



# TRINITY TIDINGS



*Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting,  
with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.  
Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster."*

*Joel 2:12-13*

**MARCH 2016**

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### Crucifixion

*“<sup>22</sup> For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:22-24).*

Perhaps the reason so many people don't appreciate or desire to have a crucifix is because it tells them very vividly the truth about their sin and the bloody cost that sin required for atonement. For some it might be because it illustrates another truth – the suffering and crosses that Christ says His redeemed must carry in this sin-filled fallen world. Thus all too many would rather hide every crucifix from their view, but you cannot hide from the testimony of the Word of God's unchanging truth. Jesus Christ horribly suffered upon the cross, as the Lamb of God He came to be the Crucified One. The Apostle Paul was inspired by God to write of this truth to the Church in Galatia (Gal. 3); it is the Lord who tells us that we must continually consider Christ Crucified, the suffering Servant.

We should have to suffer what He suffered, and a crucifix reminds us that He willingly suffered for them in our place, all because of His grace, mercy, and love. Christ and Him crucified is the sum and substance of the gift of faith we have been given. We confess and even boast to the world and the devil, that Jesus Christ, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Holy Trinity, God's only begotten Son, willingly took our place on the cross to suffer and pay for the sins of the world. The world finds such a message offensive and the devil influences the world around us to attack and persecute Christ's Church and those who share the Word's unchanging truth. Such is the cross we must bear until He returns to judge the living and the dead. Let me close by sharing some thoughts Rev. Dr. Martin Luther wrote regarding the cross of Christ.

"Today when the whole world persecutes us, cruelly damns and kills us, we should glory and exult in the cross all the more. For we are not undergoing all this on account of our misdeeds as thieves, robbers, etc. (1 Pt. 4:15), but because of Christ, our Savior and Lord, whose Gospel we teach purely. Our boasting increases and is confirmed by two facts: that we are sure that we have the pure and divine doctrine and that our cross or suffering is the suffering of Christ. When the world persecutes and kills us, therefore, we do not have any reason to complain and lament, but only to rejoice and exult. The world regards us as miserable and abominable; but Christ, who is greater than the world and for whose sake we are suffering, pronounces us blessed and commands us to rejoice. He says, *'Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad'* (Mt. 5:11-12). Therefore our boasting is far different from that of the world, which does not glory in its affliction, shame, persecution, death, etc., but in its power, wealth, peace, honor, wisdom, and righteousness. But sorrow and confusion lie at the end of such glory and rejoicing.

"The cross of Christ' does not mean, of course, the wood that Christ carried on His shoulders and to which He then was nailed. No, it refers in general to all the afflictions of all the faithful, whose sufferings are the sufferings of Christ. *'We share abundantly in Christ's sufferings'* (2 Co. 1:5); and *'I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church'* (Col 1:24). Therefore 'the cross of Christ' refers in general to all the afflictions which the church suffers on Christ's account, as Christ Himself testifies when He says, *'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me'* (Acts 9:4)? Saul had not done any violence to Christ, but only to His church. But whoever touches this, touches the apple of His eye (Zech 2:8). The head is more sensitive and responsive in its feeling than the other parts of the body, as experience teaches. When the little toe or some other tiny part of the body is hurt, the face immediately shows that it feels this; the nose contracts, the eyes flash, etc. In the same way Christ, our Head, makes our afflictions His own, so that when we, who are His body, suffer, He is affected as though the evils were His own.

"It is helpful to know this, so that we are not overly sad or even completely desperate when we see our enemies persecuting, excommunicating, and murdering us, or when we see the heretics hating us so bitterly. Then we should think that, following the example of Paul, we ought to glory greatly in the cross, which we have received because of Christ, not because of our own sins."

