

the Candle

May/June 2023



Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and the earth is Yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head above all.
1 Chronicles 29:11

Indeed, greatness and power and glory and victory and majesty are the LORD's! But not just *some* greatness and power and glory and victory and majesty. Notice that the writer of Chronicles says, ***"Yours, O LORD is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty"*** Only the LORD God possesses these things in full. His alone is the greatness, power, glory, victory, majesty. His is the kingdom.

This is *our* Lord. This is *our* God. The One who in Himself has and is these things. The One alone to whom belong the heavens and the earth. The One alone to whom is the kingdom. The One who is exalted as head above all! All things! All people! All life!

In the presence and face of such power and glory and majesty, one might shrink away in fear. In the presence and face of such power and glory and majesty, one might try to hide. But, we don't need to do any of these in the presence and face of this LORD and God.

This LORD and God demonstrated His greatness and glory and power by laying them aside for you! He became man for you. On a Friday called "Good," which we recently remembered, He died on a cross for you. And on the third day at the dawn of the first day of a new week, He again took up the life He laid aside for you.

His glory shined with His dying breath at Golgotha. His victory was declared outside a now empty tomb in Jerusalem. The God who has all greatness and power and



CHURCH EVENTS

05/06	Elders Meeting
05/07	Mission Board Meeting
05/20	Church Council Meeting
05/21	Naomi Circle Meeting
05/28	Board of Christian Education Meeting
6/15-17	Vacation Bible School

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glory and victory and majesty – all things – chose to use His power and glory and kingdom for your salvation!

This is our God. He is risen! And, He is exalted above all – for your good, for your salvation, for your eternal life! The majesty and glory and victory of that first Easter continues. It's not just one day; but for us in Christ by faith and Baptism into Him, it is every day into eternity!

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Michael Croom

NEWS AND NOTES

VBS 2023 - Please save the date for VBS scheduled for 6/15 - 6/17 when we will launch kids on a cosmic quest into space where they will have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world!

After Worship Fellowship - The Hospitality Board is asking people to sign up to bring snack-type items and drinks for our fellowship. The sign-up sheet for **May-June** is on the board in the fellowship hall.

The 2023 Offering Envelopes Are Available - They are labeled and on a table in the fellowship hall.

The Board of Missions is requesting the following: hand-held can openers, paper towels, toilet paper, small packets of tissue, and small packets of wet wipes. Please place them in the corner of the fellowship hall where the food pantry closet is. If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Johnson (662-782-7251).

Pew Bibles - You can still dedicate one or more of our new pew Bibles in remembrance of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone. The cost is \$15.00 each. You may mail the completed form with your check marked "Bible dedication" or put it in the offering plate.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

ONLINE GIVING

Did you know that you can make your offering online? Go to the Trinity website, trinitymemphis.org, then click on Give Online. You can choose to give one time or set up a recurring offering. For one-time contribution, click Trinity Lutheran Church (default). If you already have an account, click on Log-in. If you don't have an account and would like to set up a recurring offering, click Create Account. It works with either credit and debit cards, or as a draft from your bank account. It is all very secure.

Note: If you use a credit or debit card, the company charges Trinity a processing fee that will be deducted from your offering, but there are no fees to Trinity for using a bank draft.

MEMBERS OUT

✝ **Jim Eble** ✝ entered the Church Triumphant on April 8, 2023

By Transfer

Dave and Dot Love

to Beautiful Savior Lutheran in Olive Branch, MS

April 14, 2023

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meeting date has not yet been determined. More information to follow. Please contact Stacy Johnson (501-269-5324) if you have questions.

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
~James 5:16*

FOCUS ON MISSIONS

Letter from... **Board of Missions**

Greeting fellow missionaries!! What a beautiful Spring season with April showers or tornadoes bringing beautiful May flowers. Our work as missionaries never ends. As Martin Luther shows us in the Large Catechism, Second Petition, he describes mission as the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

In reviewing our mission statement, “*Connecting People to Christ for Life*,” board members designed mission programs that helps us fulfill the mission statement, “Connecting People to Christ for Life” as we live out our Christian lives. “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*” (Matt. 28:19)

Throughout the history of Christianity, the expansion of God’s kingdom served as an important motive for doing mission. Through the preaching of the Gospel, the mission of the church has expanded the kingdom of Christ all over the world. This kingdom does not stop because of geographic boundaries; rather, it expands to all peoples wherever they live.

