



CONNECTIONS

The Power of God's Word

Almost every week I am hearing from those here at Trinity Church who are literally hearing from God through His Word. As you all are engaging in the Essential 100 Bible readings God is moving in your hearts and minds. I have heard stories of God providing comfort in times of difficulty. I have heard stories of anticipation as I preach on some of your favorite passages. I have heard of reminders of God's faithfulness through the ages. I have heard of sin resisted and avoided because of guidance gained. It is a confirmation of the following passages which affirm the power of God's living Word.



For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

***I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11***

***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17***

As you are reading God's Word you are listening, growing, and being shaped more and more into the image of Christ. This transformation is the lifelong process that we call "Sanctification." In a very practical theological way it means that we are becoming more and more like Christ in our daily awareness, attitudes and actions. God uses His Word to mold us in this life. We remain sinful and broken in this life, but we do see and experience progress along the way.

I want to simply encourage you today to devote yourselves to loving God's Word.

Read it prayerfully.

Reflect upon its truth.

Reshape your life to follow it.

Blessings in your reading,

Pastor Chris DeGraaf



Your word, O Lord, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.

Your faithfulness continues through all
generations;
you established the earth,
and it endures.

Your laws endure to this day,
for all things serve you.

If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.

I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have preserved my life.

Save me, for I am yours;
I have sought out your precepts.

Psalm 119:89-94

Chili Cook-Off

Organized by Trinity Reformed Church

Date:

Saturday, March 9, 2013

Location:

Trinity Reformed Church
712 Apple Avenue, Holland, MI 49423

Activity Times:

4:30-6:00 Open Basketball

5:30 pm Chili drop-off

6:00-7:30 p.m. Cook-off, Voting and Fellowship

Free will offering



BRING ON YOUR BEST

CHILI MADNESS

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Chili

Winners and Door Prizes



HOTDOGS — CORNBREAD/ROLLS — DESSERTS

!!!HELP IS NEEDED!!!

Chili Makers

Volunteers to Make Cornbread & Desserts

Clean-Up

SIGN UP AT THE INFORMATION TABLE



Connecting the Dots

The Intentional Flow of Worship

Do you see it?

Have you ever participated in worship and thought, “Wow! That song really went along well with that sermon” or “that scripture reading during the call to worship seemed to fit well with the children’s sermon later on”? Or have you never really given much thought to it at all? There is a pattern and a flow to worship that is intentionally thought through and planned... but more about that in a moment.

Today, I would like to challenge you! For the next 3-4 weeks, pay closer attention than usual to the elements used in worship... the scripture spoken, the prayers offered, the songs sung, the sermon given. See if you can find how they go together. See if you can connect the dots.

When we plan for worship, we do so with the hope and prayer that each element, flowing together, will lead the congregation to a better understanding of, closer relationship with and greater desire to serve the Lord our God! We aim to keep true to a central theme which is based upon the scripture lesson of that day. We do this so that the truths of God’s Word are evident throughout the entire time of worship.

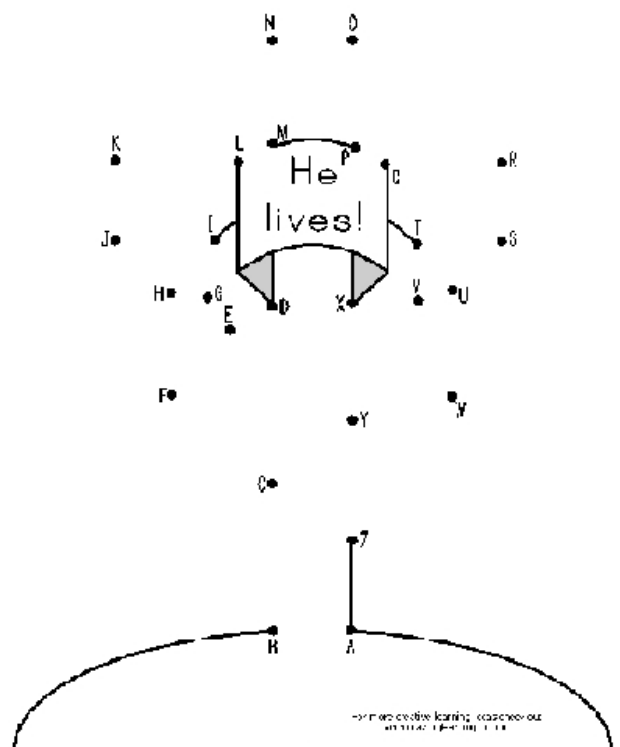
And ultimately, as you will see if you connect the dots on the picture below, it all leads back to one thing... if you connect the dots, it will lead you straight to the cross!

