

Tidings of Trinity



MARCH, 2016

³¹ And (the father) said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' Luke 15

In Christ Jesus, dear Friends,

Was it simple sibling rivalry [which is rarely 'simple'], or was it sinful jealousy? Did the older brother begrudge all that the younger brother had seen and experienced in his travels? In the end, it is a case of the righteous versus the unrighteous. The verses above are the ending of the parable of the lost son who took his share of his father's fortune and left the family farm and squandered his property in reckless living [15:13] This tension, between the righteous and the unrighteous was typical of the opposition Jesus faced throughout His ministry, but especially as He set His face for Jerusalem.

I am not sure why, but this theme of confrontation has been disrupting my thoughts on the readings every week this Lent. It seems that as Jesus journeyed toward Jerusalem, confrontation loomed at every bend in the road. Listen to the beginning of Luke 15: **Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear (Jesus).** ²**And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."** More confrontation!! The Pharisees and their friends considered themselves righteous before God because of their behavior. They looked at the tax collectors and sinners as undeserving of God's attention because of their behavior. Well, let's talk about the false righteousness we all feel once in a while. The common form of false righteousness is what I call Front Porch judgment. It happens when you stand on your front porch and look up the block one way and then down the other side of the block. You consider your neighbors with their most considerable faults. When you are done, you think about what you have just witnessed

Trinity Lutheran Church

410 E 1935 N (PO Box 1527), Cedar City, UT 84721 Office: 435-586-7103

Pastor Bob: (cell) 435-233-8085 and (home) 435-867-6166

Website: www.cedarlutheran.org Email: pbob022212@cedarlutheran.org

and say to yourself something like, 'Well, if God has to save someone on this block, I am in darn good shape.' Let's think about this...

We are all privileged to be members of God's family. We have God's assurance that by the promises of Baptism, we are heirs of everlasting life thanks to Jesus' death on the cross and His Resurrection. God wants you to be sure of this and to live your life as His child. In Romans 6:11, St. Paul assures you: ***So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*** There should be no doubt in your mind that you are firmly and safely held by God in His loving hands. So there is no reason for us to begrudge anyone their place in the Son. Everyone we meet should be greeted with the love of God. Consider the Lost Son who had squandered his father's fortune on prodigious living. Did the father scold or punish the son upon his return? Listen to Luke's description at 15:20: ***And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.*** That is how God treated you when the Holy Spirit dragged you to faith. God did not stand in the shade of a tree scowling and waiting for you to be brought before Him. Rather the father in the parable shows you God's excitement when one sinner repents. He reaches down, gathers up his robes, and runs like an Olympic sprinter as fast as he can, setting aside pride and privilege to welcome the one who was dead but is alive after all.

We are in a privileged family at Trinity. We have a faithful congregation many of whom have worshipped God for decades and are recipients of His grace in Jesus. And we have opportunities almost each week to welcome someone new into the fold. Lately, we have emphasized outreach to families with children. The children who have been brought have been exuberant in their pursuit of Jesus. The Sunday School teachers and Nursery attendant have commented on how the children are taking to Sunday School and picking up many pointers about Jesus and why He is so important. Also, we are trying to include the children in our worship of God by having a children's message on non-Communion Sundays. Also, we encourage the children to come to the Communion rail to receive a blessing. By being in church the children continue to learn the special ways we all behave in worship. Their smiles and comments are priceless reflections of God's love for them and us.

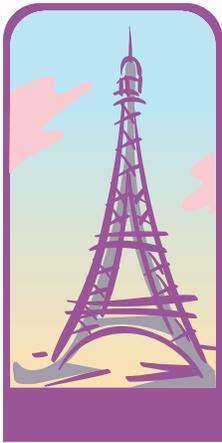
The Sunday School Secret Saints exchange matches a child with an unrelated adult in the congregation. The adult is asked to pray frequently for the child and to bring an occasional memento to give them secretly. We began this on Valentine's Sunday and it has been a big hit with the youngsters. We are even considering expanding the program by turning the tables and have a program where the child prays for an adult. Perhaps soon we will have a Children's Corner in an upcoming newsletter... The possibilities of how to welcome the children into the congregation are endless. Pray for the children's ministry and encourage the children and their families at every opportunity.

This newsletter marks a big change. Since Diane and I arrived in February 2012, she has been the newsletter editor. Diane has been happy to do the newsletter and to improve it over her four years as editor. Lately, however, she has been considering stepping down from her post hoping to find someone who will afford the newsletter the same love and attention. This issue of Tidings marks the beginning of a new editor's influence. Miriam Bowen has agreed to edit the newsletter, even from her far post in Arizona for half the year. I encourage you to give Miriam all the help you can to keep the newsletter at its current high level of quality and even to help her make it better. Congratulations to Miriam for her bravery in taking on this challenge. A thousand thanks to Diane Sharp for her selfless devotion to the task, and for keeping us informed and up-to-date on happenings in and around the parish. God bless you for your service to the Kingdom.

