



The Trinity Times

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Skaneateles, New York • The Rev. Mark Luscombe



Editor: Steve Houghton

Epiphany through 5th Sunday in Lent: Jan 17 – Mar 21, 2010

From Pastor Mark...



"When they had heard the king (Herod), they (the Magi) set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was." Matthew 2:9

Events:

IMPORTANT DATE

January 31st
9am Pancake
Breakfast

One service
ONLY at
10:30am

Congregational meeting at 11:30am

Feb 17th
Ash Wed
Service 7pm

March 13th
Learning at the
Crossroads

March 18th
Submissions
due for next
newsletter



Sitting on my desk in the den at home is a large metal, gold-colored, filigree star that was my mother's and ended up, at times, on the top of our family Christmas trees. It resides on my desk because it didn't make its way to the top of our tree this year. Instead, a majestic angel, adorned in the swirl of a green dress, looks down upon us as she strums her harp, while *"bringing [us] good news of great joy..."* My mother's star did not make it onto the tree this year.

It is not the centerpiece of Christmas. Yet, that simple star, filled with memories and Holy meaning, offers me, at each glance, a warm invitation to journey into the love made possible in the willingness of God to leave the glories of His heavenly home for life on earth as a human being, to toil as we toil daily, and eventually die for you and me. As I consider and reflect upon that star, which holds so much meaning for me, I cannot help but consider those wanderers from the East who set out, on what must have been a difficult journey, following a star fit for a king, without knowing what they would find at their journey's end. The thoughts that must have gone on in their minds and in their conversations as they pushed forward, each uncertain step bringing them closer to what they did not know or never would have imagined? The extraordinary thing is that they came with the knowledge that whatever awaited them at the end was well worth the trip, no matter what it might be. And though they got a little sidetracked, not expecting a king to be born in an inauspicious place like Bethlehem, but rather a noble city like Jerusalem, they found, not what they expected, but rather, I imagine, something surprising and far more extraordinary.

As God's children, we journey through our lives, amid our toils, searching for what we believe God has in store for us. After all, we know what we want and what we would like to see resting there for us at our journey's end. But, as is so often the case, what we envision, what fills our dreams, and what we find lying beneath God's star, can be galaxies apart. What is revealed to us at our journey's end is seemingly disappointing and may leave us asking ourselves, and sometimes God, "why" and "what for?"

(continued on next page...)

Looking skyward and into the majestic, cool, and clear wintry skies, the stars burn bright, ablaze with the possibilities and endless opportunities dreamed up by God and waiting for you and me to follow them to their fulfillment. As we journey through this season of Epiphany and discover Christ manifest in all God has in store for us as individuals and as a church, if we are willing, as those who traveled before us, to faithfully and unknowingly seek out and bring to fulfillment, all that awaits us under that love-filled star, which shines brightly and confidently over Holy Trinity and all call it home and serve in its midst.

Living in the brilliance and hope of Christ's love,

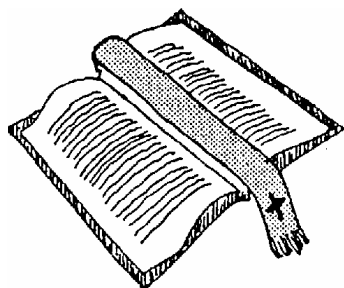
Past. Mark

Prayer...



Continue to use miraculous means, Lord God, in the service of your Gospel message, to lead the seeking and the inquisitive to the truth of your nature and the Savior you sent into their world. Grant it in Jesus' name, Amen.

From the President...



*"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."
(Edmund Burke)*

So much of the history of the struggle between good and evil can be explained by **Edmund Burke's** observation. Time and again those who profess to be good seem to clearly outnumber those who are evil, yet those who are evil seem to prevail far too often. There are numerous examples of this sad and awful scenario being played out over and over again in the scriptures.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus described a man who did nothing. When he received his Lord's money, he "went and dug in the earth, and hid his Lord's money" ([Matt. 25:18](#)). When his Lord returned, he returned to the Lord just what he had been given ([Matt. 25:25](#)). Notice, the servant did not do any outright evil, such as stealing the money, but then neither did he do anything good. He did nothing and he got nothing good accomplished. Jesus said he was a "wicked and slothful servant" ([Matt. 25:26](#)).

Too many Christians and too many [churches do nothing](#). They are standing idly by, they are mere spectators. They sit on the sidelines instead of actively participating and working for the good. If good wins, they join in the celebration though they did nothing to produce the victory. If evil wins, they will complain long and loud though their own apathy helped produce the undesirable result.

Today there are Christians who fail and refuse to meet the real foe, refute error and fight the enemy. Instead, they have turned to viciously savaging their own brethren. They are filled with bitterness and hatred and they maliciously attack, slander, and misrepresent other Christians and gospel preachers. Paul warned about such men and behavior among those professing to be Christians, "But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you be not consumed one of another" ([Gal. 5:15](#)). Those who engage in such behavior are spiritual cannibals. (continued on next page...)

