



TRINITY TIDINGS



FEBRUARY 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church

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We will soon be entering into the season of Lent. The Church marks this penitential season by observing various changes to the liturgy and even within the house of God itself. We veil the crosses (which is explained in another article), we change the color of the paraments, and consider the gravity of our sinfulness as we meditate upon Christ's bloody sacrifice given on Calvary. Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday, and we maintain the tradition of the imposition of ashes upon each penitent. Here is a response to a question that the Synod received regarding the significance of Ash Wednesday which I believe you will find helpful and educational.

Q. Would you please explain the significance of Ash Wednesday. I've seen some people in the past with black ash crosses on their foreheads.

A. Lutheran Worship: History and Practice, the recent commentary on Lutheran Worship, one of our Synod's hymnals, says this about ashes on Ash Wednesday: "Other customs may be used, particularly the imposition of ashes on those who wish it. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God."

The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a more recent custom among most LCMS congregations, although some have done it for decades. The ashes are usually derived from the burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday. Experience will show, however, that in obtaining ashes this way, it doesn't take many ashes to "ash" a whole congregation. Like sin, they are very dirty and go a long way. One palm leaf will produce enough ashes for several years.

Usually the pastor takes the ashes on the end of his thumb and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshiper, saying these words: "Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This follows most effectively prior (or as part of) the Service Corporate Confession and Absolution on pp. 290-291 of *Lutheran Service Book*.

(From LCMS FAQ's page: <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=3904>)

In addition to what is written above, as you wash the ashes from your forehead, remember the significance of your Baptism and the blessings of forgiveness bestowed upon you therein. You should remember the sense of cleansing and relief from your sins which is tied directly to Christ's glorious life, death, and resurrection. This is also an ongoing aspect of His continued work in your life by His Word and Sacraments – thanks be to God! So I encourage you to prayerfully consider observing this Lenten journey by gathering at God's invitation each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm for the Solemn Order of Vespers. A light meal will be served at 6:00pm. The theme for our Lenten services considers the significance of two Holy Weeks – the week of Creation and the week in which our Lord served as *the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*. God's blessings on our Lenten journey!

+ The Lord be with you +

With Christ's Peace,
Pastor



The Veiling of the Church

The special season of Lent finds many churches using special *linens* to cover various elements in the church. Some churches veil pictures, statues, crosses, crucifixes, and other objects during Lent as a special custom which serves as a *visual* reminder of the *solemnity* and *penitential* mood of the season.

These cloths are called *Lenten Veils*. These are usually made of unbleached linen, although sheer fabric in purple and black are used. The black veil is used for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday liturgical settings. Purple is used from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. It is also customary to mark this change in the Church Year by omitting the singing of the Alleluia Verse.



A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD

ASH WEDNESDAY FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION ARTICLE II, FREE WILL

As soon as the Holy Spirit has begun His work of regeneration and renewal in us through the Word and holy Sacraments, we can and should cooperate through His power. This cooperation does not come from our fleshly natural powers, but from the new powers and gifts that the Holy Spirit has begun in us. St. Paul says, “working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain” [2 Cor. 6:1]. The converted person does good to such an extent and as long as God by His Holy Spirit rules, guides, and leads him.

- * For we are God’s fellow workers. (1 Cor. 3:9)
- * But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. (1 Cor. 15:10)
- * God said, “I will make My dwelling among them, and I will be their God.” (2 Cor. 6:16)

There is a great difference between baptized and unbaptized people. According to Galatians 3:27, “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ,” and are made truly regenerate. They now have a freed will. As Christ says, they have been made free again. Therefore, they are able to hear the Word, agree with it and accept it, although in weakness.
(paragraphs 65-67)

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*Once again, Pastor Shaw will be conducting two mid-week services during Lent.
A Matins service will be held at noon and a Vespers Service at 7 p.m.*

Solemn Order of Vespers for Lent

Two Holy Weeks

February 10 – Ash Wednesday – Noon & 7:00 pm

Genesis 1:1-5 & Mt. 21:1-11 – *Light and Word*

February 17 – Midweek 2 – Noon & 7:00 pm

Genesis 1:6-8 & Mark 11:15-19 – *Divisions*

February 24 – Midweek 3 – Noon & 7:00 pm

Genesis 1:9-19 & Mark 12:1-12 – *Plants and Plantings*

March 2 – Midweek 4 – Noon & 7:00 pm

Genesis 1:20-23 & John 13:3-10 – *Water and Life*

March 9 – Midweek 5 – Noon & 7:00 pm

Genesis 1:24-31 & Mark 15:1-15 – *Two Adams*

March 16 – Midweek 6 – Noon & 7:00 pm

Genesis 2:1-3 & John 19:30-42 – *Rest*

March 24 – Maundy Thursday – Noon & 7:00 pm

Exodus 12:1-14; John 13:1-17, 34 – *The Lord's Passover and Supper*

March 25 – Good Friday – Noon & 7:00 pm

John 19:17-30 – *God's Love for You*



Each Wednesday during Lent,
we will be serving a light supper at 6 p.m.
before our 7 p.m. worship service.
Here is a schedule of who will be preparing our suppers:

