



## From Pastor's Desk What's In Store This Trinity Season

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

The Trinity Season began Sunday, 15 June. At first glance we are entering a rather boring time of The Church Year. During most of the next five and a half months all our eyes shall see is green. Nothing will seem to happen either. After all, the first half of The Church Year is full of action, with Christmas leading the charge, Easter following quickly behind, and Pentecost bringing up the rear. But now we stop focusing on the life Christ lived for us in order to focus on our life in Him. Green denotes growth. Plants grow, and we are to grow in faith.

We may think the summer part of The Church Year isn't so important, but it is. This year is special because we'll get to celebrate three feasts we don't normally celebrate. On June 30 we'll remember The Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul. In so doing we will give our Lord thanks that He has not built His Church on the changing whims of men, but on the preaching of His Apostles. Who did they preach?

They preached Christ and Him Crucified. Therefore we will pray that His Spirit will lead us to remain faithful to the doctrine they taught, that all pastors will dili-gently preach His Word, and that He would give us strength to lay down our lives for Him Who laid down His life for us.

They aren't the only saints we'll get to hear about. On August 24 we'll hear about St. Bartholomew The Apostle. St. John calls him Nathanael in his Gospel. We will pray our Lord to continue to give His Church faithful teachers who will proclaim the glory of His Name. Finally, on September 21 we will give our Lord thanks for His Apostle and Evangelist St. Matthew. We will thank Him for The Gospel His Spirit inspired him to write, and pray that He would give us grace to forsake all covetous desires and unreasonable and excessive love of riches that we might follow Jesus.

Why should we remember the saints who came before us? Article 21 of The Apology of The

Augsburg Confession, one of the writings that tells the world what we Lutherans believe, teach, and confess, says this:

“Our Confession approves honors to the saints. For here a threefold honor is to be approved. The first is thanksgiving. For we ought to give thanks to God because He has shown examples of mercy; because He has shown that He wishes to save men; because He has given teachers or other gifts to the Church. And these gifts, as they are the greatest, should be amplified, and the saints themselves should be praised, who have faithfully used these gifts, just as Christ praises faithful businessmen, Matt. 25:21, 23. The second service is the strengthening of our faith; when we see the denial forgiven Peter, we also are encouraged to believe the more that grace truly superabounds over sin, Rom. 5:20. The third honor is the imitation, first, of faith, then of the other virtues, which every one should imitate according to his calling.”

The other Sundays in these summer and fall months are no less important. For example, on July 6, in the parables of the lost sheep and coin, we will hear that our Lord is always looking to save us and many more. On August 31 we will hear the parable of The Pharisee and The Publican. We will learn that we must always repent of our sins before God and never look to our own deeds as the source of our salvation; only then will we be justified (declared righteous by God). On September 14, from the parable of The Good Samaritan, we will learn that our Good Samaritan Christ has healed us from all our wounds, our sins; therefore we ought reflect His mercy to those around us. On September 28 He will tell us we have no need to worry because His Father is always taking care of us. And that’s only the tip of the iceberg! There’s so much for us to learn each year during these Sundays after Trinity, things that will help us grow in faith and good works. That, dearly beloved, is the Christian’s goal. We want to serve God in everything we do out of love for Him for everything Jesus has done for us.

October and November will bring the annual observances of Reformation and All Saints. We will pray our Lord to pour out His Spirit on His faithful people so that we will remain steadfast in His grace and truth, protected and comforted in all temptations, and defended against all enemies of His Word, so that in the end we will receive His saving peace. We will pray that we may follow all His saints in virtuous and godly living so that we may come to the unspeakable joys which He has prepared for those who genuinely love Him.

This is all in line with what Dr. Luther teaches us to confess in his Small Catechism. We confess, in The Second Article of The Apostles’ Creed, that our Lord redeemed us so that we might “serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.” This means He wants us to honor God with our whole life. St. Paul writes in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in The Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.” When teaching us about Holy Baptism, he reminds us that Baptism “indicates that The Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.” This means we are to say “no” to sin and say “yes” to what is good in God’s sight. We are to abstain from the sins of the flesh and do good works. St. Paul writes in Galatians 5:24, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

How do we keep the sinful nature crucified? You can’t do it on your own. You need Jesus to help you. How does He help? He provides that help through His Word. Read it every day. Pray too. Confess your sins to Him every day. Attend worship to hear His Law and Gospel preached and to receive Holy Communion. For He has bound Himself to His Word and Sacrament; He works through these means only. Through them He will help you to daily crucify your sinful nature with its passions and desires. Through them He will enable you to serve Him all the days of your life. That’s what The Trinity Season is all about.

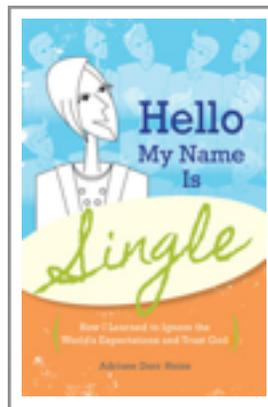
## From the President

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

{Because the June/July issue of *The Lutheran Witness* is a combined issue, there will be no letter from President Matthew C. Harrison this month.}

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## Book of the Month *Hello. My Name Is Single.*



Being single doesn't mean you're alone. That's the message Lutheran Witness Executive Editor and Concordia Publishing House author Adriane Dorr Heins wants to share through her new book, *Hello, My Name Is Single*.

