

# CONSECRATION DAYS

March 7, 2010 — March 21, 2010

***Reaching OUT... Touching HEARTS... Making DISCIPLES...***

God has richly blessed us at Trinity English Lutheran Church. Reborn in Holy Baptism to be children of God, Gifted with the Holy Spirit, Strengthened through Word and Sacrament, and Consecrated to welcome everyone to grow in the love and grace of Jesus Christ, we have an abundant and fulfilling life to share with all of God's creation.

Therefore, as we look to the future with everything that God has given us, we embrace God's call to, "*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of us has received.*" (1 Peter 4:10)

This, then, challenges us to reach out, touch hearts and make disciples in the upcoming months by especially committing ourselves to:

***Proclaiming God's Good News of Jesus Christ—Evangelism***  
and

***Using God's Gifts for a more Christ-like World—Stewardship***

Persons of all nations long for what we have seen and heard in Jesus and that is "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers' are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes on offense at Jesus." (Luke 7:22-23)

Therefore, as God has blessed and consecrated us (set us aside for God), let us consecrate our gifts and be a blessing to others by:

- Affirming our baptism
- Worshipping the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Praying for God's guidance
- Bearing witness to Christ and
- Giving of ourselves to the Lord

*Pastor Fred Hasecke*

Pastor Fred Hasecke,  
Senior Pastor, Trinity English Lutheran Church

***"Welcoming Everyone to Grow in the  
Love and Grace of Jesus Christ!"***



# Reaching OUT...

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We are calling this “Reaching Out Sunday.” Reaching out is an important part of what God asks us to do. For example:

**James 2:14-17:** *“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”*

**James 2:26:** *“For just as the body without spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.”*

**James 4:17:** *“Anyone, then, who knows the right thing and fails to do it, commits sin.”*

Pretty clear, isn't it?!

Trinity English reaches out in a variety of ways, far more ways than the average parishioner may know...and that is our fault. We need to do better at this. But some of the things going on on a regular basis include:

- Individual one-on-one assistance worked out between the pastors and the persons in urgent need. With the economy we've got at the moment, there is a lot more of this going on than usual. Funding for this comes strictly from your normal giving.
- Periodic projects involving large groups of people.
  - Mission trips to Mississippi to help rebuild the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.
  - Habitat for Humanity, and related Paint-a-Thons where a group descends on a needy home in the Fort Wayne area and completely repaints it in one or two weekends.

- Dirty Hands Ministry

This one is near and dear to me personally because I was involved in the startup. Our biggest struggle at first was keeping our name.

- The concept behind Dirty Hands is to provide what you might call “handyman” services to people who are unable to do such things themselves. Things like:
  - Painting a room
  - Washing outside windows
  - Raking a yard
  - Putting up a bird feeder

Tasks that are small to the people performing them, but very large to the people receiving them. Some of the thank you notes we receive make you want to cry, so little means so much to these people.

So there are a variety of ways that Trinity English complies with God's command to reach out. Of course we can always do better. We can always use more volunteers. The church can always use more funding. And, what may surprise you a bit, another thing that we need is more projects. The more we have to do, the more our members can participate in these meaningful reaching out activities that the church provides. So as the next few weeks play out and you are reminded of the many opportunities here at Trinity English... or perhaps learn of new ones that you didn't know about...please keep in mind how you can best fit into this whole effort of reaching out. Maybe it's participating yourself. Maybe it's contributing. Maybe it's both. Whatever it is, keep James' dictum in mind: For just as the body without spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

— Bill Seidel

*“Welcoming Everyone to Grow in the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ!”*

