

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Ian Marshall, (May 26); Mackenzie Muhsman, (May 26); Ilona Reif, (May 26); Dan Nachtigal, (May 27); Judy Sutherland, (May 17); David Thompson, (May 27); Mary Brinkman, (May 28) and Shane Renniesen, (May 28). Happy Birthday!

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Thomasine Guberski in fond memory of Betsy Wiest.

CONGRATULATIONS to our High School graduates. They are: Jonah Henry, Tracy Kidwell, Joel Moline, Tommy Nachtigal and Laura Ricklefs. We will be honoring them during of Coffee Hour this morning. May the paths you choose to follow bring you peace and happiness.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be *closed* tomorrow in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe holiday!

OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE begins *next* Sunday, June 1st and runs through August 31st. We will have 1 service at 9:00 a.m. followed by our Coffee Fellowship.

SUMMER HYMNS: Would you like to choose hymns during the summer months. Starting on June 1st and going through August 31st the congregation is invited to pick their favorite hymns. The sign-up sheet is posted on the pole in the Gruver Room. This year we are asking for only 2 hymns each Sunday and if you would like to provide special music or not. Also listed on the sign-up sheet is the list of Gospel readings for each of the Sundays during summer to help with choosing appropriate hymns.

OUR CONFIRMATION BREAKFAST will take place on Sunday June 1 @ 8:00 a.m. This breakfast is an opportunity to recognize our young adults in this important milestone in their Christian faith. We have a tradition of providing a breakfast of egg casseroles and breads for the honored guests and their families. Please call Kris Oolman 399-8801 or sign up on the pole in the Gruver room. Thank you.

VBS: This year our cooperative VBS is scheduled for the week of June 9-13, from 9 a.m.-noon for kids 4 yrs- 6th grade. The registration fee is \$5. Registration cards for campers and youth helpers are available in the church office and with Lindsay Conyers. There are flyers posted around the church and there is an article in May's newsletter. Trinity will be providing the snack on Friday (Goldfish crackers).

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SHARING A CUP OF COFFEE with your fellow worshippers? We need people to be willing to sign up to bring goodies and prepare the coffee as well between the morning worship services. See the pole in the Gruver room. Thanking you in advance!

INTERFAITH is *really* in need of food, especially protein (canned tuna, salmon, etc.) and canned fruit. Of course any donation is always appreciated. People can leave the food in the box at the church, or take their donations directly to Interfaith. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

YOU'RE INVITED to a free concert on June 8 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church (1215 E. Gibbon). The Epworth Chorale (Cathedral of the Rockies, Boise, Idaho), featuring the English Bells and Youth Choir will be performing. A free-will offering will be taken. Please see the poster and flyer for more details.

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.



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Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (5/25)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (6/1)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Bobbie Schimek	9:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt
	10:30 a.m. Diane Fiedler	
<i>Acolyte:</i>	8:00 a.m. Albert Steiner	9:00 a.m.
	10:30 a.m. Emily Brande	
<i>Ushers:</i>	8:00 a.m. Al Schimek	9:00 a.m. Bob Campbell Mike Nutter
	10:30 a.m. Georgia Mitchell Barb Rouse	
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt Jennie Lawrence	9:00 a.m. The Jablin Family
	10:30 a.m.	
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson	9:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter
	10:30 a.m. Rosalind Kidwell	

Stewards: R. Kidwell / M. Stayton *Altar Guild:* The Oolmans

Coffee Fellowship: Lindsay Conyers / HS Grads

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, May 25	8:00 a.m.	Worship (HC)
	9:15 a.m.	SS Finale / Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship (HC)
Monday, May 26		Office Closed
Tuesday, May 27	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
Wednesday, May 28	10:00 a.m.	Women's Study
	7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
Thursday, May 29	7:00 p.m.	Seekers



I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS
JN. 14:18

WE ARE HAPPY to have you with us today. We hope that our worship service has meaning for you and that you will come back and worship with us again soon. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. If you are unable to approach the communion rail and would like to receive communion, please let one of the ushers know and we will come to you. Grape juice (yellow) is available in the center of each tray. For those who wish, a nursery is provided during the worship service just off the South Lobby area, for children ages 5 and younger.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are found in the back of the pew in front of you. If you wish, please fill them out and hand them to the usher during the hymn after the sermon. PEW PADS are found at the inside end of each pew. Please fill them out, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: You are encouraged to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. **Please** recycle the pieces that you do not choose to keep by putting them at either end of the pews at the back of the church. Help us save some trees! Thanks.

RIDE MINISTRY: Since there are now several people at church who need rides to worship, we are forming a Ride Ministry. If you are interested in helping out please call the church office @ 745-4222 or talk with Lois Hiller, 742-6455.

¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

***GOSPEL: John 14:15–21**

Glory to you, O Lord.

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

Pastor Keith Prekker

SERMON: "Unknown Gods"

Pastor Keith Prekker

***HYMN: "This Is My Father's World"**

#824

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made alive in Christ and filled with his Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

You abide with your church, O God. Empower us with your Spirit, so that your people speak and live the love revealed in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You abide with your creation, O God. Breathe on fields and forests, lakes and oceans, and all living things so that they thrive as you intend. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You abide with the nations, O God. Reveal your truth, so that nations and peoples govern in peace and advocate for justice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You abide with the needy, O God. Cheer the sorrowful, protect the orphan, support the grieving, and heal the sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You abide with the fearful, O God. Transform fear into freedom for the life Christ has promised. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember, O God, those who have died in the faith. Assure us of your life-giving Spirit until that day when we will abide with you forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, merciful God, and dwell in us richly, through Jesus Christ, our life and our redeemer.

Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always,
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PSALM: Psalm 66:8–20

⁸Bless our ¹ God, you peoples;
let the sound of ¹ praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us a- ¹ mong the living
and has not allowed our ¹ feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have ¹ tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- ¹ ver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in- ¹ to the net;
you laid heavy burdens up- ¹ on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through ¹ fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place ¹ of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house ¹ with burnt offerings
and will pay ¹ you my vows?**

¹⁴those that I promised ¹ with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I ¹ was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the ¹ smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- ¹ en and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you ¹ who believe,
and I will tell you what God has ¹ done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God ¹ with my mouth,
and praised the Lord ¹ with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil ¹ in my heart,
the Lord would ¹ not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth ¹ God has heard me
and has attended to the sound ¹ of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- ¹ ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing ¹ love from me.

**Glory be to the Father and ¹ to the Son:
and to the ¹ Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and e- ¹ ver shall be:
world without end. ¹ Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13–22

Christians have a zeal for doing what is right in God's eyes no matter what the circumstances because in baptism we are saved and made alive. Thus our Christian beliefs and behavior are to be a matter of public record just as our baptism is.

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** (In unison)

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22–31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

***CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY**

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

To refrain

***PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with
you. *Presider:* Lift up your hearts. *Congregation:* We
lift them to the Lord. *Presider:* Let us give
thanks to the Lord our God. *Congregation:* It is
right to give God thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Congregation: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*NOW THE FEAST

Refrain
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of
God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

***KYRIE**

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy,

3rd time to Coda ⊕

For the reign of God, and for
For your peo - ple here who have

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the

⊕ Coda

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

cy. A - men.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

***LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

*POST COMMUNION HYMN



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:



Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice



weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



3. Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death,
let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

(Silence for reflection)

God of life,
**by the resurrection of your Son
you make everything new.**
Newness scares us,
and we confess to shutting our doors in fear.
We have not listened to voices that challenge us.
We have resisted the Holy Spirit
moving us in new directions.
Our hearts are slow to believe your promises.
Forgive us, O God,
and renew us to embrace without fear
the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

People of God:
Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.
Through the waters of baptism
you have been born anew by the living word of God.
Know that your sins are forgiven in + Jesus' name
and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you
both now and forever.
Amen.

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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God's Work . . .
. . . Our Hands

Interim Pastor..... Keith Prekker
Congregation President..... Terri Rittenburg
Office Secretary..... Colleen Miner
Organist/Pianist Xu Meng
Choir Director..... Larry Hazlett

Sunday, May 25, 2014 – 6th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

*Standing

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*HYMN: "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

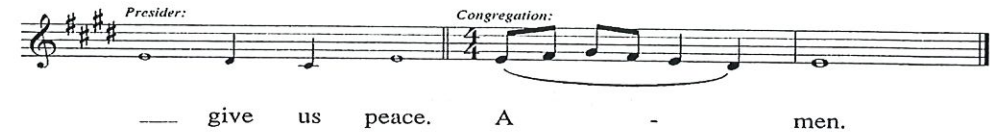
#380

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord + Jesus Christ,
by whose Spirit we have been reborn to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
Amen.

*BLESSING

Presider: May God bless us and keep us.
May God's face shine on us and be gracious.
May God look on us with favor and + give us peace.



PARISH SHARING TIME

*HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

#543

*SENDING

*POSTLUDE

Around, In, and Beside

Both *The Lion King* and the Harry Potter series center on orphaned children. Teenaged Simba discovers that his murdered father "lives in you: in your reflection." The circle of Harry's beloved dead around him becomes a comforting, strengthening presence in his ordeals.

Like the love of other people who have first loved us, God is invisible but near. Today's readings understand our longings for both. In the gospel, "the world" neither sees nor knows the Spirit. Meanwhile Paul, in the marketplace of Athens, describes the entire human family searching for the God who is "not far from each one of us," in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:27-28). What is unknown, Paul says, "I proclaim to you." Paul looks back, Jesus ahead. "I will not leave you orphaned," Jesus promises his wary friends; but "I am coming to you" in a new way. The Advocate (one called to a person's side) will be *beside* and *in* us—and we *in* God. Loneliness and fear are real, but will not be victorious. Grief and confusion will yield to insight.

During Easter the risen Christ appears, speaks as the good shepherd, and then prepares us for his ascent into heaven and the coming of the Spirit. This time of year, when shepherds herd their flocks to summer pastures, we move toward the green season. Culturally it is also a time of transitions, looking both back and ahead. On Memorial Day U.S. citizens remember those who have given their lives. We celebrate graduations, weddings, and promotions, but also anticipate the partings and changes they will bring.

We learn how God is beside, in, and around us by experiencing how absent family and friends remain in our memory and thoughts, and we in the fields of influence generated by their lives. We, God's offspring, look into baptismal waters and see our true and living reflection.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Tuesday, May 27, 2014 - John Calvin, renewer of the church, died 1564

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

Thursday, May 29 - Jiri Tranovský, hymnwriter, died 1637

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

Saturday, May 31 - Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.

Sunday, June 1 - Justin, martyr at Rome, died 165

Born of pagan parents, Justin was influenced by an elderly Christian in Ephesus. He became a teacher of philosophy and the Christian faith. Jailed for practicing an unauthorized religion, he refused to renounce his faith and was beheaded.

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Search for God...

*though indeed
he is not far from
each one of us*