



TRINITY TIDINGS



*"Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice."
Proverbs 23:25 (ESV)*

MAY 2016
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He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:3-11).

Have you ever stopped to consider how long the season of Eastertide is? I was recently reminded of this in one of Rev. Scott Murray's devotionals. Eastertide lasts fifty days until Pentecost Sunday, which means the season of the resurrection is 10 days longer than Lententide. He pointed out that many people erroneously think of Easter as being over on Resurrection Sunday, but such thinking misses the joy that the Lord intends for His redeemed children to have in this fallen world. Each Sunday, is in essence a mini-celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Rev. Murray continued saying: "Even at Lent there is no going back, as though Christ can be crucified anew and placed into the tomb all over again. Indeed, Lent does not repeat Christ's death, but is about *our* death to sin in holy baptism. Easter brings us the source of our life. This is the life given to us in holy baptism from which we are raised to *newness* of life. So Christ's death and resurrection are played out every day in which we live in *repentance* and new life through our baptism. The Easter life is lived *every* day until at last the Easter feast is celebrated around the throne of the Lamb slain.

Martin Luther

"The significance of baptism is a blessed dying to sin and a resurrection in the grace of God, so that the old man, conceived and born in sin, is there drowned, and a new man, born in grace, comes forth and arises. Thus St. Paul, in Titus 3, calls baptism a 'washing of regeneration' (Titus 3:5), since in this washing a person is born again and made new. As Christ also says, in John 3, '*Unless you are born again of water and the Spirit (of grace), you may not enter into the kingdom of heaven*' (John 3:5). For just as a child is drawn out of his mother's womb and is born, and through this fleshly birth is a sinful person and a child of wrath (Ephesians 2:3), so one is drawn out of baptism and is born spiritually. Through this spiritual birth he is a child of grace and a justified person. Therefore sins are drowned in baptism, and in place of sin, righteousness comes forth.

"This significance of baptism – the dying or drowning of sin – is not fulfilled completely in this life. Indeed this does not happen until man passes through bodily death and completely decays to dust. As we can plainly see, the sacrament or sign of baptism is quickly over. But the spiritual baptism, the drowning of sin, which it signifies, lasts as long as we live and is completed only in death. Then it is that a person is completely sunk in baptism, and that which baptism signifies comes to pass.

“Therefore this whole life is nothing else than a spiritual baptism which does not cease until death, and he who is baptized is condemned to die. It is as if the priest, when he baptizes, were to say, ‘*Lo, you are sinful flesh. Therefore I drown you in God's name and in his name condemn you to death, so that with you all your sins may die and be destroyed.*’ Therefore Paul, in Romans 6[:4], says, ‘*We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death*’ (Romans 6:4). The sooner a person dies after baptism, the sooner is his baptism completed. For sin never ceases entirely while the body lives, which is so wholly conceived in sin that sin is its very nature, as the prophet says, ‘*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me*’ (Psalm 51:5). There is no help for the sinful nature unless it dies and is destroyed with all its sin. Therefore the life of a Christian, from baptism to the grave, is nothing else than the beginning of a blessed death. For at the Last Day God will make him altogether new.”

+ The Lord be with you +

With Christ's Peace,

Pastor Shaw

Celebrating Mother's Day, Luther-style

Motherhood

By Emil B. Huntington

Martin Luther could regard any day as Mother's Day. The value he placed on the maternal vocation stood in sharp contrast to the views of his contemporaries. The Roman Church had barred its clergy from marriage and its procreative fruit. Women were thought holier if they became nuns rather than wives or mothers. Martin Luther fought against this idea for much of his life. He wrote (quoted in Karant-Nunn and Wiesner-Hanks, 123):

The godless world is moved neither by God's ordinance nor by the sweet nature of little children who are produced in marriage; it sees only the shortcomings and hardships in marriage—it does not see the great treasure and benefit that is in it.

