

Glad Tidings

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Other opportunities to be in God's Word

Tuesday Morning

Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.

This group has been using the magazine "Good News", which is published by Concordia Mission Society. The editor is the former LHM speaker Wallace Schultz. There are several editions available in the pastor's study/office for anyone who would like to review a topic or use one for a personal Bible study.

Wednesday morning

Ladies Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 28th we will be starting a new Bible Study. Women spend a lot of their time waiting to be happy; thinking it will be right around the corner. Don't keep waiting. You can start enjoying the blessings of God today when you start noticing the joys hidden in plain sight. Books are \$8.00. The books help follow along with the study, but are not required. Please let Kristin Myher now if you would like a book.

If evenings are better, join us at the **Cottage Meetings** the last Friday of the month at 7 p.m. hosted at a members home. December meeting place to be announced

Pastor Snider's Sunday Adult Bible

Study is taking us on a journey through Song of Solomon. Join us for this interesting study of God's words regarding love between man and woman

We hope to see all of you at one or more of these Bible Studies.

Christian Education News

From the Editor: Due to the Holidays, Christian Education News will resume next month. Also Pastor's Page as Pastor is in Nebraska performing a wedding.

I would like however to note the wonderful Children's Service this year and thank all those youth and children that participated, along with the special music that was provided during the program and at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services. The soloist and addition of the guitar during the hymn was wonderful expression of

worship that was much appreciated by the congregation and I'm sure by God himself. Also the insight of Pastor Snider to have everyone be able to go up to the altar during the flute solo of Away in a Manger and view the beautiful nativity scene that he has enjoyed these past weeks. There were two flute solos, generational, as mother and daughter both performed, as well as a trombone solo and a choir selection. Trinity was blessed with music this holiday.

Council Note

A committee is being formed to review our congregation's constitution. Mike Myher, Greg Eppler, and Mike Fansler are on the committee and would like volunteers for the committee and any suggestions would be appreciated



Trinity Lutheran Church 2009

Know What Our Children Are Studying

The topics for January include:

1/6 The Visit of the Wisemen	Matthew 2
1/13 The Baptism of Jesus	Luke 3:15-22
1/20 Jesus Changes Water to Wine	John 2:1-11
1/27 Jesus Rejected at Nazareth	Luke 4:16-30

Something to share

**Yule Blog 2012-2013:
God's Dilemma**

WALTER RUSSELL MEAD

Two years ago at this time New York city was paralyzed by a blizzard; thankfully, I was visiting family outside the city when the snow fell and was able to hole up in my house upstate where I teach at Bard College.

There was plenty of snow up there, but around Bard people know how to deal with big snowstorms. The streets were clear, the stores open and I was a quiet New Year weekend grading termpapers and otherwise tending to business.

A fresh fall of snow is a wonderful thing. For the first few hours, the snow is pure and fresh; then the people (and the dogs) come out. Gradually the snow is trodden down, plowed into icy heaps, and begins to turn various unsightly colors as the soot from passing cars and various other substances defile it. After a few days it is an ugly, unsightly mess, and one longs to see it cleared away.^{2.313}

New years can be like that, too. They start out clean and pure and we make resolutions to keep them that way. Then, over time, the old habits creep back and before long we will be needing a fresh start once again.

Over the last few days we've been delving into the meaning of Christmas; it's led us into a discussion of the Christian concept of God. There are many qualities that can be used to describe the deity; Muslims often speak of the "ninety-nine names of God," and it's an instructive and beautiful list on which any monotheist can profitably meditate.

But at the end of the day, for Christians the heart of the matter is this: God is love. Love doesn't just describe God's relationship to the creation; it describes God's essence — his inner life and being. This as we have seen is the origin of the Christian idea of the Trinity: love is so intrinsic to the divine nature that we cannot conceive of his unity as solitude.

Strange as it may seem,
the maker ... seeks out
the pleasure of our
company;

From a Christian perspective, God's act of creation is an expression of love. God made the world because he wants an abundance of beings and sensibilities to love, to be with, to share life with and to make happy.

That is where we come in. We have no way of knowing whether there is life on other planets, much less what if anything it thinks and whether it has religious aspirations, but among those life forms

we know anything about, people have a particular place in God's plan.

