

Trinity Tidings

The Quarterly Newsletter of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Astoria, New York

Easter and Pentecost, May 15, 2011



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- ★ [Surfing the Web](#): Web sites you might be interested in visiting. There’s a couple of new ones in this issue.
- ★ [Pastor’s Corner](#): An especially poignant and timely article about “loving your enemies.”



THE PASTOR'S CORNER

(Today's Pastor's Corner is especially timely and poignant. It is reprinted from Today's Thought emailed to Trinity members on May 3, 2011.)

" Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

from Martin Luther King's book, "Strength to Love" publ. 1963

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed them, if they are thirsty, give them drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon their head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

St. Paul in Romans 12:9-21



First, let me say, I am glad that Osama bin Ladin has been brought to justice. It was a very long time in coming and I applaud the Navy seals, the CIA and all those brave and wise men and women who worked tirelessly to see that "justice was served." As our president said, "This is a good day for America." As our former president said, "No matter how long it takes, we will get the job done."

Second, let me say that my prayers are with those who lost loved ones, friends, colleagues and coworkers on that horrific day almost 10 years ago. I cannot imagine the grief that you have felt; I cannot imagine what it means to you to actually *know* people that were in the Twin towers and watch them fall; or to have loved ones in the fire, rescue and police forces who actually went *into* the Trade center to assist others. My heart goes out to you and I remember you in prayer.

Third, let me give thanks to one of our Trinity members who forwarded the quote from Dr. King – based upon conversations they had at work yesterday.

Fourth, let me say that, as I have said in Bible studies and Membership classes:

***We have no business asking God to get off the judgment seat and let us sit on it for awhile.
It is GOD'S job to render eternal judgment, not that of sinful human beings.***

I heard people say (on the TV and in newspaper articles) that they KNOW that Osama bin Ladin is burning in hell right now; and, they should have saved his body, brought it to the White House lawn and burned it in front of everyone.

I know that emotions are running high right now. I know we rejoice that, after SUCH A LONG TIME, justice has been served.

We who follow Christ Jesus are called to witness to a higher standard. Everything our Lord taught us is about service, humility and yes, praying for our enemies.

Shortly after I got to St. John's in Lindenhurst in late September 2001, I gave a children's sermon about praying for our enemies. And I remember how hard it was for some of the children to think that they were called to pray for Osama bin Ladin and those who follow him. Several of the children said to me afterward, "I don't understand this pastor; I don't know what I am to pray for, but I will do it." The next February, close to Valentine's Day, I did a children's sermon on loving your enemies, and in Sunday School someone made a "Valentine for their enemy" that said something like:

"...though you hate me, I am called by Jesus to love you."

This is not easy stuff – this desire for justice. And I do believe that God desires justice to be done: one of the reasons we have laws and courts and police and military is so that justice, equality and eventually peace may reign in God's creation. I affirm all the work that is done by these persons and thank God they are here for us, and to protect us – **even from ourselves sometimes.**

I am glad that Osama bin Ladin has been brought to justice. Do I rejoice in this? I am not certain that is my personal response – though I do not condemn those who feel this way. What I DO believe, is that we are to be humble in the presence of what has happened – **to live to a higher calling and standard** than bin Ladin and others did when they rejoiced on September 11, 2001 at the death of so many innocents.

As my Mom says, "Don't stoop to their standard."

Hear the words of Dr. King:

"Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Hear the words of St. Paul:

"Hate what is evil."

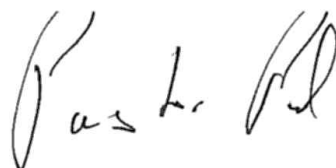
And perhaps that means the thoughts and desires and actions of Osama bin Ladin – perhaps evil personified. However, again hear the words of St. Paul:

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

May God give us strength and courage and vision in these days.

Easter Peace to you all.

Love,



CHURCH EVENTS AND NEWS

Please check the [calendars](#) at the end of this newsletter for the complete schedules of special and recurring events.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 5, 2011

Please join us on June 5th after Sunday worship for our Quarterly Congregational Meeting. Agenda items include annual Council elections and an update on the Organ roof repair project.

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED

June 26, 2011

*We welcome new members next month
into our community.*

New Members classes will take place on Sunday June 5, 12, and 19 following Fellowship at approximately 1:00 p.m. The classes last about one hour and are held in the Rectory living room in the house behind the church and across the street from our parking lot on 37th Street.

In one year, we have welcomed about 15 people into full membership with Trinity and the Lutheran Church. Our congregation continues to grow in size, in variety, and in vibrancy. We see more and more visitors at Sunday Eucharist who we hope will consider becoming members of Trinity.

If you know someone who is seeking for a church home and might be interested in becoming more involved in the life of Trinity, we encourage you to have them speak with Pastor Paul or the church office.

CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR 2011

Trinity is busy putting together a new directory. Forms are available for pick up in the office, in the church, and you can also submit your information

online here! If you are a member or friend of Trinity, please submit your information to us soon!

DONATIONS TO THE FOOD PANTRY WELCOMED. Ella and Powell have written a [wonderful article](#) about our Food Pantry and about the need for it in Astoria. Please make sure to read it; it is quite informative and inspiring — a call for service to the less fortunate in our community.

