

TRINITY NEWS

February 2015

Trinity Reformed Church
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063

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

Members & Friends,

It seems as if I just packed away the Christmas tree this past weekend. Maybe that's because I did, in fact, take down and store our Christmas tree this weekend! And yet, before we know it, the season of Lent will begin: Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th this year!

Lent is a time of solemn preparation for the events of Good Friday, when Jesus paid the price so that our sins might be forgiven and Easter Sunday, when God raised Jesus from the dead as a promise that all who have faith in Jesus will one day experience their own resurrection to eternal life. Because we are preparing to celebrate our sins being forgiven, much energy goes into repenting of those sins. That is why the season is somber and the color purple is used as the liturgical color.

In the Old Testament, when someone was in mourning, they would tear their garments and put ashes on their head as a symbol of that mourning. When they wanted to be mindful of God, they would fast and pray. Lent, and Ash Wednesday in particular, combine some of those elements. During Lent we humble ourselves, we remember that, in the words of Genesis 2:7 God formed us "...from the dust of the ground" In fact, when ashes are imparted to believers on Ash Wednesday, the minister will often say to the Christian receiving the ashes; "Remember that from the dust you were taken, and to the dust you shall return some day." Or, as the burial liturgy puts it when we commit a believers body to the ground; "...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The practice of imparting and receiving ashes for Ash Wednesday is something that has traditionally been seen as "a Catholic thing." But more and more protestants are reclaiming this tradition and appropriating it as their own. It serves as a reminder of why we needed Jesus and why we needed Good Friday. And Lent, rather than being about negativity and making people feel guilty, serves to intensify the joy that we feel at Easter when we realize that our old sinful nature has been crucified with Christ and buried with Him through Baptism so that we might receive newness of life.

I invite you to join us at church on Ash Wednesday as we begin our journey through Lent, towards Easter together.

Grace & Peace,

- Pastor Scott

In the month of December we had sermons on the following topics;

12/7/14 –Forgiveness-Colored Glasses (Isaiah 40:1-1, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8)

Most people are familiar with the idiom “rose-colored glasses.” To say that a person sees the world through rose-colored glasses means that person views most life circumstances in an extremely optimistic way. The whole concept of glasses that would affect someone’s perspective is an interesting one to consider. Our faith in God requires us to look at all of life differently, too. As Christians, what kind of glasses do we see the world through? How does that change the way we live?

This is the most challenging set of glasses we as Christians ever put on: To see the world through forgiveness-colored glasses. When we see life through the lens of God’s forgiveness and grace, it changes everything.

12/14/14 –Who Are You? (1 Thessalonians 5:1-24, John 1:68, 19-28)

In this sermon we examined our identity in relation to Christ.

We are the redeemed, holy, dearly loved children of God. We are his voices of joy, prayer, and thanksgiving, shining a light on the way, truth, and life. Anything we are is only because he is.

12/21/14 –Uncommon Love. (Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38)

David was God’s chosen servant. God picked him out of the millions of common people and extended divine grace and mercy to him and his entire family line for all eternity.

As we entered the week in which we would celebrate Christmas; the birth of a very *uncommon* baby, we reverently acknowledge that God has chosen to bless each one of us with the same divine mercy that God granted David. We, a common people, are chosen and set apart by a holy God to be part of God’s eternal dynasty. We, from this common place, were selected by God to reap the benefit of God’s own perfect Son’s birth, life, and death. We common people can now stand up and be counted as *uncommon*, the holy and dearly loved family of Christ. Just like David, we are now royalty. Why? Because God loves us.

12/24/14 – No Longer Forsaken. (Isaiah 62:6-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20)

We all know the story of how the baby, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, arrived. But how many of us gloss over the many, many centuries of waiting that occurred before this promise was fulfilled?

In today’s world, there is not much we have to wait for. How often do we even realize we still need a savior, let alone take a moment to feel the ache and burn of that need?

As we celebrated the birth of our Savior, we paused together as the church, the Lord’s body of believers, to raise one voice as the angels did on that night, to rejoice in our being no longer forsaken.

12/28/14 – Awake My Soul! (Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3, Luke 2:22-40)

Is your soul awake? If not, do not fear. A solution is found in Luke 2:22-40. This is where Luke shares the account of Mary and Joseph dedicating Jesus in accordance with God’s law. There at the Temple were two people—Simeon and Anna—who were patiently waiting to witness the Christ. Simeon, who was very old, was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the Lord’s Messiah, and Anna was an eighty-four-year-old widow who never left the Temple. Simeon took the child in his arms and praised God! Then Anna came along while Simeon was talking and she began praising God and talking about Jesus to everyone who, like herself, had been waiting on the Messiah. You can have that exuberance, too. Each time you take a moment to meet with Jesus in prayer or in his word, his Holy Spirit stirs within you and revives your soul. Drink in the living water to awaken your soul!



BROEK CIRCLE - will meet on Tuesday, February 10th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Jane Tingley. Pat Ledger, hostess.

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Broek Cooks - will have Chicken Gumbo and Creamy Potato soups available for pickup on Sunday, March 22nd. An order form is on the hall bulletin board.

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JACOBA CIRCLE - will meet on Monday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Lounge. Tina Wich, hostess.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to Jacoba's annual Pet Project. We delivered two trunk loads of food and supplies. In addition, \$225 was given to the Plainfield Area Humane Society.

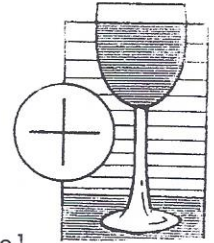
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FEBRUARY. 2015

- 14. Steven Zarnowski
- 15. Joanne Nuber
- 19. Jim Beil

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ASH WEDNESDAY
February 18th, 2015

Communion, 8:00 p.m. Broek Chapel
On the first of these 40 days of Lent, partake of the Lord's Supper.

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- BIBLE STUDY - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- February 4 - No Greater Love
- February 11 - NO BIBLE STUDY
- February 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY
- February 25 - The Rabbi

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MARCH Newsletter Deadline -

Sunday, February 15th





JACOBA CIRCLE continues their food collection, since Holiday collections are over.

Please bring one of the following items to church on Sunday morning. Collection boxes are at the entrances to church.


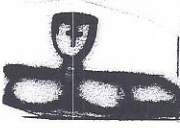
Macaroni & Cheese
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Meats: Spam, Corned Beef and Stews
Spaghetti
Canned Fruit & Juice
Cereal
Canned Vegetables
Soup
Peanut Butter & Jelly

and non-food items: Toothpaste, Deodorant,
Hand Soap, Shampoo, Toilet Paper,
Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent

Thank you for helping!



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1.	2. Consistory 7:30	3.	4. Bible Study 7:00 pm	5. 7:30 Choir	6.	7.
8.	9. Jacoba 7:30	10. Broek 1:00 pm.	11. No Bible STUDY	12. 7:30 Choir	13.	14. 
15. ✖ Newsletter Deadline	16.	17.	18. ASH WEDNESDAY 	19. Choir 7:30	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25. Bible Study 7:00 pm	26. 7:30 Choir	27.	28.