

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

12391 Mercy Blvd.

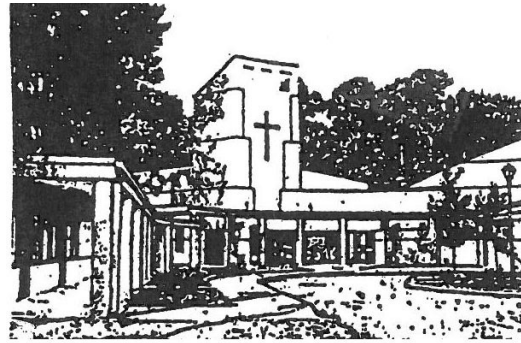
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

May 2011

TCN is here.

The folks from Transforming Churches Network (TCN) will be coming in Thursday May 5. And Friday they begin chatting with folks in the congregation.

Here is what has been happening over the last few months.

Back in November when Pastor Biel came to Trinity, he made a presentation to the congregation. About 16 people were there, most folks from Church Council and Evangelism plus a few others. He presented what TCN could do for us as a congregation in helping transform Trinity into being more mission minded in Savannah.

Church Council decided that this was something from which Trinity could benefit. Back in January, we notified Pastor Biel of TCN that we were interested in them coming to do a Consultation Weekend. The weekend of May 6-8 was chosen for them to come out for a visit.

Now that we were scheduled, they gave Trinity some homework to complete. They had the congregation do a self study. The task to complete this study/survey was done by Church Council. This entailed answering questions about Trinity's history, putting together a profile of the congregation and community, providing a list of the ministries we are involved in, examples, Food Pantry, LWML, Trinity Cares, Youth, Young at Heart etc.

They also wanted to know what we do for leadership development, what the most recent construction projects were, what outside organizations meet here. They were also interested in what are current challenges, fears, frustrations were, what were the congregations best assets, how our congregation is known in the community, changes going on in the community.

In addition to this, what statistical information we had on Sunday school attendance, worship attendance and congregational budgets over that last 20 years was collected. This information helps them determine trends and the like.

All of this information was collected and given to the folks at TCN. By the time, they arrive, they will have had several weeks to review the information.

When they arrive, they will come and conduct interviews on Friday May 6th with the paid staff, and with some of our board chairs. This is to be completed by 5pm. Then from 7pm to 8:15pm, there will also be a Focus Group meeting. This group is selected out of the congregation to include about 20 people. The TCN folks asked that the President and Pastor come up with a list of folks from all demographics of the congregation, younger and older,

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folks with young children, folks with older children, folk with no kids, men and women. These folks could not be church council leaders, paid staff or the spouses of any of the mentioned. They want folks who otherwise, “might not have a voice” through the people they have interviewed. The TCN folks want to make sure they get a variety of input from the congregation. They will meet with this group to get their ideas on what is happening at Trinity and what might be Trinity’s strengths and areas of concerns. All of the interviews are confidential and this confidentiality includes the Focus Group.

Saturday morning beginning at 9:00 am through 3:00pm, a leadership workshop will be given on how a congregation may become more mission minded to their community. Church Council, Elders, Board of Evangelism will be in attendance. Plus anyone from the congregation who would like to attend can join in the workshop. This is your invitation to participate in the process. There will be a sign up sheet to get accurate numbers, because lunch will be provided.

Then when they are done Saturday afternoon, the TCN folks will get together and write up a report. They will present this report to the congregation in a “Town Hall Meeting” on Sunday morning May 8th during the Sunday School hour. Through the course of the interviews, self study and their evaluations, the TCN team will come up with five (5) prescriptions for Trinity. These prescriptions are what they think Trinity should do to become more mission minded in our community. They will discuss why they make this suggestions and how it will help us.

Then comes the important part for Trinity. We will need to pray about their suggestions. And we as a congregation will have opportunity to discuss the prescriptions TCN wants us to do. (Separate meetings will be scheduled.) At a special voters’ meeting, we as a congregation will then need to decide: Should we adopt all 5 prescriptions or not? Should we adopt all 5 prescriptions, TCN will assist us over the next two years to help see that we accomplish them. Should not all 5 be adopted, then our relationship with TCN ends.

