



TRINITY TIDINGS



JANUARY 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church

720 Lock 4 Road

Gallatin, TN 37066

615-452-3352

trinitygallatin@gallatin.org

trinitygallatin.org



THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT

I am including an article which appeared in last year's newsletter which I believe speaks more loudly to us today than the previous year. Draw comfort from Rev. Murray's encouraging words which point the *only* source of comfort and peace in this ever-darkening world. *"Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son.' Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more'"* (Matthew. 2:13-18).

On December 28th the Church Year provides a day in which to remember a cringe-worthy event that occurred following that first Christmas – The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents. It's a day in which the Church remembers those children who were killed following the birth of the Christ child and this historic episode was recorded by inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that all mankind would never forget this atrocity. Rev. Scott Murray, one our synodical Vice Presidents wrote a marvelous reflection that exposes a malady which we face here in America. As we continue in the season of Christmastide, let us ponder anew the precious gift given us in the Christ child, our *Prince of peace*, and the *Light of the world*.

Slaughter of the Innocents All Over Again

Monday of Christmas 1
29 December 2014

The slaughter of the holy innocents (commemorated each year on December 28th) seems such a jarring thing to be part of Christmas. Christmas is supposed to be visions of sugar plumbs dancing in our heads. The scene of Herod's professional killers tracking down every male child 2-years-old and younger and slaughtering them is obscene and offensive to our sensibilities. How could God have permitted such a thing to invade our happy Christmas thoughts? Where was God in all this? \

Once again, we are blaming someone other than ourselves for human wickedness; and most blasphemously we are blaming the one who saves us from such wickedness. Human wickedness must be attributed to human depravity. What human madness to blame our gracious God for what is our own most grievous fault! Shame on us for this double blasphemy!

Yet, we must ask how many innocents were slaughtered in the last few days? How many children were abused or mutilated by sexually depraved persons or by the perversely “religious”? How many infants did “compassionate” people claiming to be doctors dismember [and then sell those dismembered parts]? How many youths strapped on explosives intent upon blowing others to smithereens and themselves into the arms of 70 appropriately mutilated virgins? [How many Christians have lost their heads or been crucified in the name of a false god]. Upon further review, Herod is a mere piker in comparison to our own [modern day] maniacs.

A God who comes into the world populated by those who are willing to slaughter innocents on the altar of their own manias, is a God who is willing to put Himself on the line for the wicked. He came to a world broken by humans, that He might forgive those humans who have such a need for mercy. There is plenty of human violence in this world even today. It is amazing that God should have looked down upon the world so abused by humans and decided that He should send His Son to rescue it. We need that assurance today even more than when Herod's slaughter swept over Bethlehem.

Martin Luther

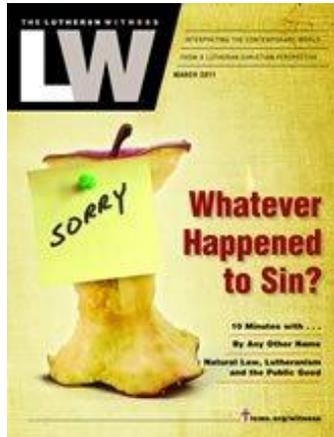
“And still Satan does not leave off from his cruelty, hatred, and hostility against the Seed of the woman. When He has been placed into His cradle, Satan makes a search for Him through Herod, so that Christ has to live among the Gentiles in Egypt. Later on he tries everything, and also tempts Him, until, when He had been seized in the garden, he delivers Him up to the Jews and attaches Him to the cross. But not even by His death can Satan's inexhaustible hatred be satisfied. He fears Him after He has been buried. So bitter is his enmity against the Son of God! Now when he sees Him sitting at the right hand of God and being what is called “out of range,” he rages with every kind of fury against the poor members of His church. There are prophecies here of all these dangers; nevertheless, we ought to sojourn among them with good courage and with confidence in the Son of God, who is crushing Satan” (*Lectures on Genesis*, 3:15).

