

May 2013

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Put a mark on Thursday, May 9, on your calendars. When you go to do this you will see that it is more than likely already marked for you with the words *Ascension Day*. Did you know that Ascension Day is the third most important festival in the Christian Church (the other two being Christmas and Easter)? What's so important about it?

We could very easily fall into the trap of thinking that Jesus abandoned us when he ascended to heaven, and many churches will actually teach this. But in the ascension Jesus did not withdraw his presence. He transformed it, meaning that he became the permanent link between heaven and earth. These two realms are now inseparable and completes what was begun at Christmas—the marriage of heaven and earth. Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. That's the good news of the ascension!

If there were Smartphones or video cameras back then to record the event, then we would know exactly what it looked like. But there weren't so we don't. We could speculate as many artists have done and create beautiful paintings. But it wasn't the visual sense that ultimately mattered. What's vitally important is the function which the ascension serves in the Bible. And so we ask the question, "What was God telling us in this event?" For that we take a look at how the event was interpreted, and for that we take a look at a breathtaking interpretation in the book of Hebrews:

...we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent (tabernacle, temple) that the Lord set up, not man. (8:1-2)

Jesus' ascension tells us that he is now our High Priest, presenting himself as sacrifice before his Father in God's true temple in heaven and that he has become the mediator of the new covenant in which iniquity is forgiven and sin is remembered no more (8:12). The old covenant, which condemns us for our sin, is rendered obsolete and is vanishing away (8:13). Put simply, Jesus "sealed the deal" of God granting eternity to His people, both now and always. Jesus now holds the place of ultimate authority, seated at the right hand of the Father. He accomplishes this as fully human. In a very real way we have ascended with him. We have been given an elevated status in Christ, from sinner to saint! The implications of this are staggering, so I'll offer one and invite you to think it through.

You and I are now, as people in Christ Jesus, the record of the ascension event. You are the video! Your entire being and existence now serves as the visual aid of what an ascended humanity looks like. You will see that you don't look any different than anyone else. And that's the point! Your renewal takes place on the inside as you have been given the treasure of the light of Jesus Christ in the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. You have these as a right now, eternal and heavenly gift that you are invited to give away to others. As you do that, your own supply is never depleted because you have a great High Priest, eternal in the heavens, who has linked you to the Fountain and Source of all goodness. Staggering! How that will look in your life cannot be dictated to you by me simply because I don't walk in your shoes. But I do invite you to think all of this through. What would this look like in all dimensions of your life? This could serve as the way to make sense of all of your daily activities, tying them together and unifying them under one Head. It very well could lead to decompartmentalizing (if there is such a word) your life.

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag

May 2013 Newsletter

On **Sunday, May 5th** the following young men and women will be confirmed in Christ. Please pray for them. Tommy Buell, Blake Evans, Hannah Handorf, Leah McDonald, Shelby O'Neill, Parker Schultz, Kayleigh Spain, Chad Strache, and Nick Varju. Second year confirmation class rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 1st**.

ADULT INSTRUCTION will be held **Tuesday, May 14th and 21st** at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH COUNCIL: Council meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of the month but due to May 12th being Mother's Day, the meeting has been moved to **Sunday, May 19th** at 7:00 p.m.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's 1st Quarter Report. The congregation adopted a 2013 General Fund Budget of \$196,472 at its Annual Meeting on January 27. The Budget is 4.6% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2012. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover expected higher operating costs. A modest salary increase of 2% was granted to Pastor, the Secretary, Organist and Choir Director. Primary support of the General Fund by the congregation is very important to meeting Trinity's ongoing needs.

During the quarter, all due bills were paid. Budgeted contributions were made to Missions and LCCF. General Fund receipts that were about 10% higher than those received during the same period last year – the difference being mainly that Easter was in March this year. This helped to offset higher than budgeted expenses. The balance on the original \$100,000 mortgage, used to finance the new restrooms, was \$19,847.68 at March 31. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Bruce Hasch, Treasurer.

Feed My Starving Children In partnership with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Frankfort, we are again planning to assist in a community-wide effort to raise funds to help feed some of the more than 925 million people in the world who are chronically hungry. Feed My Starving Children (www.fmsc.org) is working to end hunger with the help of volunteers around the globe.

This is a Christian nonprofit hunger relief organization working with volunteers to produce Manna Pack Rick, a scientifically formulated food formula that is culturally acceptable worldwide. They are able to produce these meals at a cost of just 22 cents each (even lower than last year!), but to keep their costs down, they need volunteers.

More than 25 members of our congregation volunteered last year to spend time packing meals at Good Shepherd Lutheran for this effort, where 116,640 meals were packed. Donations also poured in from members of Trinity in the total amount of \$1,669.87. Our donations added to the rest of what was raised for a grand total of more than \$25,660, enough to cover 100% of the cost of these meals. This was an incredibly rewarding experience for all involved, but if you missed it last year (or want to do this again), you will get another chance to participate this year.

This year's event is expected to be even bigger than last year. They have moved the venue to Lincolnway West High School, where they hope to pack 200,000 meals! This event will take place on August 9th and 10th and we plan to support them both in supplying volunteers to help pack meals and in helping them to raise the \$44,000 they will need to pay for these meals. Watch your bulletins and future newsletters for details on how to get involved. We plan to fundraise for them from May through August. For more information on the event, please check them out on the web at <http://www.fundraising.fmsc.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1047612>

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC: **Sunday, May 19th** immediately following 10:30 a.m. church service. This will also be the last day of Sunday School until it starts again in the fall.