The folks at TCN would like to see Trinity make this decision 6 weeks after their Consultation with us.

Why are we going through this? Recall from my April newsletter article. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is in a slow decline in membership growth. The enthusiasm for reaching the lost is not there like it used to be. The Florida-Georgia District would like 50% of the congregations in district to go through the TCN process. The goal is to revitalize and renew the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations. For us, it starts right here in Savannah.

Therefore, keep the TCN team in your prayers, keep Trinity in your prayers, that the Lord’s will for His Church at Trinity will be done.

Serving the Lord with you,
Pastor Hopkins

Special Thank You!

We had over 400 people in attendance for our Easter Sunday worship services. I want to thank the Altar Guild, Festival Choir, TLC Singers, Praise Band and Elders for all of their assistance in making the Lenten Season and Holy Week services such meaningful time to worship our Savior Jesus.

We had a number of guests through all the services. Pray that the Spirit would strengthen their faith and for those who visited who live in town, come back to join us in worship.

Trinity is blessed with all kinds of gifted people. Your participation from using your gifts in worship of the friendliness of the folks in the pews goes far in making Trinity a wonderful place to worship and for me...to serve as your pastor.

Thank again,

Pastor

NURSERY WORKER NEEDED!

We are in need again of an individual who would be willing to work in our Nursery on Sunday mornings. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please have them contact Michelle Pitts or Pastor Hopkins in the church office.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our next Voter's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, 2011. The presentation of nominees to serve on Church Council, and their approval, is the main agenda item in May of each year. Our meeting time will be shortly after the conclusion of late service.

It's hard to believe that three years have gone by since being nominated to serve as your church President. More so than being enjoyable and educational, it has been an honor and a privilege to have served in this capacity. I've been fortunate, as many others before, to have been surrounded by hardworking congregational and fellow Council members. You and they are the reason for much of Trinity's success. I offer my thanks, and pray God's blessings, to each and every one of you. The slate of nominees to serve the next couple of years is outstanding. Trinity will be well served by them. Please continue to offer them your prayers, encouragement and support.



God's Peace,
Scott Idleman

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a weekly Bible study for Trinity youth, led by Rachel Hopkins. Eight or more of our young people attend this study session each week. Previously it was held on Monday evenings, at the Hopkins home. It has been moved to Thursday evenings – 7:00 PM.

Speaking of Bible study – the Book of the Month Club has returned to the Trinity Lutheran scene. The club had its second gathering in mid-April, just before Palm Sunday. Watch for the next scheduled meeting to be announced in your Sunday bulletin. The Club is open to all adults. The meetings include Bible study and a pot luck meal – and terrific fellowship. At the last meeting the focus of the Bible study was “From the Upper Room to the Cross.” Stay tuned for the next meeting and the next Bible study.

If you look at the report of designated gifts, list in the Sunday bulletin, you will see “Fan the Flames” listed once or twice each month. These funds go to the Florida/Georgia LCMS District office. A portion of them is returned to Trinity Lutheran for local evangelism projects. Our congregation recently received \$491 back from Fan the Flames. These funds have been used for electronic billboards, to advertise our Holy Week worship schedule and to promote the National Day of Prayer (which is May 5th).

You've also seen The Living Vine appear on the list of designated gift recipients. The Living Vine is a local ministry for young ladies who choose life over abortion. These women are provided with a place to live while expecting their child. They are also provided with a program of counseling and training designed to help them make wise, Christian choices for their child and for themselves. If you would like to know more about The Living Vine, call them. They will be happy to hear from you. During the past month members of Trinity have contributed \$270 to The Living Vine. During the past year our congregational contribution to this Christian-based program was \$2277.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Welcome to the month of Yam! Wait a minute, you might say, Yam is not one of the twelve months of the year! And you are right, but if you reverse those three letters you have the month of May. You can have some fun reversing words, like your name or the names of others or whatever triggers your imagination.