In Awe of Him,

Becky Bierma, Worship Coordinator

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Oh lead me lead me to the cross

Brooke Ligertwood
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YOUTH MINISTRY MOMENTS

My review of the book “Sticky Faith — Practical ideas to nurture long-term faith in Teenagers” By Jon Wolters

Chapter 3 — Sticky Identity

As I started reading this third chapter of Sticky Faith, I realized something very quickly. . . . this chapter has way to much information to review in only one page in the Connections. So what I decided to do is hit a few of the high points.

I asked myself before starting this chapter “what do I think affects the identity of students in regards to Sticky Faith?” My answer in a word was family. I thought that a strong family would be the most important piece in the identity development of students. Family is part of the equation, but it is only a small portion of the answer! Our authors, through all their research, have found that identity can be found in this equation:

DNA + Family + Social Environments = Identity

This idea of identity development in part involves what researchers call “nature” and “nurture (found on page 51).

Nature means the physical components that impact kids’ identities - both how they look (eye color, hair, height, weight) and less visible aspects such as those hidden away in their DNA.

Nurture is made up of many factors. Family background (parents, siblings, extended family and cultural heritage) as I thought, is huge basically because of how much time they spend with their families. The social environment kids grow up in (hometown, school, neighborhood) is another element of nurture. When we look at social environment we have to realize that a student’s identity is both personal (“Who am I”) and communal (“Who am I as a part of us?”). So our kids are trying to figure out not only who they are, but also who they are in a larger community.

The researchers found that with this equation and the elements of nature and nurture there was still a gap.

Enter God.

It was found that spiritual development was deeply connected to identity development. It was also found the spiritual development is less understood and more mysterious. The reason for this is the fact that God’s relationship is unique to each student. Here is a direct quotation from page 52: *“Even after all of our research and interviews with transitioning youth group kids, we still can’t prescribe a foolproof fixed agenda to help all students grow in their spiritual identities or know who they are becoming in their journey with Christ. God’s work in each life can neither be programmed nor predicted.”*

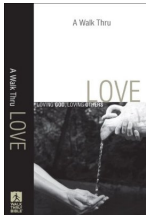
Another aspect of identity development that we now need to take into consideration is “social media and networks”. Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, the “friends” our students have never met except online. Travel teams and schools of choice may also be leading to Identity confusion in our students.

What can we do to help our students understand “Who they are” and “Who they are in their community”? I truly think that the question should not be what **can** we do? The question has to be what **should** we do? The answer involves all of us in the church, not just the Pastor or Youth Worker; Sunday School Teachers or Youth Leaders, but all. Every last one of us!!

Here is one principle that the authors suggests: **4+1**. What this means is four years of high school (9th - 12th grades) plus one additional year. At Trinity Church some of us are already working with this idea. We write notes and cards to college aged students, not just college freshman and not just those in college. We send care packages and we greet them when they return home on breaks. These are all great things that are going on at Trinity Church, but could we do more? Or could more of us do something? Consider how you could reach out to both our high school students and college age students. If you need ideas please talk to me - I would love to help you connect with our kids. We all need to remember our baptismal vows!!

Again there was a lot that I was not able to cover from this chapter. I challenge you the check out one of the copies of Sticky Faith from the youth table and start your own journey to helping students have Sticky Faith!!

TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Tuesday Afternoon Adult Bible Study will begin a new study entitled “A Walk Through Love: Loving God and Others.” The six lessons are scheduled for March 5, 12 & 19 and April 2, 9 & 16 at 2pm. All adults are welcome & encouraged to be a part of this study. Please sign up at the information table or call the Post’s at 394-1319.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

- Provide Cookies for Sunday Morning Connection Café
- Prepare, Serve and Clean Up for Sunday Morning Connection Café
- Prayer Partner for A Young Person
- Youth Leader
- Nursery Attendants (Infant and Toddler)
- Visit Shut-Ins
- Monday Morning Work Group (small maintenance projects around the church)
- Wednesday Night Dinner Helpers and Cookie Providers
- Community Kitchen at Western Seminary (1st Thursday@11am)
- Breakfast With Baby @ New Community 4th Church (Feb. 9, June 18, Sept. 14 and Dec. 14, 2013 from 9-11:30am)
- Tutor, Provide Supper, Receptionist at ROCK Youth Ministries (Tues-Thurs, 4-6pm)
- Holland Public Schools LSPC “Books”, Buses and Breakfast Program
- Trinity Care Closet (Every Wednesday 4:30-6pm)
- Snacks & Beverage for Wavecrest Basketball Team
- Provide Gatorade for Tuesday Night Basketball
- Help Set Up Tables and Chairs for Weekly Events
- Worship Leader / Praise Team
- Join the Sanctuary Choir
- Sound Room (training provided)
- Serve on a Ministry Team (Worship, Mission, Spiritual Growth, People Care, Building & Grounds, Finance)
- KIDS.COM (Kids Choir) Helpers (teens/adults)
- Volunteer in the Church Office
- Start / Lead a Small Group Based on Your Favorite Hobby

***For these and other opportunities,
please contact the church office (396-6526).***



7 Habits of a Highly Effective Steward

Much has been written about the habits it takes to be a highly effective person, or a highly effective family or a highly effective teen. This seven-part series will reflect on the habits of a highly effective steward.

Since stewardship is a part of discipleship, and discipleship is a journey for each of us, we hope that these habits will help us reflect on this area of our Christian life.

Habit 4: Be A Faithful Example

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deut. 6: 6,7)

If we are to be good models for our children, we as parents must have God’s Word reflected in our own lives. Secondly, we need to be alert to the countless opportunities given us to teach our children a godly perspective on life, abilities and possessions. Modeling good stewardship is the best teaching tool. Parents who tithe, save, live on a budget, minimize debt and give of their abilities and time to help others set an excellent example for their children.

Start early. When children are old enough to receive an allowance, talk about their responsibility to give the first part back to God. Talk openly about tithing, why we do it and the good things that happen because we give. By the time kids are in high school or even middle school it is almost too late to begin teaching. By that time, their money habits are mostly set. While there is still opportunity at any age to teach them, we can better mold our children’s behavior if we reach them before they start to practice.

Look for ways to involve children in giving activities. Invite them to participate in the discussion of where to give and why. Talk about how good it feels to give to others. Explain how giving is really receiving and allow them the opportunity to experience that joy.

Instilling a strong work ethic in our children is invaluable. Money doesn’t just magically appear out of a bank machine, but is earned through work. Remember, a child cannot learn money management unless he has money to manage, and unless he has earned that money himself. Otherwise he is giving and spending his parents’ money and not his. (Dynamic Steward, July 2003)

Working for something also teaches the value of delayed gratification. There is greater reward in something that is achieved versus free handouts. Our children will grow up with more respect for the value of money and what is required to earn it. Over indulgence by parents destroys the need for initiative and motivation.

As parents, we need to be patient and persistent. Let them fail. Mistakes are inevitable, but when you allow for failure you are entrusting your kids with responsibility.

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Toll Free: 888-448-3040 www.BarnabasFoundation.com



Trinity Reformed Church**The Essential 100 Bible Reading Program**March 2013***The Miracles of Jesus***

61. Feeding the Five Thousand	Luke 9:16-17	Luke 9:1-36
62. Walking on Water	Matthew 14:31-33	Matthew 14:22-36
63. Healing a Blind Man	John 9:6-7	John 9:1-41
64. Healing a Demon-Possessed Man	Mark 5:18-20	Mark 5:1-20
65. Raising Lazarus from the Dead	John 11:43-44	John 11:1-57