There are a thousand things to say in the Pastor's letter, but hear this: Easter is coming up on March 27. Set that day aside for a classic worship service to thank God for keeping His promise made to the serpent on the very day Adam and Eve fell into sin: ***¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*** In Jesus, God has driven a permanent wedge between the devil and God's children. Rejoice in that Good News and celebrate with your fellow saints on Easter Sunday.

See 'ya in church!! Pastor Bob

TRINITY TEA LADIES



Here's that long-awaited calendar of Tea Ladies events for 2016. We got off to a slower start than usual because of the kitchen remodeling, but was that ever worth it!! We're on a roll starting with our annual Valentine Tea, which is now "April in Paris" (just for this year.) Mark **Saturday, April 9th, 2 PM** on your calendars, and reserve your tickets soon with Diane Molnar. If you haven't attended before, it's a delightful afternoon of beautiful table settings, delicious tea sweets and savories, and an entertaining program. This is the Tea Ladies' main fundraising event each year, and has helped us to achieve our dream of a beautiful new kitchen, as well as donating to many charities in the community. It's also a great community outreach, as we invite ladies from all area churches as well as other community members. You won't want to miss this special day. If you've been admiring the beautiful quilt displayed in the back of the sanctuary - - it could be yours! Tickets are available for \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. The drawing will be held the day of the tea. All proceeds from the quilt go to a local charity. We thank Barb Bostian for once again sewing and donating this beautiful quilt.

April 9th - 2 PM at church
"April in Paris" afternoon tea

May 27th - 1 PM at the home of Diane Molnar
Devotions, fellowship, refreshments

June 24th - 1 PM at the home of Charmaine Beckman
Devotions, fellowship, refreshments

July 29th - 10 AM on the SUU Campus
"Christmas in July" craft fair followed by lunch at The Grind on Main St.

August 26th - 1 PM at the home of Cookie Heddings
Devotions, fellowship, refreshments

Sept. 23rd - 1 PM at the Iron Gate Inn
Tea on the garden terrace (cost \$10)

Oct. 28th - 1 PM at the home of Travis Hoppes
Devotions, fellowship, refreshments

Nov. No meeting scheduled due to holiday

Dec. 13th - 10 AM at the Iron Gate Inn
Christmas brunch and program jointly with LWML
(cost \$10)

All ladies as well as friends and guests are always welcome at our Tea Ladies events. See you there!



LENTEN WORSHIP

In Lent we journey with Jesus as He set His face for Jerusalem. Our readings help us to concentrate on Him and His march to keep His date with God's Plan of Salvation. In order to help you to keep up with Jesus, we have extra worship opportunities in March. On Wednesdays March 2, 9th and 16th, we meet together. At 600pm there is a soup supper in the fellowship hall. The good cooks of Trinity are happy to provide dinner and dessert. After cleanup from dinner we meet in the sanctuary for worship at 700pm. The message for Lent is based on the book of Job. Suffering visits us all. Job suffered in a very public and painful way. We will hear Job's advice for all who suffer. Come and worship with your fellow saints.

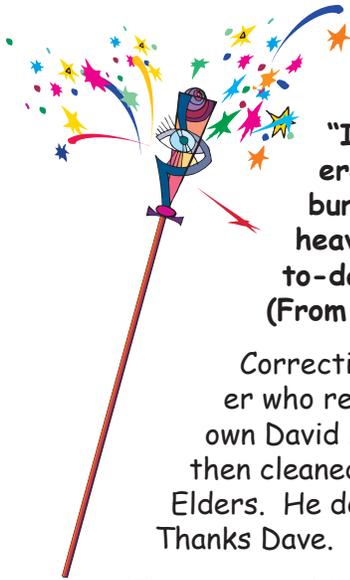


Holy Week begins on Sunday March 20, Palm Sunday, at 1000am. We will celebrate with Palms and Holy Communion our Lord's final entrance into Jerusalem.

At 700pm on Holy Thursday, March 24, we celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper, when the Lord gathers His disciples in the upper room to celebrate Passover, and instead eclipses this Old Testament observance with His greatest gift: the forgiveness of sins by the sharing of His body and blood.

On Good Friday, March 25 at 700pm we will commemorate our Lord's death on the cross in a service of darkness. Thursday's service along with Good Friday's service are intended to prepare us for the Church's annual worship pinnacle: The Resurrection of Our Lord.

