

Tidings of Trinity



August, 2016

⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 1:5-6

Thank you for reading this August, 2016 issue of Tidings. This summer has been unusually hot for Cedar City. Old-timers report that such a summer with so many days of over 90 degree weather and so many days of 100 plus degrees has never before happened. One thing is sure: it has been hot, hot, hot. Thankfully our Utah history of low humidity has persisted. Diane and I lived for decades in the Midwest where summer temps and humidity regularly climb to over 90 degrees and 90+ percent humidity and I guarantee it is miserable on a scale unattainable here in Utah. Thank God for keeping us comfortable despite the high temps.

In August our Epistle readings change from St. Paul's letter to Colossae. In August we hear from the writer to the Hebrews. Luther described this letter: "...a marvelously fine epistle. It discusses Christ's priesthood masterfully and profoundly on the basis of the Scriptures and extensively interprets the Old Testament in a fine way. Thus it is plain that this is the work of an able and learned man...greatly experienced in faith and practiced in the Scriptures." [Luther's Works, Volume 35: page 395]. Although from AD 400 to about AD 1600 it was called "The Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews," Luther wrote: "Who wrote it is not known." Theologians have enjoyed debating who the author might be and that debate remains unsettled in the 21st century. Nevertheless we are blessed to hear from its pages this August.

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One topic I return to frequently is the relationship between obedience and faith. Many otherwise faithful Christians seem convinced that the God of the Old Testament had a different plan for salvation than does the God of the New Testament. They believe that the giving of the Law to Moses [Exodus 20] together with its dire admonition of condemnation for all who do not keep its every demand is the work of a judgmental God, unloving and demanding perfect obedience. Certainly that is the message of the Law, but the Law was never intended to count toward salvation. The Law was given to show our sin and certainly that was the case in the account of the golden calf in Exodus 32. The intent of the Law was to point us toward God and His love for all who trust in Him.

So we find in God's Word that He demands obedience and condemns all who transgress His Law. That the Law was given to Moses and story of the mishandling of the Law began back then does not denote that God made some huge mistake by giving the Law, a mistake that He rectified in the sending of Jesus. Let's first make clear that the God of the Old Testament is exactly the same as the God of the New Testament. God did not change or evolve over the time of creation, through the events of the Old Testament up to the time of the New Testament. God cannot change. The Psalmist [102] declares: ²⁵ **...the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.** ²⁶ **They will perish, but you will remain;...they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe...** ²⁷ **but you are the same, and your years have no end.** The theme of Hebrews 11 is that God has always demanded loyalty from His people and that loyalty we call faith.

The reading above comes from the epistle reading for August 7, Hebrews 11:1-16. In it we hear again the necessity of faith for everlasting life. The verses above refer to Enoch [the great-great-grandson of Adam] who was the father of Methuselah. The Bible says that **'by faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him.** Because of his faith, Enoch was taken up by God. Enoch lived during the generations after Adam. Yet he was judged not according to his obedience of God but according to his faith in God. The means of salvation has always been faith, from the very dawn of time. The giving of the Law changed nothing. The Law simply points us back to God as the Provider of Salvation.

So what is the place of obedience? Be certain that our imperfect obedience which we believe is so precious to God has no place in salvation. What God finds pleasant in us is not the obedience we so chase after. It is faith that pleases God. Read again verse 6 above. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Apart from faith it is impossible to please God. Nothing done out of unbelief is 'pleasing' to God.

Apart from Jesus, no one has ever been saved by a sinless life. St. Paul reminds us in Romans 3: ²¹ **But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—** ²² **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:** ²³ **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** ²⁴ **and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** ²⁵ **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.** The righteousness of God for all who believe through faith in Jesus Christ is yours by faith, manifested and reinforced in your Baptism. Is there a place for works? Works are important only for believers. In Ephesians chapter 2 Paul is talking to believers: ⁸ **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,** ⁹ **not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** ¹⁰ **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

We find in Ephesians that good works flow from faith. It makes sense. In God's eyes only believers can do good works. First comes faith, then comes obedience. The works we believe are good, before we are brought to faith those works are always sinful. They are a detriment to faith and lead us to the false hope that God will love us because of our works. God only loves you because of what Jesus has accomplished for you, and because of your reliance on Jesus for everlasting life [see again Romans 3:22-24 above]. Look forward to worship on August 7 knowing that God will reassure you again of His love for you because of Jesus.

