# LABORS

Worship time: 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 10:15 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church and Preschool 634 Alden Drive Auburn, Nebraska 68305 (402) 274-4210 Web: http://www.trinityaubne.net

June 2016 - July 2016 Volume XXXI Number 3



When I was riding my bike over to Kids of HIS Kingdom last week, I saw what looked like a grandpa

mowing his lawn with a push mower. A little boy was following about 6-8 feet right behind him with a toy lawn mower. I'm guessing that was his grandson. This made me smile. It would have made a great picture. The little boy might have been thinking, "I want to be just like grandpa."

In seeing the little boy following the man, I thought about how Jesus wants the same for us. He wants us to follow right behind Him. Certainly, that includes trusting in Who He is as the promised Savior--that what He has done for the world at the cross and the empty tomb He has also done for us as individuals to give us forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation.

In his letter to the Ephesian Christians, the apostle Paul also encouraged them to follow Jesus. He said, "*Therefore be imitators of God*, *as beloved children*. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God…Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:1-2, 8b-10, ESV).

We can be so thankful that the Holy Spirit has brought us to repentance and faith in Christ. Through that faith alone in Jesus, we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal salvation, and receive a new identity as God's own beloved children. The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel itself and as it is connected with the water in Holy Baptism. In doing so, the Spirit sets our feet on the path of following Jesus as our Savior. Romans 6:3-4, ESV: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

What does that walking in "newness of life" that is ours in Christ look like? We are to "walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us..." The word for love that Paul uses describes that self-giving, self-sacrificing love that Jesus showed with His innocent suffering and death on the cross. He put our needs first by dying as the perfect sacrificial substitute under the just punishment we deserve for our inherited sinfulness and for all of our sins.

We know from Holy Scripture what Jesus did in that love for us. So what does He desire that love look like in our lives? In humility, that love counts others more significant than oneself. It looks not only to its own interests but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4) More specifically that love honors one's parents. It does no physical harm to one's neighbor but helps him or her in their times of need. It leads a sexually pure and decent life. It does not tell lies, gossip or slander others, but speaks in defense of them and puts the best construction on what they do and say. It does not scheme to take away from the neighbor her or his property or hurt his or her relationships.

In our relationship with God, that love shows itself in fear, love, and trust in the one true God alone. That love for God moves us to not misuse God's holy name or treat it like any other word, but calls upon it in every trouble. As a result of that love, we praise and thank the Lord for Who He is and His gracious work to provide all that we need. Love for the Lord also shows itself in gladly hearing and learning His word.

As baptized believers in Jesus, we will never be perfect in following Him in love in this earthly life. We can think about what Christ would do in any given situation, but we are unable to perfectly mimic His loving words and actions. But that's why Jesus' came into this world. That's why He why He died on the cross-to make possible the forgiveness we need. With the good news of Jesus' unconditional love for you and me, the Holy Spirit reminds us of who we are and Whose we are-God's own unconditionally loved and redeemed children. Through gospel and the Sacrament of the Altar, the Holy Spirit restores us and renews us and grants us the strength to grow in following Christ-more consistently walking in love for Him and for others.

God grant us the faithfulness and strength for that kind of following, so that when people see us, they say or think, "There's someone who is following Jesus." Amen.

God's continued blessings to you!

In Christ, our Savior,

Pastor Rathjen

P.S. There are some wonderful hymns in the Lutheran Service Book with this theme of following Jesus:

- <sup>⊕</sup> "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
   LSB 411
   <sup>⊕</sup> "Come, follow me,' the Savior Spake"
   LSB 688
   LSB 688

#### **Coming Community Events:**

**Lutheran Night at Werner Park, Monday, June 6, 7:05 PM in Omaha.** Attend the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Lutheran night when the Omaha Storm Chasers will meet the Nashville Sounds.

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Darrold Nies Memorial Golf Tournament, Friday, June 17, 9:00 AM, at the Auburn Country Club.

**Concordia Girls Basketball Camp, Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska the last week of June:** Basketball, Gospel and daily devotions combine in camps for high school teams as well as for individuals grades 3-12.

See information by the kitchen window for details.



#### All Adult Women...

...are invited to a ladies social and service night at the home of Merri Johnson, 2416 S Street, Auburn (south end of town), on Thursday, June 23, beginning at 7:00 p.m. We'll spend about 20-30 minutes assembling picture frames to be sold at the 2016 Christmas bazaar. Socializing and light refreshments will follow. Bring a lawn chair if you have one. Please RSVP to Merri at 274-5217 or merrigs40@gmail.com by Monday, June 20.

