

From the pastor...

I remember some time ago writing about our new electric toothbrush. The one we had before that would beep when it was time to change the area you were brushing. That was very handy because I didn't have to pay any attention to what I was doing. It was a great opportunity for day dreaming or planning the day.

This new electric toothbrush doesn't beep. I was worried about spending too much time brushing in one area and neglecting another. Sooner or later, I fretted, my dentist would have something to say about that. So, I counted and discovered that forty-four was often the total number of strokes needed to last the entire two minutes of brushing time allotted by the toothbrush. Eleven strokes on each area was the magic number.

I remember that at that time I was excited about this counting of the eleven because it was to be a new practice of 'presence' for me, of being 'in the moment.' Surely, I could stay focused on those simple forty-four strokes for two minutes twice a day.

Well, all of these months later I can report that I continue to fail at this simple practice of 'presence.' More often than not, I lose track of what number I'm on (seven and eight seem to be easiest to get lost on). And most of the time, my last area of brushing either gets far too many strokes or not enough. My only hope is that it all evens out over time.

As I think about this I am reminded that it is a good thing that God's grace is bigger than having to hope that things will even out in the end. On those days when I still fall back into worrying about where I'll end up when I die I try to remember that there is no magic number, there is no thing I have to get right to make sure I'll be OK when this part of it all comes to an end. I'm pretty sure we won't even need toothbrushes when we have passed on from this world. There will be no need for counting of any kind or keeping track of any kind. I look forward to the completeness of that reality some day.

The reality here and now is that we all fail to varying degrees as we try to live completely in God's presence and grace. We end up counting whether we want to or not. Thankfully, God's grace is big enough to cover even that every time.

This is the last printed newsletter you will receive in the mail before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on things like God's grace and our tendency to count and keep track. Lent is a time to repent, turn away from those unhelpful things we do that get in the way of God in our lives.

I invite you (with plenty of advanced notice) to worship on Ash Wednesday, in the Hoversten Chapel on February 22 at 7:15. On Thursdays in Lent, beginning March 1, we will try something slightly different. At 6:00 we will share a simple meal of bread and cheese with discussion, followed by Vespers (Evening Prayer) at 6:40. We'll be done in time for choir rehearsal at 7:00. Thursdays will happen at Trinity's building at 2001 Riverside.

Join us as we practice together the art of being present to God through word and song.

See you in church,
Pastor Jane

UPCOMING ADULT FORUMS:

NEXT SUNDAY, January 29—Brandon Baumbach, student at the Humphrey Institute, talking about his trip to Oslo and work in Cedar-Riverside.

February 5—Adult Forum led by Moses Solomon, Trinity member.

February 12—Adult Forum led by Moses Solomon, Trinity member.

February 19—Adult Forum discussion on "The Didache: The Teaching of the Twelve" will be led by Trinity's intern, Jon Gathje. The Didache is the oldest existing catechism of the church.

Join us EVERY SUNDAY at 9:45 am for these enlightening sessions where folks learn a great deal and get to know each other.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We invite you to worship on **Ash Wednesday**, in the Hoversten Chapel on **February 22 (next month!) at 7:15**. Join us as we begin our Lenten journey together.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2012

9 and 11am: Worship & Eucharist in Hoversten Chapel
9:45 am: Sunday School and Adult Forum
12 Noon: Coffee Hour

Texts: Deuteronomy 18:15–20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1–13 Mark 1:21–28

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 5, 2012

9 and 11am: Worship & Eucharist in Hoversten Chapel
9:45 am: Sunday School and Adult Forum
12 Noon: Coffee Hour

Texts: Isaiah 40:21–31 Psalm 147:1–11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16–23 Mark 1:29–39

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 12, 2012

9 and 11am: Worship & Eucharist in Hoversten Chapel
9:45 am: Sunday School and Adult Forum
12 Noon: Coffee Hour

Texts: 2 Kings 5:1–14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 Mark 1:40–45

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 19, 2012

9 and 11am: Worship & Eucharist in Hoversten Chapel
9:45 am: Sunday School and Adult Forum
12 Noon: Coffee Hour

Texts: 2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50:1–6 2 Corinthians 4:3–6 Mark 9:2–9

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2012

9 and 11am: Worship & Eucharist in Hoversten Chapel
9:45 am: Sunday School and Adult Forum
12 Noon: Coffee Hour

Texts: Genesis 9:8–17 Psalm 25:1–10 1 Peter 3:18–22 Mark 1:9–15

SO WE ARE ELECTING A NEW BISHOP FOR OUR MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD IN FEBRUARY! (Part 2)

You might be asking what the process for electing a Bishop will be at the 2012 Mpls. Area Synod Assembly on Feb. 17-18.