I look forward to seeing you in church in August -- Pastor Bob

One last thing: Give thanks to God for friend-of-the-congregation, Larry Doolen of Aurora, Colorado. He and his wife Jan visited us at Trinity in the past few years and worshipped with us at a midweek Lenten service. In consideration of the warm reception afforded them, in mid July we were blessed again to receive a check from the Doolens for \$1,000.00 in support of our ministries here at Trinity. **Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**



Trinity Tea Ladies

The location for our August get-together has changed. Please note that we will meet on Friday, August 26th at 1 PM at the welcoming country home of Sharol Kleinschmidt at 6127 North 2300 West. Her phone number is 435-586-6388 if you need directions.

Please join us for a delightful afternoon of fellowship, devotions, and of course, delicious tea goodies. All Trinity ladies as well as

friends and guests are always welcome at our Tea Ladies events.

See you there! Upcoming events:

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)

Iron County Care And Share (ICCS)

Canned fruits and vegetables as well as peanut butter are constant needs at the Care and Share pantry. Donations of any non-perishable food items or paper products may be placed in the basket in our narthex and will be delivered weekly to ICCS. If you have excess produce from your gardens this summer, ICCS would love to have fresh fruit and vegetables for its clients. Thank you for sharing with those in need in our community.

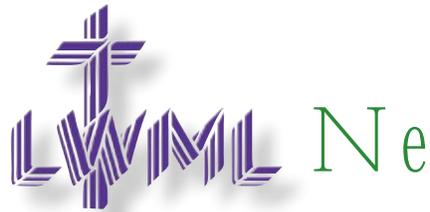
Fun Jokes to Share

Thanks to Frank Nichols

The Picnic...A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."



Cookie Heddings and Diana Thompson attended the LWML Pacific Southwest District Convention held in Orange, CA at the end of June. A new mite goal of \$150,000 for the next biennium was approved and 16 grants were adopted. Please keep your mite money coming in!



Sunday Bible Study



Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible Study has been suspended for the summer. We will publish the date of resumption in next month's Tidings. During summer we still have an opportunity to study God's Word on Sunday morning beginning at 8:45am. We have a dozen or so committed Bible students who meet to study that morning's readings. By so doing they get a good start on the sermon for the morning and hear the readings with ears that hear clearly and according to God's direction. Consider joining us on Sundays and joining in the discussion.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15



July Attendance and Offerings

6/26	49	\$861
June Total Income	\$6,145	
7/3	54	\$1,561
7/10	48	\$856
7/17	55	\$2,290
7/24	45	\$833
7/31	?	?
July Total Income	\$5,540 + July 31	



Miracles

(By Lynette Webber)

*"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."
Psalm 139:9-10*

Many of us are traveling this summer, by car, plane or cruise ship! I know that it's progress and technology, but it still remains a miracle to me that I can be strapped into a long silver tube and fly at 30,000 feet over the mountains and plains and oceans and in a few hours land in another country. Surely our pioneer ancestors would agree that it's a miracle. It's too easy to take our modern world for granted. If someone from an earlier time suddenly arrived in the 21st century, they would be amazed at all the miracles around them. So on our travels this summer, instead of complaining of long lines, crowds, and heat, I'm going to try to feel some of that awe and amazement that the journey is even possible, and that God's right hand will be holding me fast. Happy travels to all!



Children's Ministry

Joel 1:3 Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation.

Thanks to all those in our congregation who are supporting the children with their prayers, their time and the blessings of the Sunday School Secret Saints. The children have been enjoying the treats and the recognition of your generosity. We are thankful that in the past month Charmaine Beckman and Cookie Heddings brought their classes into the sanctuary to praise God by song. We heard a song about Noah and the Ark, and one about Father Abraham. What a joy. And what a wonderful witness to the progress the children are making in their new walk with God. Coming up we see that on September 11 we will celebrate Rally Day. The Secret Saints will be revealed and any changes in Sunday School will be implemented. We will give thanks to a year of growth and solidarity in Children's ministry. If you have any ideas for Rally Day, please contact Pastor Bob.

We need volunteers to help with these positions! Check out who is teaching Sunday School and the Nursery for August:

Date	Sunday School	Nursery
8-7	Cookie Heddings	As God Provides
8-14	Ellen Janis	Denise Kirmeyer
8-21	Amber Lenox	As God Provides
8-28	Catherine Webb	As God Provides





Trinity Council

The next Church Council meeting will be Thursday, August 25th at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The Elders meet the same day at 4:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend Council meetings. If you have an item

that you would like to present or discuss, please notify Lynette Webber, the Council secretary, so it can be added to the agenda.



