



Ev. Trinity Lutheran Church

Activities Newsletter

Spring 2010

IMPORTANT: Congregational Meeting June 20th! The meeting will address the state of the congregation, and will include volunteer recognitions. Luncheon will be served by the Ladies Aid. All are encouraged to attend.

Message from Pastor Gramit The Christian Family Dynamic -- An Ongoing Way of Life

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the season of whose resurrection from the dead is upon us!

You've seen the concept expressed in the words of the "headline" to this article before, especially the first four words of it. Let us consider further what it means, especially with that "ongoing" aspect.

Our justification is by God's grace, through faith in Christ. The treasure of the Gospel of Christ Crucified and Risen is that our heavenly Father took out His wrath against us for our sins on His Son, Jesus Christ, who bore our sins on that cross of Calvary. This is not a popular message with the world, and even with Christians. We often wish to see God's love as something which would entirely preclude *any* regard of His *wrath*. But this view, albeit unintentionally at times, exalts the sinful self. Rather, let us rejoice that God *did* so love the world -- each of us! -- to have given Jesus to take our place. What greater love can possibly exist? As our excellent new banner for Lent puts it (thank you, ladies, for this beautiful gift to our church!), there was, and is, "No Greater Love Than This."

The third, fourth, and fifth chapters of St. Paul's epistle to the Romans elaborate on this.

So, does that mean, "Once saved, always saved" -- that is, now that I'm God's saved child, there's nothing more to the Christian life? Hardly!

The sixth chapter of Romans elaborates on this point.

God's grace is something we're meant to *live* in, not simply regard as a trophy -- regardless of who actually won it -- to remember receiving once upon a time, with nothing further to do concerning it. In my life, I've won a few small trophies. I'm thinking of my young years in particular. The fact that I won those trophies will not change, even though I haven't lifted a finger in terms of the effort entailed therein since (it's been over thirty years since I've even put on a sports team uniform, as best as I can remember).

For trophies won in the childhood years, that's a fine approach. After all, do I need to renew the status of a trophy I won in 1978? But with the Christian life, it's another matter altogether. Again, Romans chapter six.

[Continued on Page 4-- Message from Pastor]

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Calendar of Events

June

13 – 8:45am - Last Day of Sunday School
13 – 10:00am, Service – Office of Matins
Coffee Hour following service
20 – 10:00am, Divine Service
* **Congregational meeting following service**
27 – 10:00am, Service of the Word

July

4 – 9:00am, Divine Service with Induction
of Council
11– 9:00am, Service of the Word
18 – 9:00am, Service of the Word
25 – 9:00am, Service (TBA)

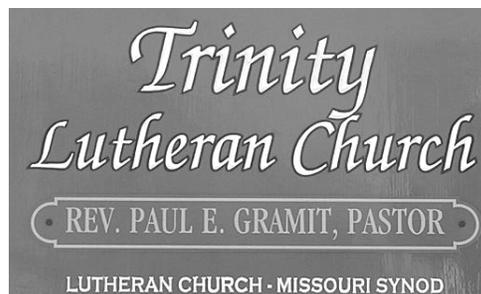


August

1 – 9:00am, Divine Service
8 – 9:00am, Office of Matins
15 – 9:00am, Divine Service
22 – 9:00am, Service of the Word
29 – 9:00am, Divine Service

September

5 – 9:00am, Divine Service
12 – 8:45am Sunday School
10:00am, Office of Matins
19 – 10:00am, Divine Service



Service Times Sept - June

Sunday School 8:45AM
Sunday Service 10:00AM

Service Times July & August

And Labor Day Weekend
Sunday service 9:00AM

Mission - Don't forget these on-going mission efforts:

- Filling one film-canister with quarters is enough to pay for Orphan Grain Train to ship one box of clothes or medical supplies overseas. There are film canisters in the narthex.
- We have long been collecting new or gently used clothes and linens as well as medical supplies (no closer than 1 year from end date) to donate to Orphan Grain Train; with periodic work days to sort and pack. (see guidelines below)
- There are envelopes on the table in the narthex for shipping used printer ink cartridges to be recycled. A donation is made to Lutheran Special Education Ministries for each acceptable cartridge.
- Please remember to save your Betty Crocker coupons, Campbell soup labels (and others). There is a box on the table in the narthex in which to donate them to help Bethesda Lutheran Homes. There is a list in the box of labels that are acceptable.

