



TRINITY TIDINGS



"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD." Psalm 33:12a

JULY 2016
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Martin Luther's Seal or the Luther Rose

During the Reformation, Martin Luther came to see clearly that the cross of Christ and the pride of the world were at odds with each other, he chose for his family a new crest, which has become the “family crest” of Lutherans worldwide. The best person to explain the meaning of the now famous “Luther Seal” is Dr. Martin Luther, himself.

“From the wilderness of Koburg Castle” – July 8, 1530

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend!

Grace and Peace in Christ!

Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which now come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology. There is first to be a cross, black, and placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color (red), to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saved us. For if one believes from the heart, he will be justified. *“For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved”* (Rom. 10:10). Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its natural color and does not ruin nature...that is, the cross does not kill, but keeps man alive. For the just shall live by faith, by faith in the Savior. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, *“It is through faith that a righteous person has life”* (Rom. 1:17).

Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In a word, it places the believer into a white joyful rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy as the world gives. *“I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid”* (Jn. 14:27). Therefore, the rose is to be white, not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all angels. *“An angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow”* (Mt. 28:2b-3) and *“She saw two white-robed angels sitting at the head and foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying”* (Jn. 20:12).

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy. It is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest. And around this field is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come. Amen.



In our Lord's parable of the vineyard workers, the vineyard owner says to those who worked the longest, "Or do you begrudge my generosity" (Matthew 20:15)? It's an unfortunate translation. It's not wrong, but it doesn't give us the full picture. What the vineyard owner actually says is this: "Or is your eye evil because I am good?" Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light

in you is darkness, how great is the darkness" (Matthew 6:21–23).

This statement comes right in the middle of our Lord's teaching about giving. He said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:19–24).

Having an evil eye does not let in the light. Having an evil eye means that we are so focused on what we don't have, that we are unable to rejoice in what God has given. An evil eye makes us distressed when we see others prosper. It makes us rejoice when others suffer. An evil eye makes us so love ourselves and our money, that we don't want to share with others; we don't want to give of what we have because we are so focused on keeping what we have and getting what we don't.

Whereas a good eye is an eye that lets the light in so that our lives are filled with it. This light shines upon all that we have and reveals that it comes from our Father's divine goodness and mercy. A good eye that lets in the light, unencumbered by the darkness, so that we have a good will, a benevolent disposition, and a genuine happiness to see others prosper and the desire to be part of it.

Jesus came to give you a good eye and to take away the darkness that fills your life. Christ our Lord, through His death and resurrection, has forgiven your sin, removed your evil eye and given you new eyes that let in His light and truth. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

The reality is that you have all that you need and more. You have the love of God in Christ Jesus. You have the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. You have house and home, all that you need for this body and life. So, lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy. And you will see that your hearts will follow, just as Jesus promised.

FOCUS: Service

“Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

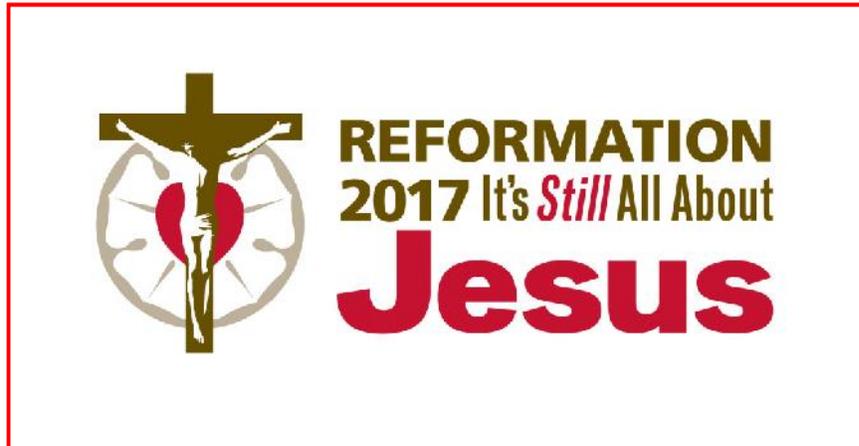
Matt. 20:26 ESV

Christ sets us free to love
and to serve our neighbor!



In July, we recognize how Christ sets us free to love and to serve our neighbor.

- + When you contemplate Christ's free gift of salvation and all the other gifts God bestows on us, it's easy to feel overwhelming joy, gratitude and a desire to “pay it forward” to others.
 - + This July, we celebrate all that God has blessed us with, and we rejoice in the opportunities He gives us to express our gratitude in service to our neighbor.
 - + As Lutherans, we collectively and compassionately care for others. It's in our nature to serve wherever we see the need, so that's our theme for July — service.
 - + Throughout the ministries of the LCMS, your district and local congregation, opportunities abound for joyful service throughout the year.
 - + If you'd like to serve through your church, talk to your pastor. He'll help you find a way to serve others in your congregation, in your local community or beyond.
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The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is not about Martin Luther, whom God used to reform His Church. Rather, it's about Jesus Christ, who forgave Luther—and forgives *you!*—by grace through faith.

