

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Rev. Nancy R. Easton
Assistant Pastor's Report
June 1-August 31, 2009

Sunday a.m. services:		Thursday services:	8
Preach/Preside:	8	Healing services:	2
Preside:	3	Baptisms:	1
Saturday services:	2	On-Call weekend:	1

I look back at the entire summer of 2009 and realize that, besides the above-noted pastoral responsibilities, my ministry took me into many challenging and different places. Planning and officiating at a large funeral for a young adult killed in a car accident in June was probably the most difficult pastoral situation I experienced in recent years. To care for so many heartbroken people was emotionally draining, but I hope my role offered comfort and a sure and certain hope in the midst of a devastating loss.

Having accepted the duties of chaplain at the Lower Susquehanna Synod—Women of the ELCA annual assembly (held at Trinity in late June), I was involved in worship planning and leadership, bible study and devotions, and a workshop on the sacrament of Holy Baptism. It was good to work with and meet a number of women from our synod who are utterly devoted to mission and ministry. I also had opportunity to chat with Bishop Hoover prior to our leading a service of Holy Communion together.

Other June events included the Camp Hill High School Baccalaureate service, traditionally held in our nave. I led the pastoral prayers, and particularly enjoyed seeing my daughter Sarah in her cap and gown for this event. She read a scripture lesson for the service as well. June 7 was the date for Affirmation of Baptism—always a joy to look out at and pray for these fine young people who join our congregation in its ministry. (The previous Wednesday was our annual confirmation dinner, and having opportunity to be with those same youth and their parents in a relaxed atmosphere is quite pleasant.)

This summer I led two worship services at Dauphin County Prison for male inmates. This continues to be a moving experience, and I am grateful to pray with and share faith with those who are incarcerated. I also preached one Sunday at Trinity Lutheran, Harrisburg—the small congregation we are currently assisting with supply ministry.

My mutual ministry team met once, and we are considering joining up again for a meeting with Debbie Wilson's team. Debbie and I share so much ministry together, it seems good to meet jointly on occasion. Debbie and I met twice to select music for Sundays in Pentecost at the 10:45 service, and we completed her evaluation process for this past year. As well, Pastor Hardy and I completed my evaluation for the past year.

I attended two Strategic Planning team meetings, and traveled to a large non-denominational congregation in Lancaster County to view a new-style facility and learn about their space utilization and building plans. It was interesting and informative, even if the worship style contrasts rather sharply with ours.

While only available two of the several Wednesday evenings scheduled, I did participate in a special prayer group revolving around the present and future ministries of Trinity. Taking time for prayer is helpful to one's own spiritual psyche, but more important, it is opportunity to call upon our mighty God to guide us for mission.

Several activities were just plain fun! There is nothing quite like standing in front of a lot of kids (and I do mean a lot!) and telling a Bible story in such a way as to connect with them. I told the story of the parting of the Red Sea and the Israelites crossing on dry ground to escape the Egyptians, and it was wonderful to see so many children engaged in learning about God. I also gave a short message at the 2nd Summer Sundaes Concert, and sang in a quartet (known as The Chestnut Street Four) at the 3rd/final Summer Sundaes Concert. Great fellowship and food—and it's all free for anyone who comes. Doesn't get much better than that.

Significant pastoral care through appointments, calls, correspondence and visits was given to 75 persons over the summer months.

Finally, my family and I had some vacation time together, plus plenty of activities revolving around daughter Sarah's high school graduation and her preparing for entering college. It was one full summer!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Nancy R. Easton