



MARCH 2015

The Delusion of our Time

Where does life come from? Our postmodern culture does not have the answer to this question. The best answer the new atheists can come up with is that extraterrestrial beings, or some meteor must have brought it to the earth in a very basic form. Such an answer by the “scientists” of our day does not fall in the realm of probability, and does not give any purpose to life and no meaning to human life.

What an opportunity to proclaim the source of life itself to a world dying in unbelief and hopelessness! The Gospel of John proclaims (1:1-4): “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.” God is the source of all life and He gives life. After Adam separated the creation from God and His gifts, God sent his Son Jesus Christ as a sacrifice to reconcile us to God. God is the Giver and Sustainer of life. There is no life apart from God – if we recognize it or not – life cannot exist apart from the Giver and Gift of life.

The delusion of our time is that people think they are completely autonomous. Where does the word “autonomy” come from? Autonomy is taken from two Greek words meaning “self” and “law”. To be autonomous is to be a law unto oneself. A person claiming to be autonomous owes no allegiance to anyone but himself. Such a person is independent and belongs to no one. He is completely focused on himself, lives for himself only. Autonomy is, therefore, an attempt to be your own god. This is an unfulfilled illusion. No one is autonomous. The fact that you have a belly button proves this. You did not create yourself. Your body was formed in your mother’s womb. Your life came to you from outside yourself. You came to be without you willing it – it is a gift from God.

At the other end of life there is the boundary of death. On Ash Wednesday we heard from Genesis 3:19 that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Try as we might we cannot extend our life outside the boundaries of birth and death. You did not decide to be born, nor can you decide to live forever. Birth and death prove that you are not in control. You are not autonomous. Many ethical issues like abortion, homosexuality, and euthanasia are often argued for on the basis of autonomy. But we know it does not exist.

The First Commandment shows that autonomy is not true. God does not argue for his own existence. He simply says: “You shall have no other gods.” In order for people to believe they are autonomous, they have to believe there is no God. Even the unbelieving philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre argued that even if the biblical God exists, we would have to pretend that He did not exist in order to be free in the way we think we want to be free. The problem is that we are not free. We are bound to the earth. We were taken from dust and will return to dust. We cannot escape being creatures. That is a good thing!

Christ became incarnate for us. He took on our human body to live, suffer, and die for us – even our attempts at autonomy. He conquered sin, death, and hell to give us life eternal in faith in Him. This Lenten Season we again humbly recognize our complete dependence on Him. He is the Source and Sustainer of life to eternity through the Gospel.

Thanks be to God for His gift of life!

Your shepherd in Christ
Pastor Gerald Paul



TRINITY LWML

Thank you to everyone who provided food, and prepared and served food for the Quad Circuit Pastors' Conference that was held recently at Trinity. Also, thanks to everyone who attended the work sessions for the fleece quilt making.

Thank you to everyone who helped with, and participated in, the Zone Lenten Brunch held at Trinity on February 21.

Service Project--Trinity LWML is joining in a recycling project with other LWML groups in the Rocky Mountain District. Funds raised through this recycling project will be used to help with the Host Committee expenses for the 2017 LWML National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. A recycling box has been placed in the narthex for collection of these items.

RECYCLE ITEMS NEEDED: Empty ink jet and laser jet cartridges.

ALSO ACCEPTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH THEIR CORDS AND ACCESSORIES: Used cell phones, PDAs, MP3 Players/iPods, Digital cameras, DVD video games/players, GPS systems, Laptops, Scientific/Graphing calculators, Tablets, eReaders and iPads.

ITEMS NOT NEEDED: EPSON CARTRIDGES OR TONER TUBES, REMANUFACTURED CARTRIDGES, PRINTING FILM FOR FAX MACHINES, INK RIBBONS FOR PRINTERS.

LWML will be serving the Lenten soup supper on March 11. If you would like to help by providing a soup, bread, or a dessert, please contact Myrna Philipp (727-3326).

The next LWML group gathering will be held on March 14 at 9:30 a.m. The LWML Board will meet on March 26 at 3:45 p.m.—anyone who would like to attend is welcome to attend! Coming in April—a Mother/Daughter activity on April 11 and the LWML Spring Rally will be held in Lewistown on either April 18 or 25.



Logo Wear

Choose from:

+ fleece vests (men and women)	\$30
+ softshell vests (men and women)	\$45
+ polo shirts (men and women)	\$25
+ button-down shirts (men only)	\$30
+ baseball hat	\$15
+ T-shirts (youth and toddlers)	\$14

All come in a variety of colors.

Color swatches are available in the blue binder at church.

Place your order at church on Sundays or at the church office during the week.

Orders close March 15.

(Most require a minimum order. If that minimum requirement is not met, no orders will be placed.)