Afterwards, as you are doing your grocery shopping, pick up a couple of cans of soup, spaghetti sauce, canned veggies, or similar non-perishable items to donate to our Food Pantry.

A basket is provided in the Narthex for you to deposit your donations and these will be presented at the Altar each week as a part of our offering to God for the care of our neighbors. Please speak with Powell Griggs to inquire as to what specific items we need; this varies from month to month.

SPECIAL NEEDS FUND. A young family came to see pastor Paul needing help. The young daughter needed shoes — her soles were torn, and the father needed work boots with rubber on them — he is a medical van driver — his too were torn. A trip to the shoe store was made and the happy family was sent on their way.

On another day, a family who had no means of cooking food from the Food Pantry (all our items are non-perishable) came hungry. Pastor took them to a local sub shop and fed them a hearty meal. On another day, a member of Trinity asked if \$20 could be borrowed til pay day “just to get through.

The Special Needs Fund allows Pastor Paul the resources to assist people in need. He gives an accounting each month to the Council of income and expenses, keeping the identities of persons who receive absolutely confidential.

If you would like to contribute, please indicate in the pew envelope (or on your check), "Special Needs Fund." Thanks to so many who are giving regularly.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED. Do you make scrumptious brownies? Are your salads "to die for"? We always need help with Fellowship on Sundays after worship.

If you can help coordinate or prepare food for the fellowship hour, please speak with Gus Dimino. Fellowship sponsors may be reimbursed up to \$40 per week with submission of receipts.

Thanks for considering — and happy cooking!

THE SEWING LADIES NEED HELP. If you are interested in learning or have skills in art and craft, Trinity's sewing ladies need your help in preparing items for the Christmas Fair. Come on Tuesdays between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm to Trinity's Undercroft. Each person in our friendly working group has the option of taking things home to prepare. Please contact Erika Butler, 718-726-8882 for further details.

SPLASH!

This publication, for families with very young children, is available for you, free. It contains activities, readings, and prayers to help introduce infants and toddlers to their baptism faith — even at a very young age! Contact the church office and our secretary, Nadine McKenzie, to receive *SPLASH!* She needs the name and address of your child as well as how old your child is by month to send the correct edition.



ACTIVITIES @ TRINITY

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Spring is in the air! This is my favorite time of year— flowering trees, soft breezes, and some

glimpses of sun after months of gray skies. I love new beginnings. In that regard, It was such a joy to have Pastor Milholland here for the first of many years of Holy Week services.

The council has worked with Pastor on completing a number of new projects during the cold winter months, including:

- Moving forward with the installation of a sound system from John Leone Sound Systems. Doesn't it sound great?
- Designating this year's Lenten Coin Folders for **B o b b i a n d t h e S t r a y s** (<http://www.bobbianthestrays.org>), a Queens non-profit animal shelter. We hope to give the proceeds from our Lenten Coin Folders to a different outside charity every year.
- Entering into a rental relationship with World Worship Church, a Brazilian congregation. They are currently meeting in the Undercroft on Saturday evenings.
- Purchasing a pouring chalice to be used during communion.

And all this in addition to the regular work we do! We continue to work on ironing out the details of the next phase of our roof repair and stained glass window stabilization project, both of which we hope will begin soon. We also find ourselves reviewing a large number of building rental requests for this beautiful, centrally located meeting space.

It's a great time to be a part of this growing church!

Kate Stutzel, President

YOUNG ADULT GROUP



Young Adults at Bare Burger, February 2011

Young adults from our church and the community (aged 21–40 and "young at heart") are gathering every month for lively conversation and joyful fellowship. Discussion began last Fall with a

curriculum called “Get Uncomfortable”, dealing with social justice, and also about general issues of life, faith, and spirituality.

The Young Adult Group continues to plan service projects in our community. Currently, they are looking to team up with **World Vision** to run a half-marathon next year and raise money for clean water projects in Kenya. If you're interested in raising money for a great cause and getting fit while doing so, email Christian Ledesma or speak to him on Sunday after worship. No running experience is necessary - all fitness levels.

For more details about the Young Adult Group and its activities, contact Christian at c.a.ledesma@gmail.com. Visit the Trinity Lutheran Website at <http://www.trinitylic.org/ministries.php#youngadult> for more information.

BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE STUDY will resume on June 7. Pastor Paul will be teaching on Thursdays at 11 a.m. and Tuesdays 7:00 pm in the Undercroft. Each session will last one hour. No experience is necessary! If you have a personal bible, bring it with you. If not, we will get you one! We will be studying the first book of the bible, Genesis. Come deepen your faith as we engage in stimulating dialogue about the love of God.

MORNING BIBLE STUDY will be taking a trip to the Queens Botanical Gardens on Thursday, May 19.

Join Pastor Paul and other members and friends of Trinity for a beautiful day at the Gardens. We will gather at Trinity at 10 a.m. and carpool to the gardens.

