



Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church, 108 East King Street, East Flat Rock, NC 28726

Mailing: P.O. Box 497, East Flat Rock, N 28726

From the Pastor's Study...

NOVEMBER 2017

I did not know that I was a bigot until I read it in the newspaper.

A columnist for a local newspaper was recently asked by a reader if holding to a biblically-based Christian understanding of certain human behaviors made him a bigot.

The columnist was unequivocal in his reply.

Yes, anyone holding such a perspective is most definitely a bigot.

Since my views and the views of many Christians on myriad cultural issues is informed by Scripture, we are all apparently bigots.

If Scripture says that murder is wrong, and I proclaim that those who murder do something inappropriate, then I am apparently a bigot.

If Scripture says that stealing is wrong, and I tell a thief that thievery is wrong, then I am apparently a bigot.

Unless... the meaning of the word bigot has changed. The words we use do that over time apparently.

Take the word "awful" for example. In present times awful means something is unpleasant or bad. But originally the word meant that something was awe inspiring in a good way. Or take the word "nice" which today means something pleasant or pleasing; nice once meant silly or foolish... hardly the compliment it is today.

Words change over time, and perhaps some would try to change the meaning of "bigot" to suit some social agenda.

As defined in the dictionary a bigot is someone who "is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices" (see the Merriam-Webster dictionary). Notice my underlining of "his or her own". A bigot is someone who adheres to a belief that they come up with on their own, often based on their personal experience or their personal rationale. For bigotry to exist, its genesis must be within the individual's mind.

But... adhering to the guidance of Scripture regarding murder or stealing or any other human behavior is, by definition, not bigotry. It is acceptance of and submission to a belief that comes from outside of one's self. Adhering to a God's guidance is not bigotry. We call that faith.

Tim Stafford tells of a pastor who starts each confirmation class with a jar full of beans. He asks his students to guess how many beans are in the jar, and lists out their estimates. Then, he asks them to make a list of their favorite songs. When the lists are complete, he reveals the actual number of beans in the jar. Then holds up the list of favorite songs and asks, "And which one of these is right?" The kids protest that there is no "right answer"; a person's favorite song is a matter of choice.

Then he asks, "Is choosing what to believe more like guessing the number of beans, or more like choosing your favorite song?" And always he gets the same answer: Choosing what one believes is more like choosing a favorite song. He says that he spends the next two years trying to teach them otherwise...

Such, unfortunately, is the state of our society today. People often develop their own ideas of what is good and what is bad, and if others disagree with them – then they are wrongly labeled a bigot, or a hater, or any of many words whose meaning is then changed to fit the accuser’s perspective.

We must always beware of basing our beliefs upon our own biases. Let us seek to love all and judge no one as Christ tells us.

But let us be even more cautious not to forego the authority of Scripture for our own ideas of how things should be. That would lead us to another word called “apostasy”... it means the abandonment of God’s truth for human opinion.

“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.” – Matthew 5:11-12

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike*

MEN UNDER GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY (MUGS)



Due to Thanksgiving, our Trinity men’s group will meet for its monthly breakfast gathering on Friday, November 17th 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, November 17th at 12:00pm for lunch at Cafe Crepe Mania, 536 N. Main Street, Hendersonville. Please sign up.

‘HANGING OF THE GREENS’ FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS NOVEMBER 26TH

Want to join in decorating our church for the Christmas season? Then plan to help hang the greens on Sunday, November 26th following morning worship.

Dress casually for the service that morning, then assist in erecting and decorating our Christmas trees, hanging banners and wreaths, and more! A lite lunch will be served after the decorating.



*****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" November 28

Our next free luncheon for the East Flat Rock community will be served at noon on Tuesday, November 28th. 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.

*****CHURCH WORK DAY*****

With the holidays fast approaching (HANGING OF THE GREENS ON NOVEMBER 26TH) we will have an inside "work-day" on Saturday, November 11th. We will gather at 10:00. A little dusting, a little sweeping, and a little window washing (our windows tip in thank goodness!) will be the order of the day. A minimal lunch of soup, bread, and dessert will be served



**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 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.).

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP & PIE SOCIAL NOVEMBER 19TH

On Sunday, Nov 19th our morning worship will follow a special theme of Thanksgiving. Hymn, prayers and the sermon will emphasize our gratitude to the Lord for His many blessings. Then, following worship, we will retire to our Fellowship Hall to enjoy our annual Thanksgiving Pie Social.

VETERANS TO BE REMEMBERED NOV. 12TH

In concert with the Veterans Day holiday, our worship on November 12th will remember our veterans and give thanks for their sacrifice and service.

Please enter the names of veterans to be remembered on the sign-up sheet located on the nave bulletin board.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ADVENT VESPERS & SOUP SUPPERS

It won't be long before Advent is upon us. Plan now to attend the soup suppers and spoken vespers in our Fellowship Hall on December 6th, 13th, and 20th.



Happy Birthday

12 – Sam Goetz

26 – Ron Lab

27- Jody Rasmussen

Happy Anniversary

12 –Luis & Jennifer Duran



A NOTE FROM PASTOR

MIKE

“Please allow me to express my joy and heartfelt appreciation for your ‘Pastor Appreciation’ event on Sunday, October 22nd. The well wishes, comments of appreciation, and caring touched my heart, and reminded me just how blessed I am to serve you. I will remember it well; and will be reminded again and again... each time I wear a certain awesome T-shirt!

Thank you all,
Pastor Mike

Q: Who was the greatest male financier in the Bible?

A: Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.



+++PRAYER CHAIN MEETING+++

There will be a SHORT meeting on Sunday, November 5th after the service. If you are a current member or would like to join the prayer chain, please plan on attending. For more information, Please contact Dorothy.