However, we sometimes get important things reversed and that is not good. For example, we Americans often think of ourselves as “owners” instead of “managers.” That runs contrary to what the Bible clearly teaches in passages like Psalm 24:1 which state that ***“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”*** All things belong to God because He is the Creator and therefore the Owner of all things, including us.

What are we then? We are managers, trustees or caretakers of that which belongs to someone else. For example, Genesis 2:15 states that ***“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”*** The garden belonged to God, but He chose to have Adam work the garden and take care of it. If Adam would have thought that the garden belonged to him, he would have reversed the truth.

If we are not clear on the proper distinction between Owner and manager we will have major struggles with Christian stewardship. We will conclude that all the things we surround ourselves with belong to us and, therefore, we can use them in any way we choose. That assumption is a misconception of what the Bible teaches. It is also opposed to the first Article of the Apostles Creed which says ***“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.”*** We could also add ***“and Owner”*** between “Maker” and “of.”

For several decades our church has defined ***Christian stewardship as the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing (not owning) all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.*** That definition clearly distinguishes the important difference between owning and managing.

So, in this month of Yam, oops, May, resolve to grow in your understanding and practice of what it means to be a Christian steward. There is an old saying that ***“April showers bring May flowers.”*** During this Easter season with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we can grow like beautiful flowers that give witness to the beauty and glory of our Father in heaven. To God be the glory!

Rick Mizell, Stewardship Chairman

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Easter season is a few days behind us. What a great and glorious event we were able to experience on Easter Sunday! He is risen!

The Saturday before Easter Sunday was a special treat for children and adults alike. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was well attended with 35 children and an equal amount of adults. Before the "Great Hunt", children were involved in a craft (thanks Judy Bringman!), a bouncy house for the little folks (thanks LeAnn Grefski for providing it!), the story of The Three Trees read by Donna Hopkins, and the Crown of Thorns presented by Miss Michelle! Lunch followed the egg hunt - hot dogs grilled by Mike Fajen. Huge thanks to Linda Fajen for once again making sure everything for the day was in place and set to go!



We would like to send our sincere "Thanks!" for all who donated candy again this year. We'd also like to thank all those people who helped "stuff" the eggs!

Vacation Bible School

Our next big adventure is VBS which will be held the week of June 27th through July 1st. An adventure in the jungle is the theme this year. Be prepared for some unique advertising again this year!

Adult Bible School

We again have three options for the adults who wish to attend Sunday School: Pastor's class meets in the Social Hall; Ted Schmidt's class on Martin Luther meets in the Sanctuary; and Bill Edwards' class meets in the classroom behind the Activity Room in the Education Building.

Did you know:

- Bill Edwards is getting excellent reviews on his class?
- Ted Schmidt's knowledge on Martin Luther is quite expansive?
- Pastor's class is studying the Book of Genesis?
- You can join in on any of these three classes at any point in time? Come and join in on the fellowship in each of these adult classes - they are truly fun and a great learning experience for all!

Chris Garretson,
Chairman, Bd. of Christian Education

BOARD OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Congregational Workday Saturday May 14, 9-12 L.O.L.

Work Day Saturday May 14, 9-12 L.O.L. We will be working outside, weather permitting, and inside in either case. We will need to get ready for the onslaught of summer before it gets too hot, and there are always a lot of odds and ends and maybe a few small projects. As usual, fellowship and a great lunch, so join in the fun!



April Work Day Weather was great in spite of the prediction of rain, and what a fantastic crew! Wow! The talented and energetic crew included Kevin and Lisa & company, Jonathon and Brenda and Brittany, John and Ellen, Bruce and Judy, J.B., Doug and Shirley, Toy and James, Larry, Linda, Gila, Janie, Lonna, and the Alter Guild, and probably a few other that I may have missed. It was a great day and the teamwork and chutzpah of the group had obvious good results. Check out the grounds, check out the Activity Room, check out the attic, check out craft storage, check out chair storage, just to name a few of the target areas. Great work folks! Thanks a bunch.