Admission cost is \$4 for adults; \$3 for seniors. We will take a self guided tour and enjoy each others company, followed by lunch somewhere close by. We will return to Trinity by 2 p.m. Contact Pastor Paul if interested in going so we can arrange the carpool.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUNG FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL takes place each Sunday from 9:30 am – 10:15 a.m. in the Undercroft near the stage. All parents, even those with infants, are encouraged to attend! An adult needs to accompany any child that comes. For more information, contact Pastor Paul or Christian Ledesma.

On Memorial day weekend, Sunday May 29th, we'll take a break for the summer. We'll return in late September.

The idea is to have parents and children in class *together* so that we can teach parents how to develop faith and nurture the spiritual life of their child or children. Since home is the primary place of learning, this ministry helps to strengthen family religious life. Activities include learning songs, prayers, doing crafts, and celebrating significant milestones in a child's and family's life. What we learn in Young Family Sunday School is reinforced by Pastor Paul in his childrens' sermons in church.



TODDLER PLAYGROUP has finished meeting. If you are interested in helping us find a way to continue this ministry, please see Pastor Paul or Kate Stutzel, Council president.

PASTOR'S PARLOUR (*Wine and cheese and stimulating conversation*) will resume this fall. Stay tuned!

NOT BACH A SUCCESS! On February 27, over 60 people gathered to hear a concert of vocal and organ music performed by Gina Haver, soprano and church member Mark Victor Smith, organ.

The concert was received well by both audience and the press. A review of the concert is posted on the bulletin board in the undercroft. After the concert, the audience was treated to a reception, replete with a wonderful banquet served by Eric Rodriguez and David Shmerler.

Many thanks to all who made this concert possible. We are planning more concerts in the future as part of Trinity's commitment to musical outreach to our community.

THE ASTORIA SYMPHONIC CHOIR CLOSES OUT ITS INAUGURAL SEASON ON A HIGH NOTE.

Haydn Fest Concert a Success!

By Eric Rodriguez and David Shmerler

On Sunday, May 8th The Astoria Symphonic Choir (ASC), under the direction of Adam Eggleston, completed its inaugural season with a rousing Mother's Day performance at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, celebrating the works of Franz Joseph "Papa" Haydn. The choir presented two of Haydn's most cherished oratorios – the Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo or "The Little Organ Mass" conducted by ASC's Assistant Director Todd Wachsman and The Mass for Troubled Times, more commonly known as "The Lord Nelson Mass", conducted by Maestro Eggleston with ASC's in house accompanist Christopher Bradshaw on the Organ. The Choir was joined for the concert by the Astoria Symphony, under the music direction of Silas Nathaniel Huff. The Symphony kicked-off the night with Haydn's Organ Concerto No. 2, also conducted by Maestro Eggleston. For this stellar event, the audience numbered over 150 people!

The evening's soloists, Ernest Lehrer (Organist), Megan Pachecano (Soprano), Samantha Korbey (Mezzo-Soprano), Blake Friedman (Tenor) and Constandinos Tsourakis (Bass and local Astorian) were spectacular and augmented the each piece with their beautiful voices, finger and footwork and overall professionalism.

Following the concert, Pastor Paul offered his personal views on Facebook:

"Why leave Queens? The Astoria Symphonic Choir just scored a 10 in their Haydn Fest with the Astoria Symphony Orchestra! Glorious music in the AMAZING surroundings of the most beautiful St. Joseph's Church of Astoria - decked out in her Easter finest! Kudos to Adam Eggleston and all who did a marvelous job and Trinity Lutheran family and friends who participated. So very proud of you and moved."

Trinity Church has been the gracious host for all of the ASC rehearsals since its inception this past

fall. The choir gratefully acknowledges and thanks Pastor Paul, the congregants and staff at Trinity for their open-armed welcome and use of the Church and its facilities. In fact, several Trinity members and friends of Trinity are ASC choir members, including Daniel Burkey (Bass), Kendra Newton (Soprano), Eric Rodriguez (Tenor), David Shmerler (Bass) and Richard Walker (Bass).

Although the ASC will be on hiatus until the fall, the Astoria Symphony will be performing a program of classics and pops prior this summer to the annual Fireworks Celebration at Astoria Park on June 30th at 7:30PM.

For those interested or just curious, the Astoria Symphonic Choir is always looking for new members to come make beautiful music! You don't have to be a pro, just a music lover. Auditions for the Fall 2011 season will be held in early September. If you're interested in becoming a member, or for more information about the choir in general, please check out the choir's webpage at www.astoriachoir.org or send an email to astoriachoir@gmail.com.

Additional information about both the Astoria Symphony and the Astoria Symphony Choir can be found at the website of the umbrella organization that oversees both groups – The Astoria Music Society (www.astoriamusic.org).

♪ TRINITY GOES OUT TO THE BALLGAME! ♪



We have obtained a group of tickets to the Brooklyn Cyclones game on Saturday, June 25 at 6 p.m in Coney Island. Tickets are \$15 each and include a free Brooklyn

Cyclones hat. You can put your payment in the offering basket with a note on how many tickets you'd like, or you can pay the church office directly. A group of us will go together by subway earlier in the day for some fun in the sun before the game.

Stay tuned for more details!