February 17th - Elders

February 24th - LWML

March 2nd - Parrish Fellowship

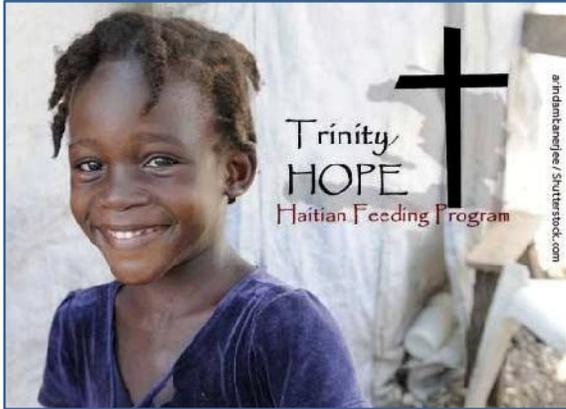
March 9th - Christian Education

March 16th - Council

NOTICE

The Crafters for Christ group is no longer meeting.
They are not accepting used Christmas cards or other greeting cards
as they did in previous years. Please do not bring your cards in.

Thank you!



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

Best Gift

By Fenna Owens

As a young girl growing up I had everything I needed (not what I wanted) and I remember being a very happy child. As I grew older the things that I wanted still were not available to me, since I never truly had a high paying job. Still I had all I needed. I consider myself a truly happy person and am thankful for all I have.

When I went to Haiti, there were people that did not have anything they needed, and certainly did not have anything they wanted.

Christmas times in the USA are an abundant giving gifts time. We try to find gifts for people we don't really know. Since I still have all I need, some of my friends did not know what to give me, and ended up giving me money for the Haitian kids. They knew this would overjoy me. They were 100% right and oh the joy I felt was enormous.

This is the season of giving and we have so much more than we need. Please give your heart a jolt by giving some away to a less fortunate child that by every amount of money you give may get the opportunity to be able to learn.

In Matthew 25, we are told when we have given to the least of these, we have given to Jesus; what you do to the least of these, you do it unto me.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, and ponder anew what the Almighty can do. What can the Almighty do? He gives us a giving heart. We need to use it at all times.

Be blessed everyone
Have a wonderful 2016.



We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves us is never alone. That is because faith is a living, busy, and active thing. It inhales all of God's riches in Christ and exhales this in love and service to the neighbor.

But who is my neighbor? God in His mercy has placed us into three distinct communities: society, family, and the church. That means we have a duty to those around us in each of these communities. We pray for the people in these three communities daily. We rejoice with them in times of joy and suffer with them in times of sadness. And we give to them from the income that God provides as we are able and as they have need.

So we pay taxes to our governments so that they may do the work that is needed for our neighbors in society. We give to our families so that they have food and clothing, house and home, even educations. And we give to our church—our local congregations—so that the gospel may be preached and the sacraments administered for us and others.

The beauty of this is that God smiles upon all that giving. When you pay your taxes, God is pleased that you have served your neighbor who needs what the government provides. When you provide for your family, God is pleased. That you have helped your neighbor with the necessities of life by sharing with them what He has given to you, God is pleased. And when you give to your local congregation to support the ongoing preaching of the gospel, God is pleased. To all this giving, He says to you, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Looking at giving in this light makes it a joy to give. The joy is multiplied. There is joy in you because you have served your neighbor in his need. There is joy in your neighbor for God has answered their prayers through you. And God rejoices and is pleased with it all. It might just make the humdrum of grocery shopping and mortgage payments a bit more joyous. It might even make April 15 tolerable (St. Paul had to have this pep talk with the Romans, also, "This is why you pay taxes...." Rom. 13:6). And it surely will make the envelope placed into the offering plate a joyful thing.

Indeed God is pleased with you. You are saved by faith alone because of Jesus Christ. And that saving faith is never alone. It is busy and active. It serves the neighbor in society, family, and church with free and cheerful giving.

*The monthly Stewardship Newsletter is provided as a free resource by
LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

February Focus: International Witness



Bringing Christ to people around the world

More than 120 years ago, the Missouri Synod sent its first missionaries to India, and our church has been active in international witness ever since.

