



TRINITY TIDINGS

Alleluia

He is

Risen

APRIL 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free

“Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again’” (Luke 24:1-7).

The difficulties of Holy Week have come to an end; we have completed our Lenten journey wherein we were reminded once again of the *innocent* suffering and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – *the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!* We have once again face the inescapable reason and stark reality of *why* our Savior had to climb to the place of the skull (Golgotha) – in order for us to be redeemed from an eternity of suffering in Hell, the innocent *Lamb of God* had to suffer and die for our sins. Sin has to be punished for *“The wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23). And Jesus willingly died so that we could have eternal life.

Our Savior’s innocent suffering and death atoned for the sins of the world; it was *the* sacrifice that our heavenly Father said was necessary to redeem us; which means that through faith in Christ, we will never have to experience eternal suffering and punishment that our sins deserved – He has taken our place and endured the punishment our sins deserve. Our Lord inspired St. Paul to write: *“Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification”* (Rom. 4:25).

The Holy Spirit working through that Word creates contrition and sorrow over our many sins, moving us humbly bow before Him, to confess our sins, moving us to true and heartfelt repentance and enabling us to turn from them. And the gift of faith that we have been given receives the blessings and benefits of Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus victorious Easter message for God’s redeemed children is, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die”* (John 11:25-26).

And so as we continue our joyous celebration of the resurrection throughout Eastertide, let us remember the indescribable and incomprehensible love that our heavenly Father has for us – sending His only begotten Son to live and die for us. And let us thank and praise our Triune God; to the Father for accepting His Son’s sacrifice on our behalf, to the Son for *willingly* humbling Himself in the incarnation (becoming man), perfectly fulfilling the Law for us, preaching and teaching His Word of truth, and finally dying to pay for (to atone for) our sins and rising for our justification. But it doesn’t end there for He

promises to *continue* to be with us by His Word and Sacraments until He returns again. And finally, let us give thanks and praise for His Spirit for revealing all of this and making it known to us, and enabling us to believe the Good News so that we might have reason to rejoice this Easter! God's blessings to each of you as you celebrate His glorious resurrection!

+ The Lord be with you +

With Christ's Peace,
Pastor Shaw

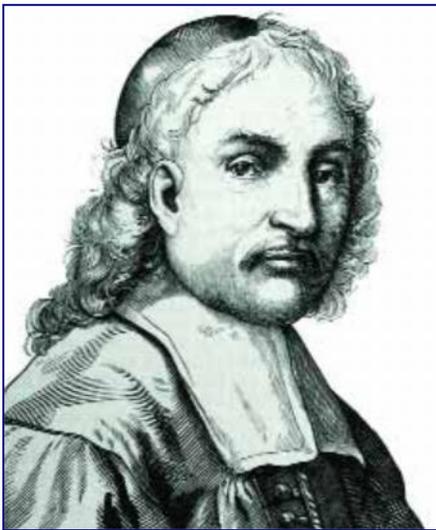
“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”

Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free,
Is sacrificed. O keep
The feast of freedom gallantly;
Let alleluias leap:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud
Alleluia! Amen

Let all our lives now celebrate
The feast; let malice die.
Let love grow strong anew, and great
Let truth stamp out the lie.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud
Alleluia! Amen

Let all our deeds, unanimous,
Confess Him as our Lord
Who by the Spirit lives in us,
The Father's living Word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again
Sing alleluia, cry aloud
Alleluia! Amen

LSB # 473 – Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76



Lutheranism's Sweetest Voice

Paul Gerhardt's beloved hymns were a product of suffering.
by Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto

For most of his childhood, youth, and maturity, Paul Gerhardt, who was born on March 12, 1607, in Gräfenhainichen, Germany, near Wittenberg, lived through one of the worst calamities of Central Europe—the Thirty Years' War (1618–48). Yet “the religious song of Germany found its purest and sweetest expression” in his hymns, wrote Catherine Winkworth (1837–1878), whose English translations of Gerhardt's verses reflect their purity of thought, beauty, and elegant iambic meter.