NEWS OF MEMBERS**HANDS**

FROM MARC A. STUTZEL, SEMINARIAN

One of my courses for the semester is an introduction to liturgy. We're doing a broad overview of what the ELCA promotes and teaches should happen during worship. It's a very nuts and bolts class with an overarching framework grounded in the liturgical renewal movement of the 20th century. It's also taught by possibly the best Lutheran liturgist in the U.S., Dr. Gordon Lathrop, which means that I'm having a blast digging into the meaning behind Sunday worship.

One of the first items of business we covered was what to do with one's hands during worship. I never really thought of it before but — when we collectively pray, hold the bulletin, or sing — our hands play a part in what we do. Should we hold them at our side? How about folded on our chest? What about the world famous fig leaf maneuver? Where do our hands go?

If I've made you self-conscious about your own hand maneuvers, then you know exactly how that part of the class made me feel. It's a detail of the business of worship that, outside of first communion classes, isn't shared all that often.

And I think that's one of the great things I'm experiencing so far this second semester of seminary: the opportunity to take the time to dwell on these kinds of details. Even though there are times when seminarians can appear to be living in the clouds — say by debating the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ — I find the real challenge of seminary to be in the details. The bigger the topic, the easier it is to hide behind its vastness. But when I root through those things that can appear minor, it serves as a reminder of how tangible the Lutheran Christian experience is. Every time I pick up a hymnal, my hands are involved. Every time I clasp them in prayer, I know that they are there. To me, this is part of the *incarnational* aspect of our faith — the fact that God came into our world, into our humanness, into our very smallness, and changed it. It's easy to get lost

in what might appear to be so very abstract, but the incarnation, the cross, and the resurrection ground us all in the very real. Hands, to me at least, aren't small, mundane, or ordinary. Rather, they are so much more because God came down and took those hands up.

It's now the Easter season and, in a few days hence, Pentecost is upon us. After that celebration, the church year enters into a period called "Ordinary time". But there really is nothing ordinary about that time of year because every Sunday is an Easter and every day we shout that Christ Is Risen. As I end this semester and head into my next experience — studying pastoral care while in a hospital — I'm grateful for the time to stare into details, because its in the details where most of us live and its in the details that Christ comes to each and every one of us, whether we realize it or not.

Marc

You can contact Marc by email at:
marc.stutzel@gmail.com

ORGAN, DRAMA, AND OPERA

Trinity member, **Mark Victor Smith** is performing in two events during the month of May:

- ▶ *The Old Organist* by Henry Jones. This play about an organist who loses his job to his daughter's fiancée, will be punctuated with music which was probably played for services in the 1920s, the period in which the play takes place. Sunday, May 15 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, Long Island City. Free-will offering. More info:
<http://stmaryrcchurchlic.blogspot.com>
- ▶ *La Forza del Destino* by Giuseppe Verdi. With the BMCC Downtown Symphony. Sunday, May 22, 2011, 3:00 p.m at Borough of Manhattan Community College (Chambers St. and West St.), Richard Harris Terrace. Free!! Info: (212) 220-1464 or www.downtownsymphony.org

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES**CRUISE AND TOUR: FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL IN GREECE AND TURKEY**

Tuesday, April 10 to Friday, April 20, 2012

Join Pastor William Munz of Christ in Islip Terrace, Pastor Craig Miller of Our Saviour's in Brooklyn and Pastor Paul Milholland of Trinity in Long Island City/Astoria on a trip of a lifetime!



Visit Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Heraklion, Santorini, Delphi, Kalambaka, Thessalonika. The trip includes a three-day cruise on the Aegean Sea.

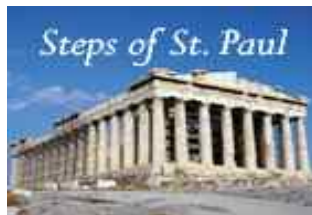
The cost is \$2739, which includes airfare from NY, cruise, and accommodations during the land portion of the tour in First Class hotels (twin beds, double occupancy - additional cost for single room). Meals included are breakfast and dinner daily while on land and three meals a day during cruise. There will be an English-speaking guide throughout.

Price does not include airline fees for fuel, taxes, etc. estimated to be about \$500.

Brochures will be forthcoming shortly.

Save your money and the date! A payment plan is available. This tour is coordinated through [Nawas Travel](#).

Contact Pastor Paul or any of the pastors listed above to participate.

**TRIP TO ROMANIA, 2011**

The New York Synod is planning a trip to Romania from June 12 – 30, 2011. The total cost is \$3,500. If interested, please contact Pastor Paul Milholland at the church office, 718-278-0036 or email him at paulmilholland@yahoo.com.

Take a trip to see the country in which Pastors Michael and Terri Church and family have been ministering in mission to the people of Romania.