In Luther's time, people spent countless hours giving honor to saints because they believed that doing so would lessen their time in purgatory on their way to heaven. But by studying God's Word, Luther realized that it is not our works that save us. It is God's grace. Because the Bible tells us, "by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8–9 ESV).

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, invites you to join in the celebration and the confession of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Because even 500 years after the Reformation, it's *still* all about Jesus.

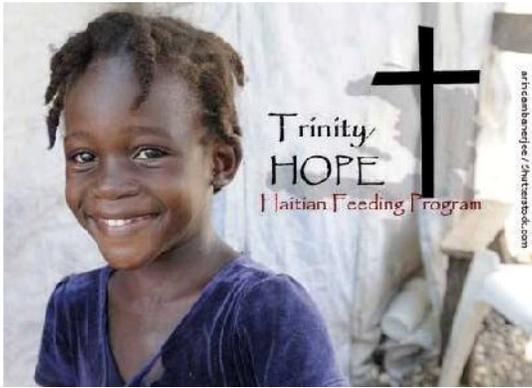
- See more at: <http://lutheranreformation.org/media-videos-podcasts/welcome-video/#sthash.EQkk3xV4.dpuf>

THANK YOU!!!!

Thanks to everyone who bought a "Hero" sandwich on Father's Day!
We raised \$360 for our school in Haiti!

And thanks also to Sean Smith for conducting the CPR Training Class
on Saturday, May 28. \$200 was donated to our school in Haiti from this event!

That's a total of \$560 so far this year!



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

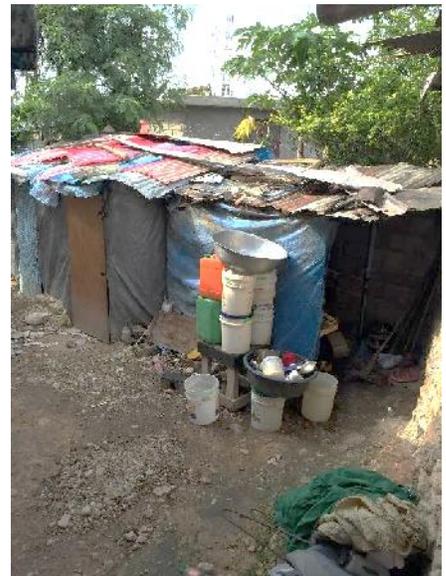
Web Page: Trinityhope.org

Facebook: trinityhopehaiti

I NEED Jesus

By Tyler Nicodem

Over the course of my time in Haiti, the main thing I learned is that I NEED Jesus. We as Americans have a hard time understanding this concept because all of our basic needs, most of the time, are met. Many of us love God and have a relationship with Him, but we find it difficult to depend on Him simply because our culture meets our basic needs. That is an amazing thing, but sometimes we can forget God is the one who is meeting those needs and we tend to take them for granted. This trip has made me realize what it is like, really like, to completely depend on God for everything, including those basic needs. The people in Haiti have to depend on God out of necessity. Because they depend on Him so much, they understand what it is like to have a deep relationship with Christ.



The thing that affected me the most was probably meeting the families. Seeing the living accommodations from the street is much different than actually being in the homes. Once I walked through a neighborhood and went inside a family's house, it really hit me. The families we visited live in those small homes every day. That is their life. It's so hard to know that I live in a home with electricity, running water that is clean, and air conditioning, while the people of Haiti many times have ten people living in a space the size of my bedroom.

Overall this trip was very eye opening for me. I learned a lot and I understand now what it means to truly depend on Christ every day.



Cumberland River Cruises

A Taste of the Keys

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Please join us on Saturday, July 23, 2016 for a Cruise down the Cumberland River. We went a few years ago and everyone enjoyed it. The boat leaves the dock at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 23, 2016 and cruises down the Cumberland River (Old Hickory Lake.)

Captain Jesse narrates the tour with facts and amusing details. The tour last for 2 hours. The cost is \$16.00 per person (\$15.00 + \$1.00 tip). This is a group rate. I'll check if less for children.

Those who would like to, please join us after the cruise for a dinner at Cherokee Steak House.

Directions:

The boat is docked to the left of Cherokee Steak House and Marina , 450 Cherokee Dock Road, Lebanon, TN 37087. Look for the Pink Flamingo.

The boat holds 20 people, we can get another smaller boat to follow for another 6 people. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex, payment is due when boarding the boat.

Hope you can join us.

