

Between Organ Bench and Pulpit

Pastor Greg Shook

“The law says, ‘do this’ and it is never done.
“Grace says, ‘believe this,’ and everything is already done.”
—Martin Luther

I have been pondering . . . OK, fretting . . . about something to write for this edition of our newsletter. I felt strongly that my musings needed to be something on the Reformation, but what? The brochure developed by our local Lutheran Coalition gives a fairly detailed timeline, covering the historical perspective. An amazing hymn festival (“The Kingdom’s Ours Forever”) will be held at 4 p.m. on Trinity on Reformation Sunday, led by Dr. Wayne Wold, covering the blessings of music and the Word. What to do?

At the risk of this sounding like a high school term paper on “How I Learned to Love Luther,” I decided to offer some personal thoughts on the Reformation. I spent some time reflecting back on my Lutheran beginnings in the late 60s and early 70s. What impacted me most was what I heard and experienced here at Trinity. Of course I remember hearing Dr. Clair Johannsen play for the first time, and the impact that his music had then and continues to have in my life. However, the Word also played an important part in my theological development. That came a little later, when I studied organ with Clair and he let me read Luther’s *Small Catechism*. So what I share with you in this writing is what I’ve gleaned from my early experiences here, over my years of study, and of course, in staying in close contact with Dr. Clair through the years.

What exactly is the appeal of Martin Luther’s journey? We know that this whole movement was fueled by what he and other critics saw as abuses in the Roman Catholic Church that ended in the establishment of the Reformed and Protestant Churches. Luther’s journey started something that began an entire new movement in the history of religion! All other Protestant Churches were formed and branched out from this initial movement. Have we perhaps forgotten this “minor” detail in our history?

Another perspective to embrace from this movement was that Martin Luther made the Word available to all

people. Until Martin Luther took on Rome, worship and writings were in Latin, music in the church was sung or performed only by professional musicians, and did not seem to be accessible or available for the common folk. Each section of the *Small Catechism* works toward getting God’s work in Christ to penetrate deep inside our hearts, and Luther accomplished this simply and peacefully, and brought the love of Christ to his people. Luther realized just how far removed the Gospel had become from his people’s experience. So he translated the Bible into German, fashioned hymnody that was approachable, and crafted and promoted a religion that was for all people. Martin and his wife Katharina modeled hospitality and welcoming for the common people. They opened their homes to students and pilgrims who wanted to learn more and more about this new religion.

As I have prepared for my candidacy process, I realized more and more just how my life, spirituality, and theology has been shaped by Luther. One of the things that I adopted years ago comes from Luther’s comparison of the Lord’s Prayer to our com-

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Christian Education & Family Ministry

Stephanie Angles

PRAYER BLANKETS

The Christian Education Committee is accepting prayer blanket sponsorships. Blankets can be sponsored in several ways; a monetary donation (at full retail price, it takes approximately \$25 to make one blanket), a gift card to Jo-Ann Fabric or Walmart, or two matching (usually one print and one solid) pieces of fleece fabric (48" by 60" or 60" by 72"). Please indicate on the donation that it is for prayer blankets and include your name. Please see or email Stephanie Angles (sangles@tlchag.org) with any questions regarding the prayer blankets. Recently, six blankets were donated to Washington County Public Schools' homeless coordinator. The six prayer blankets were made by the children who attended this year's Mobile Mar-Lu-Ridge vacation bible school. Let's try to donate 20 more before Christmas!

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sundays will be held on the 4th Sunday of each month at the Contemporary Service at 8:45 a.m. Just as a reminder, on these special Sundays, youth will be assisting with the service by handing out the Mini Messenger and stones before the service begins, and collecting offering and distributing the grape juice during Communion. Up to six children will be participating during each Youth Sunday.

It is very important that your child be present during Youth Sunday if he/she is participating. A reminder will be given to families the Sunday before Youth Sunday. If at any point you find that your child will be unable to participate, please let Stephanie Angles know as soon as possible so the position can be filled (sangles@tlchag.org).

A separate collection will be taken up on Youth Sundays to support the Children Helping Children initiative.

We will be collecting change at the end of the service from those who would like to donate. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING—SAVE THE DATE!

We will be Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 3 this year. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this rewarding Family Ministry event this year!

