



TRINITY TIDINGS



*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,
but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)*

JUNE 2016
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The Proper Place of Good Works

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:4-6). “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Mt. 6:1-4).

Have you ever wondered about the proper place of good works in the life of Christians? We are saved through faith in Christ Jesus and not by our works, but Scripture clearly indicates that the redeemed in Christ are to *do* good works, so....? Such questions have plagued Christendom from the start. You see, our fallen human nature struggles to simply accept what the Word of God declares so simply and clearly. On the one hand, it views the Word which teaches that we are *“justified by faith in Christ and **not** by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified”* (Gal. 2:16) as something which is impossible and foolish; thinking that *surely* there is something which man must do to be saved. On the other hand, it takes the Lord at His Word and declares then, *“If I’m saved by grace through faith and not by works, then works aren’t even necessary; I don’t even have to bother with them.”* Let me share with you a bit of history. Following the Reformation, theologians struggled with these same thoughts and questions. This ultimately prompted the Lutheran Church to set down in writing the truth regarding what Scriptures teaches about the proper place of good works in the life of Christians.

*“[R]egarding the idea that good works are harmful to salvation, we explain ourselves clearly as follows: If anyone wants to drag good works into the article of justification, rest his righteousness or *trust* for salvation *on* them, [believing that *by* them one] *merit[s]* God’s grace and [can] be saved by them, St. Paul himself answers, not us. He says and repeats it three times (Philippians 3:7–8)—such a person’s works are not only useless and a hindrance, but are also harmful. This is not the fault of the good works themselves, but of the false *confidence* placed in the works, *contrary* to God’s clear Word.*

³⁸ However, it by no means follows that we are to say simply and flatly: “Good works are harmful to believers’ salvation.” In believers good works are signs *of* salvation when they are done from true causes and for true ends [they are Spirit-wrought fruit of faith]. That is, in the sense in which God requires them of the regenerate (Philippians 1:20). It is God’s will and clear command that believers should do good works. The Holy Spirit works this in believers, and God is pleased with good works for Christ’s sake. He promises a glorious reward for good works in this life and the life to come...⁴⁰ Christians should not be frightened away from good works, but

should be admonished and urged to do them most diligently. Therefore, this bare proposition cannot and must not be tolerated, used, or defended in the Church.¹

Because we live in this fallen world and our sinful human nature still clings to us, we wrestle with rightly understanding and applying such principles in our daily living. So thanks be to God for our connectedness with Christ through faith; because *instead* of God seeing our sin-filled life that deserves His wrath, judgment, and condemnation to eternal damnation, He sees us through that bloodied cross. He sees us *as* blood-bought because of *Christ's* redeeming work on the cross in our place. This action, this justifying and atoning action *delivers* us from eternal death, so by His Spirit working through His means of grace, we are given a newness of life in Christ Jesus which enables us to live "*according to the Spirit.*"

And it's important that we remember once again, that there's an inseparable connection between justification and sanctification – where there's justification, there is in every case also sanctification. And sanctification must never be placed before justification, but must be left in its proper place as the *consequence* of justification. Faith and good works agree and fit together; but it is faith *alone*, without works, which lays hold of the blessing; and yet it is never, and at no time, alone (*Solid Decl.*). Luther said it well,

Faith is a *divine* work in us that changes us and regenerates us of God and puts to death the old Adam and makes us *entirely* different men in heart, spirit, mind, and all powers and brings with it the Holy Ghost. Oh, it is a *living*, busy, *active*, powerful thing that we have in faith so that it is impossible for it *not* to do good without ceasing. Nor does it ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has wrought them and is always engaged in doing them...faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace.

Conversion is a divine work; the spiritually dead are acted *upon* by the working of God through His means of grace, but in sanctification the Christian plays an active role. It's the Holy Spirit who *produces* the activity in the new man; the new man remains the organ of the Holy Spirit and as I have said before, "like apples whose fruit is a sign that the tree is *healthy*, our fruit of faith does likewise." But sanctification involves a struggle within the life of the Christian; it's a struggle between the new nature and the old nature. It's a constant struggle really, but such struggle *doesn't* mean that a Christian has fallen from grace, as we might be tempted to think when in the midst of trials and tribulations. On the *contrary*, such conflict is *evidence* that he's living in the state of *grace*. Only when the struggle *ceases* has the fall from grace taken place. Another important truth is that justification is always perfect because it's an act of God, but our sanctified life will always remain *imperfect* on this side of heaven. God's blessings as you begin your summer activities and remember to intentionally plan to take time out of your busy schedule to be in the Word and come into His presence each Lord's Day.

+ The Lord be with you +

With Christ's Everlasting Peace,
Pastor Shaw

¹ McCain, P. T. (Ed.). (2005). *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (pp. 551–552). St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House.