Though our witness and message are the same, much has certainly changed since then, and the 21st century brings even more new opportunities and challenges as we continue our international witness by the power of the Holy Spirit:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

As the LCMS focuses on international witness, we thank God for our partnerships with brothers and sisters around the world in carrying Christ's rich gifts to the ends of the earth!

Join us in lifting up international witness this month. To help you do so, we have put together information and worship resources, including bulletin inserts, prayers, Scripture references and more for your use.

Prayer

Remember, kind Father, all those who are training to be pastors or missionaries in Your Church. Equip them with the wisdom of Your word and teach them to rely solely on You and Your promises. Remove from all servants of the Word any trust in mere human wisdom or strength, that You alone may be exalted through their service. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Wisdom of God. Amen.

Henrietta Church Mouse Here!

February has arrived and the question of the month is - "Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow? Will we be in for six more weeks of winter?" Mr. Phil is quite the celebrity around the mice community. One day I'd love to travel to Pennsylvania to get his autograph! It's on my "thimble list," well you might call it a "bucket list," but buckets are so big to me I'll stick with 'thimble.'

This is a very important time of year. Ash Wednesday will be here soon. It's a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the sacrifice Jesus made for us. It is very appropriate that Ash Wednesday is in the same month as St. Valentine's Day.

When you think of St. Valentine's Day, remember this:

For God so lo**V**ed the world, that he
g**A**ve
his on**L**y
begott**E**n
So**N**,
That whosoever
believeth **I**n him
should **N**ot perish,
but have **E**verlasting life.
John 3:16 (KJV)

Until next month,

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence!

P.S. - Happy President's Day February 15th!



Thank You

And a special 'thank you' to the Hartleys and the Gramses for the beautiful Christmas cards. I feel so special that you would think of little 'ole me at Christmas time.

Thanks bunches!!!

Henrietta Church Mouse

Jesus, Please Be My Valentine

Jesus, please be my Valentine,
you make my life complete.
I can take my cares to you
and lay them at your feet.

You gave to me the blessings
that I cannot live without.
This is the kind of love that
Valentine's Day is about!



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

We welcomed several new members into our congregation in November.

Jerry and Debbie Delp transferred their membership to Trinity along with their daughters, Nora Delp and Christa Henning, and their Grandchildren, Chasen and Aubrey.

Carol Kraemer also became a Trinity member in November.

We are so happy to have these new members.

If you haven't met them, please introduce yourself to them today!

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT WWW.TRINITYGALLATIN.ORG LATELY?

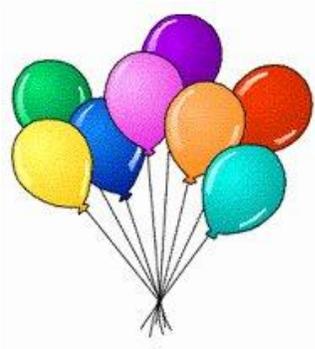


Our website has a whole new look!

Joe Wall has been working relentlessly to make our website more informative and attractive. The weekly bulletin insert, the Trinity Tidbits, is available on the web site as well as our monthly church newsletter, the Trinity Tidings, and church calendar. Also available on line are the scriptures for each Sunday and Pastor Shaw's sermons. There is a picture gallery, our church constitution and by-laws, and links to Lutheran web-sites of interest. Go ahead – take a look.

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

BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Chris Loftis
- 5 Jerry Knapp
- 14 Tammi Chandler
- 14 Joyce Knapp
- 14 James Hygrell
- 16 Jason Emerson
- 18 Becki Vietor
- 18 Matthew Graves
- 19 Jwocknuto Olok
- 20 Emerson Hygrell
- 22 Jared Riesterer
- 22 Braylee Nicole Simon
- 25 Michael Vietor
- 25 Marie Wall
- 26 Shirley Erickson
- 27 Nick Alvarado
- 27 Rachael Geiger
- 28 Allen Klein



ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Susan and Carroll Smiley (1987)
- 26 Josh & Chrystina Brown (2001)



SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2016

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Tom Riesterer

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Lisa Benjamin

GREETERS

Tim & Marilyn Hartley

USHERS

Clyde Schroeder & Bill Pfingsten - Center Aisle

Jimmy Gragg & Nick Alvarado - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

February 7- Christina Levan

February 14 - Elena Alvarado

February 21 - Isadora Hygrell

February 28 - Brandon Levan

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

January 31 – February 6 –

February 7 – 13

February 14 – 20

February 21 – 27 - Hygrell

February 28 – March 5