"Now it is evident that the only reason we must endure the hate and persecution of our opponents today is that we preach Christ purely. If we were to deny Him and to accept their wicked errors and godless forms of worship, they would not only stop hating and persecuting us but would even offer us honors, riches, etc. Because we suffer all this on Christ's account... *Through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world, "the world has been crucified to me"* (that is, I regard the world as condemned), and *"I have been crucified to the world"* (that is, the world regards me as condemned in turn). I curse all the righteousness, the doctrine, and the works of the world as the venom of the devil. The world, in turn, curses my doctrine and my deeds and judges me to be a dangerous man, a heretic, a seditionist, etc. When the world condemns the doctrine and life of believers, calling them vicious heretics and disturbers of the public peace, the believers, in turn, call the world "the son of the devil," who faithfully follow the footsteps of their father.

"Finally, the Lord through the Apostle Paul teaches how to battle against Satan, who is continually attacking us with different physical troubles. Inwardly, too, he constantly strikes our heart with his flaming darts (Eph. 6:16), in the hope that by such persistence, if not in any other way, he can overthrow our faith and lead us away from the truth and from Christ. To battle against him, we must use the same method that we see St. Paul himself was moved to use when he proudly disdained the world. So we should disdain the devil, its chief, with all his powers, tricks, and infernal rage; and relying on Christ's protection, we should berate him this way: 'Satan, the more you harm me and try to harm me, the more I will lord it over you and make fun of you. The more you frighten me and try to bring me to the point of despair, the more I shall trust and boast, in the very midst of your rage and malice, not in my own strength but in that of Christ, my Lord, whose *power is made perfect in my weakness. Therefore when I am the weakest, then I am the strongest'* (2 Cor.

12:9–10). But when Satan sees that his threats and terrors are having an effect, he is happy and terrifies those who are terror-stricken even more.<sup>1</sup>

So, fellow redeemed, glory in the cross, glory in the crucifixion of Christ because it demonstrates the depth of God's love for His fallen creation. I pray this Lenten season, that you prayerfully consider your sins and the cost of the payment that they required. And then rejoice and give thanks for the undeserved grace and mercy that is yours through faith in Christ the crucified and risen Lord and Savior. God's richest blessings!

+ The Lord be with you +

Pastor

<sup>1</sup> Luther, M. (1999). *Luther's works, vol. 27: Lectures on Galatians, 1535, Chapters 5-6; 1519, Chapters 1-6.* (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.) (Vol. 27, pp. 133–137). Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House

## Solemn Order of Vespers for Lent

### Two Holy Weeks

March 2 – Midweek 4 – Noon & 7:00 pm

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

March 9 – No Midweek Services – Pastor Shaw on Vacation

March 16 – Midweek 6 – 7:00 pm

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

March 24 – Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm

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

March 25 – Good Friday – 7:00 pm

John 19:17-30 – *God's Love for You*



## **LENTEN MID-WEEK SUPPER SCHEDULE**

**We will be serving a light supper before our  
Mid-week Lenten worship services at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meals begin at 6:00 p.m.**

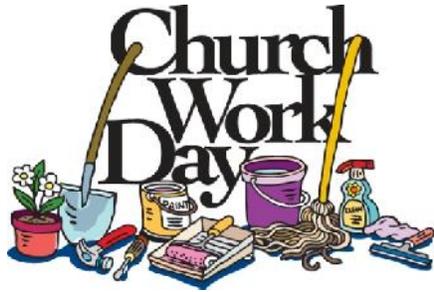
### **Lenten Supper Schedule for 2016**

**March 2 – LWML**

***March 9<sup>th</sup> Pastor Shaw is on vacation – No Mid-week Service***

**March 16 – Parrish Fellowship**

***A free-will donation will be accepted.***



### Spring Cleaning Time

We are looking for volunteers to help clean the church building inside and out and we have several small repair jobs to do.

Let's get ready for Easter!



