produce, dairy, and meats as needed throughout the year. You may bring checks (or canned/packaged foods) to Holy Trinity and it will be forwarded to the food shelf. Thank you!

PARISH EVENTS March 9-15, 2008

SUNDAY	8:45, 11am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:30 am	Confirmation
	9:45 am	Sunday School 9:55 am Adult Forum
	12:00 pm	Cantate! rehearsal
MONDAY	1:00 pm	Sound of Music rehearsal (children)
	11:00 am	AARP tax assistance
	7:00 pm	Committee meetings: Chris Ed, Stewardship, Nurturing
TUESDAY	11:00 am	AARP tax assistance
	7:00 pm	Tutoring
WEDNESDAY	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Service – children's choir sings
	7:45 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
THURSDAY	8:00 pm	Adult basketball
SATURDAY	10:30 am	Handbell rehearsal
	5:00 pm	Call Committee meeting

AFRICAN AIDS PROJECT by Dennis Hauck

SPECIAL GIFT TO THEATRE FUND by Peter and Amy Johnson

GIFT TO PURCHASE BIBLES in memory of

– **Vi Christiansen** by Pam and Dean Blomgren

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS March 9, 2008

Preacher		Bruce Arnevik
Celebrant	8:45 am	Caroline Garman / 11:00am David Broberg
Crucifer	8:45 am	Brian Lenz / 11:00 am Bob Hulteen
Cantor	8:45 am	Andrea Hansen / 11:00 am Peter Johnson
Liturgist	8:45 am	David Kohlstedt / 11:00 am Bob Hulteen
Communion Asst	8:45 am	Jeff Weiss
	11:00 am	Susan Wootten, Andrew Johnson
Greeters	8:45 am	Deb Sodt / 11:00 am David Broberg
Ushers	8:45 am	Bob Peschiutta, Karrie Cable-Spratt, Jim Schneiders
	11:00 am	Mark Hiner, George Madich, Alan Libra, Kathy Ohler
Altar Guild	8:45 am	Bev Peschiutta, Elsie Heyer
	11:00 am	Linda Woytasek, Carol Lane
Nursery	8:40 am	Margaret Carlson, Wyatt Rada
	11:00 am	Matt Kane, Maggie, Nora, Kevin
Coffee Servers	9:45 am	Bill & Sue Roberts
	Noon	Josef Fortier, Carol Lane
Church closer		Rod Johnson

LUTHERAN DISASTER SERVICES FLOOD RECOVERY

A group of Holy Trinity members will be going to Rushford MN on March 29-30 to help insulate or sheetrock homes that were damaged by floods. For more info or to sign up, please call the church office, 612-729-8358.

FINANCIAL REPORT Mar 2, 2008 Year to Date

Budget Requirements	\$10,978.85	\$98,809.65
Budget Receipts	13,128.25	89,459.48
World Hunger	-	292.00
Capital Improvements	-	300.00
Nonviolent Peaceforce	-	50.00
African AIDS Fund	15.80	119.85
African Pastors Endowment	50.00	120.00