#### **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

634 Alden Drive Auburn, Nebraska 68305 274-4210

email - trinityaub@windstream.net

email – <u>trinityaub@windstream.net</u>	
http://www.trinityaubne.net	
Officers:	EFFECTIVE JULY 1
Chairman -	*Dennis Wittmann
Secretary -	*Susan Johnston
Treasurer -	*Tim Becker/
Financial Secretary -	*Jim Parrish
Board of Childhood Development:	
	Dennis Wittmann
	Erin Fisk
	Rochelle Collins
	Emily Crotty
<b>Board of Education:</b>	Amber Meyer
	Judith Ruskamp
	Sarah Bogdanoff
Superintendent -	Merri Johnson
Board of Elders:	Tim Becker
	John Ackerman
	Troy Barker
	Eric Bohling
	Dan Buman
	Michael Zaruba
Board of Evangelism:	Stacy Zaruba
Doura of Dyangonshi	Karen Kamtz
	Lori Parrish
Board of Stewardship:	Rich Tanderup
Doard of Stewardship.	Rod Penfield
	Eric Wilke
Board of Trustees:	Jerry Ruskamp
board of frustees.	Rick Fritz
	Gary Kamtz
<b>Trinity Foundation:</b>	Brian Meyer
	Melissa Buman
	Paul Hinrichs
	Gary Kamtz
	Dan Buman
Cemetery Committee:	Daryl Stutheit
	Kurt Stutheit
	TBD
Auxiliary Presidents:	

#### Luth. Laymen's League -

Richard Tanderup LWML -Angie Becker Trinity Youth Group -Zachary Becker **Church Staff** \*Rev. Jonathan Rathjen Pastor -Laurie Clark Secretary -

\*Denotes Board of Directors member

#### Congregational Goals for 2015-2016

- 1) Promote engaging relationships and connections in the community (esp. Preschool and KOHK parents) to share the saving love of Jesus.
- 2) Promote engaging relationships and connections inside the congregation to share the saving love of Jesus.
- Support Senior Youth Group Development. 3)
- 4) Develop a multi-media/sound system upgrade plan to support the needs of the congregation. [Lead Stewardship]
- 5) Update the congregation's website. {Board of Elders}

## June 2016-July 2016

ELDERS	
June	July
05 – Dan Buman	03 – John Ackerman
12 – Tim Becker	4 <sup>th</sup> of July weekend
19– Eric Bohling	10 – Troy Barker
26– Troy Barker	17 – Tim Becker
	24 – Eric Bohling
	31 – Dan Buman
ORGANISTS	PIANISTS
Joan Wittmann	Merri Johnson
	Sandy Wilson
	Vicki Ackerman
ALTAR CARE	
June	July
Angie Becker	Merri Johnson
Lisa Rathjen	Susan Johnston
ACOLYTES	
June	July
05 – Kyle Becker	03 – Kyra Becker
12 – Dariane Stutheit	4 <sup>th</sup> of July weekend
19 – Dariane Stutheit	10 – Angel Tanderup
26 – Samuel Ackerman	17 – Madison Pingel
	24 – Dariane Stutheit
	31 – Samuel Ackerman
4	er sunder Heiternhun

## **All BOARDS** Meeting August 14, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

Save the Date!

Cut out and put somewhere that you will remember to pray regularly and often in your devotional prayer time for these people:

