



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 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar. (ESV)

Have Mercy On Me, O God!

Ash Wednesday

13 February 2013

What is repentance? This is a day when that question must be asked and answered. We are especially called to repentance on Ash Wednesday when we begin the forty-day pilgrimage with Jesus to His regal enthronement on the cross of Calvary. Christian repentance consists of two parts. First, repentance is true sorrow over sin, which the Bible calls contrition. David in Psalm 51 tells us that: "a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise" ([Ps 51:17](#)). Here we are talking about sin considered from the perspective of its deeply offensive nature. It is not just an external blemish, which we might brush off, like a pesky bit of dandruff. This is the attitude of smug persons. They think that sin is a few boo-boos.

King David does not think this. He understands that sin is a deep power within us that has been knitted into our fiber infecting us wholly ([Ps 51:5](#)). "Oh, I sinned. Oh, too bad. Can't we just move on? Let's just forget about it, can't we?" Well, no. Let's be clear about the cost to God to deal with this sin. He has delivered His Son, His dearest treasure into the hands of sinful men that he should be mistreated, blasphemed, cruelly tortured, bloodied, and loaded by the weight of sin, put to death. No, it is not a light thing. Such an enormous cost would not have had to be borne by Christ had it been a light thing. Christ's death testifies to the enormity of my sin. A little thing would not have required the eternal Son of the Father to take care of it. Those who know of it, feel its weight, a grinding, crushing millstone dragging down and driving us to agonized recognition of our horrifying depravity. "O God, what am I, that such a price needed to be paid for my sin? Have mercy on me, O God!"

This admission of our deep depravity would result in our absolute despair, save the wondrous news that the Lord has "laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Is 53:6). We would be left a mere huddled mass of terrified flesh crushed by our own sin, except that Christ has, by the pouring out of His innocent blood, rescued us from blood guiltiness (Ps 51:14). The second part of repentance, then, includes the confidence that the God who condemns our sin also gives His mercy. He has promised us that we would not be lost forever, that we would be purged with hyssop, and cleansed. He will wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Our hearts, weighed down by sin, will again hear joy and gladness. Even the bones that He has broken to fracture our self-righteousness will rejoice. No threat can overwhelm me where the promise of God to rescue sinners still stands.

Sometimes we read the Old Testament like it was written by Unitarians, which is impossible, because Unitarianism was invented less than five hundred years ago, long after the Old Testament canon was complete. The patriarchs were not Unitarians. They ever and always saw the promises of God including the promise of the Messiah, the coming Christ. They knew that they needed to take God at His Word and they depended solely and completely on these promises. In faith, they did not attempt to go around His divine self-revelation, piercing the divine veil, so to speak, but they trusted themselves to Him and His Word. There is no other God. We should believe in no other. We have a real God, who disapproves of our sin and calls us to repentance. We have a real God who gives His Son for us. In Him alone are we to know God. He calls us to repentance so that we can cry to Him and say, "Have mercy on me, O God!"

Martin Luther

"No one should understand David to be speaking with the absolute God. He is speaking with God as He is dressed and clothed with the Word and His promises, lest we exclude from the name 'God' Christ, whom God promised to Adam and the other patriarchs. It is necessary for us to apprehend not a bare God, but the God clothed and revealed in His Word; otherwise certain despair will crush us.

"This distinction must always be made between the prophets who speak with God, and the Gentiles. The Gentiles speak with God outside His Word and promises, according to the thoughts of their own hearts; but the prophets speak with God clothed and revealed in His promises and Word. This God, clothed in so compassionate an appearance and, as you might say, in such a pleasant mask, namely, clothed in His promises, this God we are able to apprehend and look upon by us with joy and trust. On the other hand, the absolute God is like a bronze wall, against which we cannot run without our destruction. Therefore Satan is busy day and night, that he might place us on a collision course with the naked God so that we forget the promises and blessings He has shown in Christ and think about God and the judgment of God. When that happens, we perish right on the spot and fall into despair.

"David is not speaking this way with the absolute God. He is speaking with the God of his fathers, that is with the God whose promises he knows and whose mercy and grace he has felt. Therefore when a Turk, a hypocrite, or a monk says, 'Have mercy on me, O God,' this is as though he had said nothing. He does not take hold of the God he names as He is veiled in the kind of mask or face that is accommodated to us; but he takes hold of God and invades Him in His absolute power. There despair necessarily follows, along with Lucifer's fall from heaven into hell (Is 14:12). This is the reason why the Prophets depended so upon God's promises in their prayers, because the promises include Christ and make God not our judge or enemy, but a kind and favoring God, who wants to restore to life and save the condemned."

Martin Luther, *Lectures on the Psalms*, 51.1



THE VEILING OF THE CHURCH

The special season of Lent finds many churches using special lines 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.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS BACK

AT 2 A.M. ON MARCH 12

Remember to



one hour before you go to bed on

Saturday night (March 11).

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



LENTEN MID-WEEK SUPPER SCHEDULE

Come and join us for a light supper at

6 p.m.

before our

Mid-week Lenten worship services

at 7:00 p.m.