On March 27, we will meet for **Easter breakfast at 800am.** LWML will provide the food in consideration of a goodwill offering. Afterwards, the children will participate in an egg hunt on the South lawn [weather permitting]. **At 1000am** we meet in the sanctuary for the celebration of Easter. All the Alleluias we reserve during the long journey of Lent, will be sung and shouted with great enthusiasm and boundless joy. The miracle of the empty tomb will again fill our hearts.



MIRACLES

(By Lynette Webber)

"In thinking about miracles, I believe that our frame of reference has been too dramatic. We have been looking for the burning bush, the parting of the sea, the bellowing voice from heaven. Instead we should be looking at the ordinary day-to-day events in our lives for evidence of the miraculous . . ."
(From The Road Less Traveled by M. Scott Peck, MD)

Correction from last month's miracles column. It wasn't the floor installer who removed all the debris from our kitchen remodeling . . . it was our own David Asplin!! He filled his truck and took everything to the land fill, then cleaned off the patio. How blessed we are to have Dave as one of our Elders. He does so many chores around the church without anyone knowing. Thanks Dave.

This got me thinking about all the good folks here at Trinity who work behind the scenes for the benefit of all with little recognition. How about those who clean up after the Sunday morning fellowship hour, or make sure all the lights, heat, etc. are turned off and the doors locked. And the gracious ladies who prepare our communion and clean up afterwards - - including washing linens and keeping the altar area spotless. Thanks to those who bring fresh flowers for the altar, sew paraments and banners to beautify the sanctuary, light the candles before each worship service, and serve us at the altar rail. Then there are those who provide donuts, cookies and other goodies on Sunday mornings, as well as our ladies who make delicious casseroles and desserts for our pot-lucks. And who could forget our coffee guy who makes sure it's always fresh and hot for us to enjoy. Outside, we have those who remove the snow and empty the trash bins. Let's see - - how about those who run the vacuum cleaner or the dish washer, or scrub the bathroom sinks, etc., etc. Or those who take the attendance each Sunday, count the money, pay the bills, input computer data, and sing in the choir. Then there's our trusty Trustee who keeps everything in good working order. Bless the ladies who teach our Sunday School and nursery age children, and those who write articles and publish the newsletter each month. And I haven't even started on all that Pastor does for us and the community. Take a moment to thank all these selfless people who enjoy keeping our church running well. Could these all be miracles in disguise?

By Sharol Kleinschmidt

The "too large for dumpster" items from our kitchen remodel were hauled off to the land-fill by Dave Asplin.

He also read of a need for light fixtures article submitted by the "Bread of Life" soup kitchen. He delivered them to the Soup Kitchen where they are now shining brightly.

TRINITY COUNCIL

Congregation members are always welcome to attend council meetings, which are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 PM. If you have a topic to bring before the council, it must be included on the agenda. To get your item placed on the agenda, contact the secretary, Lynette Webber, at least three days before the scheduled meeting.

The next Council meeting will be Thursday, March 17th at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The Elders meet the same day 4:30 PM.



CEDAR AREA INTERFAITH ALLIANCE (CAIFA) COMMUNITY SEWING EVENT

The CAIFA ladies (also called the Cookbook Ladies) are hosting their annual community sewing event on Wednesday, March 16th from 10 AM to 3 PM at the LDS church at 61 North 900 West near the SUU campus. This year's project will be children's quilts and small teddy bears to be distributed to the local police and fire departments for children in distress. Everyone is invited - - no experience necessary. If you like to sew, bring your sewing machine, scissors, cutting boards, etc. If you don't sew, you are still needed to stuff bears, cut quilt squares, tie quilts, etc. A pizza and salad lunch will be served at noon. During the lunch hour we will have speakers from the police and fire departments to tell us of instances when children were helped and comforted by these small quilts and toys. Come for an hour or all day and enjoy the fun and fellowship while contributing to a worth-while cause.



TRINITY CHURCH BOOK CLUB (TCBC)

In March, our selection is "The Girl in the Spider's Web," a Lisbeth Salander novel, written by David Lagercrantz. Mr. Lagercrantz is continuing Stieg Larsson's Millennium Series. I know several of you have read the Lisbeth Salander trilogy and enjoyed it. We thought it was time for some suspense and mystery-a thriller--and hopefully this book will fit the bill.

Please join us for the discussion of this book on Wednesday, March 30th at 11:30 a.m. at the Cedar City LIBRARY. Bring a sack lunch and we'll meet in one of the conference rooms-it will be fun!

