



TRINITY TIDINGS



*"Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice."
Proverbs 23:25 (ESV)*

MAY 2017
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Congratulations to our Confirmands

Sunday, May 28th, the family of faith at Trinity will once again rejoice as she celebrates the Rite of Confirmation for – Gabriel Alvarado, Kristina Levan, and Paige Smith. Confirmation is the *rite* by which a baptized person renews their baptismal vow, publicly confesses their faith, and is received into communicant membership. Confirmands have been given an opportunity to study in-depth the sacred Scriptures and to learn about the wonderful blessings and benefits that were given them in their Baptism, but they've also learned about the chief articles of the Christian faith – God's Word and Sacraments.

As I've said before, "Confirmation is *not* an end to the all-important study of God's Word. We must *continue* learning about the Christian faith and be diligent in our study of His Word because if we don't, we risk weakening the faith the Holy Spirit gave us in Baptism." Thus, we are encouraged to hear our Lord's invitation to once again listen to *His* voice in His Word and gladly come into His presence through His Word and Sacraments. Please join me in congratulating our confirmands and encourage them as they live out the Christian faith by faithfully hearing our Lord's voice and receiving His blessed Sacrament. God's richest blessing to you our soon to be confirmed sisters in Christ!



+ The Lord be with you +

Pastor Shaw

My family would like to share 2 bits of news that brings us great joy: Melissa is pregnant and due in mid-September. She is experiencing elevated blood pressure so please keep that in your prayers. Also, our son-in-law learned that he will be serving his 1st Call as an Associate Pastor at First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Glencoe, MN, a parish with over 1,500 members. Please keep Peter, Melissa, and the members of First Lutheran in your prayers.

An article from Rev. Larry Peters – Grace Lutheran Church – Clarksville, TN

When I went to junior college (an antiquated term that only emphasizes how old I am), there were more than thirty pre-sem students in my classes -- learning Greek and German with the classic liberal arts curriculum. I did not originally plan to become a pastor and instead had the idea I might be a doctor -- an old fashioned kind of family doctor or general practitioner in a small town. Then the campus pastor for St. John's came and preached at a parish anniversary (he was a son of my congregation and his father, a pastor there for twenty-six years, was buried in our cemetery). When I got to Winfield, pre-sem seemed to be the program and I signed on the dotted line. It did not take long for me to discover I was not the

brightest bulb in the room but one of the dimmer. I was surrounded by gifted and talented people whose learning, erudition, and single-handed desire to be a pastor embarrassed and shamed me. But many of those fine candidates for the ministry left within the two years and more after the senior college and only a quarter or so of those who began graduated from seminary and were placed into congregations, ordained and made pastors.

It is, of course, a terrible injustice. Perhaps the best Greek student I knew ended up a farmer in Kansas. And the best thinker I knew ended up in the foreign service as a diplomat. And the most talented guy in our class ended up spending much of his life in a wistful pursuit of an end never found. Some of the most ordinary men in our class are the ones who now are called *Pastor* by their people. It is patently unfair and wrong. I should have dropped out and done something else. They were far more capable and pious than I was or am. But the mystery of the Lord's will is that He called me -- not because I was the smartest or the most pious but for His own wisdom, will, and purpose.

Comparing qualifications and abilities ends with Christ's words to His own apostles, "You did not choose me, but I chose you" (Jn 15:16). Those who are called into the Lord's service are not chosen by God for His purpose -- they are not better people but those whom He has chosen. There is no justice or injustice in who the Lord calls. There is no fairness or lack of fairness in His will and purpose. The ministry is not won through having the right skill set or by the most impressive resume or a spectacular interview. We can all be agreed that there are indeed many men and women with pastoral capacities exceeding those whom the Lord has called. As I learned from my experience, even those who go through seminary are not guaranteed place as a right owed them. God does not reveal why he chooses some rather than others to serve the Christian people as priests and ministers. It is His Church and His will and purpose.

The greatest in the Kingdom are not the ministers but those to whom the ministry is directed -- the saints washed in baptism for whom Christ died and in whom Christ lives. The path to the ministry is not ours to define but to discern, not ours to change but one of the means through which we are changed, and not ours to dispense but whom the Lord calls. We are not given the right to innovate a new ministry or to invent new prerequisites of those who serve, or to apply earthly conceptions of justice and fairness as if this were something earned or owed. It is the Lord's grace and we discern His bidding and that is enough. The Church is merely the steward of Christ's office and seeks with prayer and wisdom to discern His will in those whom they call to fulfill that office.

I am certainly not whom I would have chosen. I know that others were better students, better thinkers, and more erudite and eloquent but the ministry is not a prize. It is a gift. It is for the candidate to discern the Lord's bidding for himself and for the Church to discern that calling for the whole and then to prepare, examine, call, and ordain. It is not a business decision and it is not an equal opportunity employment program. "You did not choose me, but I chose you" (Jn 15:16). Call committees would do well to consider this when calling a pastor, pastors would do well to remember this also, and those who were not called should remember this, too.