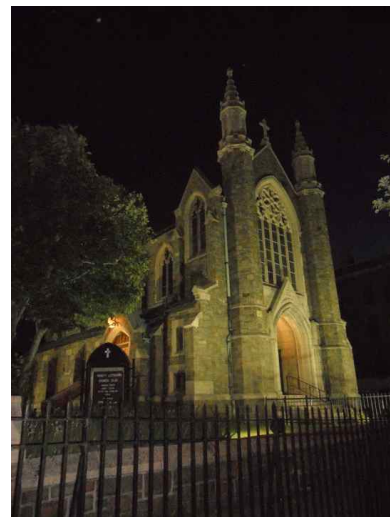
CELTIC PILGRIMAGE TOUR

JUNE 25 — JULY 8, 2011

The pilgrimage will tour Scotland including Edinburgh, Glasgow and Iona and Northern England (including Durham, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne and Whitby). There will be Opportunities to visit historic cathedrals and medieval castles balanced by the invitation for prayer and sabbath time at some of what the Celts call the "thin places" of the earth. The pilgrimage is limited to 20 people. For additional information, contact Deacon Gayle Ruege at gruege@mnys.org.



Stained glass windows in our church



Trinity at night

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY



CONCERTS AT CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Concerts at Church of the Redeemer are held on the third Sunday of every month from October to May at 6pm. Church of the Redeemer is at 30-14 Crescent Street in Astoria, just south of 30th Avenue. The nearest train is the N or Q at the 30th / Grand Avenue station. Suggested donation: \$10.



SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK
MAY 8 – AUGUST 7, 2011
OPENING SUNDAY, MAY 8 • 2 – 6PM

VISTA

IVAN ARGOTE
JILLIAN CONRAD
PRISCILA DE CARVALHO
BLANE DE ST. CROIX
MICHAEL CLYDE JOHNSON
LEIF LOW-BEER
STEVEN MILLAR
SLINKO
HOWIE SNEIDER
ROB SWAINSTON
JASON TOMME



OUR MISSION HERE AT HOME: THE TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

"For I was hungry and you gave me food . . ."

Matthew 25:35



"One part of America is having a difficult time acknowledging that another part is hungry."

U.S. Representative Leon E. Panetta from the article, "Hunger & Poverty in America: A Social Statement of the Lutheran Church in America." <http://www.elca.org>

The Trinity Food Pantry is seeking to do its part to raise awareness about the issue of hunger in America and is working to reduce hunger in our small corner of the world, right here in Astoria, Queens. Who goes hungry in Astoria? We hope, no one. But the reality is that, in these challenging economic times, the list of those in need is growing.

According to the Food Bank for New York City, throughout the five boroughs approximately 1.3 million people, "mainly women, children, seniors, the working poor and people with disabilities," rely on soup kitchens and food pantries. Approximately three million New Yorkers experience difficulty affording food. Financial pressures such as unemployment, health issues, health insurance issues, and low wages continue to strain the budgets of New Yorkers. Low-income New Yorkers often have to choose between providing enough food and paying the month's rent or utility bills. Middle-income New Yorkers are also feeling the pressure.

The Trinity Food Pantry, managed by Trinity Council member Powell Griggs, gives a bit of assistance to those in crisis struggling to provide what many take for granted — a nutritious meal on the table, or even a special meal to celebrate a holiday. So, twice a month on alternate Fridays from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., Powell Griggs offers a smile, a word of reassurance, and a bag containing canned vegetables, beans, soups, tins of sardines or tuna, and sometimes even fresh fruit to those in need in the Astoria/Long Island City area.

The Food Pantry relies upon generous donations from our diverse community. Individual church members and neighbors donate to the pantry, as well as various organizations. Recently, the food pantry received a donation of basmati rice, vanilla macaroons, Turkish apricots and "Eden Mix" (a gourmet mix of nuts and dried fruits) from the Young Israel of Holliswood Synagogue. Food pantry recipients were thrilled to have these special treats.

Trinity's food pantry also shares its donations with local groups. Recently, Powell Griggs and Ella Smith delivered fresh fruit, cookies, and snacks gathered from Trinity's food pantry to the Ali Forney Center, New York City's top service organization for homeless youth, located in the renovated St. Andrew's Church here in Astoria.

Trinity's food pantry can always use volunteers to help with the work of sorting and packing canned goods into grocery bags and to help distribute bags to those who stop by the church. Distribution dates are twice a month on Fridays at 6:30pm. Powell thanks those who stopped by last month — during a hailstorm! — to help organize the shelves and label crates. The food pantry will open its doors just three more times before the summer break: Fridays, 5/27, 6/10 & 6/24.

Even though during the summer the doors of the Food Pantry will be closed, anyone in need is encouraged to contact the church office for assistance.

We hope to be able to extend the services provided by Trinity's food pantry, and are looking for the help needed to do so. For instance: How can we get word out to the day laborers that line up looking for work in early mornings along Broadway and 41st Street? They and their families may certainly benefit from receiving help from the food pantry. How do we locate any other needy groups that might benefit from assistance, and how best to let them know about the Trinity's Food Pantry?

Though Trinity's food pantry is small, we *can* make a big difference! If you have any ideas about ways we can continue to serve our community, or can help with outreach, let us know!

By His hands we must be fed, give us Lord our daily bread!

Peace & Blessings to you from,

Powell Griggs & Ella Smith



About Trinity Member, Powell Griggs

When Trinity member Powell Griggs is not organizing the food pantry as a volunteer at Trinity or at work assisting property tax payers through the New York City Department of Finance, he writes for and directs the Queens-based sketch comedy troupe *The LionHearted Players* and produces "The KONG SHOW", the biggest little comedy variety show assisting "starving artists" by providing venues for networking and performing.