GUIDELINES FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN DONATIONS

Clothes – New or like-new condition (too good to throw away). Underwear only if it's new.

Blankets – New or like-new condition

Medicines – Medicine cabinet supplies, new toothbrush, toothpaste - No expired medicines

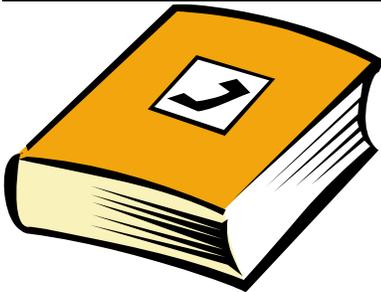
Medical supplies – Crutches, walkers, braces, etc. Gauze bandages are only useful if they are in unopened packages.

School supplies – New items, exception being backpacks (gently used).

Baby supplies – New or like-new only

Consider donating stained or worn clothes, sweaters that are pilled up, pants frayed on the bottom, used office supplies, dishes, and curtains to another recipient.

For more information, visit the Orphan Grain Train website; <http://www.ogt.org>



It's time again to up-date our congregational directory. If you know of any changes in address/phone number / email address that should be made, please contact Kathy Martin. We would love to add more e-mail addresses as a means to quickly and inexpensively contact you.

On Saturday, May 30 Trinity once again supported the local Walk for Hunger by sponsoring one of the water stations for walkers. Evelyn Seuss, Paul Martin and Kathy Martin served water, oranges and granola bars to over 120 walkers, including our own Linda Hennis.



[Message from Pastor - Continued from cover page]

We have the precious opportunity to live as disciples of Christ (yes, opportunity!), both in our daily lives and as part of the Trinity Lutheran congregation family. Consider daily prayer, for instance. Should we pray to express our concerns and desires to God? Certainly. But let us remember to ask for His will. Also, remember that He *knows* our needs, concerns, desires, etc. even better than we do. As one of our sisters in Christ expressed to me recently, she finds joy in emphasizing *thanks* to God for what He wills in her life, with the greater emphasis on that thanks than on *asking* Him for that which she's certain (and rightly so) that He knows already. Something to consider!

As for our congregational family, let us remember exactly that -- that we *are* a family. Each of us may both benefit from this family and be a benefit to others in the family.

The family needs the support of its members -- and *many* members, not *just* the same relatively few. The family can -- and will -- both be a blessing of God to others and be a blessing of God to ourselves as we reach out with this Gospel to those around us, as we'll be hearing more about soon. And, it all comes back to the presence of Christ among us in Word and Sacrament, thus providing the sustenance for the strengthening of our faith.

In all of this, let us be thankful to our Lord for our congregational family. Perfect? What human group ever is? But blessed by God? Absolutely! When we gather, especially for worship but at other times also, we've often experienced joy in this beautiful setting we call our church home (and, remember, nice as our house of worship is, it's the *gathering*, *not* the facility, that defines us as church family!).

May God continue to grant His "Christian family dynamic" blessing to us, for Jesus' sake.

The Peace of the Lord be with You!

Rev. Paul E. Gramit, Pastor

The Women's Book Club

Women, do you like to read? Why not join the Women's Book Club for lively discussion on a wide variety of topics. We generally review suggestions from the *Woman to Woman* Book Club, but sometimes choose alternatives that members have come across in other places. Every month the book selection is decided by consensus of members and meeting times are chosen for the convenience of members. As good Trinity members, we always have refreshments available, that we try to match to the book in some way. The next book is Whispers of the Bayou, by Mindy Starns Clark.