A Special Property Management Thank You To Janie, the Craft Group, and the Wednesday Bible class for all the great work in cleaning out the attic. This was done before work day was a special surprise and really made my work day a whole lot easier. The attic is in the best shape that I can ever remember. After the Sunday School group went through and did their thing and we hauled out all the widows and orphans boxes, we were even able to sweep it out. Great, great piece of work folks.

Energy and Going Green I spoke last month about the motion sensor switches in the restrooms. These switches have a small slider switch on the bottom which can be used to switch to the 'always off', or 'always on' position if desired. This slider should be in the middle position for the lights to work in the automatic mode. Please return the switch to this position if you have used this slider, thanks!

I am still looking for some help to design a system to shutdown our hot water heaters for the Sanctuary and Ed building when the buildings are not being used. If you have some knowledge of controls and relays, let me know and see if we can find a way to keep these units off-line until needed.

Activity Room We still have some minor things to do to finish off the room and need to get some additional equipment, but this room is ready to go. Enjoy!

Parking I covered this last month and situation has improved. As noted then, there have been some groups and individuals that have parked on the grassy areas of our campus. The grass is coming out of dormancy and we need to stay off of these areas. Please, respect our lawns! Thanks.

Mike Fajen
mfajen@comcast.net
236-3128 home, 224-3646 cell

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Board meets on the second Monday of each month. If you are interested in outreach and fellowship opportunities at TLC please join us.



We have initiated a change in the functioning of the Food Pantry. For some time we have been supplementing the food items we distribute with gift cards from Publix. Our intent was to make it possible to supplement the food we provide with perishable items. Unfortunately we are unable to monitor or limit the use of these cards and it has come to our attention that some people have been abusing this gift. In fact, some have refused food and demand only gift cards. This is not in keeping with the spirit of this ministry. We will be suspending the giving of gift cards for at least one quarter to see if this impacts the use of the Food Pantry. We feel that people who are truly hungry will be grateful for the bounty TLC provides in the Food Pantry and continue to come when they are in need. Those who are looking only for some “cash” to possibly buy liquor or tobacco products will be weeded out. We will keep in close contact with the church office, which does an excellent job of handling Food Pantry requests and keeping us updated. In the meantime please continue to support the Pantry with your donations of portable meals for those in need.

Our next Book of the Month Club meeting will be held on Friday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mike and Linda Fajen. We will be enjoying a video presentation of a Beth Moore lesson on prayer, taken from the book of Luke. Bob Grefski will facilitate a discussion after the viewing. Once again this is a casual, pot luck event where we share food, fellowship and Bible study. All are welcome. See the Fajens or any Social Ministry member for directions.

The next big fellowship event will be our Congregation Picnic on July 16th at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon. Save the date and watch for further updates.

Breakfast Update – The Girl Scouts have done an excellent job providing breakfast on the 4th and 5th Sundays of the month. They have requested that after June they drop back to just the 4th Sunday of the month. This will give more groups the opportunity to participate in this ministry in the months with a 5th Sunday. July and October will be the only months left in 2011 with a 5th Sunday, so if your group has a need for fund raising or a charity you would like to help please call Sharon to get on the breakfast calendar. Sunday breakfast has become an awesome way to promote fellowship, Sunday School attendance and fund raising. Sign up and be part of it!

In his love
Sharon Grefski

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

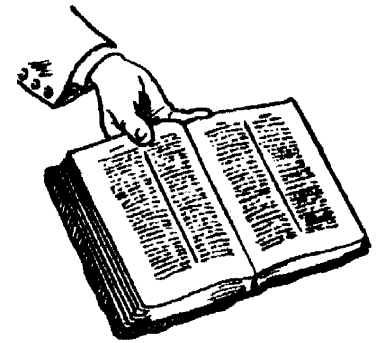
A Mighty Fortress is Our God
NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER

May 5, 2011

Trinity Lutheran Church

10 am - 8 pm

Pastor Hopkins: Prayer Service at 6 pm



PRAY—PRAISE—and GIVE THANKS

May 5th will be your opportunity to unite with other Americans in a day of PRAYER. Prayer brings us into the presence of Almighty God.