BETWEEN ORGAN BENCH AND PULPIT, *continued*

ing to God like children who trust a loving parent. So in my invitation to pray the Lord's Prayer, I always will say, "Let us pray with the confidence of children."

There are five central teachings of the reformation that I believe we should affirm because they reflect the Bible's teaching: (1) The Bible alone (Sola Scriptura), (2) Grace alone (Sola Gratia), (3) Faith alone (Sola fide), (4) Christ alone (Sola Christus), (5) To God alone be glory (Soli Deo Gloria).

God should be thanked, praised, and given full credit for his sovereign grace and spiritual and physical provision. Our theology should be God-centered, not man-centered. God, not us, should be the center of all things. In our work, in our play, in our communities of faith. That is why your presence at worship is important. Yes, yes, we hear the Word and the message, sing and pray and all that great stuff; however, when you opt to be elsewhere on Sunday mornings, you opt out of the physical gathering and presence of God's community. Ponder this a little, please!?

Reformed and Redeemed. We have roots in a movement and a theology that offers its believers grace and love. This reformed and redeemed me as a young Christian who knew he was searching for "something," but not quite sure what it was. This is something to celebrate, for sure!

I have been reading some writings of Nadia Bolz-Weber who is pastor of the House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, CO. She offers the following reflection on the Reformation:

"Luther knew what it felt like for the law to convict him, accuse him, leave him nowhere to rest. And if you want to know what really sparked the Protestant Reformation it is the fact that feeling this way, Luther . . . believed that God's grace is a gift, [and] no longer accepted what the church had for so long taught: that we are really saved by the works of the law. The medieval church had pawned off law as gospel, and Luther dared to know the difference, and then he became a preacher of grace, and that changed everything."

Invite those you haven't seen for a while to join you in church this month to celebrate our heritage, the Word, and the grace and love that creates "home" for us as sinners and saints. Think about Luther, what drove him to be a pioneer and reformer, and the strength of his faith. His teaching and writings are as relevant today as they were 500 years ago. Why? Because they were God-inspired, Jesus-modeled, and Spirit-driven.

Do I hear an "Amen" from God's people? Soli Deo Gloria!
—Pastor Greg



Senior Ministry

Karen Spessard

BINGO NIGHT

There will be Bingo for all ages of the congregation on Thursday, October 19, in Fellowship Hall. A light supper will be served at 6 p.m., with Bingo following at 6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Please bring an item for the prize table. We will be collecting food items for the Trinity Food Pantry that evening. Any non-perishable items are appreciated.

This event is sponsored by the Senior Ministry Team. RSVP by adding your name to the sign-up sheet at services or by calling the church office.

Thanks very much.



Stepping On— Fall Prevention Classes

Lisa McCoy

Trinity Health Council is sponsoring a *free* fall prevention class sponsored by the Washington County Commission on Aging. This is an evidence-based program that has proven to help older adults improve their overall health, well-being and physical strength. The aim of the program is to reduce falls, increase confidence, and give people the tools to remain active, safe, and independent within their community.

The program will meet weekly on from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 3 through November 14, in Memorial Hall. Participants are encouraged to come early for a light lunch.

A minimum of 12 people are required to hold this class, so please register early! If you have questions or would like to register for the classes, please contact Jean Kendle at jankendle1211@gmail.com or Lisa McCoy at lismccoy@gmail.com.

Fellowship Opportunities

Pastor Greg Shook

BREAKFAST AT THE AMISH MARKET

Join us on Fridays at 9 a.m. at the Amish Market at the Long Meadow Shopping Center. This is not an exclusive group, just a gaggle of Lutherans enjoying breakfast and fellowship time. Started several years ago with a few men having coffee and now can number up to 20! Come as you are able to join. No assigned seats, no membership fee, just fun.

CROCHET FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Ron Fisher will be hosting a Crochet Fellowship Group in the parlor from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., the first and third Wednesday of each month. Ron has been crocheting on and off for several years and finds it to be rewarding and relaxing. Come together to share ideas, work on projects for the community, do your own project, and bring your questions.

Learning from each other is a great way to make friends and share ideas, and a fun way to network and build your confidence in this art! All who love the art of crochet are welcome; some basic skills are needed to work on projects.

