

The Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of International Falls, Minnesota

In Touch

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation !

RAMBLINGS from the Rev.

As I write this on Wednesday, February 24, you are getting ready for the first Lenten soup supper and service. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.



The topic for this year's Lenten services is Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, with special focus on the issues and problems encountered by that congregation in the living out of their Christian calling. Some of them might sound familiar! In the full expectation that all of you will read 1 Corinthians during Lent, let me give you a little background.

Ancient Corinth was located on the isthmus that connects the main part of Greece with the Peloponnese peninsula. Due to this location it was a bustling commercial city and trading center. As is often the case, where there are sailors there are certain other things like gambling dens and bordellos. There was commercial prosperity as well, but Corinth became known for evil living. An ancient Greek claims that if ever a Corinthian were shown on the Greek stage, he would invariably be a drunkard. From an early Christian perspective, the worst source of debauchery would have been the temple to Aphrodite that towered on a hill above the isthmus. It's claimed that 1000 priestesses were part of that temple and they were also prostitutes. Corinth became a synonym for wealth, luxury, drunkenness, debauchery and filth.

The Romans sacked Corinth in 146 BCE but rebuilt it as a Roman colony in 46 AD. The population was very mixed - Roman veterans, Greek merchants, Jews, Phoenicians, and other people from the eastern end of the empire. This was a new colony and therefore without aristocracy, without traditions and without well-established citizens.

Paul traveled to Athens and on to Corinth around 50 - 51 AD. He preached in the synagogue but didn't make much headway there. He lived next door with Aquila and Prisca and was doing well spreading the good news among the general population. When a new governor was appointed, the Jews tried to get him to try Paul on a charge of teaching contrary to their law, but he refused. Paul completed his work and moved on to Syria.

While Paul was in Ephesus in 55 AD he heard things were not going well in Corinth and so he wrote to the congregation there.

Chapters 1-4 deal with division in the church. It has split into factions, some follow one leader, while others follow other leaders. Chapter 5 takes them to task for a lack of chastity and for incest, and especially for not disciplining those involved. Chapter 6 deals with their tendency to go to law with each other and stresses the need for purity. Chapter 7 contains Paul's advice about marriage (keeping in mind that Paul expected the end times to arrive any day).

Chapters 8, 9, and 10 are about whether it's permissible to eat meat that has been offered to idols. While chapters 11-14 may be difficult for us to understand they deal with the very real struggle of early Christians to establish a seemly form of public worship. Chapter 15 is about resurrection.

I'm reading this letter along with you in preparation for Holy Week and the sermons I'm preparing. The question I hope you'll keep asking is this: what does 1 Corinthians have to say about life in our church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in International Falls, in 2010?

Friends in Christ,

This has been a rich life. From the time I was first ordained, I was privileged to walk with people on the holy ground of their lives, birthing and dying, meeting Jesus, feeling the Creator's touch, knowing the Spirit's surge of energy and insight and imagination. I have been in awe that people have shared such profound intimacies of soul with me, people with so many diverse backgrounds, abilities and faith experiences. Sometimes even our inability to communicate in the same language made no difference; God was able to transcend even that to allow us to be in the same moment, the same grace.

When I became a bishop, I no longer had the frequency of those intimate moments. I had more meetings and fewer pastoral contacts and relationships. But something wonderful happened: I began to see how the Spirit works in communities, moving, challenging, inspiring, transforming. Sometimes people said "no" to the Spirit, and things failed, ministries ended, churches closed. But often those very people gained new life as they moved into another community with fewer burdens, more possibilities and more hope. It has been a privilege and a joy to see resurrection happen within groups and bodies of people and not just individuals.

I have seen the Spirit move among and within and through us, giving us new life by opening us to receive new people and their ideas and cultures and faith. We have welcomed Hispanic and Hmong and Liberian and KaRen people in sizeable groups and numbers, to name a few. We are richer for it, for they bring us blessings we have not known to expect or hope for. I have seen the Spirit resolve conflicts among us on local and diocesan arenas, and give us fresh starts. I have seen the Spirit give us the courage to look in the mirror at the ways we undermine ourselves and the mission God gives us and then give us the will to take each other by the hand and begin something new as God's mission for us.

This has been a rich life, full of blessings beyond expectation, yet as I look back, I have seen the fulfillment of God's promise in Jesus to be with us always.

So many of you have been very kind and gracious in thanking Marilyn and me for the ministry we have shared with you during these several years. I am deeply grateful for your kind words in person or in notes or letters or phone calls. Marilyn and I thank you in return, for this life God gives us is always about what we do together, and God has done so much with us together.

I have wondered for a few years what it might be like to let go of this life and ministry, in which I have been immersed and to which I have been committed for a quarter of my life. There were times I was fearful that some of what I consider essential parts of the Diocese of Minnesota might not be honored or continued. Yet as I see Brian Prior moving into what has been my office and day by day becoming the IX Bishop of Minnesota, I am so heartened and excited and pleased. Please be so kind as to keep him and his family in your prayers week by week as you have Marilyn and me. It is your prayers that help us to serve.