Luther provides an in-depth explanation of the Second Petition, *Thy kingdom come*. Luther frames his understanding in the context of prayer. Just as the apostle Paul admonished the saints at Colossae to pray “that God may open to us a door for the word” (Colossians 4:3), so too, Luther encourages us to pray for missions. (See Second Petition, Mission as the Expansion of the Kingdom of God, Large Catechism, Klaus Detlev Schulz).

Need a Church Home

If you are looking for a new church home, or would like a refresher Bible study, new member orientation classes will start soon. Reach out to Pastor Croom for informational material. In the

meantime, here is an article from Deaconess Cassier that will help train our eyes and ears to hear and see those who cry for Jesus’ mercy.

Servant Leadership Development (DEAC POST from LDA)

“Seeing Clearly”

By Deaconess Karen Burgess-Cassier

“As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ Then he shouted, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, let me see again. ‘Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has saved you. Immediately he regained his sight and followed him glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.” Luke 18: 25-43

Although the story is written from the perspective of the frustrations of not seeing clearly, I view the Gospel in Luke as the lowly in our society begging for help, reaching, and calling out for help in desperation... just to be silenced!!! As believers and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must model Jesus’s behavior to first listen and then ask those in need, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Believers in Christ Jesus, we must not only hear the cries of the beggar but stand resolute against those who will try to silence the cries of the needy for through our service they may receive the gift of God’s salvation through faith will open their eyes (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Prayer: We thank you, God, for your light in our lives. Help us see you and your world more clearly and serve as you lead us. Amen.

https://thelda.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Servant-Stories-January_Burgess-Kassler.pdf

FOCUS ON MISSIONS (CONTINUED)

You may ask...how can I help...read on!!

Missions Opportunities...

Church and Local Community:

Hispanic Missions Fund
Homeless Food Project
Water Tumbler Project
School Backpack Project
St. Jude Marathon Project
Christmas Angel Tree Project
Food Pantry – Coordinator(s)
Support Life Projects
Crafts and Drafts Market -Summer and Fall at Crosstown Festival

International Missions:

Immanuel Lutheran Church Cambodia
Haiti Trinity Hope

New Ideas in Development:

South Main Trolley Night (<https://www.gosouthmain.com/trolley-night>)
Coming csl.edu for additional opportunities that may of interest to you.
Kingdom Toastmasters – First Lutheran Church of Little Rock (Firstlutherannlr.com)

Thank you to all the Boards and members for your continued support...and the Church Council for stressing the importance that Trinity engage our neighbors where they live. Continue to share your ideas and volunteer for just **one** event so we may continue to share the Word of God and that His kingdom increases.

To leave you with a final note to contemplate from Martin Luther...

Whoever believes and holds to Christ's Word, heaven stands open to him, hell is shut, the devil is imprisoned, sins are forgiven, and he is a child of eternal life. That is what this book teaches you—the Holy Scriptures—and no other book on earth.

--Martin Luther (WA 48:155)

In His name we serve,
Dr. Charlotte C. Johnson
Board of Missions, Chair



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35,40



"The Gospel does not belong in a corner, and Christ is Lord of everything" Lutheran Study Bible, p. 1493



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one." 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3



BIRTHDAYS

MAY

Zoey Smith	5/1
Diane Johnston	5/2
Diane Dixon	5/5
Edward Sheely	5/7
Jesse Smith	5/10
Trevor Pulliam	5/17
Angela Campbell	5/20
Matt Grant	5/21
Alexandra Barrasso	5/24
Brett Barnhart	5/27
Barbara Dennis	5/28
Martha Hays	5/28

JUNE

Barbara Spahn	6/8
Alejandro Teran	6/17
Trinity Pinkins	6/18
Pedro Julian Arietta Bernez	6/26
Cheryl Croom	6/27
Michael Croom	6/27
Brenda Eddings-Joyner	6/27
Jose Arrieta	6/28
Colin McCormack	6/30

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

Michael and Cheryl Croom	5/21
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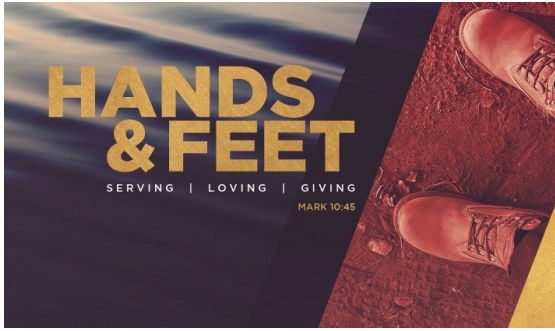
JUNE

Martha and Glenn Hays	6/20
John and Melody Konnerth	6/21



For a full calendar of upcoming events, visit www.trinitymemphis.org
"Calendar of Events"

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Christian Education - If your interest is in working with children to teach Sunday School as a substitute, helping as a teacher's aide, assisting with special projects such as VBS in the summer etc., you can contact Cheryl Croom (270-348-5505 or mccroom03@aol.com).