Nominating ballot will list all who were nominated at the conference assemblies and provide a space for voting members to add another nominee.

First ballot—All nominated in steps 3 and 5 who have indicated their openness to election will appear on this ballot. It would take 3/4 of votes to elect a bishop on the first ballot.

The top seven nominees (plus ties) will have their background information handed out to all voting members prior to the second ballot.

Second ballot. The top seven (plus ties) will appear on the second ballot, 3/4 of votes are needed to elect a bishop on the second ballot. Before the third ballot, the top five nominees (plus ties) do a 1 1/2 hour Q&A together. Each nominee addresses the assembly for five minutes. Any not present may do by phone or video. The questions for the Q&A are submitted in advance by the assembly voting members and are compiled and finalized by the Bishop Election Committee.

Third ballot. The top five nominees (plus ties) will appear on the third ballot. 2/3 of votes are needed to elect a bishop on the third ballot.

The top three nominees speak five minutes. If not present, speak by phone/video or appoint proxy.

Fourth ballot. The top three nominees (plus ties) appear on the third ballot. 2/3 of votes are needed to elect a bishop on the fourth ballot.

At discretion of Bishop Election Committee in consultation with Reference & Counsel there may be time added for additional Q&A.

Fifth and subsequent ballots. The top two nominees (plus ties) will appear on the fifth, and if needed, subsequent ballots.—Majority of votes is needed to elect a bishop on the fifth and subsequent ballots.

Please refer to the [Minneapolis Area Synod constitution](#), S9.04, for more information on the bishop election process.

In Our Prayers

For our prayers during the week—

for our mission partner congregations, Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church and Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Plymouth.
for the work of Karen Anderson, the missionary that Trinity sponsors in Santiago, Chile.
for Ann Lutterman-Aguilar, in her work as director of Augsburg's Center for Global Education site in Mexico.
for Trinity members and the mission of Trinity.
for peace and justice throughout the world.
for Christians in Eritrea suffering persecution by the government.
for the citizens in Nigeria, suffering religious persecution.

For HEALING/ WHOLENESS:

for all families who struggle with finances, relationships or illness.
for the people of all countries, as they are going through turmoil.
for victims of violence on our streets and around the world.
for Ward Edwards, at home.
for George Nelson.
for Ernest Henderson, Shelly's husband, starting on dialysis.
for Evelyn Sonnack, recovering at home.

For COMFORT:

for all who don't have enough food, housing, health care, education and employment resources throughout the world.
for the family and entire Mekane Yesus members in diaspora of Professor Eshetu Abate, who recently died.
for David Gjerdrum, who recently had back surgery due to a serious skiing accident.
for Louise Rostad in hospice care at Augustana.
for Deb Prevost, niece of Ailene Cole, whose friend is missing in Montana.
for the family and friends of Andrew Weber (friend of Sarah Quigley Brown) who died this week.

For THANKSGIVING:

for all who keep Trinity in their prayers.
for the ordination and installation of Lydia Nelson as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in East Windsor, New Jersey on Sunday, January 22nd.
for the Health Commons, located at Dar al-Quba, a free drop-in center for health education, health referrals and related resources.
for the marriage of Julianne Mugge and John Anderson this coming Saturday, January 28th.

****We are ALL invited to submit PRAYERS of thanksgiving, requests, and concerns by placing them in the offering plate, or sending them to the Trinity office via e-mail: mail@trinity-lc.org. or via phone: 612-333-2561. We will list these prayer concerns in our Trinity newsletters and bulletins.*

MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2012 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly will take place on Friday and Saturday, February 17-18 in Prior Lake. Trinity's assembly delegates are the two pastors, Jane and Alem; Jeanne Mugge (Friday), Judy Tiede (Saturday), Moses Solomon, and Joel Alemseged (Youth) as voting delegates; Jon Gathje as a visitor. The initial field of candidates' names brought forward from conference meetings in November is listed below and can also be found at the Mpls. Area Synod website: www.mpls-synod.org/home. Candidates can also be nominated from the assembly floor as the voting begins.