God's blessings!

+ The Lord be with you +

With Christ's Everlasting Peace and Love,
Pastor

P.S. - My family and I want to thank all of you for the wonderful, cards, goodies, and gifts that you provided us throughout this Christmastide season! God's blessings to you and your family.



LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE

The Lutheran Witness Magazine is the flagship magazine of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

It is a monthly publication that offers synodical news, reports from Lutherans around the world, features, columns, Q&A's, a Bible study, and much more.

There is no better way to keep up on all the latest LCMS news. If you would like to subscribe to the “Lutheran Witness Magazine” or renew your current subscription, please contact the church office.

The cost for a one-year subscription is \$15.00.

The deadline for subscriptions is January 29.

A new subscription begins with the March issue.

**If you are paying by check,
please make your check payable to
Trinity Lutheran Church.**



IT'S A WHOLE NEW YEAR!
IT'S TIME TO VOLUNTEER!

CLEANING THE CHURCH

We no longer hire a cleaning service.

We are depending on member to volunteer to keep our church building clean.

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

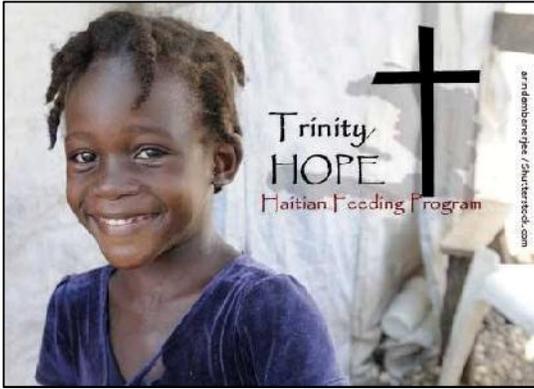
ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is made up of members who serve the Lord & the church
by caring for the altar and the ceremonial aspects of church services.

They keep the Chancel area in good order, prepare for Holy Communion, change banners and
Paraments, & clean Communion vessels & linen.

Please see or call Stacy Shaw, Altar Guild Chairperson.

Prayfully consider volunteering. 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
- Web Page: Trinityhope.org

- trinityhope.dg@gmail.com
- Facebook: [trinityhopehaiti](https://www.facebook.com/trinityhopehaiti)

New Friend

By Denise Gudlin

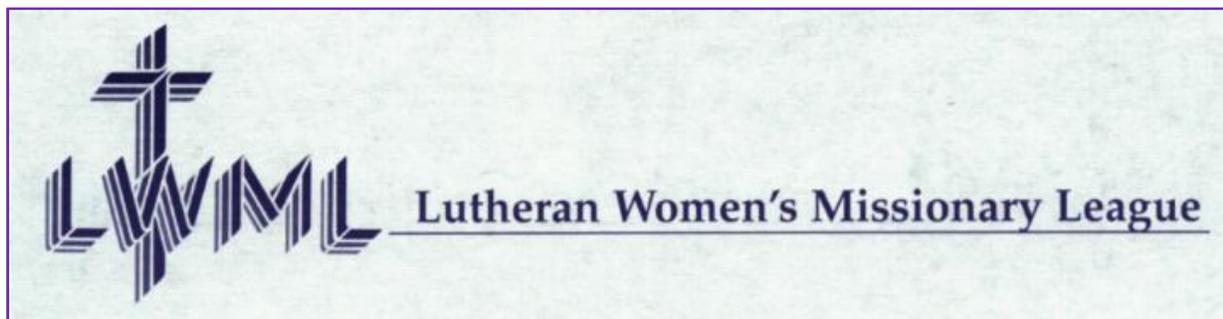
Who loves to make new friends? Making new friends is not usually my primary goal for a mission trip but that is exactly what I should expect. Those friends can be team members or those we serve.