#### **On-Going Prayers**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV

- Our missionary family: Nicaragua & Honduras: Rev. Ed and Deaconess Cherie Auger. Pray that the Lord will watch over, bless, and provide all that is needed for this missionary family. Pray also that He will keep them safe and healthy and give them encouragement as they are separated from their family. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare the hearts of those who do not yet believe in Christ Jesus to hear God's word so that they may be brought to faith in Him as their Savior.
- ዯ Others in foreign missions: Nova Scotia: Rev. Charles, Deborah, Olivia & Sophia St-Onge; Macau: Sharon Owens, Joanna & Peter; Dominican Republic: Rev. Joel, Clarion, Slav, Sergei, Andrei Fritsche and Bill, Nicole, Kiersten, & Karissa Lohmeyer; Africa Radio Ministries: Rev. John & Kathy Duitsman: Mongolia: Rev. David, Rachel, Julia, Timothy, Daniel & Esther Baker; Southeast Asia: Rev. Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, & Cassie Ferry; Kenya: Shara Cunningham and Julie McManus; Germany: Rick, Marla, Courtney & Jonah Steenbock, and Rev. Dr. Christopher, Elizabeth & Thomas Ahlman; Taiwan & the Philippines: Sean Harlow; Nicaragua: the people, pastors and deaconesses of the Lutheran Church-Nicaragua Synod: Rev. Junior Martinez and the members of the mission congregation at La Paz, Honduras; the mission congregation at Comayaguela, Honduras; and the emerging mission at Choluteca, Honduras.
- Encouragement, strengthened faith and healing for those with long-term illnesses: Kate Blaylock (Linda Jacobsen's mother), Jill Bloss (friend the Ackermans), Lee Bogle (Randy Bogle's brother), Gary Boham (Pat Maddox's brother-inlaw), Ruth Bohling, Greg Brandt (Brother-in-law of Pam Tetrick), Neena Cipolla (Janet and Chuck Hawley's granddaughter), Aaron Clark (son of former members), Myrna Corbin, Ethel Currier (Heather Lowrance's Grandma), Myrna Fredrick (friend of Jane Stutheit), Donna Gottula (friend of Trinity members), Gale Haun (Kamtz family friend), Maryann Kalkwarf (friend of Lori Parrish), Sonia Madridejo (relative of Jane Stutheit), Patty Mason (Linda Schultz's sister), Jan McCallum (friend of Dolores Glasser, Melissa Buman's mother), Cindy Meyers, (Pat Collins' niece), Roger Moerer (Wyatt Gauchat's Grandpa), Bev Moyer, Elaine Riley (Ken's sister), Nora Marie (infant relative of the Riley family), Scott Riley, Dick Schlichtmann (Vicki Ackerman's dad), LaVerta Schultze, Rosanna Tanderup (Rich's sister-in-law), Pam Tetrick, Ann Virtucio (Jane Stutheit's sister), Joy Virtucio (Jane Stutheit's sister), Cathy Volker (friend of Becky Lueders), Justin Williams (friend of Hawleys and Hasslebrings).
- Preaching stations or subsidized congregations: Zion, Crookston (Rev. Greg Hinners); Lamb of God, Hickman (Rev. Luke Russert, vacancy pastor); Sandhills Ministry [Bingham Lutheran, Bingham; Faith, Hyannis; Shepherd of the Hills, Hyannis] (Rev. Andy Safarik)
- Those in the armed forces: Dillon Becker (Tim's nephew), Bob Bogle (Randy & Kay's son), Alex Chase (son of Becky Lueders' friend, Tammy Chase), Guy Cipolla, Brody Clark (Kim Kieler's son), Aaron Fisk, Trey Hightower (friend of Trinity members), Rev. Matt Mortenson, Chris Pelchat, Scott Rathke (Becky Lueders' cousin), Chris Riley (Ken's nephew), Matt Riley (Ken's nephew), Rev. Pat Riley (Ken's brother), and Andy Roepke.
- Ethnic congregations/ministries: Cristo Cordero de Dios, Grand Island [Hispanic congregation] (Rev. Salvador Ferrero);

Ministry to Muslims, Omaha (Emad and Shireen Tawadrous, missionaries); African immigrant ministry (Rev. Eddie Mekasha); Peace International Friendship Center, Omaha (Rev. Jim Haack, director); Sudanese Ev. Lutheran Church, Omaha (Rev. Peter Gatkuoth); Jesus Es el Senor (Jesus is Lord), Omaha (Rev. Obdulio Felix); Lord of Lords Sudanese Lutheran Church, Omaha (Rev. Leroy Gerner, vacancy pastor); Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Outreach, Winnebago (Rev. Ricky Jacob).