Trinity Church Book Club (TCBC)



In August, we will be reading, "The Dovekeepers" by Alice Hoffman. The book takes place in 70 C.E. It is a story about four women, with very different past lives, who find themselves working together as dovekeepers at an old fortress built by King Harrod. A lot of fiction and a lot of history....it should prove to be an interesting read.

We will meet at the Cedar City Library on Wednesday, August 31st at 11:30a.m. to discuss the book and enjoy lunch together. So, bring a sack lunch and join us!



Repeat Request from the Edit

As you probably know, I'm also the "webmaster," meaning that I try to keep our web site current. The calendar and newsletter are always available on the site. Last month, we were required to update the site to current technology, which brought good news and bad news. The bad news is that we were required, to begin with, to condense the site to five pages. I hope you've had a chance to look at it. The good news is that it works perfectly now on smart phones and tablets, including a link on smart phones to email to the Pastor and to call the church! More good news: The council voted to add to the site for a small fee each month. Our limit is now 500 pages! Here's where you come in: I need help working on those extra pages. We need to use the extra pages to keep everyone informed of church activities and I'd like to see photo pages of recent activities. Again, I'm requesting someone (or a small committee) out there that can help me with that. Some computer experience is helpful, mostly to write up the information and feed me the photos, but not necessary. I can do the actual programming of the web site. Please contact me if you're interested in helping with that.



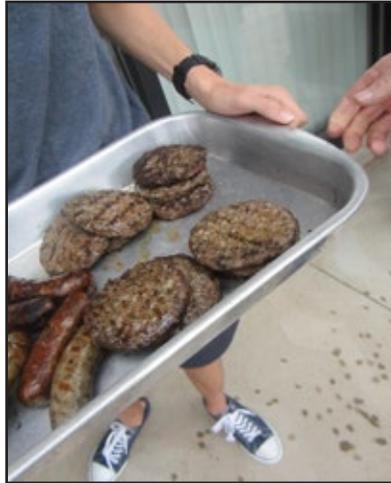
Thanks, Miriam
(email miriam@designersdesktop.com or call 435-531-0232)

Fourth of July B B Q

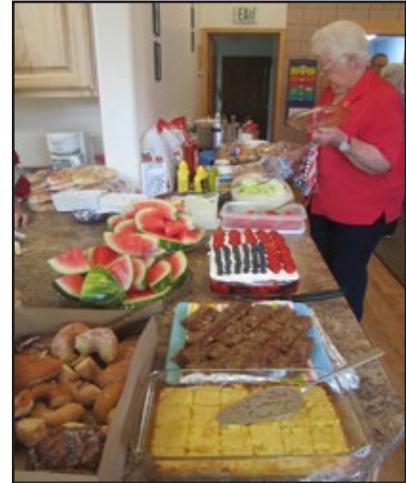
Neither rain nor hail will stop our guys from cooking at the grill!!!



Lee Webb at the barbecue



Bratwurst and hamburgers



Diane Molnar prepping
the food



Sidewalks, and Parking Lot Improvements

The sidewalks have been completely removed and replaced. We now have two parking lot entrances as well. Thanks to the Trustees, especially Larry Heddings for arranging and overseeing this big project. Thanks also to Dave Stonehouse whose company did such high quality work and kept to such a tight schedule. On August 14, following worship we will convene a Voters' Meeting to discuss improvements to the parking lot. As you can tell, the lot is in need of attention and so Council asks for your guidance. If you have not been by church since the sidewalks were done, please come by at your earliest convenience. It is refreshing to see the families of the neighborhood walking in the evening and taking advantage of the smooth sidewalks.



Attention Smith's Market Customers!

Smith's grocery has a program that supports local non-profit organizations like Trinity. We currently have 8 households that have registered with Smith's Community Rewards Program and designated Trinity as their target non-profit. Smith's issues quarterly checks based on the spending of our members. In July we received a check from Smith's in the amount of \$28.53. We could be receiving more if more members who shop Smith's would join the program. Talk to Pastor Bob or Alan Hoppes if you are interested in this.

Congratulations to Christy Austin!

Christy's baptism took place on July 24th during our Sunday worship service. Here is a picture of our newest member and baptized daughter of Christ along with a few of her happy fellow saints. From the left is Miriam Bowen, Charmaine Beckman, Denise Kirmeyer, Christy Austin, and Catherine Webb. If you have been wondering what is the big deal about Baptism please ask Pastor Bob [or call his cell phone 435 233-8085] at your earliest convenience.



Me Fun Jokes to Share

Thanks to Frank Nichols

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going."

"Why not?" she asked.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "(1), they don't like me, and (2), I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church:

(1) You're 49 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"

Goat for Dinner... The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.

"Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"