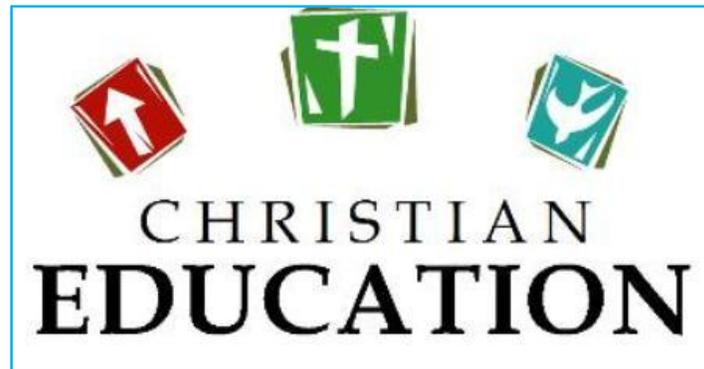
The Fellowship Committee  
will be hosting  
an  
Easter Morning Breakfast

If you would like to volunteer to help in any way,  
or have any suggestions,  
Please call or see Debbie Scott  
615-642-3400.



**Our annual Easter Egg Hunt for our children  
will be Saturday March 26  
From 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

**If you can volunteer to help with  
the hunt or with supplying the candy,  
please sign up on the list on the  
Board of Education's Door  
or  
see or call  
Jennifer Loftis.**



Greetings to you in our Lord Jesus' name. I would like to thank Lisa Benjamin for her service as Christian Educator for the past 2 years. She did a great job. She continues to serve as a teacher for grades 6-12. Thank you to Jennifer Hygrell for the awesome Christmas party she had for the young children. She does a fantastic job as a teacher for the younger children.

We are using the Cross Explorations Sunday School materials for K- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Jennifer H. and I like the program because of the extra activities it uses to reinforce the lessons we are learning in class. My class especially likes the food activities. We will be learning about Jesus preaching on the Mount and feeding the Five Thousand in the month of March.

We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt this year. It will be Saturday March 26th from 9:30-11:30. I ask for any volunteers to help with the hunt or with the supplying of candy. There will be a signup sheet on the door.

Have a Happy Easter!

Jennifer Loftis



Lent is a season of repentance. Repentance is turning away from sin, while we turn toward God for the forgiveness of sins. During Lent, we hear the Word of God and consider our lives in light of it. We confess our failures, and receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, and then commit ourselves to do better.

What does God say about giving to the Church? The Bible tells us. Our giving should be first fruits giving (Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9). Our giving should be regular, on the first day of week, which has the Divine Service in mind (1 Corinthians 6:1–2). Our giving should be proportional: according to our income (1 Corinthians 16:1–2), according to what we have been given (2 Corinthians 8:12; Luke 12:48), our giving should be given with a spirit of eagerness and enthusiasm (2 Corinthians 9:2), generosity and liberality (2 Corinthians 8:20), cheerfully without compulsion (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our giving should be directed to those who teach us (Galatians 6:6–7) because a laborer is worthy of his hire, and we all know the going rate of such laborers in our communities (Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:18).

Now consider your own giving in light of the Bible's teaching. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? Are you giving with eagerness and enthusiasm? Are you giving to your local congregation, sharing all good things with the one who teaches you? If your answer to any of these is "No," then repent. Turn away from your sin and toward God for forgiveness. Confess your failure. Receive absolution. And commit to do better. We know that the Spirit is willing but our flesh is weak. We believe, and we pray that God, through Word and Sacrament, would help our unbelief, our lack of trust in His ability to provide.

And this is precisely what God promises. This is what St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. Everyone benefits. We will be blessed in our giving, and it will produce thanksgiving to God in those who

receive it.

Giving to the church is not a burden, just like all of God's teaching (1 John 5:2–4). They are not a burden because of He who gives it: the God who loves us and gave His only Son to die so that we may live. He loved us in that He sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons. . . . So we are no longer slaves, but sons, and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:4–5, 7). We are heirs. We receive the full rights of sons, a status that Christ our Lord achieved for us by His death, resurrection, and ascension.