Wee Disciples Lutheran School & Child Care Center



Lent is an important time to learn and then be prepared to celebrate Easter joy. We will have an Easter worship time with Wee Disciples Tuesday, March 24th at 6:30 pm. We would appreciate your time to share with the families. We present the Easter message, combining 'He died for us' with 'He is risen' without separation so the children and staff are strengthened and comforted. We ask your understanding as we sing songs of Easter as well as Lent in preparation for this important time.

Grace is what sets our schools apart from all the others. God's grace is the ointment that soothes the souls of students and teachers alike! Grace is not cheap. It costs. It cost the life of God's own Son, Jesus. When this grace is applied liberally in Lutheran schools and childcare centers, lives are transformed. Thanks be to God, that's what makes us different.

Registration is open for preschool, K-1 and After School classes. We are also planning for summer program registration. Please contact us if you know of someone who may be interested at 771-7882 or 799-4480.

God's Blessings,
Wee Disciples

Debbie Lee, Director

Telephone: 406-771-7882 Email: childcare@trinity-mt.org



EASTER LILIES

The Altar committee will again be placing an order for Easter lilies to grace our altar for Easter. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these lilies, please make your check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, designate on the check "**For Easter Lilies**" and drop it into the offering. If you would like your donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please call the church office with that information. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Wegner at 452-2241.



ATTENTION HUNTERS AND WILD GAME FANS

We are planning a **WILD GAME FEED** on Saturday, March 21st at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity. We are still looking for dish providers, so if you are a hunter of big game, fowl or fish, this is your chance to whip up your favorite dish to share in this fellowship event. Please contact the office with your menu addition.

All are welcome to attend and vote for the best dish and, if you choose, may bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to round out the menu. **"Duck Dynasty" attire is welcomed and encouraged!** ☺



The Estate of Bill and Caryl Davis has given Trinity a large monetary gift that has been placed in an LCEF account.

Trinity Lutheran Church thanks Bill and Caryl for their many years of devotion and service to the Lord, the congregation of Trinity, and for their generous gift that will continue to serve the Lord for many years to come.



The Montana District has established a Mercy Fund in order to provide relief for catastrophic health care expenses for Montana District LCMS church workers and their immediate family members. This fund will offer grants to cover unreimbursed medical and attendant travel costs.

There is an immediate need for contributions for **Pastor Erich Kaelberer**, of Thompson Falls. He has been diagnosed with ALS. The family has already incurred substantial financial burdens. You may make your tax deductible contribution to this fund by writing a check to: Montana District Mercy Fund, 30 Broadwater Ave, Billings, MT 59101 Please include "Kaelberer" in the memo line.



HELP NEEDED!

Jon Chapman would like some adults to help with the audio/visual recordings of the worship services; and also to help watch and train the youth on the audio/visual equipment. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet in the church office. For more information, please talk to Jon on Sunday, call him at 452-0524 or email him at jecrec@q.com.



FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS

FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will begin a new study of I CORINTHIANS in late March, when the snowbirds return to Great Falls! Come and join the group as they meet on Friday, March 27th from 1:00-3:00 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave. South. You will enjoy the fellowship that accompanies the Bible study.

Assisted Living Ministry is not dependent upon snowbirds, nor do they dismiss for summer, but remain constant in their visitation. You are always welcome to join the ladies and gentlemen who lead hymn singing and share a devotion at the following locations. Tuesday, March 10th at 11 am, they will meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave. South. The group will gather for a no host lunch on Friday, March 20th at 11:45 am at the Bar S Supper Club, 5100 North Star Blvd. Afterward, many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave. South. The Lord blesses the visits with these residents with much joy! Come and share the Lord's blessings and joy!

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

COMPARISON REPORT

Comparison of Income This Year to the amount Needed
For the Period January 1 through February 22, 2015



DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
January	\$13,720	\$10,934
February 1	\$3,430	\$4,807
February 8	\$3,430	\$3,691
February 15	\$3,430	\$2,601
February 18 & 22	\$3,430	\$2,791
TOTAL	\$27,440	\$24,824

**** To obtain this number, the projected income for 2015 (envelope \$171,366 + plate \$7,000) is divided by 52 or $\$178,366/52 = \$3,430$. Remember that this number (\$178,366) is below our total budget needs. So we are tracking what has been pledged - if I can use that word. Hopefully, the actual giving will be FAR ABOVE this number.**

If you have any questions, please call me at 761-7073.
Gary Shelden, Treasurer



Position
Open

Our church secretary, Vicki Roath, has decided it is time for retirement, so she plans on leaving at the end of May. This is a part-time position, up to 30 hours per week. If you are interested in applying, please send or bring your resumé to the church office; 1226 1st Avenue North, 59401; or email it to trinity@trinity-mt.org; or to Pastor Paul at pastor@trinity-mt.org; or to our Council President, Marty Bauer, at mjbauer120@msn.com. If you have questions, please visit with Marty or Pastor Paul.