The Bible tells us that God loves animals and even plants. He knows when any sparrow falls and the Psalmist says,

"The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of all things living" (Psalm 145:15-16). God clothes the lilies of the field, Jesus says, more gloriously than King Solomon in all his robes (Matthew 6:28-29).

It is possibly not quite right to say that God loves people more than he loves the animals and plants with which we share our planet. It would be better to say that he loves every being in the way most appropriate to its nature, and that people, made in God's image and given both personality and intelligence, receive a unique kind of love and were created to enjoy a special relationship with God. Strange as it may seem, the maker and ruler of the universe seeks out the pleasure of our company; we can please God and we can hurt him by the ways we treat him, treat ourselves and treat one another.

All this means that human beings present God with an extraordinary problem. On the one hand, we are irresistibly lovable, beautiful and, where God's love is concerned, needy: how could we not be? Beings made by love out of love are inescapably drawn to the perfect love from which they come. No matter how grizzled and grumpy we become with the passing years, or how pimpled and snarky we turn in our adolescence, God looks at us with the kind of tender solicitude and hopeful anxiety with which we look at small children.

Yet at the same time, we're a fairly nasty bunch of characters, more Lord of the Flies than Little Lord Fauntleroy. Just pick up a newspaper or go to your favorite news site: genocides, starvation, vast

contrasts of poverty and wealth; terror, arms races, environmental destruction; the rich and the poor cheating and stealing from one another, with the rich generally doing best because they've got more power to abuse; nations nursing ancient wounds as hatreds fester.

Or back off from these entrenched historical evils and look at what goes on in families, neighborhoods and among friends. Abused children grow up to repeat the cycle. Children of alcoholics and addicts grow up with psychological wounds that predispose them to repeat the same sad behavior. Widespread epidemics of cheating in school, cheating on taxes, cheating on expense accounts, cheating on spouses. It's a bit like the national debt; each generation gets the bill for its parents' shortcomings — and passes that bill with some additional charges down to their own heirs.

Christians talk about this situation under the heading of original sin, saying that our species has been a big dysfunctional family since the dawn of time, and that each of us repeats and adds to that cycle of abuse and betrayal in our own way even as we suffer from the damage done by those who came before. Other religions object to the kind of metaphysical structure that Christians give to the concept, but virtually everyone intuitively gets this picture of a human race somehow at war with itself and fundamentally out of whack.

This flawed race trapped in a cycle of cascading pain and wrong is what, and who, God is bound and determined to love; the question is how can he do it?

From the Christian point of view, this is not a trivial problem. People aren't just messy and incomplete. We are actively evil. As Reinhold Niebuhr puts it, we place ourselves at the center of the moral universe instead of God and our neighbors. We aren't just victims of an unjust society and a tragic history; we make choices that perpetrate and even deepen injustice and add new dimensions to unfolding tragedies of our time.

God is so loving that he can't leave us to perish in our misery and mess. He wants us with a love that will not be denied. Yet at the same time, God is too just, too all-seeing to overlook what's going on.

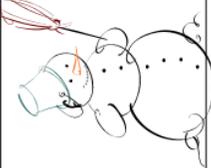
Think of a God's eye perspective on someone who beats and abuses a child.

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January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 6 8:45 Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Comm.		1 10:00 Bible Study @ Trinity	2 10:30 Bible Study @ Trinity	3 7:00 Posse Tree Undecorating 7:00 Elders	4 7:00 Cottage Meeting @ TBA	5 7:00 am Men's Group
7 8:45 Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Comm.		8 10:00 Bible Study @ Trinity	9 10:30 Bible Study @ Trinity	10 7:00 Council	11 7:00 Cottage Meeting @ TBA	12
13 8:45 Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 Worship	14 7:00 Christian Ed	15 10:00 Bible Study @ Trinity	16 10:30 Bible Study @ Trinity	17 7:00 Council	18 7:00 Cottage Meeting @ TBA	19
20 8:45 Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 Worship w/ Comm.		22 10:00 Bible Study @ Trinity	23 10:30 Bible Study @ Trinity 7:00 Choir	24 Stewardship canceled Tenatively rescheduled for Jan 31	25 7:00 Cottage Meeting @ TBA	26
27 8:45 Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 Worship Family Funday At Whiteledge		29	30	31 Altar Guild: Acolyte: 1/6 Kenny Minger 1/13 Matthew Frazzini 1/20 Kyle Rydzewski 1/27 Cassy Gulowski		