About Trinity Volunteer, Ella Smith

Ella Smith works with various non-profit organizations promoting their special events and projects. Along with her spouse, Powell Griggs, she co-produces *Powella Production's* "KONG SHOW" featuring the Queens-based *LionHearted Players* sketch comedy troupe. Last year she began, *LionHearted Players Have a Heart*, a volunteerism initiative dedicated to donating time and resources to local community groups.



OUR MISSION IN ROMANIA: PASTORS MICHAEL AND TERRI CHURCH

MEET OUR MISSIONARIES!

Pastors Michael and Terri Church, our missionaries in Cluj, Romania, will be back in New York for a visit this summer. Pastor Michael was Interim Pastor at Trinity for a couple of years from the fall of 2006 to August of 2009 just before Pastor Paul was called.

Come and hear the Pastors Church recount their experiences in Romania at a luncheon that we will host for them on Saturday, July 9th from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.



FROM THE BLOG SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH IN CLUJ WEBSITE

HELP JAPAN

Posted on March 28, 2011 by Pastor Michael Church

A few weeks ago, I was in the office when I heard our bishop's First Councilor call my name. Together, we watched the first, horrifying video of the Japanese tsunami, rolling ashore with its unspeakable power, destroying homes and taking lives. Since then, of course, the news has only grown more frightening.

And yet, like most of us, I have been deeply moved by the strength and courage of the Japanese people, as they face a series of disasters that might lead other nations into chaos. Bishop Adorjani has written to the Lutheran leaders in Japan, as well as to the Japanese ambassador, assuring them of our admiration and our compassion.

I believe they can come through this — but I also believe that need our help.

Our church — not just meaning us Internationals, but the whole Lutheran church in Romania — is taking up a collection to help the people of Japan. We will send any money that we collect to Lutheran World Relief, one of the largest and most efficient church-based charities in the world. (Here's an update on the Lutheran work in Japan so far.)

This money will not go to help Lutherans in Japan. It will go to help people in Japan, not according to their faith but according to their need. That's how LWF works.

You can donate to LWR directly by clicking [here](#). But you can also donate through the Lutheran Church in Romania, by making a bank wire transfer. Every penny will go where it is supposed to go. Here is the information:

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Visit www.EnglishMinistryRomania.org to learn more about Pastors Michael and Terri Church and the Metro NY Synod's ministry in Transylvania.

To receive monthly email updates, please write to PastorMichael@EnglishMinistryRomania.org and include "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.



A little humor taken from the Trinity/St. Andrew's of Maspeth newsletter.

I OWE MY MOTHER

My mother taught me to appreciate a job well done:

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me about religion:

"You better pray that will out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about time travel:

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me about logic:

"Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me more logic:

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

My mother taught me foresight:

"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me irony:

"Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about the science of osmosis:

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

My mother taught me about contortionism:

"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck?"

My mother taught me the circle of life:

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me ESP:

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

My mother taught me envy:

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me how to become an adult:

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me about justice:

"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."



NINTH ANNUAL NYC MUSICAL SAW FESTIVAL

CONCERT & ART EXHIBIT REVOLVING AROUND THE
300 YEAR OLD ART OF PLAYING MUSIC ON A
CARPENTER'S HANDSAW

Saturday, July 16th, 2011, 2pm.

The art form of making music with a carpenter's handsaw has been around for 300 years. For the past 9 years Astoria (Queens) became a pilgrimage spot for musical saw players from all over the world. The festival is in the Guinness Book of Records for the 'Largest Musical saw Ensemble' with 53 saw players playing together, beating the previous record from Poland (28 saw players). The world record was established at Trinity Lutheran Church, Astoria, on July 18th, 2009.

The festival includes world premiers of music written especially for the musical saw as well as the 'Chorus of the Saws' - all musical saw players playing together.

Solo musical saw players and saw ensembles will be offering many music styles — classical, contemporary, pop, folk, show-tunes — performed by players from all over the world.

Trinity Lutheran Church's Handbell Choir, under the direction of Richard Walker, will perform at the festival.

Musical saw player and Trinity church member **Natalia Paruz** will be accompanied by a string quartet in a presentation of the musical saw as an ensemble instrument.

Where: Hellenic Cultural Center, 27-09 Crescent Street (corner of Newtown Avenue),
Astoria, NY (an air conditioned theater)

Admission: \$10

Info: www.MusicalSawFestival.org

Watch a TV news video from last year's festival: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPYmcLZjFIw>



Waltz-Astoria Children's Hour is a concert series featuring favorite local bands that are unique, kid-friendly, and great for the growing families in Astoria. In addition to providing a safe and fun environment for the kids to mingle and enjoy music, our goal is to give our children a real live experience with musical instruments and help them understand that they too, are creative, smart, and talented!

KIDS SING-A-LONGS

Held twice a week, kids Sing-a-Long is a fun and affordable way to get children dancing and to get parents smiling!! It's a great alternative to outdoor fun when the weather gets colder, and it cost a fraction of other music programs out there. No commitment required, come as often or as little as you please!