March 8 - Elders

March 15 - Church Council

March 22 - Parrish Fellowship

March 29 Christian Ed

April 5 - LWML

A free-will donation will be accepted.

Lenten Meditations from Luther's Catechisms

Ash Wednesday

"The Greatest of These Is Love" – Exodus 20:1-17

Wednesday – March 1st – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Mid-week 2

– "This I Believe" – 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Wednesday – March 8th – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Mid-week 3

"The Our Father" – Matthew 6:9-13

Wednesday – March 15th – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Mid-week 4

"Washing of Regeneration" – Matthew 28:18-20

Wednesday – March 22nd – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Mid-week 5

"We Are Forgiven" – John 20:19-23

Wednesday – March 29th – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Mid-week 6

"The Holiest Supper" – Matthew 26:26-28

Wednesday – April 5th – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

"The Night He Was Betrayed" – 1 Cor. 11:23-32

Thursday – April 13th – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

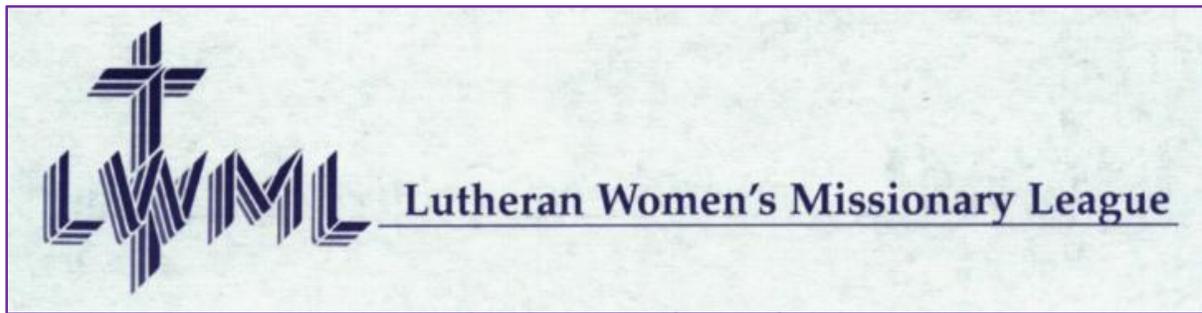
Good Friday

"It Is Finished" – John 19:30

Friday – April 14th – Noon & 7:00 p.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord – Sunday – April 16 – 9:30 a.m.

– "Don't Seek the Living Among the Dead" – Luke 24:1-6a



Hello, all.

Just a reminder that we have an LWML Spring Prayer Service on Saturday, April 29th, 2017, at Concordia Lutheran in Nashville. All the ladies in our district meet and have a service, a speaker, a business meeting, and lunch is served. We carpool from the church so consider attending.

There are some blanks on the cookie list which is posted outside the kitchen on the LWML board. All volunteers are appreciated.

Rosalie



Golfers – Save the Date! Plan to participate in the Lutheran Services in the “Tennessee Golf Fore Hope” event on Monday, October 9 at the Hideaway Golf Course at Arrington in College Grove, TN. For sponsorship and pre-registration info, contact Nick at NDHAFNER@gmail.com.

Ellen Koester
Lutheran Services in Tennessee
615-838-5550



As you may or may not know, for the past 7 years VSA Tennessee has hosted a program called “Souper Bowl” in which we work with children from the Tennessee School for the Blind. The students make bowls that are placed on exhibit during a reception. Individuals attend the reception and bring cans of food and put money in their favorite bowl. This all takes place the Wednesday before the Super Bowl and the idea is that the children are putting soup in other children’s bowls.



We used to give the money that was put in the bowls to the Nashville Rescue Mission, but the contact there retired and oddly they would never return our calls after that time to reconnect. When that happened, it was a year we were doing some international art exchanges and so I reached out to Trinity Hope. We have worked with them for 3 years now in art/education exchanges and the funds from the event going to their program in the name of Trinity Lutheran Church....our church should be receiving credit for the contribution.



Last night the children had their event and they raised \$1511.50. This was done by 15 children who are blind in less than 2 hours. I was very proud of them and (of course as Pastor always says) thanks be to God.



In any case, I just wanted you to be aware for your accounting purposes for this program. Also, I have attached a few photos in case you wish to have them.

Lori Kissinger, VSA Tennessee Director



Lent is a season of repentant joy. There is joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

Thus we do well to listen to God's Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul exhorts: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal 6:6). This means that the local congregation is primary. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to our local congregation. For the local congregation is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection. The local congregation is where our spiritual needs are met when Christ's atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to this local congregation? His instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor 16:1–2; 2 Cor 8:12), and generously (2 Cor 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen 4:4; Prov 3:9; Lev 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor 9:7), and love (2 Cor 8:23).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. We set it aside beforehand, before anything else is spent. From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that's it. That's what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God's word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God's Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turned toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father.

The Stewardship Newsletter article is provided each month by LCMS Stewardship Ministry.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you need a box of offering envelopes, please contact the church office at secretary@trinitygallatin.org. or call 615-452-3352.