The Final Days of Jesus

66. The Last Supper	Luke 22:19-20	Luke 22:1-46
67. Arrest and Trial	John 18:38-40	John 18:1-40
68. The Crucifixion	John 19:17-18	John 19:1-42
69. The Resurrection	John 20:19-20	John 20:1-21:25
70. The Ascension	Acts 1:9-11	Acts 1:1-11

The Church is Born

71. The Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-4	Acts 2:1-47
72. Growth and Persecution	Acts 4:1-4	Acts 3:1-4:37
73. The First Martyr	Acts 7:59-60	Acts 6:8-8:8
74. Sharing the Word	Acts 8:34-35	Acts 8:26-40
75. Good News for All	Acts 10:34-35	Acts 10:1-11:18

April 2013***The Travels of the Apostle Paul***

76. The Road to Damascus	Acts 9:3-5	Acts 9:1-31
77. The First Missionary Journey	Acts 14:21-22	Acts 13:1-14:28
78. The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:5-6	Acts 15:1-41
79. More Missionary Journeys	Acts 16:9-10	Acts 16:1-20:38
80. The Trip to Rome	Acts 28:15-16	Acts 25:1-28:31

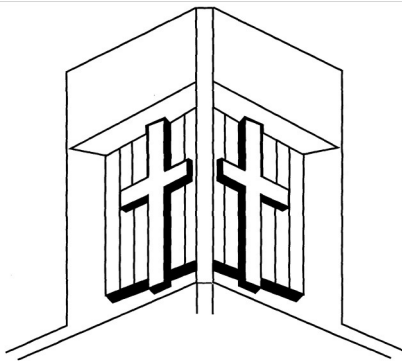
Letters to the Early Churches

81. More Than Conquerors	Romans 8:28	Romans 8:1-39
82. The Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22-23	Galatians 5:16-6:10
83. The Armor of God	Ephesians 6:10-11	Ephesians 6:10-20
84. Rejoice in the Lord	Philippians 4:4	Philippians 4:4-9
85. A Description of Jesus	Colossians 1:17-18	Colossians 1:1-23

MARCH 2013 CALENDAR

- ♦ **Mar. 1** - Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith
11am-1pm
- ♦ **Mar. 3** - Worship & Communion 9:30am
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 11am
Deacon's Meeting 11am
Sunday School for All Ages 11am
High School Youth Group 6pm
- ♦ **Mar. 4** - Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 6:30pm
- ♦ **Mar. 5** - Worship Planning Team 11am
Adult Bible Study 2pm
Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Basketball for Teens & Adults 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 6** - Men's Bible Study 6:30am
Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Care Closet 4:30-6pm
Family Dinner 6pm
Middle School Youth Group Lost City 6:30-8pm
KIDS.COM Choir 6:30-7pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm
Traveler's Kids Class 7-8pm
Praise Team Practice 8-9pm
- ♦ **Mar. 7** - Women of the Word 9:30am
Community Kitchen @ Western Seminary 11am
Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Consistory 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 8** - Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith
11am-1pm
- ♦ **Mar. 9** - Chili Cook-Off 6pm
- ♦ **Mar. 10** - Worship 9:30am
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 11am
Sunday School for All Ages 11am
High School Youth Group 6pm
Beth Moore "Daniel" Bible Study 6:30pm
- ♦ **Mar. 11** - Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 6:30pm
Spiritual Growth Team 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 12** - Prayer Group 10am
Worship Planning Team 11am
Adult Bible Study 2pm
Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Basketball for Teens & Adults 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 13** - Men's Bible Study 6:30am
Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Care Closet 4:30-6pm
Family Dinner 6pm
Middle School Youth Group 6:30-8pm
KIDS.COM Choir 6:30-7pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm
Traveler's Kids Class 7-8pm
- ♦ **Mar. 14** - Women of the Word 9:30am
Turning Pages Reading Group noon
Wavecrest Basketball Practice 3:30pm
Finance Team 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 15** - Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith
11am-1pm
- ♦ **Mar. 17** - Worship 9:30am
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 11am
Sunday School for All Ages 11am
High School Youth Group Fun Night 6pm
- ♦ **Mar. 18** - Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 6:30pm
- ♦ **Mar. 19** - Worship Planning Team 11am
Adult Bible Study 2pm
Basketball for Teens & Adults 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 20** - Men's Bible Study 6:30am
Care Closet 4:30-6pm
Family Dinner 6pm
Middle School Youth Group Service Night 6:30-8pm
KIDS.COM Choir 6:30-7pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm
Traveler's Kids Class 7-8pm
Praise Team Practice 8-9pm
- ♦ **Mar. 21** - Women of the Word 9:30am
Ladies Night Out 5:30pm
- ♦ **Mar. 22** - Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith
11am-1pm
- ♦ **Mar. 24** - Palm Sunday Worship 9:30am
Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 11am
Sunday School for All Ages 11am
Area 51 to The Underground 6pm
Beth Moore "Daniel" Bible Study 6:30pm
- ♦ **Mar. 25** - Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Class 6:30pm
Mission Team 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 26** - Prayer Group 10am
Worship Planning Team 11am
Basketball for Teens & Adults 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 27** - Men's Bible Study 6:30am
Care Closet 4:30-6pm
Family Dinner 6pm
Middle School Youth Group 6:30-8pm
KIDS.COM Choir 6:30-7pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:45-8:15pm
Traveler's Kids Class 7-8pm
- ♦ **Mar. 28** - Women of the Word 9:30am
Turning Pages Reading Group noon
Worship Team 7pm
- ♦ **Mar. 29** - **Good Friday**
Pastoral Care Office Hours with Nancy Smith
11am-1pm
- ♦ **Mar. 31** - Easter Worship 9:30am
Sunday School for All Ages 11am