Father's Day - June 19

The Church celebrates Mother's Day and Father's Day because Christians see these traditions as occasions to proclaim the marvelous comfort of God's love. After all, God Himself chose these human relationships to describe the depth of His love for His people.

"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you" (Isaiah 66:13).

"As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him" (Psalm 103:13).

Even God's great plan of salvation is expressed not in individual terms but according to the ancient promise to Abraham: *"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).*

Whether families are big or small, rejoicing or mourning,
our Father embraces the cares of His children.

Prayers

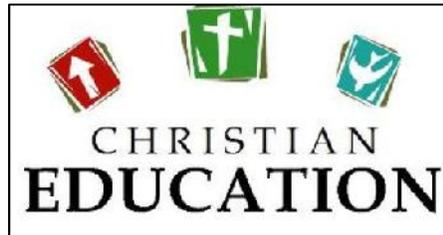
For fathers, as they carry out the work of their special vocation, that they ever be sources of strength and encouragement and bringers of family harmony, unity, and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all fathers, that they be examples of faith and godliness so that we continue in our generation to be people who live in the fear of the Lord and who bring blessings to others through our actions, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our families, that our heavenly Father endow all of us with a fuller appreciation of the gift of the families in which He has placed us and that He guide us day by day that we may truly be a family of faith where love is demonstrated at all times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.



Greetings from Christian Education.

I hope everyone has something fun planned for the summer.

Our plans this summer are for Jennifer Hygrell and me to use some of our old but good Sunday school materials I found hidden away in a file cabinet. You never know what hidden gems you can find. We will be taking turns for the month of July and August. This will allow us teachers to go to the Adult Bible class.

Lisa Benjamin is taking a break this summer.
The wonderful Emily Coleman will be teaching the youth.

The biggest plan for the summer is our Vacation Bible School on Saturday, July 9th. It will be from 1 to 4:00 p.m.

Please see me about any volunteer opportunities big or small. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon on the door.

Last, **please pray for the children of our church and their parents.** It takes a **Christian** village to raise a child.

God's Blessings,

Jennifer Loftis



Please, please mark your calendars and plan on coming to the LWML Christmas Brunch on December 10, 2016; at 11:00 a.m. We are going to The Grand Inheritance Mansion in Gallatin. We will be signing up and paying ahead of time; the least number we can have is 20. As time goes on, I will be giving you more information.

They will also do a tour of the mansion for \$3.00. I will also post information on our bulletin board. Keep watching!

The cookie list has some empty spots.

Rosalie



HERE ARE THE UPCOMING EVENTS THAT OUR FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE HAS PLANNED FOR THIS SUMMER

JUNE

Sunday June 19th

Trinity/HOPE Fundraiser
"HEROES FOR DADS"



JULY

Boat Cruise – Date to be determined.
A sign-up sheet to be posted at the beginning of June.

Sunday, July 31st



POTLUCK DINNER

Recognizing our New Members

AUGUST

**FLEA
MARKET**

Saturday, August 13

Flea Market in the Church Parking Lot

Funds raised will go to benefit Vicar Peter Adelsen.

*(Members will receive a phone call from a call committee member
to see how they can "serve" at the Flea Market.)*



RECYCLING UPDATE

The first load of aluminum cans we recycled netted \$28.40.

The net will be high for the next couple of months as we take in the surplus of cans that we have been saving. However, the price per pound went up only \$0.02.... Still too low.

But keep bringing in your cans, and please remember to rinse them before bringing your collection to the church recycle bins in the Narthex.

We have quite a collection of the 'pull-tabs.' It's helpful if you can separate the 'pull-tabs' from your cans & put in a 'Ziploc' bag so we can take them to the Ronald McDonald House where they use them to receive money for their house where families stay while their children are in Vanderbilt's Monroe Carrell, Jr., Children's Hospital.

Keep up the recycling!

Myron & Melissa Cheatham





“For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son” (John 3:16). “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life down for the sheep” (John 10:11). Love means sacrifice. Sacrifice means a humbling of oneself for the good of another. And this is what the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us: Love means sacrifice.

We love our families. And we love them by sacrificing ourselves for them. We put their needs before our own. We sacrifice our own wants and desires for their good and for their needs.

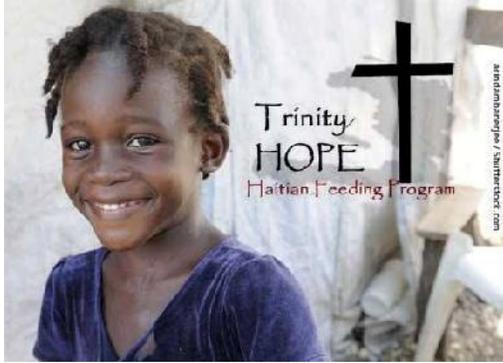
We love our country. And we love it by pledging our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to defend her. We ask not what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country. We make sacrifices for our country’s good and we do it because we love her.