Praise Christians nation wide are asked to intercede for America and its leadership:
Repent Seven centers of Power

Ask *Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church, and Family*
Yield

Help is needed to welcome others throughout the day. If you can give an hour of your time please call the church office at 925-4839 and let Rod know when you can serve.

Check out the digital billboard on the left side of Montgomery Crossroads near White Bluff as you travel towards Abercorn. We were been able to announce our Holy Week Services, and now Sunday services, and National Day of Prayer there. Our ad is shown for 10 seconds every minute. The ad started on Monday, April 18th and will continue through May 5th.

I hope you have had your picture taken for the pictorial directory. The directory should be available by the first of June. We want to be able to include the new church council members in the directory. The directory will be one that can be updated as we welcome new members. A special thanks to Deb Stephenson for all of her time and talent given to this project and to LeAnn Grefski for stepping in to help out when needed.

Remember to always smile and welcome those faces you do not know. Everyone enjoys a warm greeting. Share the love of Christ wherever you are.

In Christ's Service
Lonna McEwen
Board of Evangelism

THE ALTAR GUILD



CHRIST is RISEN! HE is RISEN INDEED!

A special thank you to all TLC members that purchased Easter lilies for the beautification of the altar as we celebrated our Risen Lord on Easter Sunday. Each of you helped make it a fragrant beauty of celebration. If you have not taken your Easter lily, and want it, you may still take it following the late worship service on May 1st.

Please do NOT take the butterflies. These have been purchased by the altar guild and we will use them again. Why all the butterflies? They represent new life. A reminder to each of us, that we, too, receive new life through our belief in the Risen Lord. A personal 'thank you' to J.B. Strange for

his help in manning the ladder to hang the butterflies in the narthex for Easter Sunday and to Mike Fajen and Kevin Riedl in hanging the drapes on the outside cross for Lent, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

New banners are being hung in the social hall and we hope that all will take heed to the messages they give through an array of colors and messages of the church year. You are able to celebrate Christmas, praise the Risen Lord, give thanks for the beauty of creation and much more in just one continual movement around the social hall.

‘Thank You’ to all the ladies on altar guild that give so much in service to our Lord. Many hands make our service much easier.

Work is being completed in the sacristy for the storage of all the banners and we much appreciate all the time and work given to make this possible.

In Service to Our Risen Lord,
Lonna McEwen
Altar Guild President

LWML

LWML Guild will meet at the church on Thursday May 5.
We will attend Pastor's service at 6 PM on the National Day of Prayer.
We will have a meeting immediately following in the social hall with light refreshments.



Mark your calendar for Thursday May 12 to join us at The Exchange on Waters for our end of the year banquet. Drinks and social begin at 6 PM with dinner at 7 PM. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex...

In Christ,
Barbara Prieto, President – Evening Guild

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



We will be making quilts on Tuesday, May 3rd and on Tuesday, May 24th, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Come and join us if you can. There is always something to do; wonderful fellowship plus helping others.

We sent a quilt to Harbor House in Illinois. They were real pleased with it. There will be a fund raiser to support the harbor House, a place for family services. We are still gathering Campbell abels for Bethesda in Watertown, Wisconsin.

We thank all our workers, anyone who donates anything to our project. It is all appreciated. We continue to pray for the sick and shut-ins and for all who need prayers. We also always remember the military men and women – and their families. We also pray for our church and all its members and families.

With love and prayers,
The Quilting Committee

YOUNG AT HEART - OVER 50 GROUP

The Young at Heart group met at Ruby Tuesdays in the Savannah Mall, with 20 members present. The seating was tight, but the food and service were great. We were also blessed with wonderful weather for us to enjoy.

A suggestion was made to go to Red Lobster in May. which will be on May 17th at 11:00 AM. We are asking for a room with better seating. More information will follow. This will be the last get-together before the summer. We will meet again in September. Once again, you will be called, so pray we have a great turn out in May.

Come with us if you are able. It is a joy to have so many turn out.

God Bless all of you,
Ardell Hasenjaeger



YEAR END BANQUET

The Year-End Banquet will be on May 12th this year. **All ladies** of the congregation are welcome. Please join us. The more, the merrier. It's a delightful evening of conversation and Christian sisterhood.