- Seminary students we support or who have connections with our congregation: Ben Riley as he is ordained and installed as Associate Pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont, California; and Rev. Tim Prince as he finishes an advanced degree at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and Zachary Courie at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana as he prepares to be a pastor. Pray that the Lord would bless the learning process for these men so that they will be well prepared to serve Him as pastors and in other ways. Pray also that the Lord will bless their families with all that they need—physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Trinity Lutheran Preschool & Kids of HIS Kingdom Childhood Development Center that the Lord will continue to bless these missions of our congregation and bring more students to hear about the saving love of Jesus.
- Our college students Madison Anderson, Sydni Barker, Tyler Barker, Quintin Boden, Danielle Gauchat, Wyatt Gauchat, Tyler Hasselbring, Rachel Hinrichs, Kelsey Jacobsen, MacKenzie Larson, Zachary Larson, Mallory Parrish, Lauren Pelchat, Mason Pelchat, Heidi Rathjen, Scott Riley, Laura Ruskamp, Cassie Severs, Robyn Tetrick, Tori Tetrick, Hannah Wilson, and Nadine Yoesel— that God would bless them with rest and with all that they need for summertime activities. Pray also that they take time during the summer to come to worship and be refreshed by God through His word with the Good News of Jesus' love for them and with the body and blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar for the forgiveness of their sins.
- New congregations (within 5 years): Cross of Christ, Aurora (served by Vicar Timothy Wells who has been called as the new pastor), and Life Church Lutheran, Lincoln (served by vacancy pastor Rev. Bill Steinbauer)
- New ministry starts (not yet congregations): Columbus Lutheran Hispanic Ministry [joint ministry of Peace, Immanuel, 1C] (Sergio Puente, missionary); River of Life, Grand Island [satellite of Trinity, GI] (Rev. Jack Gillam/Rev. Adam Snoberger); The Edge, Holdrege [ministry of Mt. Calvary, Holdrege] (Rev. Kenton Birtell); 211South, Lincoln [satellite of Christ, Lincoln] (Rev. Jeff Scheich/Rev. Carl Grulke); LifeStory, LaVista [satellite of Beautiful Savior] (Rev. Ryan Brons)

Directory Update

#### **New Address:**

Kelsey Jacobsen 233 20<sup>th</sup>. #3 San Diego, CA 92102

 THANGE OF ADDRESS? - Please notify the church office. Thank you.
 We hope to have an updated address listing for your directory this summer – please be sure we have your current information!



#### **Flowers for Worship**

No money was approved in the 2016 budget to purchase flowers for the sanctuary for our worship services. We would still like to have flowers in the sanctuary from time to time. To

purchase 2 vases of flowers usually costs \$50-60. We know that's a lot, so if you would like to help purchase flowers, you can donate <u>any</u> amount at <u>any</u> time. People's gifts will be combined to purchase flowers as needed. If anyone has flowers that they grow, those are very welcome to be used for bouquets as well! Also, if your donation is in memory of a special occasion (anniversary, birthday, etc.), please provide information to the church office so that it can be printed in the bulletin on the date you'd like. If you have any questions, please see Pat Maddox. Thank you!



## Confirmation

May 1, 2016 three of our youth, Joshua Barker, Logan Edwards, and Elaina Riley confirmed their faith in the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – as Lutheran Christians. A number of guests joined the congregation in celebrating this special day with them and their parents and family members . We continue praying for their on-going growth in the Christian faith.



Logan Edwards, Joshua Barker, Elaina Riley, and Pastor Rathjen



## KoHK CORNER

## **New Summer Programs**

This year we are beginning a new summer program for school-aged children! This program is designed to keep the students enjoying their summer with activities such as crafts, picnics, the library, and swimming! Space is limited! If interested in enrolling your child, please contact Director Allie Graf at (402) 274-1424 or at kohkdaycare@gmail.com.

## Come & See Our Growing Daycare Mission in Action!

Please come and tour Kids of HIS Kingdom (1320 20<sup>th</sup> Street) Mondays – Thursdays, 8:00 – 10:30 AM, or 2:00 – 3:30 PM. Just as a picture is worth a thousand words, you can best feel the energy of our growing daycare by experiencing it! We have added new faces to our daycare family of children, and an exciting new summer curriculum program will soon be launched. Come and see HIS Kingdom in the small faces!

## KoHK Welcomes VOLUNTEERS!

Please contact Allie Graf (402-274-1424) to see if there is something you can help with involving various tasks at our daycare mission. Examples:

- Assisting staff with various childcare and activities
- ✤ preparing snacks
- ✤ Cleaning
- ✤ Occasional repairing/sewing of toys

Thank you Trinity members for your prayers for these missions of our congregation and to all who have helped the Preschool and Daycare missions of our congregation with gifts of time, talents and financial resources!



## Trinity Lutheran Preschool

#### Our Graduates! ...



Kollins



Ethan







TEAM

Jonah



Elijah

Six proud graduates completed Trinity Lutheran Preschool this May! We will miss these sweet faces, but share with them and their families the excitement they feel in beginning Kindergarten in a few months! Well done!

