



# Trinity Tidings

Volume 101

November 2016

## From Pastor B's Desk

Over the past few weeks my mind has conjured memories of my days in seminary and vicarage as I prepared for call and ordination into the Office of Holy Ministry. This has happened because our very own Bradley has been in the process of applying to the seminary for M.Div. studies beginning next fall. The memories have flooded back as I have spoken with him about seminary life and studies!

The first president of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, the Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther, wrote a book called *Church and Ministry* (I'll let you guess what it is about!). In the section on ministry he wrote in the 2nd and 3rd theses...

"The ministry of the Word or the pastoral office is not a human institution but an office that God Himself has established."

"The ministry is not an arbitrary office but one whose establishment has been commanded to the church and to which the church is ordinarily bound till the end of time."

Dr. Walther follows these (and other theses) with Scriptures that expound on the Bible's teaching regarding who the

church is and how God operates in and through it, as well as what the Scriptures teach regarding the role of the pastor in the church and how God operates in and through the office of Holy Ministry for the sake of His people. Feel free to borrow the book from me if you are curious about it. You can also purchase it from Concordia Publishing House.

But for our purposes here, suffice it to say, that church and pastor belong together...like a horse and carriage. As I reminisce about my own journey that brought me here to Trinity I can't help but think about the path that Bradley is about to embark upon.

I am excited for this young man because I know the joy he will have when he receives his call into Holy Ministry (God willing) and he continues the journey of church and pastor together. But it pleases me most that God is still calling

men into the Holy Ministry to love and serve congregations with His Word and Sacraments.

Jesus says in Luke 10, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." We have all been called in our baptism to work in the plentiful fields of harvest, but some have been called to serve Christian congregations publicly, these are our pastors. May our prayers continue for Bradley, and may our prayers continue that God would provide many other faithful pastors to love and serve his people with Word and Sacrament.

We'll see you on Sunday!

In Christ, Pastor B

Book Review: *Apostle or bones that shine like fire: travels among the tombs of the twelve* by Tom Bissell

A PROFOUND AND MOVING JOURNEY into the heart of Christianity that explores the mysterious and often paradoxical lives and legacies of the Twelve Apostles—a book both for those of the faith and for others who seek to understand Christianity from the outside in.

Peter, Matthew, Thomas, John: Who were these men? What was their relationship to Jesus? Tom Bissell provides rich and surprising answers to these ancient, elusive questions. He examines not just who these men were (and weren't), but also how their identities have taken shape over the course of two millennia.

Ultimately, Bissell finds that the story of the apostles is the story of early Christianity: its competing versions of Jesus's ministry, its countless schisms, and its ultimate evolution from an obscure Jewish sect to the global faith we know today in all its forms and permutations. In his quest to understand the underpinnings of the world's largest religion, Bissell embarks on a years-long pilgrimage to the supposed tombs of the Twelve Apostles. He travels from Jerusalem and Rome to Turkey, Greece, Spain, France, India, and Kyrgyzstan, vividly capturing the rich diversity of Christianity's worldwide reach. Along the way, he engages with a host of characters—priests, paupers, a Vatican archeologist, a Palestinian taxi driver, a Russian monk—posing sharp questions that range from the religious to the philosophical to the political.

Written with warmth, empathy, and rare acumen, *Apostle* is a brilliant synthesis of travel writing, biblical history, and a deep, lifelong relationship with Christianity. The result is an unusual, erudite, and at times hilarious book—a religious, intellectual, and personal adventure fit for believers, scholars, and wanderers alike.

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Dear Trinity Family,

A big thank you to everyone who supported our bake sale on LWM L Sunday. We raised \$473 to send in to the CNH Mission Grants. We are working on Mission Grant #3, Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations. It most likely will be funded by the printing of this Newsletter. Our next Mission Grant is #4, Solar Lanterns to Brighten African Women's Lives. We also appreciate your donations to our Mite Boxes every month! Thank you for joining us in our mission work!

WinGS

The Lutheran Reformation then, and today, is not about throwing away the past, but about retaining and preserving the very best of the Church's rich history and teachings, while filtering out whatever covers and contradicts God's Word and denies the good news of salvation by grace alone, though faith alone, on account of Christ alone. The Lutherans never wanted to rebel against the Roman Church. They were, however, held captive by the force of the clear truth of God's Word. Martin Luther refused to compromise that truth and was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church, precisely because of his defense of the pure Gospel and truths of God's Word.

- See more at: <http://lutheranreformation.org/history/#sthash.X5RaVART.dpuf>

**The following is taken from Martin Luther's *Little Instruction Book A Classic Treasury of Timeless Wisdom and Reflection***

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**Begin When You're Young**

“When I was young, I read the Bible over and over and over again, and was so perfectly acquainted with it, that I could, in an instant, have pointed to any verse that might have been mentioned.”

**Trinity  
Lutheran Church  
since August 8, 1915**

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Our Mission is to serve God  
by outreach to the community  
through the spreading  
of the Gospel of Christ  
by spirit-filled worship,  
education, fellowship and service.

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## Announcements

If you have an announcement for the bulletin or the Tidings please give it to Sharon in the office. Bulletin announcements are due by **Wednesday morning**.

The Tidings deadline is the **15th of every month**.

Announcements for the screen may be sent directly to Brian or through the church office email, [tlsecsharon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tlsecsharon@sbcglobal.net).

## Directory Changes

Please let the church office know if you have moved or have a new phone number or any other changes in your family. Thank you.



**REFORMATION  
2017 It's *Still* All About  
Jesus**

### **River City Food Bank**

Is in **GREAT** need of canned fruit, canned vegetables, and pasta. Please bring items and deposit them in the container in Friendship Hall. Always **NEEDS** plastic bags and brown paper bags! We are also in need of volunteers. Please talk to Dottie if you are interested. Thanks!

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