Joyce Knapp

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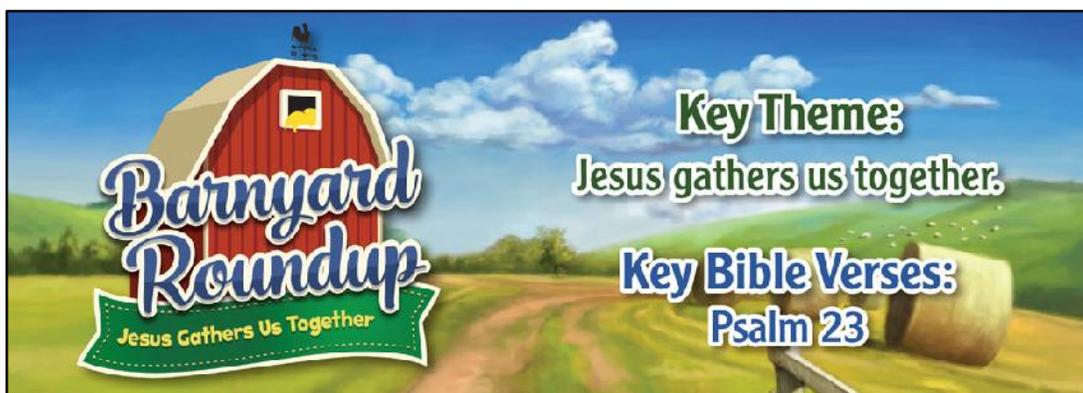




**This year's Vacation Bible School will be held on
SATURDAY
July 16
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Jennifer Loftis - Director
Emily Coleman - Story Time
Jennifer Hygrell - Games
Jessica Owen - Food

We need volunteers for registration and crafts.
A list of food needs will be posted on the Board of Education Board.
Please pray for a successful Vacation Bible School.



Henrietta Church Mouse's Page

This wee mouse is on vacation but I wanted to wish everyone a Happy Independence Day!

Stay Cool.

Until next month,

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence



PS - Don't worry - I will be back in time for Vacation Bible School on July 9! I wouldn't miss that! I am looking forward to making fun crafts, eating lots of cheesy snacks, and of course, hearing the Bible stories, learning Bible verses and singing songs! It such great fun! I am bringing all my mouse friends to VBS.

And Mrs. Joyce said I can ride with her & Jerry to the riverboat cruise on July 23rd. I can't wait to ride down the Cumberland River.



ALUMINUM CAN REPORT

We took in another load of aluminum cans to recycle.

This time we earned \$20.50.

Keep bringing in your rinsed aluminum cans.

And a big "thank-you" to Shirley Jergenson & Elora Beth Howard who stopped by Trinity and picked up all the aluminum pull tabs to deliver them to the Ronald McDonald House.

So keep pulling those tabs off the cans and putting them in a separate Ziploc bag so we can help support the Ronald McDonald House in Nashville.

Myron Cheatham



WAYS TO SERVE:

There are many ways you can serve at Trinity.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

We need food supplies for our "Food for the Needy" box. We have helped several families in the last few weeks by giving them food to feed their families. So we now need to restock our own food pantry. We need canned meats (tuna, etc.) pasta and canned meat sauces, crackers, peanut butter or any other food item your buy to feed your own family.

REPAIR JOBS AROUND THE CHURCH

We no longer have a church trustee. We voted that all church members would take on the responsibility for church repairs.

Men - have you noticed the new bathroom light in the men's restroom? One of our members took a few hours of his time to give a much needed update to the men's restroom. Just look around the building - do you think - why doesn't someone fix that? Well, why don't you? If you see a problem, take care of it!

CLEANING

Yes, someone needs to vacuum, sweep, dust, mop, clean and supply the restrooms each week. Who does that? Can you?

MOWING & TRIMMING

Have you noticed how fast the grass is growing this summer? God is sending us much needed rain and that makes the grass grow.

You have to mow your own lawn and trim.

Who is mowing Trinity's lawn. Let that 'someone else' be you!

See James Hygrell or Pastor Shaw to find out more!

We Thank God for These Celebrations in July



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Colton Cherry
- 4 Lisa Benjamin
- 4 Victor Hooge
- 6 Dianna Bourland
- 9 Samantha Chandler
- 9 Angela Gibson
- 11 Durwood Erickson
- 13 (Wanda Richardson)
- 16 Brian Blumenberg
- 23 Amelia Rose Howard
- 23 Kaia Howard
- 25 Tami Behrens
- 25 Sid Garrison
- 25 Bob Jenkins
- 27 (Allison Richardson)
- 28 Chrystina Brown
- 29 Joyce Craft
- 29 Angie Graves
- 29 Al Jones
- 29 Linda Thompson



ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Nick & Debbie Alvarado (2002)
- 15 Bill & Susan Gramse (1978)
- 21 Chris & Jennifer Loftis (1990)
- 26 Debbie & Tracy Boyd (1991)
- 30 Rob & Lisa Benjamin (1994)
- 30 Albert and Doris Mann (1976)



SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR JULY 2016

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Clyde Schroeder

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Stacy Shaw

GREETERS

Debbie Boyd & Rosalie Replogle

USHERS

Tim Hartley & Tom Riesterer- Center Aisle

Rick & Zack Halliburton - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

July 3 - Brandon Levan

July 10 - Izzy Hygrell

July 17 - Gabriel Alvarado

July 24 - Christina Levan

July 31 - Elena Alvarado

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

July 3 - 9

July 10 - 16

July 17 - 23

July 24 - 30

July 31 - August 6

VOLUNTEER MOWING SCHEDULE

July 4 - 9

July 11 - 16

July 18 - 23

July 25 - 30