So we strive to do what He asks because we are His children. And when we don't, we repent. We confess our sins. We receive absolution. We desire to do better, praying that God would work in us both to will and to do according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

*Stewardship newsletter articles are provided by LCMS Stewardship Ministry.*

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**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS BACK  
AT 2 A.M. ON MARCH 13  
REMEMBER TO**



**one hour before you go to bed on  
Saturday night (March 12).**



*(And it's a good time to check the batteries in your smoke alarms!)*



Hello Dear Trinity/HOPE Supporters,

It is almost halfway through the school year in Haiti and it is off to a great start. We are so thankful for all of God's blessings, including you. This year we started with 104 schools and after our mid-year review, were able to add more schools, bringing our count to 107 schools with an estimated 20,923 being fed physically and FED spiritually.

Trinity/HOPE constantly works on making the ministry more efficient and cost effective. This year we have begun tracking world markets costs for the primary ingredients used in our meals, especially rice, corn, oil and beans. We share these cost trends with the feeding program directors in Haiti and they are able to use this information to intelligently negotiate food prices each month. This practice has allowed our expenses to remain under budget. We are also working to explore opportunities to "move up the supply chain" in purchasing the food items we buy in Haiti. Dan Hesse has been able to help us by providing a great link to the primary rice supplier for Haiti – Riceland Foods. We will pursue the same procedure on beans, corn and oil. Thank you God for Your Holy Spirit directing our paths.

Each November we have our largest fundraising events called "Thanksgiving Night in the Hunger Fight." We fly in two Haitians who are personally familiar with the feeding programs and speak English to share their experiences of the impact the programs have on the children, families and growth of Christianity in Haiti. The events include auctions (silent and live), great food, entertainment and a wonderful opportunity to personally talk with those "feet on the ground" in Haiti. This year they provided over 241,861 meals!!! Ain't God Good!! If your church would like to host a Thanksgiving Night in the Hunger Fight and have a Haitian visit you, please contact Denise Gudlin at [trinityhope.dg@gmail.com](mailto:trinityhope.dg@gmail.com) for more information.

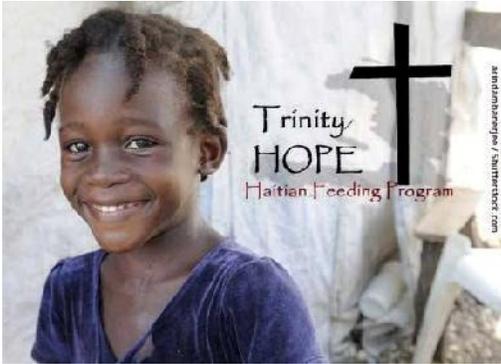
The final runoff for the presidential elections in Haiti has been delayed again amid protests of voting irregularities. There are some reports of civil disobedience and even some scattered violence in protest of the problem. We continue to pray for the people of Haiti and for them to develop a sound and stable government.

Thank you for your support financially and prayerfully! The children in Haiti send their love and deep appreciation. Please continue to keep them and the people of Haiti in your prayers. Daily updates are posted to our facebook page – TrinityHopeHaiti and blogs posted to our website: [www.TrinityHope.org](http://www.TrinityHope.org).

God's blessings to each of you,

Denise Gudlin, John Hall and Keith Logan





## 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.*

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Facebook: trinityhopehaiti

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### **Lest we forget, lest we forget”**

By John Hall

These are the last stanza lines in Rudyard Kipling’s poem ***Recessional*** and were penned for an entirely different reason than my use here but I just think they are so appropriate for us. As we work hard, give generously and celebrate the work God is allowing us to do in Haiti, these lines should always remind us to keep the main things the main things.