We live at a time when in many Sunday services, saccharine platitudes take the place of the traditional chorale with its theological weight, choice of words, and musical splendor. So it seems timely to ponder the exquisite beauty of Gerhardt's songs—for example:

This was written in 1653 while Germany was still in ruins *mourning* the loss of 20 to 30 *percent* of its population. A remarkable mix of *Trost und Trotz* (consolation and defiance) lends Gerhardt's hymns their unique allure, according to Heidelberg theologian Christian Möller. This defiance is directed against pain, while consolation comes from his trust in God's governance and goodness and the knowledge that all torment will pass.

Entrust your days and burdens
To God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling
The sky, the sea, the land.
For he who guides the tempest
Along their thunderous ways
Will find for you a pathway
And guide you all your days.
(LSB 754).

Gerhardt's genius lies in his insight that one would not work without the other. Among the 17 Gerhardt hymns in the new *Lutheran Service Book*, there is one that reflects this aspect of faith most clearly:

Why should cross and trial grieve me?
Christ is near with His cheer;
Never will He leave me.
Who can rob me of the heaven
That God's Son for me won
When His life was given (LSB 756).

Paul Gerhardt ranks the second-most important crafter of hymns in German Protestantism, after Martin Luther, but he had worthy contemporaries. As the Swedes laid siege to the town of Eilenburg, fellow Saxon pastor Martin Rinckart wrote, “Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices”—and this while burying an average of 50 plague victims *every day!*

Möller explained Gerhardt's greatness in part with the fact that he “belonged to the era of

Lutheran orthodoxy, which was attentive to doctrinal clarity, and therefore sang with clarity.” Möller went on, “I do wish the days of doctrinal clarity came back ... leading to more clarity in people’s lives and song.”

Rev. Henry Gericke, organist and choirmaster at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and an editor with Concordia Publishing House, feels that “if the Lutheran Church had patron saints, Gerhardt should be the patron saint of Lutheran pastors.” Indeed he should. This author of 139 hymns led a life *bearing* the cross. There was the Thirty Years’ *War* when Gerhardt lost his parental home. There was the loss of his *wife* and *four* of his five *children* to disease. There was his personal illness. There was the loss of his powerful pulpit at St. Nicholas Church in Berlin due to the political war between Lutherans and Calvinists. Ministers of both attacked each other ferociously in their sermons.

In 1665, the Elector Frederick tried to put a stop to that, insisting that Lutheran pastors sign a document pledging not to criticize Reformed theology. But this meant that in their homilies they could no longer refer to the Formula of Concord, which condemns Reformed doctrines. Until that point, Gerhardt had been restrained in his public disapproval of Calvinism. But after the elector’s edict, Gerhardt became very outspoken. Though ill, he assembled Berlin’s Lutheran pastors at his sickbed, imploring them to remain steadfast in asserting their right to free speech.

He later called the loss of his influential position “a small sort of Berlin martyrdom,” which was all the more egregious as he was separated from his organist, Johann Crüger, who had put many of Gerhardt’s poems to music. A century and a half later King Frederick William III forced Lutherans in his realm into a union with the Reformed, an event which led to the emigration of confessional Lutherans to America and ultimately the formation of the LCMS.

So Gericke has a point: If Lutherans had patron saints, Gerhardt would be one of them. Yet there was also a fascinating ecumenical side to Gerhardt’s work. Only 30 years after his death in 1676 in Lübben, then Saxony, Gerhardt became perhaps the first Lutheran poet to have a song published in a Roman Catholic hymnal: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” (*LSB* 449), perhaps Gerhardt’s most haunting verses.

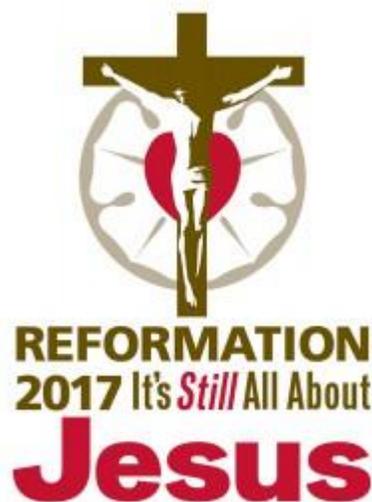
Ironically, the sanctuary in Lübben, where this confessional Lutheran last served, and where he is buried, is no longer a Lutheran but a Union church. The church bears his name, though: Paul Gerhardt Kirche. And there, an inscription at his portrait reminds visitors of his “little sort of Berlin martyrdom”: “Theologus in cribro Satanae versatus”—a theologian sifted in Satan’s sieve.