May Sing-a-Long Dates:

Thur., 5/19, 10:30am with Buranka

Thur., 5/26, 10:30am with Buranka

Mon., 5/23, 10:30am with Lloyd

Mon., 5/30, 10:30am with Buranka

Admission: \$7/family, No Drink Minimum (Incl. FREE Snack Bar for Kids)



Waltz-Astoria is an unique and artistic coffee/wine bar and performance space located in Astoria (LIC), a cozy European neighborhood that overlooks the city of Manhattan from across the East River. Here one can have friendly get-togethers and order light lunches, afternoon teas and snack, and of course great desserts and cappuccino. Situated just a few blocks away from Astoria Park, Waltz is haven to teachers, mommies and working professionals during the day. Since its opening in 2005, Waltz has presented hundreds of shows ranging from Classical to Hip Hop to comedy to magic.

Waltz is an avid collaborator with local music and performing arts organizations, incl. Astoria Music Society, Astoria Performing Arts Center, Women's Writing Studio, The Soundtrack Series, Astorias for Peace and Justice, and Project: Theater.

TRINITY'S SEWING AND CRAFT LADIES

By Margaret E. Pross



Two of our group waiting for customers!

Ladies, we are working on obtaining many other unique crafts to be sold at the Fair. This year's Christmas Sale promises to have many new items; the creative ideas are really flying!

For as long as I can remember, Trinity's "Sewing Ladies" have been whipping up all sorts of items for sale to our parishioners and neighborhood. Thanks to my mother's purchases over the years, we've always had plenty of handmade potholders, tote bags, knitted booties and crocheted-covered hangers at home. A past favorite of mine were the handmade bean bag clowns with hats made from detergent bottle caps.

Currently we are busy working towards Trinity's Christmas Fair which will be held on December 3, the first Saturday in December. In addition to items being made by the Sewing



Bling for sale!



Items laid out at the pre-Mother's Day Sale

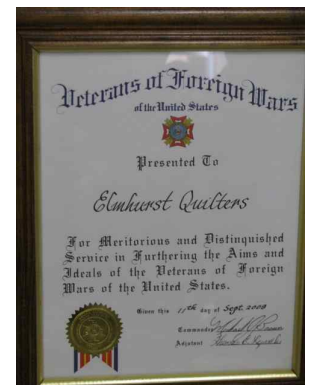
We recently had a pre-Mother's Day Sale. Specific items were chosen from our inventory, appropriate for Mother's Day gifts. What a convenient way to shop! We were even serenaded by *Trinity Tidings'* Editor, Mark Victor Smith, who played some great tunes on the piano.

Trinity's Sewing and Craft Ladies have always volunteered numerous hours of their time creating wonderful items. Many times they even donate their own household items to sell (I love it when someone decides to clean out their jewelry box!). It is a lot of hard work unpacking and packing boxes and setting up the sale tables, but we are always very proud in the end to hand in the proceeds which to be used for many good works.



Admiring a quilt in Elmhurst

In addition, the Sewing Ladies are also interested in quilting. Several years ago some of the ladies joined the East Elmhurst Quilters. This group meets at the First Baptist Church on Astoria Boulevard in East Elmhurst, Queens every Thursday afternoon. The most senior member is in her nineties, but she is still quilting away! We even received an official commendation from a local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter for presenting a handmade patriotic quilt to a Queens' soldier who was severely injured while on duty in the Middle East.





Last fall, we had an exhibit of some of our quilts and other crafts at the East Elmhurst Library. One of the highlights of the day was when school children were brought in to view our exhibit; the ladies explained sewing and crocheting to them. We hope this was a positive influence for the children, and we hope that many will grow up to be crafters as well! I am very grateful to the East Elmhurst Quilters for all the quilting tips they have taught me; I am finally brave enough to start tackling the job of finishing the beautiful quilts my mother started, but was unable to complete.



If you are interested in sewing and crafting on Tuesday afternoons or quilting on Thursday afternoons, please contact the Trinity's office for contact information. Even if you are not available on Tuesdays, we can arrange to send you home with something crafty to assemble for the Christmas Fair. Also, later this year we will be requesting of Trinity's members to donate new to gently used household items, suitable for selling at the Christmas Fair. So, as you do your Spring cleaning, put a few things aside and we will let you know when to bring them in.

In the meantime, beware of any of Trinity's Sewing and Craft Ladies who might be holding a scissor. They might like the fabric you are wearing and want a piece to put into a quilt!



Surfing the Web

LIVING LUTHERAN

A daily blend of stories, culture and community



Grab a cup of coffee, pull up a chair and join us at the table for a conversation about what it means to “live Lutheran.” LivingLutheran.com serves up a daily blend of culture, conversation and community for ELCA members and friends. We’re looking for answers about what it all means and hope you’ll stop by to put in your 2 cents.

It’s all about Lutherans. You won’t find breaking news here, although there’s plenty of commentary on what’s happening in the world and what ELCA members think about it. Daily you’ll be able to meet fascinating ELCA members, find resources for congregations, watch videos that inspire and amuse and share what’s on your mind.

It’s all about conversation. You’ll find plenty of opportunities for conversations on both lighthearted and serious topics. We’re deeply committed to the quality and tone of those conversations and hope you will be too. We want to make sure this is a space where you feel comfortable sharing your experiences, ideas and faith story. Take a look at our Community Policy to find out how you can add to this dialogue.