Luther valued motherhood highly, recognizing its origin in the very design of God's creation. "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28) was, in Luther's estimation, "more than a command, namely, a divine ordinance which is not our prerogative to hinder or ignore" (*Luther's Works*, 45:17). In brief, God created women for motherhood (*Luther's Works*, 5:355):

The saintly women desire nothing else than the natural fruit of their bodies. For by nature woman has been created for the purpose of bearing children. Therefore she has breasts; she has arms for the purpose of nourishing, cherishing, and carrying her offspring. It was the intention of the Creator that women should bear children and that men should beget them.

Luther frequently celebrated the blessings of children and the wonderful calling of motherhood.

This quotation from Luther is just as jarring today as it was in the sixteenth century. In Luther's day, church authorities had despised motherhood and privileged celibacy. Today, society has transformed motherhood from a badge of honor to a symbol of disgrace. Sure, Hallmark still sells plenty of Mother's Day cards, but just as this celebration can be neatly scheduled on the calendar, so also motherhood must fit the schedule of one's busy lifestyle, rather than *vice versa*. Our "pro-choice" world insists that true womanhood requires the ability to choose against motherhood. But if motherhood is to be a choice, shouldn't it be God who does the choosing? After all, it is God who puts to death and brings to life (Deuteronomy 32:39), and it is God who opens and closes wombs (Genesis 29:31, 30:22).

Luther frequently celebrated the blessings of children and the wonderful calling of motherhood. For example (quoted in Karant-Nunn and Wiesner-Hanks, 183):

A pregnant woman is a divine work, giving birth, etc. Marriage is the fount of the entire human race, and nevertheless this sacred origin of life is concealed and held in contempt, such that it has the reputation of being a fleshly, worldly way of life. If all the leaves in the meadow of Torgau were to speak in tongues, they could not adequately preach the praise of marriage or the turpitude of celibacy.

Along with this, Luther makes the point that giving birth is not enough; parents must also raise those children. “But it is not enough that a child is born...for heathens also bring forth children. A person has to raise children to the service, praise, and honor of God” (quoted in Karant-Nunn and Wiesner-Hanks, 91). Well does Luther understand the responsibility of Christian parents (*Luther’s Works*, 45:46):

But the greatest good in married life, that which makes all suffering and labor worth while, is that God grants offspring and commands that they be brought up to worship and serve Him. In all the world this is the noblest and most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls. ... Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal.

Luther also acknowledged the hardships of marriage and procreation. He was not ignorant of the difficulty, in this sin-saturated world. Couples would have a hard time living together. Husbands would have a difficult time being the loving heads, while wives would have a difficult time submitting to their husbands. As Luther warned (quoted in Karant-Nunn and Wiesner-Hanks, 183):

The devil always finds a pretext to be against this estate, for he sees both the original sin and the unhappiness, trouble, and toil that are ascribed to it. He can use these two things well, and wants to make marital life more difficult for everyone or even destroy it. For that reason we must lift this estate even higher, praise and honor it even more, adorn and embellish it, just as God Himself does.

Luther understood that it was through marriage that God blesses all the institutions of the earth, and that it was through marital procreation that children should be born, and the church would prosper. If the devil were to destroy motherhood, he would achieve a great victory against the church. There would be fewer children being born, and fewer being raised in God’s Word, which would mean fewer pastors, teachers, and missionaries. There would also be fewer men who knew how to care for women and children with compassion and sensitivity, since those men themselves would never have been raised by a mother.

Whether you are a mother or not, surely you know of someone who is. Whether today is Mother's Day or not, remember that any day can be. Offer your encouragement and support. You'll find plenty of suggestions for that in Holy Scripture and the writings of the man who worked so earnestly to restore the church to its biblical foundation, Martin Luther.

Sources:

- Luther, Martin. *Luther's Works*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1955-present.
- Karant-Nunn, Susan C., and Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, eds. *Luther on Women: A Sourcebook*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Mr. Emil B. Huntington is a Lutheran writer who lives in southwestern Wisconsin. His hobbies center around his wife and children, their adventures in home schooling, and their hope to leave a Christian legacy for future generations.