Fellowship - The Hospitality Board is asking people to sign up to bring snack-type items and drinks for our after-worship fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet for April-June is on the board in the fellowship hall.

Church Maintenance - If you can work a drill, have plumbing experience, can install light fixtures, or another handyman-type talent, the Board of Trustees would love your help. Whether it is general maintenance around the building or a renovation project, your assistance would greatly help keep these costs manageable. You can either simply help out as needed or even join the Board. Contact Mike Grant or Paul Koehler if you'd like to serve in this capacity.

Missions - While we are all ambassadors for Trinity, there are always opportunities to help others in the community as well. If you are interested in helping plan and prepare outreach events, the Board of Missions would love to have you! Contact Charlotte Johnson if you'd like to join this endeavor. Her contact information is jnsncc@yahoo.com and (662) 782-7251.

Altar Duty - Helping with Altar Duty is a very rewarding way to serve the Lord. Some of the duties consist of keeping the candles filled with oil to "let our light shine," preparing the elements necessary for communion, and cleaning up afterwards, changing the paraments and banner in accordance with our church calendar, and making sure the pews have the correct amount of hymnals, Bibles and pencils. We rotate monthly and new volunteers are paired up with experienced people while learning. For more info or to volunteer, contact Linda Wilkins at 774-3777.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Trinity is enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards program. Once you register your Kroger Plus Card online at krogercommunityrewards.com and select Trinity Lutheran Church - Memphis, TN (NPO number DG721), 4% of what you spend on groceries will be donated to trinity! See the flyer on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for more information on how to sign up if you have not already.





The following is a Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotion from April 26, 2023.

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"Getting Past Injustice"

1 Peter 2:19-25 - For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Some years ago, a police chief in a small town tried to frame my husband for a hit-and-run. Someone had damaged his relative's car, but they didn't know who. But hey, here was this Asian man passing through; he's an easy mark, right? Bet he doesn't even speak English! So they ran his plates, got his ID, and tried to terrify him into confession so his insurance would pay out.

It didn't work. My husband proved he was miles away at the time of the accident, and the case fell apart. But defending ourselves cost us \$6,000 we didn't have. It also cost us our peace of mind and a long, long time struggling with rage and unforgiveness.

Injustice hurts because it means you've been singled out for extra malicious attention. Somebody did you wrong and didn't care enough to fix it—or even took pleasure in watching your pain. That can mess you up for life, especially when it happens again and again.

So how do we get past it? Humanly speaking, it's impossible. But Jesus came to do the impossible. And He did it first in His own Person. Jesus died on that cross, the Innocent for the evil, the Just for the unjust—for all of us who sin. Jesus took the

malicious evil of His enemies and transformed it into a gift of life and forgiveness for everyone.

And then He rose from the dead, and hundreds of people saw Him and rejoiced. But not Caiaphas. Not Pilate. Jesus spent exactly zero minutes avenging Himself. Have you ever thought about how odd that is?

Maybe not. We are so used to His grace, it doesn't occur to us to imagine Him taking revenge. But it's different for us. We know we shouldn't, but the revenge fantasies keep coming. And we're tempted to harm people right back. How can Jesus set us free?

Jesus does it for us gladly, through the work of His Holy Spirit. He guards our tongues and our actions when we ask Him to. Jesus Himself lives in us and through us, making the patient, merciful responses we simply can't do on our own.

And over time—and it may take a very long time!—we begin to let go of the anger. Jesus heals our hearts. And the Spirit transforms us, more and more, into the image of Jesus our Savior. What more could we ask for?

WE PRAY: Dear Lord, help us to walk in Your footsteps, because we sure can't do it on our own. Amen.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is a case of injustice that still rankles in your memory?
2. How do people react when you refrain from taking revenge?
3. Why do you think they react that way?

Today's Bible Readings: [1 Samuel 10-12](#) [Luke 19:1-27](#)