Many times when visiting the younger classes in the schools in Haiti you will meet children who have never met people with different color skin or strangers. Imagine their fear when they see a group of white strangers walk into their small classroom. For some, fear ensues, climaxing to sobs. You want to reach down and give them a hug but that would only make it more terrifying to the child.

On our recent trip, this occurred when we visited the children attending Bognol. It is a country school in the Central Plateau area of Haiti. The little children still met in the older section of the school which was dark and crowded. A little girl began crying as soon as we entered the room. The principal tried to comfort her and assure her that the strangers meant no harm. My team member Teresa loved the “littles” and took it on as a challenge to win over her new friend. Teresa would smile at her from a distance and kneel to her level. Eventually the little girl began following Teresa around but at a safe distance throughout the school.

Later when school was out, our mission team visited a family who had three boys attending the school. It is common to peak the curiosity of the neighbors as we visit. Same was true with this family visit. Guess who was in the neighborhood? The same new friend who once was afraid of us. Once she caught Teresa’s eye, she ran to Teresa and sat on her lap. Her name is Love. New friends for life!

We would love for you to join us in making new friends by physically going to Haiti or by supporting our work by making donations to feed the children and being our praying warriors.



Well, the event that was worked on by some of us for nearly a year, is over! The Christmas bazaar was a success in the way of proceeds and fellowship. We made \$1400.00; the LWML supplemented an additional \$600.00 to make it an even \$2000.00 to give to Vicar Peter Adelson. The vendors who rented booths said they did well and had a fun time. Many, many thanks to Debbie Boyd for spearheading this project. It is not easy to put together a bazaar (I know). Encouragers and helpers are very important! A big hand to those who baked, donated items, help set up, and worked that day. If you did not help in some way, you missed a chance to assist a future pastor and great fellowship. It was delightful to get to know our new member, Debbie Delp.

Our LWML Brunch Lunch was grand-----thanks to the hard work of Joyce Knapp who put it altogether. I want to say THANK YOU, Joyce. There were 27 members and guests in attendance. We went to the Foxland Country Club where we had a private room and our own server. Betty Ruemler, Carol Hall, and Lucye Durham were our guests. Lovely company and good food.

A new cookie list will go up soon so watch for it. I wish to thank all the faithful ladies who have brought goodies during the year, and thanks to those of you who contributed money to our mission projects by dropping a dollar or two or more in our basket Zack Halliburton manages to enjoy all goodies and gladly shares any funds he may have. Thanks, Zack. Bill Gramses loves anything chocolate and will pay well---ha ha. As I have said before, the fellowship around the cookies is awesome. Every Sunday morning my sweet husband makes sure there is a full coffee pot. Join us!

May you have a good 2016

Rosalie



“In all things I have shown you that . . . we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35). And indeed it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can’t recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself, sparing not even His life in death, in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving, you get more because in giving joy is multiplied: the one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. What is more the one who receives is thankful and only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously.

So also with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God’s favor. We have God’s favor because of the gift of His Son which we receive through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving. Now our tithes and offering are freely given *in thanksgiving* for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin? After all the Church is the place where God not only gives to us once, but continually again and again. And what gifts He gives! He gives us the forgiveness of sins, generously pouring out His grace and mercy because He loves us. So why does the church struggle?

It is because sin still clings to us. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it too. Because of sin we want to receive, but not give. We want God’s blessings, but we don’t want to share them with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives, without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but also to use you to bless others. Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights and heat and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy

Baptism and bread and wine for the Holy Communion. Everything the Church does, she is able to do by and through the generosity of the members of the Church.

So remember the words of the Lord Jesus. It is more blessed to give than to receive. And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.