While the conduct of these so-called Christians is shameful, what about those supposedly "good" men who do nothing? Those who stand on the other side and do nothing but watch as their brothers are being slandered, slaughtered, and devoured; they cease being innocent bystanders and idle spectators. Their failure to act not only allows evil to triumph, but makes them just as guilty as the spiritual cannibals they refuse to reprove and rebuke.

Do not allow evil to triumph. Do not do sit by and do nothing. Stand up and be counted.

Rolfe Floyd

Musical Talent of our Youth!!!



Many thanks to the youth of Holy Trinity who did a fantastic job singing and playing their instruments for the Christmas Pageant this year. Many young musicians participated this year. Some have only had a few solo opportunities.

The youngest musician was Maria Ierardi who played the piano while the youth sang "*Star Light, Star Bright*". Maria is in grade 2 and has been playing the piano for about a year. We also had Sarah Lindstrom on the recorder for "*Silent Night*". Not only has she only been playing this instrument for one year but she learned the music the day before the program and did a fantastic job. Seth Lincoln returned for his second year playing the saxophone in our program. He played "*We Three Kings*" and it was wonderful to see how much he has progressed on his instrument in a year. Seth is in grade five and has only been playing the sax for 1 1/2 years. Ethan Howse played his violin again this year. Ethan is in grade 6 and has been playing the violin for a couple of years. He played "*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*" while the youth and congregation sang the carol. Jonathon Marshall, a 7th grader, played the trumpet for "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*." Jonny has been playing the trumpet for four years now. Grace Delasin, our flute player, has been playing her instrument for 5 years. She is an experienced soloist having played solos with the school band. Grace is in 8th grade. Our oldest player was Christina Marshall who played the clarinet. Christina, who loves music, has been playing the clarinet for 7 years and is thinking of a career possibly in music. Thank you also to Josh Marshall for playing the bagpipes for the prelude.

Some of our youth also participated in the Christmas Eve service singing *Cas Radosti* in Slovak with the congregation. A special thanks to Christina Marshall, Matthew, Grace, Ben, Sarah and Lily Delasin!

We have a lot of talent at Holy Trinity and it will only get better with the coming year of lessons and singing. Watch for upcoming musicians Sarah Delasin on clarinet and Maggie Carlson on trumpet!

Susanne Marshall

Music Notes...



I hope all of you had a blessed Christmas and are looking towards the new year. I know that I am looking forward to this new year at Holy Trinity. What it has to bring I do not know, but if we realize God is in all we do then all will be well.

There is a need for choir members; if you love to sing please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the choir loft. Talk to me about what adds to your worship experience through music, and perhaps attend the music committee meetings. I will do my best to assist.

God will bless us in the new year,

Andrea O'Shea

Thank you Laura Howse...



After many dedicated years of service to Holy Trinity, Laura Howse has decided to turn the reigns over to a new editor. Laura's production of *The Trinity Times* newsletter has allowed everyone in the congregation to keep on top of the latest happenings. We thank Laura for her outstanding service and organization in keeping everyone informed. Her incredible organization has also allowed a smooth transition to a new editor.

Please forward any content you would like to be considered for an upcoming newsletter to:

Steve Houghton

587 Babcock Road

Tully, NY 13159

315-256-2396

stephenrhougton@gmail.com (e-mail is preferred)

**The next issue of *The Trinity Times* will cover Palm Sunday through
Pentecost (Mar 28– May 23)**

[content due to Steve Houghton by March 18]

Happy New Year!!!!

Fellowship Activities . . .

WHAT A TREAT! Those who attended the Masterworks Choral Christmas concert enjoyed a very moving performance of beautiful music. We thank Kathryn Carlson for opening her home following the concert. A crackling fire, interesting conversation and delicious desserts combined to make a delightful pre-Christmas evening.

The Fellowship Committee is gathering ideas for get-togethers in 2010. If you have any ideas, please share them with Louise and Dale Zabel at 685-2251. In February there will be a Family Game Night. Watch for more information in upcoming weeks.

Louise Zabel

Bulletin Prayer List . . .

Thank you for your prayers for the people on our bulletin prayer list. We can all be grateful that many times our prayers are answered. Perhaps the person you have asked us to pray for is no longer in need of special prayer. If that is the case, please mention that to Pastor Mark or let the church office know and that name will be removed from the prayer list. Thank you for helping us keep the prayer list up to date.

Learning at the Crossroads . . .



Educational Offerings of the Central Crossroads Conference, Upstate NY
Synod, ELCA

**All workshops are held on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 435 S. Main St., N. Syracuse, NY
13212 Tel.(315) 458-1481**

Visit the Learning at the Crossroads web site at:
<http://LearningattheCrossroads.googlepages.com>

Saturday, March 13, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., \$20 with breakfast and lunch included.

Church and Society in Post-Vietnam America, led by Tom Henry, historian

The issues we see in the church and in general society today did not drop on us suddenly. The dramatic changes in society in the wake of the Sixties not surprisingly planted the seeds of the changes we have faced and are facing as a church. We will spend our day examining both what has changed in the past 45 years and how we as Lutherans continue to respond to those changes.