“It is more blessed to give than to receive,” said St. Paul, quoting our Lord (Acts 20:35). How can this be?

Jesus and His disciples withdrew to a mountain by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The crowds followed them, for the Lord had just showered upon them the gift of His teaching, the gift of His Word. But the day was waning; the sun was setting, and it was getting late. Looking upon the crowds, Jesus had compassion on them and asked, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat” (John 6:5)? Philip said that two hundred denarii (a day’s wages for two hundred men) could not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.

But Andrew, Peter’s brother, brought a young boy forward, who had five barley loaves and two small fish. “But,” Andrew asked, “what are they for so many” (John 6:9). Jesus replied, “Have the people sit down” (John 6:10).

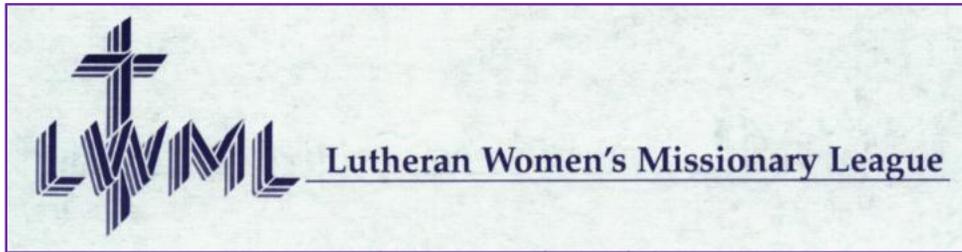
Then Jesus, the Son of God, gave them a second gift, a gift from what only He could give—a gift from above. He took the bread and the fish, gave thanks, blessed them, and distributed them to the crowd. Then came the miracle. As these five loaves and two fish were given out, they multiplied. He fed the hungry crowd until they were all full. And twelve baskets full were left over.

But Jesus was not the only one who gave that day. There is one person who also gave from what he had. It was the boy with the five loaves and the two fish. All the others, including the boy, received the gift of a miraculous feast. And they would look back on it with wonder. But the boy, when he would look back on it, would look back and remember not just what he received. He would look back with wonder and delight when the Son of God made his gift into something miraculous. For it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This our Lord does for each of us. He presses our gifts, no matter how big or how small, into His service and works wonders with them. He provides through what we give: water for baptism, bread and wine for the Lord’s Supper, a man called and sent for the preaching of the Gospel and Absolution. He provides a building in which we can gather as His children, lights so that we might not gather in darkness. He provides funds for the care of the poor and struggling, for missionaries who preach and teach beyond our borders. He makes Christians, disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in our midst by bringing them to faith and nurturing them in that faith. He takes our gifts and turns them into something miraculous.

Indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Thus we give. We give of what we have. And the Lord works His wonders.

The monthly Stewardship Newsletter article is provided by LCMS Stewardship Ministry Resources.



I am working on our Christmas luncheon in December. Would you like to go to The Great Inheritance Mansion again and include the tour? Would a week day work for you? Let me know your feedback.

We will have ladies going to the LWML Spring Prayer Service on April 29th; at Concordia in Nashville. It has been awhile since we have attended. I am glad that our new member Barb Wilson plans on going. More news on this in next month's Newsletter.

Rosalie



**On Sunday, May 21st,
we will be serving
Red, White and Blue Cupcakes
during coffee hour to
honor our Vets and active service members.
in Celebration of Armed Forces Day (May 20)**



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

Ends of the Earth

By Jay Brinkmeyer

“He (Jesus) said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:7-8

The attached photo is of the Lutheran school at Bas du Scaut which is located in a rural area in the Artibonite District and yes, there is a Trinity/HOPE feeding program here. The above verses are not just a call for our time, talents and treasures here in the U.S. but also for the children sitting that rural Lutheran school in Haiti. For the members of Our Redeemer Lutheran church in Bloomington, IL this school is their ‘ends of the earth’ mission where there prayers and treasures are being directed as they have been sponsoring this school for many years. For the children within that wood structure the adults and children looking in between the cracks in the boards are their ‘Jerusalem’. These children will take the Gospel message to those within their own neighborhoods who have not yet heard or have but still are clinging to the lies of the vodou priest. Please prayerfully consider being a sponsor to one of our school feeding programs.



HENRIETTA CHURCH MOUSE'S PAGE!

Henrietta Church Mouse Here!!!

Wow! April just zoomed by and May has arrived! The church looked so sparkly clean as we celebrated our Risen Savior on Easter Sunday. Everyone worked so hard to help out. I even did some spring cleaning in my mailbox house.

Spring is so refreshing. God refreshes the whole world in Spring. I hear people grumble all the time over the rain. I'm guilty of it myself every now and then. But the saying holds true: April showers bring May flowers.

Spring is a time of renewal. What better way for God to renew than with rain? It washes away the old so the new can bloom. It waters all the beautiful colors around us we love so much. God makes sure all the creatures (including us) have fresh water to drink. If you really think about it, the rain feeds us, clothes us and cleanses us. For this I am so very thankful to our Heavenly Father for this rainy season.