TRINITY TASTERS

It's not too late to join a Trinity Tasters dining-out group. To sign up, please contact Scarlett Michael of the Fellowship and Parish Life Committee: (301) 739-0170.

Parish Choir



Parish Choir sings weekly (rarely weakly!) at the 11 a.m. service.

There are openings in all sections. Tune up your shower voice and come and join us. It's a great deal:

- Priority seating on the "50 yard line"!
- Furnished uniform and materials!
- Much fun.



Do you have a passion for serving the needs of others? Are you willing to work alongside other individuals to be the hands of God? If you are, join us at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 14, 2017 as we pack meals to end hunger in our community.

To make this event successful, 70-80 volunteers are needed to assemble meals of non-perishable foods which will be distributed to churches and schools in our community.

If you are willing to serve in this outreach, please contact Julie Stouffer by calling (240-329-1457) or emailing jbstouffer@myactv.net by Saturday, September 30.

***Please leave your name and phone number in your message.

Where: St. Mark's Lutheran Church
601 Washington Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740



When: Friday, October 13
Set-Up and Unloading of Food
Time to be determined.

Saturday, October 14
Assembly of Non-Perishable Foods
Please arrive at 8:30 a.m. for registration.



TLC Social Outreach: Give, or Teach, or Both?

June Habeck, TLC Outreach Ministry

When our food bank receives fresh vegetables and fruits, I have heard numerous women ask us these questions: “What kind of vegetable is this?” “What does it taste like?” “How do you cook it?”

Because of this, our Food Pantry Team started to discuss what types of problems we needed to address in feeding the poor besides providing some healthy foods they often do not know how to prepare.

Consider the streets around Trinity. Where are the grocery stores within walking distance that sell fresh foods? What we do find are restaurants that obviously cost us more than preparing food at home. There are numerous fastfood places and convenience stores that mostly stock processed foods that are high in calories and sugar. (These areas are now known nutritionally as “real food deserts.”)

Malnutrition causes poor Americans to suffer from illnesses that a good diet could prevent, contributing to high blood pressure, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases that will, on average, cause their deaths years before wealthier Americans will die.

Because of this, church food banks, local restaurants, and cooking schools like Soul Food, Operation Frontline, Kitchen on Fire, Share our Strength, and Fresh Approach are making fresh food more assessable and usable to those in urban areas. These programs promote urban gardens where people can raise their

own vegetables, and one day a week they offer a cooking class for the cooks of the home, usually women, who come, along with their children (kids learn how to eat from their parents and will have learned healthier alternatives to fast foods for when they become adults).

In each session, the programs teach how to prepare one meal: omelettes, poached eggs, vegetables (broccoli cooked in a microwave tasted much better than cooked by boiling), casseroles, steamed asparagus, eggplant, salads with healthier dressings, chicken without frying, fish, and so forth. Education takes place throughout the session, explaining, for example, how sugared sodas promote tooth decay and add hundreds of useless calories a day to a diet, as well as what drinks are healthier and satisfying.

Also covered is how to plan meals and how to shop for tasty, inexpensive foods. The general rule is to shop the outside walls of the store (where you find dairy, meats, vegetables, fruits) and to avoid the center aisles (the processed, prepared foods are more expensive).

Do we want to consider this a possible long-term project for our Food Pantry as we develop our Outreach Ministry in the neighborhood around Randolph Avenue?

Give a man a fish and he eats for a day: teach a man to fish, and he eats for a lifetime.



Downtown Lutheran Cooperative

Judy Conrad

The pastors and Executive Teams from St. John's, St. Mark's, and Trinity have met for several months to determine how to get to know each other better and combine our efforts. We will be working together on several events. Please consider attending one or all.

THE OUTREACH PROGRAM: ENDING HUNGER, ENRICHING LIVES

On Friday and Saturday, October 13-14, we will assist in packing thousands of meals to be distributed to the hungry in Hagerstown. This is a Synod initiative. Please see page 4 for more details.

REFORMATION HYMN FEST

At 4 p.m. Sunday, October 29, Trinity will host a Reformation Hymn Fest. We will gather at 3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a potluck of snacks and sweets. St. Mark's and St. John's will join us with goodies.

REACH COLD WEATHER SHELTER

St. Mark's and St. John's want to assist Trinity with our time at the REACH Cold Weather Shelter this



Reformation Hymn Festival Sunday, October 29



Mark your calendars: Trinity Lutheran Church will host a Reformation Hymn Festival, “The Kingdom’s Ours Forever!” at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 29.