Nominees

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. Mary Albing | Rev. Karen Geisendorfer-Lindgren | Rev. Wayne Peterson |
| Rev. Nancy Nord Bence | Rev. Peter Geisendorfer-Lindgren | Rev. Erik Strand |
| Rev. Thomas Carlson | Rev. David Lechelt | Rev. Ann Svennungsen |
| Rev. Kelly Chatman | Rev. Hans Lee | Rev. Susan Tjornehoj |
| Rev. Vern Christopherson | Rev. Christopher Nelson | Rev. Gerald Wahl |
| Rev. Stephen Ganzkow-Wold | Rev. Durk Peterson | Rev. Christine Wenzel |

Please look over the list of candidates. The Trinity delegates appreciate your feedback and thoughts about choosing the next bishop.

LETTER RECEIVED IN DECEMBER FROM LYDIA NELSON

Dear family and friends at Trinity,
My own personal Advent waiting is now at an end, before Christmas, no less. As of December 11, I have been officially called as associate pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in East Windsor, NJ! It is a part time call with room for growth. We are very happy now to be a two-pastor household, since Beau was called in August to Resurrection Lutheran Church in Hamilton Square, which is where we live. St. Paul, though, is not far away. My ordination and installation is scheduled to be at St. Paul on Sunday January 22. Thank you so much for all your support and prayers through this process. God has truly blessed us!
Peace, Lydia Nelson

YOUTH GATHERING MEETING to take place this coming Sunday, January 29, right after church. This meeting is for parents and youth to meet with Jon in order to make further plans for the [trip to New Orleans this summer](#).

LENTEN THURSDAYS—On Thursdays in Lent, beginning March 1, we will try something slightly different. At 6:00 we will share a simple meal of bread and cheese with discussion, followed by Vespers (Evening Prayer) at 6:40. We'll be done in time for choir rehearsal at 7:00. Thursdays will happen at Trinity's building at 2001 Riverside.

Remembering Ailene Cole

As many of you know, one of our long time members, Ailene Cole, died peacefully at Augustana Care Center on December 16, 2011. She was the much loved head of the Augsburg drama department for almost 30 years. Many of us at Trinity remember the Christmas programs that she directed but she was especially remembered for the many times she read scripture in her soothing and elegant voice. I only knew her casually until I started visiting her as a parish nurse in May of 2003. I got to know her quite well over the next eight years and feel compelled to write about her.

During the first few years, I visited with Ailene every two or three months. We had good conversations. She reminisced about her students and her dogs. She had put in long hours with her drama students and recounted how she told them that when she got home at night, the refrigerator didn't give her a hug. So to her delight, at a picnic one year, her students brought her a dog. That was the beginning of her love affair with her dogs. She had four in succession and was totally devoted to each one. She took them everywhere and made many friends while walking her dog.

Gradually I began to notice that Ailene was getting more forgetful. She had helpers coming in for various tasks but I noticed that her dog, Puck, had medical issues that needed attention and she wasn't able to provide the care that he needed. I wouldn't have thought that dog care would fall to the parish nurse but that was what Ailene needed and it enabled me to see her more often as her dementia was becoming more apparent. Ailene was fiercely independent and the goal was to help her stay at home as long as possible with her beloved Puck.

A number of Ailene's students kept in contact with her through the years. At her funeral they described her as being demanding of them in ways that taught them important life lessons. She balanced her demands with thoughtfulness, support, and love. After every play, she sent hand-written thank you notes to everyone who had any type of job in the production. Her former students were instrumental in having the Green Room named after her.

Ailene moved to Augustana Care Center when she was no longer safe to live in her home. Though her dementia progressed, her personality continued to come through. You could still make her laugh. She had moments of lucidity which were cherished. I still heard an occasional "Bless you."

When Ailene's condition changed and it appeared that death was not far, her devoted niece flew in to be with her in her last hours. I was honored to be with Deb and Ailene for several hours that evening. We sang to her and read some Bible passages and then read this prayer from "Turn My Heart" commending her to God.

Beloved Child of God, do not be afraid, God is with you.

God is with those whom you love. Nothing, neither living nor dying, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Go in peace.

Into your hands, most gracious God, we commend our sister Ailene. By your tender mercy receive her in death as you have known her in life: washed in the waters of forgiveness, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

As it happens, Pastor Jane had been there in the afternoon and commended Ailene to God. She was commended twice! Ailene died quietly the next morning. Bless you, Ailene.