These two main things were clearly brought to my attention recently, first, by the text of a message I was invited to give on behalf of Trinity/HOPE. The focus was Jesus’s words as recorded in John 10:16. “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” As Trinity/HOPE partners with the Christian churches and schools in Haiti, members of that sheep pen are brought into the fold, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The second reminder was graphically pointed out in an email we received from our newest feeding program director in Haiti. He is a young, single pastor who has his first church and is eager to serve the Lord in additional ways. Here are his comments after visiting his assigned schools the first month he was “on the job.” *“I can’t explain my happiness working with the children who really needed a bowl of food. A long of this month I discovered the necessity for the children to find a hot bowls of meal to be able to learn at school. This month grow my attention on the misery situation of my country. I can’t forget that [one school’s] principal told me that there are some children who come at school with a peace of salt to fight hunger. He said that to me others children fainted. They fall into a swoon because hunger during school hours. Really, this program is a blessing of GOD. BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!!!”*

Lest we forget, the main things for Trinity/HOPE are forever and always the children being FED and fed.



## HENRIETTA CHURCH MOUSE HERE!

Change is in the air. I feel it, see it and even smell it! No, it's not cheese, though that would be nice! It's Spring! The temps are slowly rising, the days are getting longer and life is returning to the world around us. What a beautiful time to celebrate our Risen Lord! There's so much to do and see. I'd better get going. Spring doesn't wait around!

I'll leave you with a beautiful thought provoking poem you can read as you prepare your hearts and minds for Holy Week.

Happy Easter!

Until Next Month...

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence!!!!

P.S. - If you see me around on St. Patrick's Day,  
I won't deserve a pinch...I have green eyes!



Happy St.Patrick's Day!



P.P.S - Don't forget to 'Spring Ahead' for daylight saving time!

## "HE LOVED AND DIED"

By Grandpa Tucker

When He was being beaten and spat upon  
When His flesh was being torn by the whip  
When His back was scourged,  
Then He saw me being baptized  
and so He permitted them to do so.

When the crown was crushed into His head  
When He tasted His own blood  
When the thorns pierced His flesh,  
Then He saw me praying  
and so He killed them not.

When His cross was so heavy that he fell  
When He carried wood on His torn flesh  
When He wished simply to move no more,  
Then He saw me in confession,  
and so He got up and walked on.

When His hands were being pierced  
When He hung from a cross  
When His side was bleeding,  
Then He said I love YOU.  
and so He died.

## WE THANK GOD FOR THESE CELEBRATIONS IN MARCH

### BIRTHDAYS



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- 2 Enessa Hipshire
- 4 Isadora Hygrell
- 5 Becky Geiger
- 6 Sherry Woodall
- 7 Cheryl Coleman
- 8 Jennifer Loftis
- 9 Debbie Boyd
- 9 Bill Gramse
- 10 Reagan Richardson
- 11 Carol Everroad
- 12 Elsie Cislo
- 13 Jeanne Irelan
- 13 Annabelle Smith
- 14 Stephanie King
- 15 Eric Gramse
- 16 Tim Hartley
- 16 Celeste Riley Goldman
- 17 Randy Ruemler
- 22 Geri Gardner
- 26 Norman Kraemer
- 29 Raejean Warden
- 30 Nick Geiger



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Debra & (Randy) Scott (2004)
- 27 Bobby & Raejean Warden (1998)



# **SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2016**

## **PASTOR**

**Kenneth B. Shaw**

## **ELDER**

**Tim Hartley**

## **OFFERING COUNTERS**

**Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley**

## **ALTAR STEWARD**

**Marilyn Hartley**

## **GREETERS**

**Doris & Ted Isaacson**

## **USHERS**

**Joe Wall & Tom Riesterer - Center Aisle  
Les Keller & Loren Replogle - Side Aisles**

## **ACOLYTES**

**March 6 - Zach Loftis  
March 13 - Paige Smith  
March 20 - Mackenzie Vietor  
March 27 - Mikayla Vietor**

## **VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE**

**February 28 – March 5 – Delp  
March 6 – 12  
March 13 – 19  
March 20 – 26  
March 27 – April 2**