

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Rev. Nancy R. Easton
Assistant Pastor's Report
April 1-30, 2009

Sunday a.m. services: Thursday services: 2
 Preach/Preside: 3
 Preside only: 1

April began with final preparations for Holy Week and Easter. The unique details at the 10:45 contemporary service required solid communication between the office staff, Barb Henderson (who prepares slides for the screen), Debbie Wilson, and me. As well, my time spent in careful proofing of the order of service ensured those details were then communicated clearly to the congregation. I thank our office staff and the volunteers who enhance our worship with their attention to those details.

With two rehearsals for our Holy Week services, we pastors (and Vicar) were ready for leading worship. I preached on Holy Wednesday, Good Friday (noonday service), and twice on Easter Sunday (Contemporary). I also had roles in the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (7:30 p.m.), and the Easter Vigil. I participated in the Good Friday prayer vigil. It was an exhausting, but deeply moving week of worship.

It would have been easy to pause the week following Easter Sunday—except ministry needs and preparations continue unabated! I met twice with Strategic Planning—once with the entire team, once with its education sub-committee. Debbie Wilson and I met to select music through the Easter season and well into Pentecost. That requires a long look ahead at appointed scripture, special liturgical events (Affirmation of Baptism, for example), and the general themes arising out of each Lord's Day.

FaithX was busily preparing for its May 3 *Expressions of Faith* concert, and I, too, had my small part to prepare. Besides a few housekeeping details to oversee for the event, I always reflect upon the concert lyrics and prepare comments from a theological perspective. While it is hard to believe we are ready to perform a 10th anniversary concert (where did the time go?), I can look back over the years with gratitude to God for the music ministry our contemporary band provides in worship and concert venues. Many lives have been touched by God's grace in that music.

During April I had significant pastoral conversation with about 20 individuals, sang a solo at a parishioner's funeral, and continued work in my role as the chaplain for the upcoming Women of the ELCA—Lower Susquehanna Synod annual convention. There was a joint gathering of the Mutual Ministry teams that meet with Debbie Wilson and me. It seemed fitting that, as Debbie's and my roles regularly intersect, our MM teams ought to meet and discuss common issues. We plan to have additional joint meetings in the future.

Finally, I scheduled my first weekend of vacation for the year at April's end, and thoroughly enjoyed that refreshing time with my family.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Nancy Easton