Blessings, Jeanne Mugge

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE—

Although these meetings are not listed on the hard-copy newsletter's calendar for February, both will meet on Tuesday, February 7th: the Executive Committee at 5:30 pm and Church Council at 7:00 pm in Trinity's upper room. (This IS listed on the on-line calendar.)

ALEMNESH TULU HAS GRADUATED!

We recently celebrated the milestone that Alemnesh Tulu has accomplished: Alemnesh Tulu is now a graduate with a bachelor's degree in Information Technology. She graduated from Metro State University in December—and we celebrated that during coffee hour this past Sunday, January 22nd. Congratulations, Alemnesh!

LUTHER COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT

Luther College Nordic Choir, one of the top college choirs in the nation, will present a concert on Saturday, February 4th, at 8 pm at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 88 No. 17th St., Mpls. Conducted by Dr. Allen Hightower, the choir will perform sacred choral works. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$10 students and are available at www.luthertickets.com or by calling 1-800-4-LUTHER.

YOUR OPINION SOUGHT RE. OPEN SPACES IN OUR CEDAR-RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

The University District Alliance and the West Bank Community Coalition would like to invite you to attend a presentation by the UMN's Metropolitan Design Center on a study of open space connections in the University District.

The Open Space Framework study, conducted on behalf of the University District Alliance, will be based on research already conducted by the Metropolitan Design Center as well as feedback provided by the neighborhoods surrounding the University at forums like this.

Please come and see what they have found so far and let them hear your thoughts on how open spaces are used and linked throughout the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

Where: Augsburg College's Oren Gateway Center (Riverside Ave between 21st and 22nd Streets), Room 113

When: Thursday, January 26, 6PM to 8PM.

Insert February calendar on this page 5



"Use your smart phone to scan and connect to Trinity's website!"

(For those of us who want to know, this is a QR Code, and it gets scanned with smart phones and links to Trinity's website.)

Trinity Lutheran Congregation
NEWSLETTER
January 25, 2012 edition. Published biweekly.

Trinity Lutheran Congregation
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation -
Welcoming ALL to our worship and fellowship
Our Regular schedule:
9:00 & 11:00 am—Worship services with Eucharist
9:45 am—Sunday School and Adult Forum
12:00 noon—Coffee Hour
Worship Location: Augsburg Hoversten Chapel,
Riverside & 22nd Avenues (625 22nd Ave. S., Mpls., 55454)
Office: 2001 Riverside Avenue (upper level),
Minneapolis, MN 55454

**Staff of
Trinity Lutheran Congregation**

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Rev. Jane Buckley-Farlee | Pastor |
| Rev. Alem Asmelash | Pastor |
| Jon Gathje | Pastoral Intern |
| Alyson Sweet | Outreach Coordinator |
| Amy Swenson | Teaching Parish student from Luther Seminary |
| Ray Makeever | Music Director |
| Donna Edwards | Organist |
| Jeanne Mugas | Parish Nurse/Visitor |
| Joan Christensen | Administrative Assistant |
| Sandy Kieser | Financial Secretary |
| Amy Wenzel | Youth and Family Ministry, Augsburg / Childcare |

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR TRINITY'S WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER? Simply let us know and provide us with your e-mail address (by sending an e-mail to Joan at mail@trinity-lc.org) that you wish to receive this new "cyber" - publication! Our hard-copy newsletter will now go out ONCE a month.

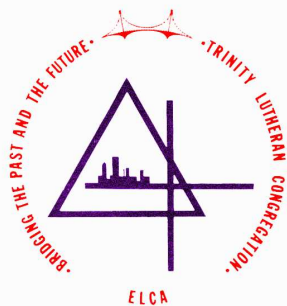
Contact us
Phone: 612-333-2561; Fax: 612-333-2560
Email: mail@trinity-lc.org; Web: www.trinity-lc.org
**Next newsletter deadline is
Thurs., February 16th, 2012
for the Tuesday, February 21st, 2012 edition.**

DID YOU MISS CHURCH? ARCHIVED SERMONS NOW ON LINE!
Trinity's sermons are now posted on Trinity's website! You can find them on the main page of www.trinity-lc.org!

Trinity Lutheran Congregation
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