Our class for next year is already forming – if you know of family or neighbors that would like a spot, have them contact Preschool Director Kim Kieler (<u>tlpauburn@gmail.com</u>) to register.

Luke 18:15–17 <sup>15</sup>Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

#### Preschool Graduation/End of Year Program



The whole gang singing & signing the first verse of "Amazing Grace."





When I grow up I want to be a ...



The eager graduates!

#### Confirmation Class End-of-Year Picnic



Play Ball!



Quiet Time for the ladies!



GO, Pastor!

We had approximately 30 people for the Confirmation picnic on Wednesday, May 4. Pastor grilled hot dogs & hamburgers. The families of the  $5^{\text{th}}/6^{\text{th}}$  grade students brought salad, relishes, fruit & chips. The families of the  $7^{\text{th}}/8^{\text{th}}$  graders brought pop & dessert. We had lots of good food and played ping pong and kickball. Thank you to everyone who participated.



#### CONGRATULATIONS to our Graduates!

Blair Benton graduated from Nebraska City High School, and Drew Clarke and Micah Rathjen graduated from Auburn High School! Congratulations to each graduate for all their hard work and perseverance! And we give a special tribute to the parents and families of each young person, for your support and commitment to their success!

We also celebrate the graduation from college of:

- Thomas Hinrichs, from Concordia University, Nebraska who will be teaching in the middle grades at Christ Lutheran, Albuquerque, NM
- Christine Ruskamp, from Concordia University, Nebraska who will be undertaking a Graduate Assistantship at UNL, Dept. of Natural Resources, Fisheries Study
- Austin Penfield, from Hastings College with degrees in Broadcasting & Journalism
- ☆ Tyler Penfield, from Hastings College with degrees in Computer Science and Mathematics



## ICE CREAM Social Sunday, June 12 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Give in to your sweet-tooth cravings with delicious homemade ice cream, pies, cakes etc. Bring along a friend or neighbor to join us for the wonderful treats and great fellowship!

Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Laymen's League Supplemental funds by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Southeast Nebraska Chapter Funds to be used to support the Students' Scholarship Fund

## VBS IS COMING June 6 - 10!!



VBS 2016 is "farm-tastic!"

In Barnyard Roundup VBS, your children learn that Jesus gathers us together! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where Jesus graciously gathers us together to be with Him with His abundant provision and saving protection, now and forever. Your child will experience these accounts through music, crafts, storytelling, Bible challenge, recess, and snack.

Who: Any Child who is at least 4 years old with 1 year of preschool-6<sup>th</sup> grade completed Where: Trinity Lutheran Church 634 Alden Drive Auburn, NE 68305 402-274-4210 When: June 6-10 9-11:30am Please pre-register online at: http://www.trinityaubne.net

#### **Positions still needed:**

- Preschool helper
- Kindergarten helper
- Recess helper

If you can help with any of these, please contact Chantelle Wilke at (402) 276-2102 or email her at <u>chantellekay95@gmail.com</u>. Thanks!



## New Sound System



Out with old...



In with the new!



We are enjoying a much sharper sound for worship with the updated equipment at the rear of the sanctuary. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow for all who have worked on and given financial gifts for this project!



Car Wash & Bake Sale, Saturday, June 4, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. These events will help build relationships and raise funds for the group going to the National Youth Gathering. The group would welcome donations of baked goods from the congregation members. Please bring them to church by Friday, June 3 at noon. The youth will be washing vehicles for a donation. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Zaruba (srzaruba@gmail.com, or 402-274-8197), or Zachary Becker (402-274-3091).

Help Wanted: Wednesday, June 8, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, at Kids of HIS Kingdom. We will be expanding the playground at KoHK. We need help building a fence and painting a picnic table. If anyone has cordless drills or other construction tools, please bring along with you! Any questions, please contact Dennis Wittmann.

**Rev. Ed and Deaconess Cherie Auger will visit Trinity Sunday, June 26.** There will be a congregational potluck dinner following worship and a presentation. Watch for more details.

Sunday, July 10, Installation of Officers and Board Members during worship.

**Sunday, July 10, Commissioning of National Youth Gathering Participants** during worship.

Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, July 10, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. A pancake breakfast will be held to help build caring relationships among the youth group members and to raise funds for the group going to the National Youth Gathering. Watch for more details.

# JOY in Jesus... not even the rain can wash it away...



The rain eventually washed our Preschoolers' end-of-year sidewalk art away, but their decorations on the church sidewalk reflect their Joy in the Savior they are learning about!

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!