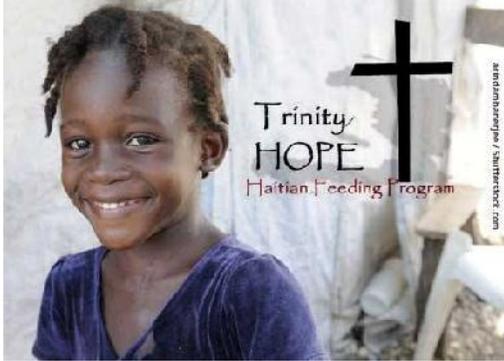


A new box of offering envelopes will be placed in your mailbox at Trinity.

"Information Please!"

Members, if you have made changes to your phone service (dropped a landline and only have a cell), or changed your phone number, e-mail or mailing address, please send that information to the church office so we are able to contact you as needed.

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

Hurricane Matthew Update

Pastor Isaac Jacquet, the church leader Trinity/HOPE works with in the Grand Anse (Jeremie) district, recently sent an email describing the difficult conditions in Jeremie after the hurricane and political unrest. He then tells how the Trinity/HOPE schools are different. He says:

"Life becomes more expensive from day to day. At this moment a lot of school in the department have closed their doors because children are really hungry and can not stay on the school benches with nothing to eat, parents can not pay schooling of children and directors Schools can not rebuild their schools. It is really hard and lamentable. On this, we ask for your prayer. It is thanks to the Trinity Hope for food that allows our schools to continue to subsist and continue to work even in tents. That is why we in Jeremie



will never cease praying for the blessing of Trinity Hope. We hope that God will continue to open doors of blessing for Trinity Hope and bless the staff and provide you with perfect health."

The impact you make by supporting Trinity/HOPE is clear. Please share with others how they can make a difference as well. God be with those in Grand Anse, Jeremie.



Henrietta Church Mouse Here!

March has arrived and brought a much loved friend with it - Spring! I like to think of it as the shining star of the seasons. I love to see God in the world around us and spring is so very full of God's miracles, it practically sparkles!

Speaking of sparkling, have you checked out the floors? Everyone did such a great job helping to get them clean. I know a floor is nice and clean when I can sock skate on it. Have you tried it? It's so much fun! Just put on your socks and go! If you're lucky you might catch Pastor sock skating after Bible study on Wednesday's. He he!

Speaking of luck, Happy St. Patrick's Day! Of course we don't need luck when we have Christ with us, but it's always fun to celebrate this Irish holiday. I'll leave you with a traditional Irish blessing...



May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall softly upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

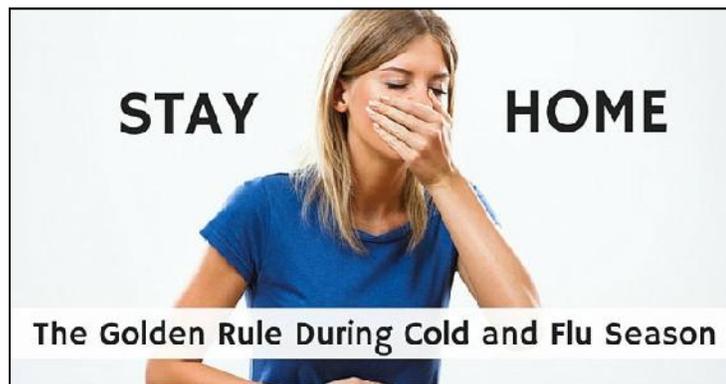
Until Next Month,

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence

P.S. I love hearing from you! Just drop a note or picture in my mailbox #125. I recently received a wonderful card from 'a mouse fan'. Thank you so much to the person who gave it to me! You sure did make little ol' me feel so special!



The flu season is still among us. It usually begins in October and reaches its peak between December & March before slowing down in the spring. The best way to protect yourself & others from influenza is to get vaccinated. Tennessee is one of the states with the highest levels of flu and flu-like illness activity. Flu symptoms include fever or chills, headache, soreness and the "feeling that you don't want to get out of bed." Children and the elderly, especially those with chronic conditions, are at a higher risk of complications. Flu has been a leading cause of death across the US and around the world for decades. Getting the flu can be a serious thing. If you think you have the flu, stay home, get plenty of rest and fluids. Seek medical attention if there are concerns for severe infection such as difficulty breathing. Please protect yourself and others. Get vaccinated and if you have the flu, **stay at home.**



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



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Enessa Hipshire
- 4 Isadora Hygrell
- 5 Becky Geiger
- 6 Sherry Woodall
- 8 Jennifer Loftis
- 9 Debbie Boyd
- 9 Bill Gramse
- 10 Reagan Richardson
- 11 Carol Everroad
- 12 Elsie Ciso
- 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 2017

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Chris Loftis

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Marilyn Hartley

GREETERS

Doris Isaacson & Carolyn Schroeder

USHERS

To be assigned - Center Aisle

To be assigned - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

March 5 – Isadora Hygrell

March 12 – Brandon Levan

March 19 – Paige Smith

March 26 – Gabriel Alvarado

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

February 26 - March 4 - available for you to serve

March 5 - 11 - Benjamin

March 12 - 18 - Hartley

March 19 - 25 - Hartley

March 26 - April 1 - French