This year we will gather at The Exchange on Waters. At 6:00 PM we'll begin a social hour, time to sip some sweet tea and enjoy chit-chat. The meal begins at 7:00 PM. You can choose between a Fried Shrimp Basket, Chicken Alfredo Pasta, Grilled Salmon or a Ribeye Steak. The price for the meal (including a non-alcoholic beverage, a house salad, tax and gratuity) is \$18.95.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. It's going to be a great evening. Come, join us.

NURSERY

We NEED volunteers to help in the nursery. It is our hope to gather a group of eight to twelve volunteer attendants. You know the old saying, "many hands make light work." While the office searches for a new, regular nursery attendant we need volunteers to help in this service to our worshippers. If you would be interested in helping on one or two Sundays a month, please contact Michelle.

WE GET LETTERS

On Saturday afternoon, March 26th, Karen Faith McGowan presented Her personal testimony of faith to a few members of our Trinity family. Mrs. McGowan had been invited to speak by the Evangelism Committee.

Many of you chose to not attend this event and you missed something remarkable. Karen suffered a serious lung infection in 2005 and nearly died even though Doctors were fighting to save her. After about eleven days in a coma and seven days of antibiotics, her treatment plan was changed and she began to recover. However Karen was not expected to sing again because of the damage to her lungs.

The full account of her experience and of God's constant presence through the entire ordeal is nearly beyond description. During her presentation here she shared her musical gifts by playing the piano and singing. She stood whenever she was not playing the piano, over a period of about an hour. Now think



about that. She has only two-thirds of her lungs and she has damaged vocal cords from her near-death experience.

Karen's husband, Charles, prefers to remain in the background. However, without him it would not be possible for her to give these talks and travel around Georgia. Pray for Karen and her witness. Pray for Charles too, because they are a team.

Roy Hensel

BIRTHDAYS FOR May

5/1	John Hopkins	5/15	Bethany Legg
5/2	Jared Caruso	5/16	Hayden Ervin, Gigi Schumacher
5/3	Kevin Kuzeff, Savannah Legg		Kenneth Wands
5/4	Cindy Baldwin, Dawn Brown, Gail Diller	5/17	Robert Murray
	Joan Vadella	5/19	Carole Eckes
5/6	Lonna McEwen	5/20	Ernie Martin
5/9	Renae Lowe, Baily Williams,	5/21	John Mataxas
	Connor Williams	5/22	Julian Hines
5/11	Calvin Wayman	5/23	Ryan McEwen, Marilyn McKee
5/12	Kiersten Collins, Danny Smith	5/25	Elijah Legg, Michael Tuck
5/14	Donna Johnson, Maureen Kerstein	5/26	Claudia Canfield, Ethan Lindsey
	5/30 Ed Holscher, Jordan Klebe, Kasey Perks		
	5/31 David Chance		

We thank God for each and every person at Trinity who is celebrating his or her birthday this month and pray for the Lord's blessing upon each of them. This list is provided so friends may say a special prayer and acknowledge the birthday of loved ones. If you or someone you know at Trinity was not included in this listing, please contact Rod at the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Sunday	Attendance Early Service	Attendance Late Service
March 23 rd (Wed's Lent)	89	
March 27 th	112	105
March 30 th (Wed's Lent)	83	
April 3 rd	102	132
April 6 th (Wed's Lent)	76	
April 10 th	83	120
April 13 th (Wed's Lent)	74	
April 17 th	111	173
April 21 st (Maundy-Thursday)	137	
April 22 nd (Good Friday)	163	
April 24 th Easter Sunday	212	211

** Early Service shows both Sunrise and Early

Average attendance per Sunday	272
Percentage of Baptized members attending	53%

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: Pastor John Hopkins: pastorhopkins151@bellsouth.net
Michelle Pitts: michellepitts@bellsouth.net
Rod Stephenson: tlcsecretary616@bellsouth.net

THE MISSION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**To nurture and equip God's people for their daily ministry,
as they reach out in word and deed with the good news of Jesus Christ.**