



Trinity Tidings

Volume 101

December 2016

From Pastor B's Desk

From Pastor B's Desk...

I realize I am a bit of a nerd when it comes to theology and history as a whole, and Lutheran theology and history in particular. These two things are incredibly fascinating to me! Especially as we enter 2017 do these two things take on greater significance (not just for nerds like me, but for our entire culture and history!). On October 31st of next year we will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses on the Wittenberg Chapel door (the traditional beginning of the Reformation).

Because of this we will spend some time early in the new year exploring both Lutheran theology and history during our Sunday morning Bible Class. Beginning Sunday, January 8th at 9 am in the fellowship hall we will begin by looking at the Scriptures through the lens

of Luther's Small Catechism, exploring the six chief parts of the Christian faith and how they relate to our life in society and the church. We will spend approximately 6-8 weeks on this study.

Following the theological and Scriptural study we will look at the history of the Lutheran Reformation. We will look at the life and times of Luther, some of the things that shaped his teaching, the life of the church at the time, some pre-Reformation movements, and probably take a quick look at how the Lutheran Reformation played out with Roman Catholicism and the various Protestant groups.

Since I am such a theological and historical nerd I can tell I am incredibly excited for this study!! I hope you are able to join us and learn more about our heritage and how it has shaped our church life, our life in society (more than you might think!), and how it can speak to the gospel going forth from us in the years to come.

God's blessings to all of you this Advent and Christmas season. What a blessing it is that God our heavenly Father has given us the greatest gift of all...Jesus!

In Christ, Pastor B

Book Reviews:

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity

by Nabeel Qureshi

Christian Book Award Winner, Best Non-Fiction And Best New Author

An Unexpected Journey from Islam to Christianity

In *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, now expanded with bonus content, Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with friendships, investigations, and supernatural dreams along the way.

Providing an intimate window into a loving Muslim home, Qureshi shared how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering, almost against his will, evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and claimed to be God. Unable to deny the arguments but not wanting to deny his family, Qureshi struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in the world's great religions.

Engaging and thought-provoking, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* tells a powerful story of the clash between Islam and Christianity in one man's heart—and of the peace he eventually found in Jesus.

Rescuing the Gospel The Story of Significance of the Reformation

by Erwin W. Lutzer

A riveting account of the Reformation—and why it matters today

The Reformation unfolded in the cathedrals and town squares of Europe—in Wittenberg, Worms, Rome, Geneva, and Zurich. The story begins with the Catholic Church and its desperate need for reform. The dramatic events that followed are traced from John Wycliffe in England, to the burning of John Hus at the stake at the Council of Constance, to the rampant sale of indulgences in the cities and towns of Germany, to Martin Luther nailing the *Ninety-Five Theses* to the door of the Castle Church in 1517, to John Calvin's reform of Geneva.

In prose that captivates as it informs, Erwin W. Lutzer captures the people, places, and big ideas that fueled the Reformation. He explains its lasting influence on the church and Western civilization. And, perhaps most importantly, he shows why the actions of passionate believers five hundred years ago still matter today.

Theme for Advent Midweek Services and Christmas Eve

Evergreen . . . and All I Ever Want!

Midweek, **November 30th:**
How Shall I Greet You?,
Matthew 21:1–11

Midweek, **December 7th:**
Advent's Fiery Preacher,
Matthew 3:1–12

Midweek, **December 14th:**
Not Another Advent!,
Matthew 11:2–15

Midweek, **December 21st:**
We Still Need Him,
Our Immanuel, Our Jesus,
Matthew 1:18–25

Christmas Eve,
December 24th, 7:00 p.m.:
A Christmas Gift Card,
John 1:1–18

Rev. Jeffrey A. Oschwald, PhD,
professor, Concordia Seminary,
St. Louis, Missouri

Wednesday's
7:00 p.m.

beginning with a
Soup Supper
at 6:00 p.m.

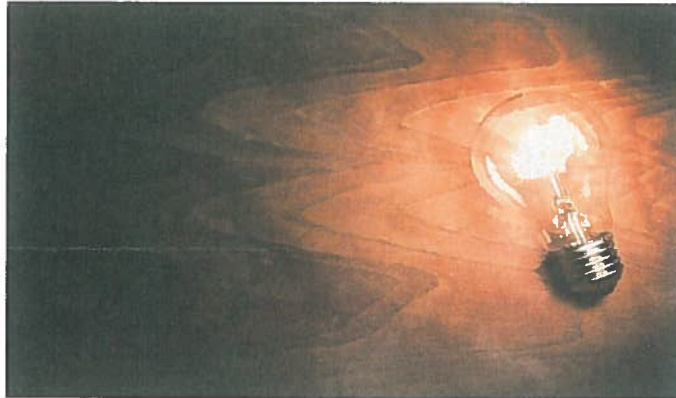
Facing the Challenges to Mental Health

"From darkness into light"

March 25, 2017

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (1635 Chester Ave. Tracy, CA)



Devotions: The Rev. Dr. Carlos Hernandez, LCMS Staff

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, Grace Place Wellness Ministries

Four breakout sessions:

- Mental Health: Social Acceptance and Rejection in the Disabled Family
- Mental Health First Aid
- Help in the childhood years
- Help in the aging years

Presented by:

California-Nevada- Hawaii District Human Care Ministries Committee
Lutheran Social Services of Northern California
California-Nevada- Hawaii District Task Force on Disabilities

Cost: \$25 includes lunch and snacks

For more information: Marilyn Harri, harri2@comcast.net, 925-426- 8628

2 Sam. 22:29: "You are my lamp, O Lord: the Lord turns my darkness into light."

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.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.tlc-ms.com

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, tlcsecsharon@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

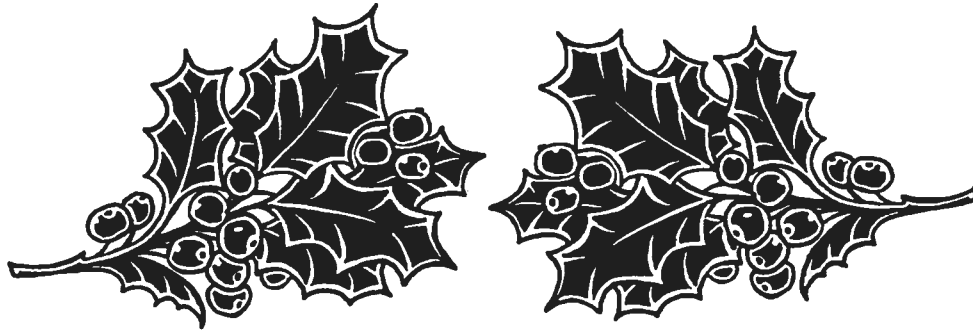
River City Food Bank

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!



Advent & Christmas Schedule

Advent begins November 27, 2016

Trinity's Annual Christmas Party

Sponsored by WinGS

after worship December 4, 2016

Everyone is welcome

Midweek Services will be held:

November 30

December 7

December 14

December 21

at 7:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday evenings will begin

with a soup supper at 6:00 p.m.

WinGS will host the supper on November 30th.

December 17, 2016

Youth Christmas Caroling

6:00 p.m.

December 18, 2016

10:15 a.m.

Sunday School Service

Christmas Eve Service

7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

10:00 a.m.

(Christmas Day is Sunday – please note change of service time)