God sees the helpless victim and burns with anger; yet he also knows that the perpetrator was once an innocent victim. He felt all the fear and pain of the young child who has grown up to become an abuser, feels all the pain of the adult who has grown up twisted. Knowing the future, as God does, he perhaps can see a time ahead when today's victim is tomorrow's bully. He can see the fanatical Nazi as a child growing up in a culture wrenched out of shape by defeat, inflation and change. He can see the Ukrainian mafioso as the product of a society that suffered genocidal violence at the hands of both Soviet and Nazi oppressors. He sees the genocidaires of Rwanda and Darfur as victims in their own way of societies gone deeply wrong; yet he also hears the cries of their victims.

It is not just the spectacular sinners, with their hands drenched in blood, whose victims cry out for justice. The quiet, respectable sinners — American whites, for example, who could have done more about racial injustice but chose to turn a blind eye — have responsibilities that a just and loving God cannot ignore.

God cannot love the victim of violence or exploitation without loving and indeed demanding justice; but he cannot love anybody at all unless he finds a way to meet its strict demands. Is God going to be an inflexible prosecutor who sends us all to hell? Is he going to wink at crimes

and overlook offenses? Christians believe that God refused to choose between his love and his justice. He refused to overlook the evil of the world and say things were OK when they weren't, but he also refused to walk away from the whole ugly mess.

Instead, God chose to engage. He would draw closer to us, but not do so in a way that took evil lightly. Specifically, God chose to become a human being, to live with us and ultimately to take on himself the punishment that justice demands. The baby in the manger wasn't just there to look cute and beam rays of forgiveness to shepherds and kings. He was born to suffer rejection and injustice, to be tortured and scourged, humiliated and mocked, to face an unjust trial before an oppressive foreign ruler, to feel the full weight of the wrath of God due to all the evil in the world, and to die a cruel death while being ridiculed and mocked by those he came to serve.

God resolved the dilemma between love and justice by taking them both all the way. The creator of the world took the hit we had coming. The anger, the condemnation, the judgment all fell on Jesus, who bore it all out of love. That, for Christians, is what makes Christmas such a special time of year. God really knows us; he knows the worst things about us and isn't fooled by our rationalizations and evasions. And he still loves us

enough to be born among us and to pay the price for all we have done.

Unlike all the other prophets, preachers and visionaries who came into the world, Jesus did not just come to remind us of the importance of a moral law we cannot keep. He did not just come to tell us, eloquently and wisely, what we have known all along. He came to deal with the flaws, the weakness and the twisted selfishness that stand between us and God. He came to deal with the reality that no matter how much we might wish to live the right way — we haven't and don't.

He came to show and live out God's radical commitment to his creation. People aren't just a hobby to God. Infinite love made us to share an infinite intimacy and will go to infinite lengths to restore that bond no matter how deeply or how horribly we have failed. That love is not blind; it knows what messes we make of our lives and how we wound and damage others. But even so, God is determined to be with us.

That is why there was a baby in the manger. That is why we celebrate this time of year. God knows exactly who we are, loves us anyway, and will do whatever it takes to make this relationship work.

From <http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/01/02/yule-blog-2012-2013-gods-dilemma/>.

Fight Those Post-Holiday blues!!

Do the weeks following the Holidays leave you feeling a little "let down or blue"? We've got just the thing to look forward to!! **Winter Family Funday at Whitewood lodge.**

A day to gather, relax, talk, catch up, play games. **Jan 27th** will be the day to look forward to. Bring potluck, your favorite board games or cards, sled and ice skates if the weather cooperates. Friends and guests are welcome.

Happy Birthday!!