Sunday School...



Many thanks to everyone who helped make the children's Christmas program, presented at the second service on December 20, a wonderful success. Special thanks to Martha Buehler, who produced and directed the program, Helen Dobrovosky, who helped her, Susanne Marshall who coordinated all the music, the Sunday School teachers who helped with the many details, and the wonderful children whose talents we so appreciated. It is always a lot of work to pull off the annual program, but for many people it is a significant part of their Christmas season.

Also thanks to the teachers who have worked so hard with the students this fall: Lisa Lincoln, Janet Dobrovosky, Laura Howse and Rolfe Floyd. Thanks also to Dan Dobrovosky for leading the Adult Bible study. Lisa and Laura will be taking a break this spring and will be replaced by Gloria Ierardi and Brenda Weimann.

January will be devoted to a world hunger theme, with a culminating event on February 14. We invite others in the congregation to help us in this effort.

Kathryn Carlson

Youth Activities...

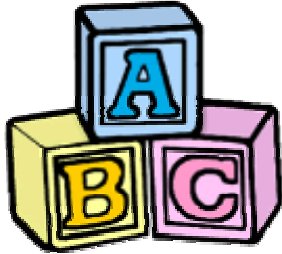


Tom and I have been trying to get the church youth interested in activities. We started with our Pulled Pork Picnic last summer and then in August Tom took a group of our youth to the Skaneateles Rec Center for an afternoon of swimming and then a pizza supper. In September, we went to Beak & Skiff Apple Orchard for a "Hay Ride" and apple picking. We put together several bags of apples and distributed them to members of the church. Halloween of course is in October and Tom and I hosted a Halloween Party for the youth. We had a spectacular turn out.

The Lincoln's and the Delasin's put together a Leaf Raking afternoon in November and the people they "worked" for had nothing but gratitude for the helping hands. In December we went Christmas Caroling after a lunch at church. Again the families appreciated the efforts of our youth. This month (January) the Synod (King of Kings Lutheran Church) is hosting a pizza luncheon and a bowling afternoon for all synod youth on Martin Luther King vacation day. I will be contacting the families who have youth in grades 7 thru 12. If no one is interested, we have several other suggestions we can present for the youth. We will put notices in the church bulletin.

Sharon Potucek

Preschool News...



We, at Holy Trinity Preschool, hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and are enjoying the start of 2010. We are so thankful for all that God has provided for us this New Year.

Holy Trinity Preschool now has 53 students enrolled in our 7 class sections. Our 5's enrichment class, which we began this past September is now full with 12 Kindergarten students coming to Holy Trinity on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons by school bus after their morning Kindergarten sessions at Waterman School. This January, after many requests by parents, we are starting a 3's enrichment class on Friday mornings. On January 8th, a full class of twelve 3 year-olds from our Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday classes will combine to form our new 3's enrichment class led by 3's teacher JoAnna Schmeling and assisted by 4's teacher Mindy Bathgate. We are very excited to be able to provide these 3 year olds and their parents with this new program. This continues to set us apart as there are no other preschools in our area providing an enrichment program for 3, 4, or 5 year olds.

January and February bring much excitement for our Holy Trinity Preschoolers. January is an opportunity for our little ones to get back into the swing of preschool after vacation with wintertime themes in the classroom along with stories of Jesus. February gets busier with visits from local dentist Dr. Carlile for Dental Health Month, Valentine's Day celebrations, and Pajama Days after the week long February break.

On behalf of the staff at Holy Trinity Preschool, I would like to thank you for all of your continued prayers for and support of our school. Without them, I know we wouldn't be having as successful a year as we are. We hope that if any of you need to stop at the church during the week for any reason, that you would stop in to our classrooms and take a peek at what your support and prayers have made possible. If you simply have a few spare minutes, just stop in to say hi to the kids! They would love to meet you! Just give the preschool a call at 685-5820, if you can, to make sure they are not on a field trip and so that they know to leave the door unlocked when you are expected (a locked door policy was instituted last year for the children and staff's safety). Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and blessed 2010!

Sincerely yours,

Helen Glowacki

Director

Flowers...



The 2010 Flower Chart is now hanging in the narthex. Feel free to select a Sunday you would like to place flowers on the altar. The cost for flowers each Sunday is \$15. Please write a check to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for that amount and place it in the offering plate or mail the check to Marge Reynolds.

Important Congregational Meeting (Jan 31st 11:30 AM)

- ✝ 9:00am – Pancake and sausage breakfast
- ✝ 10:30am – Worship (only one service)
- ✝ 11:30am – Congregational meeting

The pancake breakfast is to celebrate **Holy Trinity's 97th year in service to Christ** at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. The confirmation class will be helping to prepare and serve food and clean up that morning. Available that morning will be pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, juice, and the promise of lively fellowship. A sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex asking for donations of syrup, butter, juice, milk, cream, paper plates, napkins, and plastic utensils.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.