You know what I like to do to wash away the rainy day blues? Step outside barefoot, dance in the rain, and mush my toes in the mud. If a wee mouse can do it, so can you!

Happy Mother's



Day!

May is a time to celebrate a special lady in our lives, our mommy! Mother's Day is coming up. We love our mom (and all moms) all year, but this is an extra special day to show just how extra special she is.

"Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her."
Proverbs 31:2 God Bless Moms!

Until Next Month...

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence!!!!

P.S. - A special "thank you" to Elsie for making this wee mouse feel so big! I really enjoyed the birthday cake (cheesecake cupcake) and Easter card you left in my box. It's so lovely that you thought of me.

P.P.S. - I'd love to hear from you. Drop me a note or a picture in my mailbox house #125.



You can continue to help neighbors in need with Lutheran Services in Tennessee when they participate in The Big Payback, an online day of giving in Middle Tennessee on May 3. From midnight to midnight, you can login on www.TheBigPayback.org/LST. Thank you for your partnership.

Ellen Koester
Lutheran Services in Tennessee
615-838-5550

DO YOU NEED A BOX OF OFFERING ENVELOPES?



If you do not have any offering envelopes,
please contact the church office.
A new box of envelopes will be placed in your
mail box here 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 updated information to the church office so we are able to contact you as needed. Thank you!



You shop. **Amazon gives.**

- Did you know that you can donate to Trinity/HOPE when you shop at Amazon?
- You shop. **Amazon gives.**
- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- So support Trinity/HOPE by choosing them as your charitable organization and start your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**



Trinity Lutheran Church is a part of the Kroger Community Rewards program. Kroger is committed to helping communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations earn millions of dollars through Kroger Community Rewards. The Community Rewards makes giving donations easy. All you have to do is sign up, shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS ENROLLMENT PROCESS:

- Enrollment for all group members must be processed through Kroger's secure website at www.kroger.com/communityrewards
- **Each individual must enroll his or her own Kroger plus Card.** If their information is not current they will need to update it at www.kroger.com or call 1-800-KROGERS, OPTION #3
- **How do group members enroll if they do not have internet access?**
 1. Asking a Family member that has a computer to help them.
 2. Using public library computers.
 3. Seeking assistance from one of your members who has a computer.
 4. Trinity Members can ask their friends and family members to enroll



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*. Lutheran Hour Ministries produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast, as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials, to reach the unchurched in more than 30 countries. LHM's flagship program, **The Lutheran Hour**, is the world's longest-running Christian outreach radio program. It airs weekly on more than 1,600 stations. For more information, visit www.lhm.org or call 1-800-876-9880.

Here are the area radio stations that broadcast The Lutheran Hour:

<u>The Lutheran Hour</u>					
<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Band</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
WNKJ	Dickson, TN	98.9	FM	Sun	9:00 PM
WNRZ	Dickson, TN	91.5	FM	Sun	9:00 AM
WCRT	Donelson, TN	107.1	FM	Sun	9:00 AM
WECV	Gallatin, TN	93.9	FM	Sun	9:00 AM
KAWZ	Nashville, TN	105.5	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WCRT	Nashville, TN	1160	AM	Sun	9:00 AM
WECV	Nashville, TN	89.1	FM	Sun	8:00 AM
WNAH	Nashville, TN	1360	AM	Sun	4:00 PM
WSM	Nashville, TN	650	AM	Sun	8:00 AM

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



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Richard Halliburton
- 2 Debbie Alvarado
- 5 Cheri Jenkins
- 5 Sandra Nienaber
- 5 Jessica Sewell
- 7 Marilyn Hartley
- 7 Alexandria Garrison
- 14 Lorene Bush
- 18 Sherry Simon
- 23 Paula Armenta
- 23 Larry Meyer
- 31 Zachary Halliburton



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tim & Marilyn Hartley (1999)
- 1 Dennis & Louise French (1992)
- 13 Becki & Michael Vietor
- 18 Claude & Betty Clinard (1971)
- 21 David & Aimee Bush (2005)



SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2017

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Tom Riesterer

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Marilyn Hartley

GREETERS

Chris & Jennifer Loftis

USHERS

Clyde Schroeder & Bill Pfingsten - Center Aisle

Nick Alvarado & Jimmy Gragg - Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

May 7 – Gabriel Alvarado

May 14– Kristina Levan

May 21 – Elena Alvarado

May 28 – Isadora Hygrell

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

April 30 – May 6 – Marilyn Hartley

May 7 – 13 – Marilyn Hartley

May 14 – 20 – Marilyn Hartley

May 21 – 27 – Marilyn Hartley

May 28 – June 3 – Marilyn Hartley

VOLUNTEER MOWING SCHEDULE

April 27 – May 3

May 4 – 10

May 11-17

May 18 – 24

May 24 - 31