This coming Sunday at St. Mark's Cathedral, I shall give my last benediction as the Bishop of



Minnesota. For several months I have been deeply conscious of the word "always" at the end of the blessing, which never jumped out at me in the earlier years. As I say it this Sunday, it will not just be for the people assembled for that Eucharist, I offer it for all of you, with joy and deep thanksgiving.

The blessing, mercy and grace of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Jelinek". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

James L. Jelinek+
VIII Bishop of Minnesota

March Birthdays

3-6-10 Jay Noland *(son of Mike & Caryn)*
3-10-10 Mike Brennard
3-13-10 Laura Smith *(daughter of Waiva Menefee)*
3-15-10 Gary Davison
3-18-10 William C Corrin
3-22-10 Sharon Wood Leali *(daughter of Flossie Knutson)*
3-26-10 Linda Krieger *(daughter of Wilbur & Mary Ann Tveit)*
3-28-10 Diane Russiff *(daughter of Fred & Donna Day)*



February Anniversaries

3-26-10 Robin Manahan &
Becky Lucus

Baptism Anniversaries

3-28-10 Jim Briggs



Please pay special attention to the times of Sunday services during the months of February and March, as they will vary due to availability of clergy.

Thank you

The Liturgy Committee



The Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota

January 30, 2010

Total Ministry Team – Generation #2
Holy Trinity – International Falls
PO Box 170
International Falls, MN 56649-0170

Dear Friends at International Falls,

My interview on January 16, 2010 with Carol and Samantha was my final team interview in my Episcopate. It was a pleasure to do this discernment and I have heartily enjoyed our work together in mission for the International Falls area.

This letter serves to recognize Carol Stillar's role on the Team as "Liturgist" and Samantha Crossley's role as Total Ministry Pries in Formation.

The date of Samantha's postulancy is January 25, 2010.

I bid you all farewell. Continue your faithfulness in Christ Jesus love and mission.

The Right Rev. James L. Jelinek

Ecopsy: Sandi Holmberg, Canon Missioner
Martha Beckwith, Co-Chair, Commission on Ministry
Katherine Sedwick, Co-Chair, Commission on Ministry
Scott Crow, President, Standing Committee
Erik Strand, Team Administrator

"The Ups and Downs of Life in the Church" – Reflections on 1st Corinthians

Date	Church Location	Possible Sermon Title / Theme	Text (choose periscope from selection)	Preacher
Ash Wednesday 2/17/10	Home	Leadership in the Church: God or Us?	Chapters 1-2	N/A
Midweek Service 2/24/10	Holy Trinity	What does it mean to be a Community?	Chapters 3-4	Pastor Stephen Olson
Midweek Service 3/3/10	1 st Lutheran	How do I decide What is right or wrong?	Chapters 5-6	Fr. Mitch Byeck
Midweek Service 3/10/10	Faith United	Why all the Fuss About Sexuality?	Chapter 7	Designee from First Lutheran
Midweek Service 3/17/10	Zion Lutheran	What does it Mean to be free In Christ?	Chapters 8-11	Pastor Sue Hamly
Midweek Service 3/24/10	St. Thomas	What are spiritual gifts and can they be misused	Chapters 12-14	Dr. S. Crossley & Deacon Lee Grim
Maundy Thursday 4/1/10	Home	Why Communion?	Chapters 11.2-34	N/A
Good Friday 4/2/10	Home	N/A		N/A
Resurrection of Our Lord 4/4/10	Home	What does it Mean to live in the Resurrection?	Chapter 15	N/A

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <u>1st Lutheran</u> Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm	4	5	6 <u>Altar Guild</u> Carolyn Helen
7 Holy Eucharist 10:00 pm Rev. Sandi Holmberg	8 Vestry Meeting 6:30 p.m.	9 Barney's 9:30 Total Ministry 6:00 pm Life Cycle Class 7 pm – 9 pm	10 <u>Faith United</u> Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm	11	12	13 <u>Altar Guild</u> Donna Georgeann
14 Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.	15	16	17 <u>Zion Lutheran</u> Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 <u>Altar Guild</u> Mavis Trisha
21 Holy Eucharist 12:00 pm Fr. Wayne McIntosh	22	23 Life Cycle Class 7 pm – 9 pm	24 <u>St. Thomas</u> Soup Supper 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm	25	26	27 <u>Altar Guild</u> Mavis Trisha
28 Holy Eucharist 10:00 pm Rev. Lynn Naeckel Palm Sunday	29	30				

Eucharistic Visitor Schedule – Georgeann Wright & Melanie Mattsen

Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

March 2010

Dates	Lay Officials	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
7 Holy Eucharist 10:00 p.m.	Rev. Sandi Holmberg IC Carol Stillar	Samantha Crossley	Carol Stillar Samantha Crossley	Kay Herman John Shewchuk
14 Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m.	Lay Reader Carol Stillar	Carol Stillar	Kay Herman Waiva Menefee	Gary Davison Carolyn Davison
21 Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m.	Fr. Wayne McIntosh Deacon Lee Grim IC Samantha Crossley	Tessa Walls	Melanie Mattsen / Tyler Downs Samantha Crossley	Melanie Mattsen Tyler Downs
28 Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist 10:00 p.m.	Rev. Lynn Naeckel Deacon Lee Grim IC Jeanne Corrin	Erik Strand	Jeanne Corrin Erik Strand	Mike Brennard Trisha Brennard