May 30, 2016

There is no greater sacrifice than giving one's life
for their country.

Memorial Day allows us to remember our fallen heroes,
our loved ones who served and
to pay our respects to the many who paid the ultimate price.

God Bless each and every one of them.

Congratulations

To all of our Graduates!!

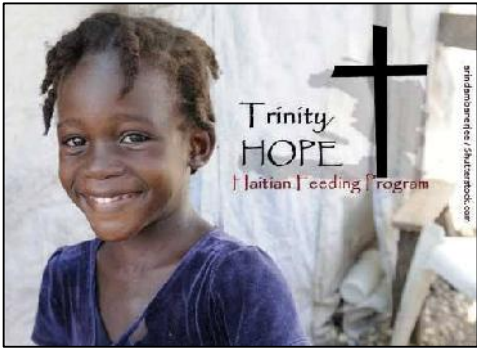
Graduate's Prayer

by Helen Steiner Rice

*Father I have knowledge,
So will you show me now
How to use it wisely
And find a way somehow
To make the world I live in
A little better place,
And make life with its problems
A bit easier to face?
Grant me faith and courage
And put purpose in my days
And show me how to serve Thee
In the most effective ways
So all my education
My knowledge and my skill
May find their true fulfillment
As I learn to do Thy will.
And may I ever be aware
in everything I do
that knowledge comes from learning
and wisdom comes from you.*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,
"plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)*

News from Trinity/HOPE



This is one of a series of articles which we make available each month to keep congregations informed about our activities. Trinity/HOPE, a not-for profit charitable organization, raises funds and administers feeding programs that provide a noon meal for the hungry children who attend our schools in Haiti where the Good News of Jesus is daily shared. It is blessed to have numerous supporters in this church.

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Facebook: trinityhopehaiti

Show and Tell

By Jay Brinkmeyer

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you remember back in the day when you were in elementary school and got to bring something for ‘show and tell’? That must have been a pleasant memory unless of course some other kid trumped your precious item with photos and souvenirs from their trip to Disneyland or somebody else whose parent brought in their new puppy. These children from Cap Haitian have no clue what the words ‘show and tell’ mean as they have never had that event at their school and at the time this photo was taken in 2005 their school didn’t have a Trinity/HOPE feeding program.

When visiting schools like this in Haiti it is easy to ‘tell’ that there is no food here as the children have a small amount of energy and not much excitement when asked to sing along to a new song about Jesus that the missionary has shared with them; learning is difficult and often the young voice sharing the love of Jesus is often too quiet to be heard. You’ve been ‘shown’ the photos of children who have a daily meal from Trinity/HOPE and their eyes are bright and smiles are shining and bodies are in motion. What a difference a daily meal makes; learning is improved and their witness of a living and loving Savior is strong and vibrant. Please “show and tell” the wonderful story about the work Trinity/HOPE is doing in Haiti; providing daily meals and preparing young missionaries to go and share the Good News throughout the country of Haiti that still lives in the darkness of voodoo.

HENRIETTA CHURCH MOUSE'S PAGE!



Henrietta Church Mouse Here!!!

Wheee! It's the month of May!

This month we celebrate our Mothers on Mother's Day on May 8!

Happy Mother's Day to all you moms!



And on May 30th we celebrate our Veterans on Memorial Day! God bless all of our men and women who have served or are now serving in our armed forces!

And I look forward to Memorial Day for another reason - EATING! Memorial Day weekend is the 'start of the summer' with cookouts, picnics, BBQs - yummy! There will be food & fun with all my family and friends. I'm already looking for some new recipes to try. Do you think I'll make something with cheese in it? Yum!

Have a great MAY!!!!

Until Next Month...

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence!!!!





