

TRINITY NEWS

November 2014

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

Rev. Scott R. Harris, Pastor
Ginger Smellie, Editor

Members & Friends,

November is a month that brings to mind many things, time spent with family, holiday travel, the smell of pumpkin pie baking and the ever present mystery of why I enjoy eating turkey on Thanksgiving when it is hot, but find it unappetizing cold as a leftover or on a sandwich. I kid you not! It never smells right to me when it is cold and when I try to eat turkey that is cold, a fear of being hospitalized with food poisoning overwhelms me!

Another thing that the month of November brings to mind for me is stewardship. You're probably wondering why November makes me think of stewardship of all things. The reason has to do with the holiday of Thanksgiving.

When we practice good financial stewardship, the proper motivation is not God's need for our money (God is God, why would God need cash?) nor are we motivated by the church's need for money in order to meet its budget. Stewardship, at its best, is motivated by my need to worship God with my offering as a means of expressing my thankfulness to God for all of God's blessings in my life.

The ancient Jewish practice of offering the first fruits of the harvest to God was done so as an act of faithfulness; thanking God for all that had been received and all that was about to be received. It was a way of acknowledging God as the source of all good things and as an act of remembering that not only what is offered, but what is retained for personal use is God's and is subject to God's will.

Most of all, the act of faithful financial stewardship motivated by thankfulness is a source of joy. The Apostle Paul put it this way in 2 Corinthians 9:7; "... give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

May your thankfulness motivate you to acts of stewardship that result in great joy.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Scott

In the month of September we have had sermons on the following topics:

9/7/14 – The Fusion of Worship (Exodus 12:1-14, Romans 13:8-14)
These verses speak about the only debt that we should never finish paying: the debt of love for others. All the commandments can be summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." When we worship together, we form one whole, united body. Each week during worship, records of wrongs can be lost and we all can freely give as we have freely received. The act of worship fuses us together and facilitates selfless Christ-love for one another as we praise our maker with one voice.

9/14/14 – Deliverance: The Exponential Gift (Exodus 14:19-31, Matthew 18:21-35)

In this sermon we explored the fact that when we focus our minds on the mercy and deliverance that God has offered our ancestors from Egypt and us from eternal separation, the eternal gratitude that we are flooded with spills over into our relationship with each other. This results in our authentically desiring to forgive, even when we are hurting.

9/21/14 – Citizens of Heaven (Exodus 16:2-15, Philippians 1:21-30)

Here we learned that although this world has a lot to offer, anything this world offers pales in comparison to what we have access to through faith in Jesus Christ. As Christians we are called not to focus on that which is temporary, but to live in a manner that is worthy of the gospel.

9/27/14 – The Deal-Breaker (Exodus 17:1 – 7, Philippians 2:1-13)

In this sermon we learned that the appropriate response to our salvation and life as servants of Christ should be thankfulness and humility. We do well to remember when we get agitated at "the way things are going" and consider walking away that this isn't our deal to break.



BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Tuesday, November 11th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane Tingley. Ginger Smellie, hostess.

* * *

BROEK COOKS - will have Minestrone and Potato Corn Chowder available on December 14th. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

* * * * *

JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Sunday, November 2nd after coffee hour, in the Library Lounge. After the meeting they will go out for brunch. Miep Devries hostess.

* * *

Jacoba Circle will again be collecting money for turkeys for the food bank, on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23.

There will be a basket in the Narthex for your donation.



NOVEMBER, 2014

- 3. Emil Habeeb
- 10. D. J. Coppola
- 17. Tina Wich

* * * * *

OUR THANKSGIVING

Let our lives be our Thanksgiving
 To our Father up above;
 Let us worship Him with kindness;
 Let us praise Him with our love.
 Let us honor Him with virtue;
 Let good deeds become our prayer;
 Let our lives be our Thanksgiving
 For the bounty that we share.

-Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Portland, OR

* * * * *

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for December News

SUNDAY, November 16th



Just a little suggestion to help you remember Jacoba's Food Collection. Every week when you do your grocery shopping, just add one extra item from our food list. We gratefully appreciate your help and so do all the folks who need our help.

Thanks!

There are boxes at the entrance for your donations of:


Tuna
Soup
Macaroni & Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce
Pasta
Canned vegetables
Canned fruit
Cereal
Parmalat Milk
Peanut Butter
Jelly

and other than food: Toothpaste, deodorant, Shampoo, hand soap, Toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent

All food is now being delivered to St. Joseph's R.C. Church here in North Plainfield for easier access to our neighborhood folks.


If you don't want to carry bags into the building, we will gladly come to your car!





NOVEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1. Jacoba	2. Consistory 7:30 pm	3. VOTE	4. Bible Study 7:30 pm	5. Choir 7:30	6.	7.
8.	9.	10. Broek 1 pm	11. Veterans Day	12. Bible Study 7:30 pm	13. Choir 7:30	14.
15.	16. *** News deadline	17.	18.	19. Bible Study 7:30 pm	20. Choir 7:30	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27. 	28.
29.	30.					