



Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church, 108 East King Street, East Flat Rock, NC 28726
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From the Pastor's Study...

October 2017

Let me ask you a question. In Scripture we are told repeatedly that our Father in Heaven loves us. *"For God so loved the world..."* John 3:16 begins. *"God is love..."* 1 John 4:16 unequivocally declares. So, if God's nature is loving, is fear really the best tactic to use in bringing non-believers into faith?

I was led to ponder this question by something that happened to me recently. I was in a restaurant and went to use the restroom. And there, tucked in behind the paper towel dispenser, was a religious tract – a little pamphlet containing an evangelism message.

Now, I reckon that whoever placed that tract there was a Christian, and I presume that they love the Lord themselves and want others to share in His love. And I guess leaving a tract like that in a restroom may result in folks idly taking a moment to open the pamphlet to read what's inside... kind of a captive audience, so to speak.

But in that brochure, there was no mention of God's love. Instead, there was a message of fear. "What if you died today?" it began. Then it went on to scare the reader with descriptions of hell-fire and torment for those who die in unbelief. Confess you believe in God or else! Do this action, or burn forever.

And I had to wonder: does God want us to come to Him in fear? Is the best that Christianity can offer to unbelievers some sort of get-out-hell insurance? For my mind, that is all too similar to the practice of scaring people into buying indulgences that incensed Martin Luther 500 years ago and led to the Protestant Reformation that we celebrate this month.

Does the Lord want us to be afraid of Him? Scripture would indicate not. Take, for example, the pronouncement of the Christmas angel. *"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy..."* (Luke 2:9). Notice, what the angel did not say, "Look out! You're gonna get what you deserve now!" No! Be not afraid... good news... great joy... Seems to me that Christ did not come to instill fear in our hearts. Just the opposite. He came to set us free from fear.

"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Going through our lives being afraid of God, or following Him just because we are afraid that He may renege on our salvation if we stumble on our faith walk – that will not lead us to the fullness of life that Jesus promises. Instead, it leads us to a Soichi Yokoi-type existence.

On Guam in 1944, American Marines stormed ashore and liberated the island from the invading Japanese forces. One of those Japanese soldiers, 29-year-old Yokoi, ran and hid in the jungle. For the next 28 years he lived in fear. Sleeping in caves, eating insects and rodents; he missed out on time with his parents... he missed out on

having a wife and children... in his fear, he missed out on life. Even when he was finally discovered and returned home in 1972, Yokoi could never recapture what he'd lost. During all those years being afraid, he missed out on living in the fulness of life.

"I come that you might have life, and have it abundantly" Christ tells us (John 10:10).

We cannot have abundant life if we live in fear of the Giver of Life. And we should be careful not to mislead others into making fear the basis of their life with the Lord, either.

Instead, let us live assured of our salvation and God's love. And knowing the Lord as the incarnation of love, let us share His love with others. Not just with tracts, but with acts of compassion, loving others through Him... just as He has first loved us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike

MEN UNDER GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (MUGS)



Our Trinity men's group will meet for its monthly breakfast gathering on Friday, October 27th at 9:00AM. The location will be the Mills River Restaurant.

*****T.W.I.G.S. MONTHLY LUNCHEON*****

Trinity Women in God's Service

Please join us on Friday, October 27th at 11:30 for lunch at PF Changs at Biltmore Park. Please sign up.

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

For prayer chain requests or more information about the Prayer Chain, please contact Pastor Mike or Dorothy

Recipe for a Home

(Found in the recipe box of Judy Kasper)

1/4 cup of friendship, add a cup of thoughtfulness then cream together with a pinch of powdered tenderness. Very lightly beat in a bowl of loyalty. Add to the mix 1 cup of faith, 1 cup of hope, and 1 cup of charity. Add a spoonful of gaiety that sings and the ability to laugh at little things. Moisten with the sudden tears of sympathy. Bake in a good natured pan and serve repeatedly.

*****COFFEE TIME
FELLOWSHIP*****

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

[2 Corinthians 13:14](#)

Thank you to everyone who participates in our fellowship time after service. Thank you to those who lovingly prepare the food, thank you to those who stay to visit, and thank you to those who help to clean-up. Fellowship time is a wonderful way to touch base with each other and bask in the love we share with Christ. Volunteers are needed. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back of the church.



FREE COMMUNITY "LOVE MEAL" OCT 31st

Our next free luncheon for the East Flat Rock community will be served at noon on Tuesday, October 31st. Volunteers are welcome. Just come to the church kitchen by 11:30 AM.

****WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED****

*From him the whole body, joined and held **together** by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its **work**. [Ephesians 4:16](#)*

Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, Cantors, Communion Assistants, Counters, Coffee-Time, and Trash Removal are needed July/August. Please take the time to look at the "WORSHIP ASSISTING" sign-up sheet and add your name.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEETS FOR CLEANING AND LAWN CARE

New volunteer sign up sheets are now posted on the church office bulletin board. Please take a turn if possible for cleaning and vacuuming, or for lawn care. The sheets are for October and November.

******PRICE INCREASE FOR ALTAR FLOWERS******

Please be advised that the cost for Sunday altar flowers has increased to \$32.00. There is a sign-up sheet for altar flowers on the bulletin board located in the back of the sanctuary. Trinity is currently partnering with [FORGET-ME-NOT](#) florist. The shop is located in Hendersonville. If you would like something other than Sunday flowers please contact Dorothy. (Special requests may differ in price.).

"BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS" OCTOBER 14th

Continuing an ancient Christian tradition, our congregation will celebrate the annual "Blessing of the Animals" on Saturday, October 14th, at 1:30 PM.

Members and friends are invited to bring their leashed or caged dogs, cats, or other pets to our church yard. There Pastor Mike will lead a brief service wherein each critter will receive an individual blessing.

Following the brief service, please plan to linger to enjoy donuts, cider and coffee. This is a great opportunity to bring neighbors and friends to the church. Please invite them (and their pets!) to join us for this joyful event.

500th REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY OCT 29th

This year marks the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On October 31st, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" to the door of the cathedral in Wittenberg, Germany. The theses attacked corruption and apostasy within the Roman Catholic Church at the time, and proved to be the spark which set ablaze a movement to reform the Church. Despite significant efforts by Luther and his followers to avoid schism in the Church, the issues of the authority of Scripture and justification by faith eventually led to a permanent rift between the Roman church and what came to be known as the Lutherans.

Our congregation will observe this seminal anniversary on Sunday, October 29th. A special festival worship service will be celebrated at 9:30 AM, followed by a dessert social in the Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet for desserts will be posted on the church bulletin board.

COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD WITH NEW CHURCH SIGN

Following the adoption of a new motto that reflects our congregational character ("Faith... Family...Friendship"), at its September meeting the congregational council approved moving forward in procuring a new church sign. Council Vice President Jennifer Duran will coordinate the project.

A new sign will be ordered which will include our new motto, and also a section where removable letters may be used to advertise church events.

Updates to the congregation will be forthcoming as the new sign project moves forward.



Happy Birthday

9 – Donna Haltwanger
29- Connie Burt