Do we Christians really have to tithe? Are we really under a compulsion to give? Aren't we free? Don't we have a freedom from the law that was purchased for us by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection?

The problem is that our sinful flesh uses our freedom for selfishness. Christ did not die and rise so that we could give less and do less good work in the world. He died and rose to free us from the compulsion of the Law, to free us from a burden we could not bear.

We are missing the point completely if we use the freedom from the Law that Christ won by His passion, crucifixion, and resurrection to give less, or to do less of any good work. Christ set us free to live in His image of faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. We are free from the Law's condemnation so that we can walk in the good works the Lord has prepared for us.

Our freedom is not given to indulge our sinful and selfish flesh. Our freedom was purchased and won by Christ so that we could serve our neighbors — our family, our society, our church.

As a result, much of your freedom is not a freedom from, but a freedom *to* and *for*. You are not free *from* serving your neighbor. You are free *for* service toward your neighbor—willingly and without compulsion. You are not free *from* giving to your church; you are freed *to* give to your local congregation in joy, willingly, and without compulsion.

The reason you are free to serve, the reason you are free to give is because of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sin He won for you on the cross, which He delivers to you in the Gospel and the sacraments. That is our motivation. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). And since God loves us in this way, by giving us His only-begotten Son so that we do not perish, we also love one another in this way, by giving what we have so that our neighbor does not who has provided the sacrifice for your eternal salvation, the God who delivers that salvation to you in Holy Baptism, the God who continues to forgive you and show you His faithfulness, if that same God is the one who also promises to give you daily bread and take care of your earthly life, you can trust in Him, even in giving. After all, Jesus Christ is proof that God loves you and will take care of you.

The monthly Stewardship Newsletter article is provided by LCMS Stewardship Ministry Resources.

Fellowship Committee

A Parrish Fellowship Committee meeting will be held on
Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m.

We welcome anyone to join us for this meeting to plan for upcoming activities.

Mark your calendar for this upcoming event at Trinity:



June 11

We are having Flea Market
outside in our parking lot.

We will be selling 'spots' to
vendors and individuals for \$20 each.

*(Sellers are encouraged to bring their own tents
or shelters to shade them from the sun.)*

Interested sellers please call Debbie Scott at 615-642-3400.

We will also have a table for baked and other goodies to sell.

Donations of goodies are welcomed!

Hotdogs, chips & drinks will be available to purchase.

**WE THANK GOD FOR THESE
CELEBRATIONS IN MAY**

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Richard Halliburton
- 2 Debbie Alvarado
- 5 Cheri Jenkins
- 5 Jessica Sewell
- 7 Marilyn Hartley
- 7 Alexandra Garrison
- 14 Lorene Bush
- 18 Sherry Simon
- 22 Everette Purrington
- 23 Paula Armenta
- 23 Larry Meyer
- 31 Zachary Halliburton



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tim & Marilyn Hartley (1999)
- 1 Dennis & Louise French (1992)
- 13 Becki & Michael Vietor
- 18 Claude & Betty Clinard (1971)
- 21 David & Aimee Bush (2005)
- 22 Joe & Marie Wall (1987)



SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2016

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Tom Riesterer

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Stacy Shaw

GREETERS

Chris & Jennifer Loftis

USHERS

Rob Benjamin & James Hygrell- Center Aisle

Nick Alvarado & Jimmy Gragg - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

May 1 - Brandon Levan

May 8 - Paige Smith

May 15 - Zach Loftis

May 22 - Mackenzie Vietor

May 29 - Mikayla Vietor

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

May 1 - 7 - Here's a place for you to serve!

May 8 - 14 - Hygrell

May 15 - 21 - Vacant

May 22 - 28 - Here is a chance for you to serve.

May 29 - June 4 - Another vacancy!

VOLUNTEER MOWING SCHEDULE

May 2 - 7 -

May 8 - 14 -

May 16 - 21 -

May 22 - 28 -

May 29 - June 4 -