Paul Gerhardt ranks the second-most important crafter of hymns in German Protestantism, after Martin Luther.

New series spotlights Luther's writings

March 31, 2016 in NEW THIS WEEK, REPORTER, RESOURCES1

"Our LCMS folks — especially church workers — need to be reconnected to Martin Luther." With those words from Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison as a cue, *Reporter* this month begins offering a series of Luther's writings as a way to join the church body's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.



This reconnecting with Luther starts this month with the account of his Gospel breakthrough, as he wrote of it in 1545 in a preface to the first full edition of his works. — *Editor*

Meanwhile, I had already during that year returned to interpret the Psalter anew. I had confidence in the fact that I was more skillful, after I had lectured in the university on St. Paul's epistles to the Romans, to the Galatians, and the one to the Hebrews. I had indeed been captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans. But up till then it was not the cold blood about the heart, but a single word in Chapter 1[:17], "In it the righteousness of God is revealed," that had stood in my way. For I hated that word "righteousness of God," which, according to the use and custom of all the teachers, I had been taught to understand philosophically regarding the formal or active righteousness, as they called it, with which God is

righteous and punishes the unrighteous sinner.

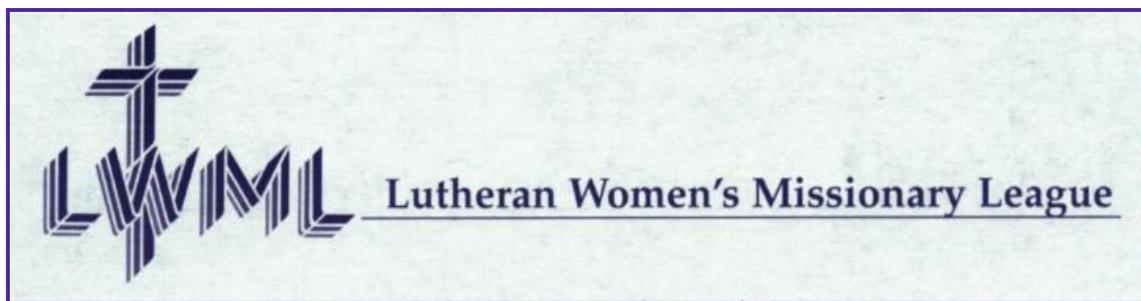
Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. I could not believe that he was placated by my satisfaction. I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God, and said, "As if, indeed, it is not enough, that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the decalogue, without having God add pain to pain by the gospel and also by the gospel threatening us with his righteousness and wrath!" Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience. Nevertheless, I beat importunately upon Paul at that place, most ardently desiring to know what St. Paul wanted.

At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.'" There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me. Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures from memory. I also found in other terms an analogy, as, the work of God, that is, what God does in us, the power of God, with which he makes us strong, the wisdom of God, with which he makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God.

And I extolled my sweetest word with a love as great as the hatred with which I had before hated the word "righteousness of God." Thus that place in Paul was for me truly the gate to paradise. Later I read Augustine's *The Spirit and the Letter*, where contrary to hope I found that he, too, interpreted God's righteousness in a similar way, as the righteousness with which God clothes us when he justifies us. Although this was heretofore said imperfectly and he did not explain all things concerning imputation clearly, it nevertheless was pleasing that God's righteousness with which we are justified was taught. Armed more fully with these thoughts, I began a second time to interpret the Psalter. And the work would have grown into a large commentary, if I had not again been compelled to leave the work begun, because Emperor Charles V in the following year convened the diet at Worms.

Martin Luther, Luther's Works, Vol. 34; Career of the Reformer IV, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, Vol. 34 (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 336-338. Reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Posted March 31, 2016



The LWML Spring Prayer Service will be held April 16, 2016; at Grace Lutheran in Murfreesboro. An in-gathering will be for The Journey Home a center for the homeless and at-risk individuals and families in Rutherford County. A list of items needed is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. The ladies of Grace wish to know how many are attending from Trinity so they have some idea how much to prepare for lunch. Please, let me know if you wish to join our ladies. We will carpool from the church with the departure time to be decided later. This is a chance to meet other ladies in our district.

