

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Rev. Nancy R. Easton
Assistant Pastor's Report
February 1-28, 2009

Sunday a.m. services:		Saturday services: 1	Baptisms: 1
Preach/Preside:	2	Thursday services: 1	
Preside only:	1	Healing service: 1	

For being a “short” month, February held a variety of experiences. In addition to my ministries above, I presided at the 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service in Fellowship Hall. Preparations for this worship involve many details, and communication among many volunteers. This was our 5th contemporary Ash Wednesday service, and it is strikingly different from the usual Sunday morning 10:45 service. The lighting, music and liturgy enhance the contemplative nature of this penitential day. While some folks assume that contemporary Christian music consists only of upbeat praise songs, you’ll find there are many songs which lead us well into Lent. There was a strong attendance with a number of children present. It is a deeply moving worship time.

My other role on Ash Wednesday was to offer a brief service with imposition of ashes for the women attending Wednesday morning Bible study. This tradition began several years ago, when some of the young mothers attending that study were concerned they could not attend the evening or early morning services. The women appreciate this time of repentance and reflection before they head into intensive Bible study.

I led worship at Dauphin County Prison on February 8. Later on, I “danced the night away” at the Mardi Gras event which served as a fundraiser for Christian Churches United. While I did indeed receive an hour’s worth of dance instruction (sorely needed, I might add), I remain grateful that all the folks who danced with me made me feel even more comfortable in my role. It was a fun thing to do, and as I remind folks who remember a fellowship event from several years ago, “It sure beats the dunk tank!”

In later June, I will be chaplain for the Lower Susquehanna Synod Women of the ELCA convention to be held here at Trinity. (Can’t beat the location!) This month, I met with Elizabeth Winters and Doris Savage to plan worship for that event. We each have details to handle in the interim. My role involves not only the service of Holy Communion, but also two brief devotional periods and two workshops on Baptism.

I participated in two Strategic Planning team meetings, as well as one sub-committee meeting to plan the agenda for the March council retreat. I attended Worship Committee on February 10, and selected music for the 10:45 service with Debbie Wilson. I met with both my main Mutual Ministry representative and then my whole Mutual Ministry team. We continued discussion about my work on Strategic Planning, and are considering meeting with Debbie Wilson and her Mutual Ministry team in the near future. (The roles Debbie and I have intermingle so frequently, it would be good for all to gather together and share our thoughts.) I also had significant pastoral conversation with 21 persons. Finally, I enjoyed attending the Thiel College Choir concert at month’s end. I sang 2nd alto in that choir (many years ago), and found it was formative for my vocal ability.

In His Service-----Pastor Nancy R. Easton