CHANCEL GUILD: The final meeting before summer break will be **Monday, May 6th** at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Doris Bay and Jan Prospero. If you are considering a way to serve your church this is a great group to join. Chancel meets once per month and the altar work schedule only takes each member a few hours per year. All ladies of Trinity are invited to attend. Meetings will resume on September 9th.

If you are interested in ordering flowers to place on the altar, please fill out one of the flower forms which are attached to the side of the flower cabinet. Please place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox located inside the Church office. Please call Christine Stark (815.478.4079) if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: The final meeting before summer break will be held **Tuesday, May 28th** at 12:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Jan Falk and Midge Meents. Dr. Neil Sharma will speak on Geriatric Medicine. Guests are welcome. Meetings will resume on September 24th.

WE WANT YOUR BLOOD!!!! Whether you are an A, B, O, or that rare one, an AB, we want you! Whether you are a positive person or a negative type; we want you! When? **Tuesday, May 21st** from 4:00 – 7:00. For more information call Deb Aiken at 815.462.0687.

CHOIR: The choir will sing on Confirmation **Sunday, May 5th** and also Mother's Day, **May 12th**. Rehearsals are coming to a close for this fine group, as well. The last two rehearsals will be held on **Wednesday, May 1st and Wednesday, May 8th**. Choir will resume in the fall.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Next meeting will be **Monday, May 13th** at 7:00 p.m. Please call Midge Meents at 815.485.6527 if you have any questions.

VBS TIME: **"Go Tell It on the Mountain" June 10-14**, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Cost is \$5.00 for the whole week, and ages 3 to 11 (5th grade) are invited to attend. Make sure you reserve your spot today! You can fill out the paper form or you can go to the church website at <http://www.trinitynewlenox.org/vacation-bible-school.html> to enroll. You will need the password, which is "trinity". Please do not share this password outside of the church. We can always use volunteers for VBS. Youth who have completed 6th grade or older are invited to help, as are adults. Contact Mrs. Hoag.

Friendly reminders - please wear sturdy shoes - NO FLIP-FLOPS - and cell phones need to be left at home. If students must bring a cell phone, it must be turned off and we cannot be responsible for lost, stolen, or broken cell phones.

Donations requested: This year we need empty paper towel and toilet paper tubes, quart and gallon Ziploc storage bags, and glue sticks. When we get closer to VBS time, we will be asking for foodstuffs and some other things. There is a box under the sign-up table for you to deposit these items.

TPCG All hands on deck! Our annual service project for VBS is **Friday, May 3rd** at 7:00 p.m. to help with whatever needs to be done for VBS, whether it is assembling craft kits or scenery, come and join us! If you want to bring scissors and a glue gun, they probably won't go to waste. Snacks are a definite plus on this particular night.

CHURCH SECRETARY: Kim Blecke has resigned as the church secretary and her replacement is Doris Klemm. Please be patient as the transition occurs. Office hours have changed to: Monday, 9:00-3:00; Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00-4:00 and Friday, 9:00 – 12:00. Summer hours begin week of May 26th. No Friday hours.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Kiel Cundari	1	Jeff Gardner	18
John Farnetti	1	Jamie Brolick	19
Alyssa Johnson	1	Mike Gardner	20
May Schrank	1	Haley Wallace	20
Danielle Nick	2	Andrew Farnetti	21
Geri Bailey	3	Bob Look	22
Susan Guenther	3	Christy Schultz	22
Nicholas Kirchman	3	Bob Jackman	23
Ashley Reithel	3	Starlette Torkelson	23
Jacob Munn	5	Jennifer Woodcock	23
Tim Nagel	5	Paul Fuerst	24
Eleanor Nelson	5	RLee Hedden	25
Zachary Reno	5	Dave Krohe	25
Mason Marcolina	7	Haley Thompson	25
Brett Backhus	8	Nathan Deloian	26
Brianna Paulsen	8	Tony Lopez	26
Shawn Purnell	8	Ashley Johnson	27
Ed Tatro	8	Gary Marcolina	27
Trysta Kosel	9	Tom Buell	28
Alex McDonald	9	Betty McCure	28
Audrey Minnett	9	Beth Parker	28
Alexa Erikson	11	Jeremy Wallace	28
Rachel Loucks	11	Gary Wendling	28
Rita Tinker	11	Grace Anders	29
Andrew Cuthbert	12	Barb Lueken	30
Kristin Schlak	12	Shelley Manning	30
Matt Wendling	12	Emma Minett	30
Gianna Steinhauer	13	Scott Evans	31
Anabelle Adochio	14	Bruce Hasch	31
Jeff Alfano	14		
Joshua Ryan	14		
Debbie Nick	15		
Dean Nagel	16		
Nikolas Anderson	16		
Richard Rohner	17		
Melanie Bell	18		

ANNIVERSARIES

Dave and Debbie Nick	1
Dominic and Ann Bowden	7
Earl and Sandy Sutton	7
Nikolas and Deanna Anderson	8
Ken and Lori Krumreich	12
Don and Pam Burke	12
Larry and Sharon Buell	13
Dave and Helen Anderson	14
Mary and John Leahy	14
Fred and Midge Meents	21
Scott and Kristin Rogan	21
Stephen and Nancy Tomany	23
Fred and Lori Dorman	24
Bob and Kim Blecke	26
Daniel and Susan Willenborg	27
John and Jan Buell	28