Plans are being made for a possible Mystery Lunch and the Christmas brunch.

Rosalie

The Women of Grace of Grace Lutheran Church

Would like to invite you

To the

LWML Middle Tennessee Zone Spring Prayer Service

Saturday, April 16th, 2016, at 9 A.M.

Our theme for the Service is based on

Matthew 10:31--"His eye is on the sparrow."

Pastor Carl Wenck will lead the Service.

Our speaker will be Mr. Scott Foster from Journey Home,

Whose mission is to "Love God, serve people."

The Journey Home is a Christian Outreach Center

For the homeless & at-risk individuals & families in Rutherford County.

Our ingathering will be for their facility.

Items needed for the Outreach Center are:

Laundry pods (like Tide Pods)

Disposable razors

Chap Stick®

Large bottles of Tylenol and Ibuprofen

Other personal hygiene items

Items needed in the Community Cafe' are:

Coffee

Margarine and butter

Large bags of sugar

Tubs of Crisco

A light breakfast will be served during registration.

Lunch will follow the service and business meeting.

We hope to see you there!



The greatest surprise about Easter is not that Jesus is alive, risen from the dead, out of the grave, that He conquered death and hell, and comes to meet you as He promised. The greatest surprise is that He did all that and is not angry. There is no fear for us in His return because He is not angry. He bears no grudge. He seeks no vengeance. He comes to give peace, with mercy and forgiveness and salvation.

Jesus lives and is not angry. Imagine that. He is not angry. He doesn't blame those who killed Him. He doesn't blame you. For no one takes His life from Him. He lays it down of His own accord. He gives Himself into death to win us back from sin, death, and hell. He does it willingly without coercion. He does it sacrificially, Him for us. He gave what was His to give. Thus His petition to the Father from the cross, "Forgive them" is granted to you in His resurrection. He comes alive out of death to forgive and to give His life to you.

There is nothing to be afraid of because Jesus is raised from the dead and is not angry. Thus we are free—free from worrying about how to make it up to Him, and free to give as He has given to us. He gave Himself as a gift, His life in exchange for our death, willingly and sacrificially. And so it is that we are now free to give in like manner: willingly, sacrificially, with what we have been given.

We give to the church because it is in the church where our eyes have seen and our ears have heard that Jesus lives and is not angry. It is here where we learn of God's mercy and forgiveness in Christ. It is here where we continually receive that message of life, where He visits us to give peace, with mercy and forgiveness and salvation.

So do not be afraid. Jesus lives, and He is not angry. The sacrifice has been made. The debt is canceled and forgotten. Righteousness is declared. Jesus lives. He lives, and He is not angry. You are restored. You are reconciled to the Father in the Son. Your future is assured: Jesus lives. It is not just death and Hell, the devil and his demons, that are undone. Your sins, your fear are undone. They are gone, forgotten, destroyed. Jesus lives. Hallelujah! Jesus lives. And because He lives, you are just. You are right with God, pleasing and delightful to Him. You are forgiven, clean, pure, holy, and filled with His good works and with His Name. He is not angry. He is glad to have you. He wants you. He loves you. He gave everything that is His to and for you, willingly and sacrificially. In faith and trust in Him, let us do likewise.

Stewardship Newsletter Articles are provided by LCMS' Stewardship Ministry

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.

2024 Hunters Place, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 ● trinityhope.dg@gmail.com ● Web Page: Trinityhope.org
Facebook: trinityhopehaiti

The Seed is the Word of God”

By Rev. John Gierke, Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, Arkansas

Engraved on the pulpit where U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia’s funeral was held are the words *“The Seed is the Word of God.”* Seeing those words on the pulpit from the parable of the Sower in Luke 8 reminded me of those same words on the seal of my alma mater, Concordia University, Nebraska, along with the image of the Sower sowing the seed (as well as the figure on top of the Nebraska State Capitol). I remember from previous trips to Haiti watching Haitians preparing the rice fields for a new planting season, as well as seeing the harvested grain drying in piles on the ground near marketplaces. As those who attended the funeral (in person or via TV/internet) saw those words throughout the sermon, the Word of Forgiveness and Eternal Life in Christ was being sown for all the world to hear. May there be a bountiful harvest for the Lord from the Word that was sown and broadcast over the air and internet waves, that there is life through Christ, even though one dies. (See also this HOPE in 1 Corinthians 15:35-58.)