HENRIETTA CHURCH MOUSE'S PAGE

Henrietta Church Mouse Here!! Happy New Year! Welcome to 2016! The turn of the new year is such a wonderful special occasion, so let's celebrate! There are many things to celebrate. We can thank God for the past year. We can thank God for granting us a new year. A new year can be a fresh start. We can improve on things we didn't do so well with the last year. We can set new goals. If you plan on making a new year's resolution, make one that really counts and is reachable. Don't plan on losing 100 pounds, plan on eating better or taking walks to enjoy the beauty God gave us outdoors. Resolve to forgive someone that wasn't forgiven last year. Resolve to come to church weekly to thank God for life! I'm going to put a lot of thought and effort into making 2016 the best year ever!

Until next month.....

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence

P.S. - Don't forget to thank God for His work through Martin Luther King, Jr.



ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING



The amount of cans being recycled has gone up,
but the price per pound has not.

We're still in a holding pattern.
Blessed Christmastide!

Myron



Thank You



*A special thank you to
everyone who helped an
'Angel' this year by
purchasing gifts for the Angel Tree.*

*I know you don't know who you were buying for,
but please know they are all very grateful for
helping ease the financial stress of this time of year.*

*By helping them you were doing for God.
May God bless each of you for your loving generosity.*

Blessings in the New Year.

Jessica & Jeremy Owen



A "Thank-You" letter from the Ronald McDonald in Nashville is posted on the bulletin board. The 'pull-tabs" from the aluminum cans you bring in for recycling are taken to the Ronald McDonald House.

Did you know that the pull tab from your beverage can is part of a major fundraising effort for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville? By simply saving this tiny pull tab, you can help raise thousands of dollars to support the families of seriously ill or injured children receiving medical treatment at Nashville area hospitals.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville's Pull Tab Program has an agreement with a local recycling company to receive a premium rate per pound for these tabs. Through this recycling program they raise more than \$13,000 a year to help with their operating expenses.

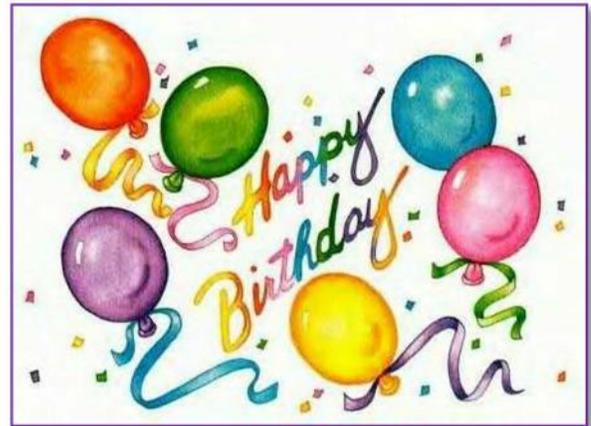
Every tab counts! It takes approximately 1,200 pull tabs to equal one pound. So, the next time you open a can, please pull for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville!



WE THANK GOD
FOR THESE CELEBRATIONS IN JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Onok Akuai
- 1 Adela Klein
- 1 Gene Lehmann
- 1 Didumo Olok
- 1 Akoth Omot
- 4 Cristina Shaw
- 11 Nancy Deputy
- 11 Jimmy Gragg
- 11 William Miller
- 12 Donna Meyer
- 14 Karsten Gardner
- 15 Emily Riley
- 22 Elora Beth Howard
- 26 Elena Alvarado
- 27 Susan Gramse
- 28 James Richardson
- 30 David Coleman



ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Jeremy & Jessica Owen (2007)

SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2016

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Clyde Schroeder

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Jennifer Smith

GREETERS

Linda McCormick & Rosalie Replogle

USHERS

Tim Hartley & Jer Geiger - Center Aisle

Rick & Zack Halliburton - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

January 3 – Zach Loftis

January 10 – Paige Smith

January 17 – Mackenzie Vietor

January 24 – Mikayla Vietor

January 31 – Gabriel Alvarado

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

December 27 – January 2 – Jerry & Debbie Delp

January 3 – 9 –

January 10 – 16 -

January 17 – 23 -

January 24 – 30 -

January 31 – February 6 -