Dr. Wayne L. Wold will lead the congregation and combined choirs in a program of narration and hymns geared toward the Reformation 500 celebration for 2017. Dr. Wold is Chair of the Music Department at Hood College, served on the editorial board of our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and is Director of Music and Organist at First Lutheran in Ellicott City, Maryland.



Dr. Wayne L. Wold

Please Call Us If You Need Us!

Pastor Greg Shook

If you have a caregiving emergency, please call Pastor Greg on his cell phone.

It’s okay to leave a message on the office phone (ext. 206), but should you have an immediate need, his mobile number is the best way to contact him: (301) 992-1305.

It’s okay to leave messages there, as they will be heard and addressed sooner. Thank you!

From Social Ministry

Carol Brashears

CLOTHING BANK NEEDS

We are in need of sheets—twin and full sized mostly—but will take all sizes! Thank you very much.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

It is that time of year! Thanksgiving will be here before we know it. We will once again offer you the opportunity to provide a box of food and a turkey for \$10. We have ordered 80 boxes, and have faith that they will be fully sponsored. There will be special “Harvest Envelopes” in the pews.

You have always embraced this project and we look forward to your support this year! Thank you for helping our Micah’s Backpack families and outreach families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

In Search of New Trinity Lutheran Church Council Candidates

Judy Conrad

Before we know it, November 19 will be here and it will be time for our Congregational Meeting and Church Council election.

Please consider becoming part of this very important team here at Trinity. Church Council is the true governing body of our congregation. It makes all the decisions regarding how things are done here.

In the upcoming year or so we should be working on our Mission and Vision and setting long-term goals.

If you are interested in running for Church Council, please let one of the nominating team—Erin Harman, Mike Mowen, Brian Hammond, or Judy Conrad—know. We would love to have you join our team.

“Thank You!”

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for the lovely flowers and card I received for my birthday. I have really enjoyed them and it is so nice to be thought of!

Also, I want to thank the Trinity member who delivered the flowers. I am sorry I wasn't available at that time.

Thank you!

Blessings,

—Frances Harshman



Membership Reminder Colleen Gildee

Per Trinity Bylaw B1.01, to remain in active membership, the member must commune and make a contribution of record during the calendar year.

At the end of the calendar year, if the member does not commune and contribute, the member will be moved to inactive status. While in inactive status, the member remains on the roll and maintains voting privileges, provided that the member communes and makes a contribution of record one within 24 months. (See Section C8.02 of the Trinity Constitution and Bylaws.)

If the member does not commune and contribute within a 24-month period, the member is removed from the membership roll.



Birthdays

* Indicates under 10

** Indicates 75 and over

- 2 Katherine Wilson
- 5 Jena Staley
Kate Brashears*
- 6 Natalie Allen
Kevin Dagliano
- 7 Abigail Angles
- 8 Lindsay Williams
- 9 Gary Carter
Kristi McMurtrie
Watson Rasey**
- 12 Betsy Norgard
- 13 Sarah Wright
- 15 Tony Howell
Thomas Kellick, Jr.
- 18 Alexandra Paddock
- 22 Kay Melby
- 23 Adam Griemsmann
Diana Pryor
- 25 Richard Melby
- 26 Sue Fiedler**
Yazmin Williams*
- 27 Matthew Gorsuch
- 28 Eddie Morris
- 30 Dolores Shaw**

Anniversaries

* Indicates 50 years or more

- 1 Michael and Lisa Conrad
- 4 Hunt and Peggy Hardinge, III
- 7 Fred and Phyllis Garrett*
- 15 Norman and Pamela Bradford
- 25 Thomas and Katherine Wilson Jr.*

Trinity Lutheran Church
15 Randolph Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Phone: (301)733-2878 www.tlchag.org

Sunday Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:55 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST

Food Pantry and Clothing Bank: (301)733-5651
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Washington County Literacy Council: (301)739-4208
Tuesday and Thursday: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Non-Profit Org.
U S Postage
PAID
Permit # 446
Hagerstown, MD
21740

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

*“If you are not
allowed to laugh
in heaven, I don't
want to go there!”
—Martin Luther*