We love our church. And we love our church by giving of ourselves, by sacrificing our time, talents, and treasures in service to it. We volunteer to teach Sunday School, VBS, and other various boards. We help out cleaning and fixing what needs to be cleaned and fixed at the church property. And we give a portion of the income God has given us, so that the lights will go on, and the heat and air conditioning may run; so that a pastor will preach to us both law and gospel and administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper; so that the Word will go forth into all the world through the missionaries we call and send out.

God has called us into these three spheres of family, country, and church. He puts the solitary into a home. No one is an island unto himself. Everyone is put into a family, a country, and a church. In these spheres, God cares for all our needs of body and soul. He employs other members of these spheres to ensure that we have everything we need for this body and life and for the next.

These callings place a claim upon us, a claim upon our presence, our prayers, our time, talents, and treasures. They give us a duty. That duty is to love. And love means sacrifice. And sacrifice means that we humble ourselves for the good of another.

So then, “let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:7–11). And love means sacrifice.



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

Making a Difference

By Denise Gudlin

Sometimes we don't see the fruits of our labor but we know when God is in the middle He has a plan for it to multiply. While on my trip to Haiti in March I had multiple school principals share how thankful they are to have the Trinity/HOPE feeding program in their school. "Please share this with your supporters what a blessing it is to our school!"

The principals go on to say that because of the noon meal the children receive each day their school attendance is more consistent. Previously the students would sometimes stay home to help the family bring water, go to market, or work to help feed the family. They love school but feeding the family was very important. Now their parents ensure the top priority is that each child goes to school because they know their children will be fed.

Jean Philippe is our feeding program director in the Artibonite district. He shared what the feeding program means to him. "You know that food is a part of life. In Haiti I see almost every day people who are asking for food to feed their children and bring some life in their houses. Trinity/HOPE makes me the 'Joseph' of the Artibonite where my operation is."



"Jesus is coming to bring peace, comfort and freedom. He invites all children to come to him. Even that a child seems to be shy at school when he is at home his parents know everything that has been happened there during the school day. Let me tell you that those children are preachers to their parents at home they tell their parents about Jesus who feeds people, who loves them and comes to bring freedom and peace to them. They tell really everything. The result is that wherever the Trinity/HOPE is, the church of that school has more members."

Thank you for your support financially and prayerfully. Know that the children are growing physically and spiritually. They are the future of Haiti and great disciples for Christ!



Henrietta Church Mouse's Page

Henrietta Church Mouse Here!

Spring is 'springing out' and summer is 'sizzling' right in! I can't believe the seasons are already changing. Spring is one of my favorites but there's so much to look forward to in the summer months, who couldn't be excited?

One of my favorite summer activities is swimming. You might not believe it but it's really hard to find a swimsuit in my size! I'd better start shopping! There's so much to look forward to...barbecues, gardening, longer days, our church picnic and Father's Day! Oh, what a special day! I hope your plans are already underway for your dads. I know mine are. Father's day is double special. We get to celebrate our wonderful dads and our Heavenly Father who created them. We better get ready. Happy Dad's Day!!!!



Until next month,

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence

P.S. - Remember to display your flags proudly! Happy Flag Day!!



WE THANK GOD FOR THESE CELEBRATIONS IN JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

2	Doris Isaacson
9	Ricka Davis
10	Ezekiel Hipshire
10	Mark Gibson
10	Pam Harrison
10	Betty Gragg
12	Charlie King
12	Orick Olok
12	Susan Smiley
14	Loren Replogle
15	Brandon Levan
17	Linda McCormick
20	Curtis Belmares
21	Maegan Smith
25	Linda Riesterer
27	Shirley Peat
27	Linda Pfeiffer
28	Jerry Delp
30	Christ Henning
30	Danny Thompson



ANNIVERSARIES

4	Geri & Kim Gardner (2005)
4	James & Jennifer Hygrell (2005)
8	Willie & Stephanie King (2002)
11	Sean & Jennifer Smith (1994)
22	Loren & Rosalie Replogle (1958)
28	Don & Melissa Ferguson (2003)
29	Mark & Angela Gibson (2002)



SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2016

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Tim Hartley

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Lisa Benjamin

GREETERS

Betty Clinard & Jeanne Irelan

USHERS

Tom Riesterer & Norm Kraemer - Center Aisle
Lauren Replogle & Randy Ruemler - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

June 5 - Gabriel Alvarado

June 12 - Christina Levan

June 19 - Elena Alvarado

June 26 - Isadora Hygrell

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

May 29 – June 4

June 5 – 11

June 12 – 18

June 19 – 25

June 26 – July 2

VOLUNTEER MOWING SCHEDULE

May 30 – June 4

June 6 – 11

June 13 – 18

June 20 – 25

June 27 – July 2