I was also reminded of how the Word of God is being sown and planted in the little children’s lives in Haiti through your gifts to Trinity/HOPE to bring meals of beans and rice - meals that started as seeds that grew and produced a bountiful earthly crop, part of which are seeds to plant for another future harvest! (Ain’t it great how God keeps providing?!!) Even more so, God is also bringing about a bountiful eternal harvest through the Word of God that is sown and heard and planted in many more hearts and families’ lives as the children go home from school, fed by the earthly meal and FED by the eternal meal of the Word that they hear in their schools and have the meal and the Word connected to their Creator, Savior, and Sanctifier - the Holy Trinity - through whom they and we have all the hope in the world and the eternal life to come!

Thank you for helping sow the seed and the Word - both the earthly, and the eternal! May God’s harvest be bountiful, and many more Haitian children and families have their hunger and thirst for righteousness filled in Christ Jesus, the Word of God!

HENRIETTA MOUSE'S PAGE

Henrietta Church Mouse Here!

"Happy April" and "Happy Birthday" to ME!



Nope, I'm not foolin' you!

Spring has sprung and with it brings oh so much to do, so I must hurry along. So many chores, so much planting, and so much enjoying the outdoor world God so graciously gave us. Not that I'm complaining. Oh no! I love all the activities that comes with the beautiful season! I feel so energized!

Oh, speaking of our lovely world, Earth Day is this month. I think of this as a Christian celebration of all the gifts our Lord so abundantly gives. It's a day to remind us that we should help care for the planet God created. So don't forget to do your part. Whether it's planting a tree or picking up a piece of trash you see on the ground. Everything we can do will help keep our gift thriving. A happy earth equals happy healthy people AND mice!

So "ta-ta" for now my church family!

Happy Earth Day!

Until Next Month....

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence





We need volunteers! Can you help?



MOWING

It's mowing time again!

If you would like to volunteer to mow &
trim the church lawn,

There is a sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

And please use only *non-ethanol* gas in the mower.



CLEANING THE CHURCH BUILDING

It needs to be done on a weekly basis.

There's a sign-up sheet on the board.



If you have questions on either volunteer job, see James Hygrell.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS

We had a great meeting and have come up with some good ideas for church fellowship all during the year.

Here are some of the things that will be happening.

June 11

Flea Market

We will be selling booths for \$20 each.
The Church will also have a booth.



July 31

5th Sunday potluck
New member pot luck luncheon

August

Ice Cream Social



September

Church Picnic



October

Octoberfest



Joyce Knapp is looking into
a Cumberland River boat cruise
and
Sounds Faith Night.



We are also planning to have fund raisers
for the fellowship committee funds.

See Debbie Scott for more information

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Keri Buttrey
- 1 - Henrietta Mouse
- 4 - Gabriel Alvarado
- 7 - Rosalie Replogle
- 9 - Jessica Owen
- 10 - Betty Clinard
- 11 - Jeremy Owen
- 12 - Willie King
- 13 - Nicholas Cherry
- 14 - Skyler Brown
- 15 - Don Ferguson
- 16 - Linda Wilken
- 20 - Bill Pfingsten
- 25 - Robert Brown
- 25 - (Al Mann)
- 26 - Melissa Cheatham
- 27 - Sarah Chandler



ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 - Norman & Carol Kraemer (2012)
- 12 - Doug & Kaia Howard (2008)
- 19 - Ken & Stacy Shaw (1985)
- 24 - Ted & Doris Isaacson (1953)



SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2016

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Clyde Schroeder

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Stacy Shaw

GREETERS

Rosalie Replogle & Debra Scott

USHERS

Tim Hartley & Jer Geiger - Center Aisle

Rick & Zach Halliburton - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

April 3 - Gabriel Alvarado

April 10 - Christina Levan

April 17 - Elena Alvarado

April 24 - Isadora Hygrell

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

March 27 – April 2 -

April 3 – 9 -

April 10 – 16 -

April 17 – 23 -

April 24 – 30 - Shaw

VOLUNTEER MOWING SCHEDULE

April 4 – 9 -

April 11 – 16 -

April 18 – 23 -

April 25 – 30 – Randy Ruemler