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
Saturday night, March 7th!
Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th!**

VAN AVAILABLE – SUNDAY MORNINGS

The church van is available for individuals who are shut-in to attend services at Trinity. Please contact Kathie Sybrant at 231-1291. Pick up will now be every Sunday, because Holy Communion will be celebrated every week. **Drivers are needed!** If you would be interested in helping drive, please call the church office. If three or four people would be willing to serve in this area, you would only have to drive approximately one Sunday a month.



ON CALL TRUSTEE FOR MARCH: BARRY EASTLEY



March 10 Dave ♥ Charlene Maddox March 28 Don ♥ Debbie Lee



<p>March</p> <p>1 Kathleen Hall Emilie Legg Randi Meehan</p> <p>2 Rachel Hill</p> <p>3 Michael Bicsak Sherri VanVleet</p> <p>5 Trinity Legg</p> <p>6 Justin Thompson</p> <p>7 Alan Larsen</p> <p>8 Derek Jones</p> <p>9 Rose Shelden</p> <p>11 Trina Mans</p> <p>13 Marjory Fischer</p> <p>14 Ryan Nommensen</p> <p>15 Ronald Copp</p> <p>16 Virginia Abbott Courtney Western</p> <p>17 Ruth Schwarzenberger</p> <p>18 Shawn Shaw</p>	<p>March</p>	<p>19 Sylvia Adams Kelcie Pearsall Joyce Stanger</p> <p>21 Don Lee George Pence</p> <p>22 Millie Birkholz Cheryl Dalla Mura Mick Kessel</p> <p>24 Matthias Paul Shelly Vernon Juanita Winter</p> <p>25 Trevyn Mans Betty Quickenden</p> <p>27 Xander Dalke Jay Schlecht</p> <p>31 Ivan Buhmann Kaci Felstet Jerry Mans Russ Waetzig</p>
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<p>March</p> <p>4 Alexandria Thompson Justin Thompson</p> <p>5 Trina Mans</p> <p>8 Joseph Nommensen</p> <p>9 Anita Erickson O.D. Jones Mattie Norris</p> <p>10 Blaize Wegner</p> <p>13 Kelly Norris Courtney Walker</p> <p>16 Nolan Joyce</p> <p>17 Jacob Mansch</p> <p>18 Ivan Buhmann</p> <p>20 Kaden Hill</p> <p>21 Judy Lively</p>	<p>March</p>	<p>21 Trevyn Mans</p> <p>24 Alan Larsen Alvina Presler Myrtle Storhaug Jessi Webb</p> <p>27 Jerry Grosenick Amayah Hill</p> <p>28 Travis Copp Brayden Ginnaty</p> <p>29 Courtney Western</p> <p>30 Lacey Kuki-Isakson Emilie Legg</p> <p>31 Gerhard Neumann Bud Quickenden</p>
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REMEMBER
SHUT-INS
OUR



TRINITY SHUT-INS

May the Lord in His grace continue to give strength and faith, patience and peace to each of His own: **Gary Adams** at home, **Ellen Carpenter** at Eagles Manor, **Wes Johnson** in Conrad, **Lydia Laubach**, **Jacob Lietz** at home, **Evelyn McNaight** at home, **Emma Millet** at Golden Eagles, **Gladine Nehus** in Helena, **Alvina Presler** at Cambridge Court, **Ruth Schwartzenger** at home, **Myrtle Storhaug** at The Lodge and **Ted Young** in Helena.



Dear Members of Trinity,

In order to keep names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. current in our Church Directories, in each Lamplighter, we will be publishing all new and changed information for your directories. Please take a moment to take this page out of your Lamplighter each month, and put it in your directory. If you misplace this page with the new information on it, just give me a call here at the church 452-2121, and I'll be happy to get you the page you are missing.

Thank you!

God's blessings, Vicki Roath, Secretary

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES: (March 2015)

PEARSALL, Terry, Ronie, Dallas

New Address:
Phone:

56 36th Ave NE, Great Falls 59404-4280
403-4424



Be sure to check out our website at www.trinity-mt.org. If you happen to have any ideas for content, wish to contribute to the website or notice any typographical errors, our Webmaster can be reached at support@trinity-mt.org.

We also have a Facebook page! Be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook!



PLEASE GET ANY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND UPDATED INFORMATION FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY TO THE CHURCH OFFICE PRIOR TO THE LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE EACH MONTH. THANK YOU!!



Trinity Lutheran Church

www.trinity-mt.org

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www.cph.org

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www.higherthings.org

Issues, Etc.

www.issuesetc.org

LCMS

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Lutherans for Life

www.lutheransforlife.org

LWML

www.lwml.org

Montana District-LCMS

www.mtdistlcms.org

The Lutheran Hour

www.lutheranhour.org

The Lutheran Witness

www.lcms.org/witness

The Reporter

www.lcms.org/reporter