It’s all about YOU! It turns out that Lutherans are truly remarkable folks, but they just don’t talk about it that often. Join us at the table. Listen in on the conversations. Learn from your neighbor. And don’t leave until you’ve added your insights.

(We’re probably being a bit presumptuous, but we like to think that Martin Luther would approve.)

<http://www.livinglutheran.com/>



AN INVITATION. See the breadth and depth of our church's global ministry and of how God is transforming lives through our work together by signing up for the ELCA Global

Links e-letter, Facebook, or Twitter. Check it out at <http://www.elca.org/global-links>.



METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD



Our New York Synod website is replete with information about our ministry as Lutherans. There is a lot to read — news of New York Synod activities, personal Faith Resources, information on our missions, calendars listing Synod events and congregational events, educational opportunities — and much more.

Take a visit and find out more about your church and your faith:

<http://www.mnys.org/>



ELCA GOOD GIFTS FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Easter chicks and fluffy ducklings abound during Easter — -what better time to bless a family in need with the gift of chicks or ducks that can help fight hunger? A chick, starting at just \$1, can provide a family with an abundance of protein-rich eggs to eat and some to sell at the market. At \$20, a duck is the best pesticide around—eating all of the insects that harm a farmer's crops, while fertilizing the fields at the same time. Make your Easter basket creative: [shop ELCA Good Gifts](#)



PASTOR PAUL'S FACEBOOK SITE

Become a friend with Pastor Paul on **facebook**. Browse through the many photographs that he has posted and enjoy the social networking features that **facebook** has to offer.

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=623620108>

MEMBERS' SITES

The World According to Mark Victor (Blogger)

Can't resist a little bit of self-promotion here! I never know when I will get the urge to post something — a comment about a current event, cooking tips, or a photo. Enjoy my occasional creative writing outlet at: <http://mvsqueens.blogspot.com>. I'm also on **facebook**: <http://www.facebook.com/index.php?lh=480ba7b125c1c6221e238c96106d707a&>

If you have a personal website or a website of general interest to our readers that you'd like to include in the newsletter, please send information and a link to: mv.smith@verizon.net.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH



We are an historic ELCA congregation located in the heart of Astoria / Long Island City. Trinity is traditional, engaged, exciting, and welcoming to all — a Lutheran church blending liturgical traditions with modern New York City life. From our annual Halloween party, our food pantry, and our Blessing of the Animals, to our weekly Sunday Holy Communion services, we welcome you to worship with our diverse community!

On February 23rd, 1890, a group of German Immigrants met at a beer garden at, what is now, Steinway and Broadway as a missionary movement from Trinity Lutheran in Lower Manhattan. That group of people would later become Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Island City. Although the neighborhood has changed from German, to Italian, Greek, Brazilian, Egyptian, and Mexican, for 120 years, Trinity has continually been an active part of our community, sharing Christ's love and compassion to all our neighbors.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

When scheduling an event please check with the master calendar in the church office or online at www.trinitylic.org to ensure it does not conflict with other scheduled events.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

MORNING BIBLE STUDY trip to the Queens Botanical Gardens

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Congregational Meeting following the 10:30 a.m. service

SATURDAY JUNE 17 AT 7:30 P.M.

A Concert of Organ and Solo Vocal music. Stay tuned for more details!

SATURDAY, JUNE 25 AT 6 P.M

Brooklyn Cyclones game on in Coney Island. Tickets are \$15 each and include a free Brooklyn Cyclones hat.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 AT 10:30 A.M.

Reception of New Members at the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

REGULAR EVENTS AND SERVICES AT TRINITY

It is good to confirm the time and date with the contact person or with the church office; these event times and dates are "subject to change." Some events may periodically "go on vacation" during certain times of the year.

Where necessary, that has been indicated.

SUNDAYS

- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal (*Sept. – June*).. . . . Nave
- 9:30 am. Young Family Sunday School (*ends Memorial Day weekend*).. . . . Undercroft
- 10:30 am. Holy Communion. Nave
- After 10:30 am service. Fellowship.. . . . Undercroft
- 12:30 pm. Handbell Rehearsal. Balcony

MONDAYS

- 7:00 pm — 9:30 pm. Astoria Symphonic Choir Rehearsal. Sanctuary
Sept.-Dec, Jan.-May. Contact AstoriaChoir@gmail.com for membership information

TUESDAYS

- 10:00 am. Sewing Ladies. Undercroft
- 7:00 pm (*Last Tuesday of the month*).. . . . Young Adult Group. Undercroft
- 7:00 pm. Bible Study (*begins June 7; no study in May*). Undercroft

WEDNESDAYS

- 7:00 pm (*Second Wed. of month*). Church Council.. . . . Undercroft
- 7:30 pm Pastor’s Parlour (Wine/Cheese/Conversation). Pastor’s residence
Suspended for the rest of the year. Will resume in the fall.

THURSDAYS

- 11:00 am. Bible Study (*begins June 7; no study in May*). Undercroft

SATURDAYS

- 7:00 pm World Worship Church.. . . . Undercroft



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