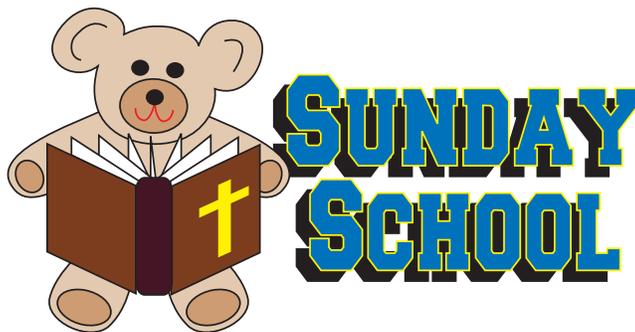
FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

| | | |
|--------------|----|-----------------------|
| 2/7 | 54 | \$1470.00 |
| 2/10 | 18 | (Ash Wednesday) |
| 2/14 | 36 | \$ 783.05 |
| 2/17 | 20 | (Wed. Lenten Service) |
| 2/21 | 46 | \$1694.00 |
| 2/24 | 24 | (Wed. Lenten Service) |
| 2/28 | ? | ? |
| Total Income | | \$3947.05 |

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MATTERS

Check out who is teaching Sunday School and the Nursery for MARCH:

| Date | Sunday School | Nursery |
|------|----------------|-----------------|
| 3-6 | Catherine Webb | Denise Kirmeyer |
| 3-13 | Catherine Webb | Diane Sharp |
| 3-20 | Diana Thompson | Diane Sharp |
| 3-27 | Travis Hoppes | Denise Kirmeyer |



SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRET SAINTS [SSSS]

Thanks to all the adults and children who agreed to take part in the SSSS beginning on February 14, St. Valentine's Sunday. About a dozen adults drew the name of a child from our Children's Ministry and agreed to partner them, supporting the child in prayer and providing little remembrances in the coming months. Our intent is that on Rally Day, Sept 11, we will have a 'coming out' party when the names of the children and their sponsors are disclosed. At that time we will begin the next SSSS, and give the children and adults new partners for another time of sharing and praying. Any ideas for improving the program will be implemented at that time. Again, thanks to all who are helping to keep the children interested and even excited about their role in the life of God's church here at Trinity.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

From Miriam Bowen

First, I'd like to say how much all of us have appreciated Diane's expert hand on this newsletter. Those are large shoes I'm not sure I'm capable of filling. I'd like to think of myself as the publisher, more than the editor. I'm going to be dependent on Diane and all of you to help me with submissions and ideas.

As you know, my time is limited and this month wound up with more time-consuming needs than usual, so I apologize if this month seems a little hurried. You might even have seen me and John in Cedar this week. I've got urgent needs to fulfill up there this week. I lost my wallet and need to replace my driver's license. (They sent me a temporary.) My car requires a safety inspection I didn't expect. It will be a quick trip, since John and I both have jobs in Arizona we need to get back to.

Please send submissions (typed if possible) directly to me if possible. Typed directly in your email is fine. Or as an attachment. My email address: miriamjohn.bowen@yahoo.com.



SPRING CLEANING YARD SALE!

From Diana Thompson

Frank Nichols has graciously offered to allow us to use his property for a yard sale this year. Start saving your donations for the sale on June 4th at Mountain View Realty, 2045 North Main Street. Any questions, call Diana at (435) 592-9166.

March 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| | | 1 Travis Hoppes' Birthday 3pm KOLOB 4pm Confirmation | 2 9am Breakfast at All American 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship | 3 Pastor gone to Circuit Meeting in Sandy | 4 Pastor Bob & Diane Sharp's Anniversary | 5 10 AM LWML Meeting |
| 6 POTLUCK! 8:45am Bible Study 10am Worship Service (Communion) 10am Sunday School | 7 Bruce Janis' and Ruthie Webb's Birthdays 4PM CAIFA Pastor's Day Off | 8 9am Ladies' Breakfast - Denny's 4pm Confirmation | 9 9am Breakfast at Denny's 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Sharol Kleinschmidt and Micah Webb's Birthdays 8:45am Bible Study 10am Worship Service 10am Sunday School | 14 Fred & Jane Anderson's Anniversary Pastor's Day Off | 15 4pm Confirmation | 16 9am Breakfast at IHOP Chuck & Naoko Purmal's Anniversary 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Worship | 17 4:30pm Elders' Meeting 5:30pm Council Meeting | 18 | 19 |
| 20 8:45am Bible Study 10am Palm Sunday Worship Service (Communion) 10am Sunday School | 21 Byrd Bargman's Birthday Pastor's Day Off | 22 4pm Confirmation | 23 9am Breakfast at All American | 24 7pm Holy Thursday Worship | 25  7pm Good Friday Service | 26 |
| 27  EASTER 8:00am Easter Breakfast followed by an Egg Hunt 10am Worship Service | 28 Bruce & Ellen Janis' Anniversary Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline | 29 4pm Confirmation | 30 9am Breakfast at Denny's 11:30am Book Club | 31 | | |