A very Happy Birthday from the members of Trinity Lutheran Church:

Lois Brumm 1/3

Gregory Buurma 1/6

Matthew Groeller 1/17

Abbie Churches 1/21

Jenna Frazzini 1/25

Gail Fansler 1/28

Doni Polenz 1/29

Jonathon Krueger 1/30

Lori Engel 1/31

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)



Anniversary wishes go out to:

Michael & Peggy Engel 1/11



There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

1 John 4:18

Page-o'-Blessings

This is a page that recognizes persons of our congregation who have "blessed" Trinity with their actions. If there is someone you would like to recognize for the blessings they've shown, please print their name and the "blessing" on the slip of paper and put it in the envelope provided on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We have so many blessings around us that we can thank God for.

Blessing: Mark Meyer for all the services he has been counter for.

Blessing: The Youth and Adults who performed for Christmas to honor God and his Son.

(This was blessing was requested by several different people, all who would like to encourage future expressions of worship throughout the year)

Thank you: Kenny Minger, Jim Capehart, Cathie Snider, Rachel Frazzini and Christie Frazzini.

Blessing: Bob Brumm and Bryan Bichel for fixing the heat

Prayer List

Praise and thanksgiving

Gracious God and Father, we humbly magnify the wisdom of your ways and in childlike trust commit ourselves to Your fatherly guidance. Uphold us, we pray You by Your right hand, guide us with Your counsel, and receive us at last into glory. We pray for those among us who are in special need of your guidance and healing:

- For John and Diane Menning give them comfort, peace and strength.
- For Sharon Huetteman for cancer treatments.
- George Rydzewski
- Cathie Snider relief from pain
- Richard Parks, Kenny Cadle and Terry Kaczmarek (cancer)
- For the soldiers overseas who are still protecting freedoms, our own and others in the world: Brandon Snider in Korea, Tyler Martin, and Anthony Chapman who are serving in Afghanistan.
- Guidance, wisdom and strength of faith for the Congregation of Trinity as they make decisions that will help it to grow.
- Pray for our Missionaries in other countries that they remain safe in Your care as they spread Your Word



Put your car keys beside your bed

The internet can be a wonderful source of information. This is something I hadn't thought of but in light of our current economic situation, more and more instances of breaking and entering are occurring and this little bit of advice would be helpful.

"If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Net time you come home for the night and you start to put

your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a perking lot. The alarm can work the same what there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone,

Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime."

The writer then added "...this would also be useful for any emergency, such as heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. My mom has suggested to by dad that he carry his car keys with him in case he falls outside and she doesn't hear him. He can activate the car alarm and then she will know there's a problem."

There are obviously differences in alarms such as mine only beeps about three times, but you could keep pressing the button, and if you need to leave you have the car keys in your hand already.

A Word from our Elders

Why attend church?

By Mike Myher

Why should we bother attending church every Sunday? The excuses not to are many: "It's boring"; "I'm too tired"; or "I just don't want to". The excuses that I've mentioned are (hopefully) coming from the children! Are they valid? I'm hoping not!

I have read a lot of articles and some books about professionals. Whether they are in business, athletics, or even the clergy, one thing is consistent - everyone prepares.

The executive prepares his presentation and goes over it to ensure he knows the material that he is presenting and that the audience will understand his message. The athlete practices. As I've told my daughter, "Don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong." The Pastor or the Apologetic goes

over their message making sure it is scripturally sound and that it resonates with the audience, and inspires them.

How on earth did the public speaker become so good at delivering a message or the basketball player at making baskets? They practice. They prepare. They make it a habit.

I've read that in order to form a habit you should repeat a task nineteen times in a row to establish a pattern. A recent book review that I read mentioned that ALL habits have a three part structure - a cue, a behavior and a reward.

Sunday morning is our cue. We have a choice to make. Then, we have our behavior - do we find excuses or commit? Last is the reward. In attending Bible Study and church (or Sunday school) our reward is, hopefully, the feeling of being reenergized or inspired. At the minimum it is the

joy of being around fellow Christians for a few hours each week to give thanks and to study the Word. If you choose not to attend I believe any perceived reward from this habit would be very short sighted. Do you choose to sleep in or perhaps go out to breakfast?

As Christians we seek a relationship with God. We want to have Him in our lives. We want our children to have Him in their lives. One of the most effective ways of accomplishing this is with regular church attendance.

If regular church attendance has been a habit that has been hard for you to maintain how about starting off the New Year by trying to fix this habit? What a great way to kick off the New Year!



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