Trinity Reformed Church

712 Apple Avenue Holland, MI 49423

Phone: (616) 396-6526 Fax: (616) 396-8513

Website: www.trinityrc.org E-mail: info@trinityrc.org

Pastor: Chris DeGraaf Email chris@trinityrc.org

Director of Youth Ministry: Jon Wolters Email jon@trinityrc.org

Worship Coordinator: Becky Bierma Email becky@trinityrc.org

2013 TRINITY CONSISTORY

Elders

Jim Allen
Sandy Bedard
Carol DeBoer
Warren Kooyers
Dianne Moker
Doug Schurman
Bill Stehouwer

Deacons

Scott Baumgartner
Kevin Brower
Teresa Harrington
Ross Helmus
John Houting
Tom Lampen
Steve Schurman

MINISTRY TEAM CHAIR PERSONS

Pastor Chris DeGraaf - Executive

Doug Schurman - Finance

Roger Mulder - Mission

Steve Schurman - Building & Grounds

Teresa Harrington - Spiritual Growth

Bill VanAuken - Worship



Happy Birthday!!



Mimi Kedash	3/1	Sydelle Kroll	3/10	Ethel Ende	3/21
Linda Koning	3/1	Bill Stehouwer	3/10	Anya Wolters	3/21
Jack Marcus	3/1	Rachel VanderStarre	3/10	Bea Paauwe	3/23
Judy Shoemaker	3/1	Arloa Dykstra	3/11	Sarah Fuglseth	3/25
Ron Gebben	3/2	Cindy Nyhoff	3/11	Barb Bolks	3/27
Lara Helmus	3/3	Julia Drost	3/12	Don Kane	3/27
Jamie Dams	3/4	Becky Bierma	3/13	Lynn Post	3/27
Benton Myaard	3/4	Emily Bos	3/14	Noah Helmus	3/28
Brandon Quillian	3/7	Alan Dykhuis	3/15	Roger Kleis	3/28
Hugh Wassink	3/7	Cassie Oonk	3/16	Cory Kuipers	3/28
George Zuidema	3/8	Celia Hamlin	3/18	Cliff Ponstein	3/28
Robin Dams	3/9	Wayne Reed	3/18	Elwood Rycenga	3/28
Betty Nyhoff	3/9				

Happy Anniversary!!

Jeff & Marsha Myaard	3/1	Doug & Arloa Dykstra	3/26
Glen & Shirley Vereeke	3/2	Cliff & Nancy Ponstein	3/26
Al & Anne VanderZiel	3/23	Neal & Jamie Dams	2/24