Heins emphasizes that as children of God, whether we are single, divorced, widowed — whatever our stage in life — we are never without the love of Christ.

Married, single, divorced or widowed, this book is for you! Go to [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) to order.

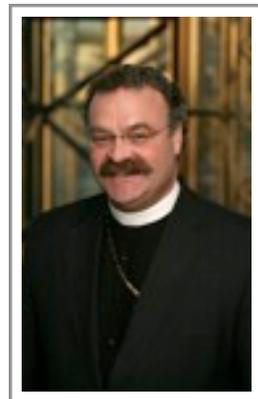
## LCMS News Desk LCMS President Responds to Hobby Lobby Ruling

Two years ago, I sat on a panel before Congress, testifying to the importance of religious liberty in America today. It seems like a long time ago.

Since then, we have seen and heard a steady stream of news, from the church and the culture, about the Health and Human Services' mandate and the Affordable Care Act, abortifacients and the conscience, religious freedoms and what this means for women.

Thankfully, the wait is over. The Supreme Court has ruled, and the verdict is in: In a landmark case, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of religious liberty, specifically in regard to closely held corporations (those with a small number of shareholders and offering no public stock, such as corporations that are family-owned, not operated by boards).

While we rejoice in this strong upholding of religious freedom, this decision does not signal an end to this discussion. It simply emboldens us carry on, doing what we do best as Christians: praying, confessing the faith and living it out in our daily callings.



We pray that Americans, whose consciences are burdened because they have been forced to violate their religious beliefs, would know God's comfort and forgiveness.

We confess that life, which begins at conception, is a gift from God and ought to be held in the highest regard in this country.

We live, knowing that the First Amendment guarantees us not only the right to worship, but also

to practice our faith as Lutheran citizens of this great nation, serving our neighbor where the Lord has placed us.

We do all of this, even as we rejoice with the Greens of Hobby Lobby, with the Hahns of Conestoga Wood Specialties and with our millions of brothers and sisters in the United States who believe just as strongly in the religious liberties guaranteed in our Constitution.

Today we are thankful for this step toward maintaining the integrity of our religious freedoms inherent in the First Amendment, but we will also remain ever mindful. The issue is and will continue to be purely and simply about religious freedom.

And so we pray. We confess. We live.

“We fought for a free conscience in this country,” I told the committee two years ago, “and we won’t give it up without a fight.”

I meant that, and I pray you do too.

## Church Prepares, Sends New Missionaries

Thirty-five new missionaries, spouses and their 21 children gathered before the altar of the LCMS International Center chapel here June 27 during the “sending service,” where they were sent out to serve on the international mission field.

“You have a very clear word of Law and Gospel, which people need,” LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison told the new missionaries in his sermon for the service. “The Lord has hard-wired people to understand the Law. You have the word of Gospel that can break through even the most difficult shell of unbelief.” The service marked the conclusion of a two-week new-missionary orientation in St. Louis.

Read more at <http://blogs.lcms.org/2014/lcms-equips-sends>

## LCMS Reaches Out After Devastating Tornadoes



The week of June 16 was devastating for two LCMS churches and more than two dozen LCMS members in Nebraska and South Dakota after deadly tornadoes tore through their communities and their lives. LCMS Disaster Response has committed initial grants of \$100,000 to the LCMS Nebraska District and \$30,000 to the LCMS South Dakota District to help pastors, congregations and their communities meet emergency needs.

LCMS Director of Disaster Response Rev. Ross Johnson said the greatest needs currently are prayers and financial donations. Volunteers also are needed in Nebraska to remove debris.

“We’re not only responding to LCMS members, but we are helping the communities,” he said.

“Financial gifts allow us to be able to help members rebuild their lives and help the communities rebuild their lives.”



Read more at <http://blogs.lcms.org/2014/devastating-tornadoes>

SUMMER  
**CONFESSIONS**  
STUDY

JOIN US FOR A STUDY IN

**THE LUTHERAN  
CONFESSIONS**

WEDNESDAYS  
6:30 PM–7:30 PM  
BEGINNING JULY 9

**IMMANUEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS



# Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

## Greeters

6 July	Donna Campbell (West) Harold Wattjes (East)
13 July	Jim Dyer (West) Joan Vukelich (East)
20 July	Laverl Byers (West) Ruth Sims (East)
27 July	Tim & Teri Pollock (West) Donna Campbell (East)
3 August	Harold Wattjes (West) Jim Dyer (East)
10 August	Joan Vukelich (West) Laverl Byers (East)
17 August	Ruth Sims (West) Tim & Teri Pollock (East)
24 August	Donna Campbell (West) Harold Wattjes (East)
31 August	Jim Dyer (West) Joan Vukelich (East)

## Coffee Committee

June	Ron & Judy Legg
July	Harold & Irene Wattjes

## Funeral Committee

July	Wanda Long
August	Tammy Kresin

## Altar Committee

6 July	Sue Rothe Cassie Russo
13 July	Holly Wikoff Mackenzi Bowles
20 July	Holly Wikoff Marissa Russo

27 July	Holly Wikoff Lexi Russo
3 August	Wanda Long Cassie Russo
10 August	Wanda Long Marissa Russo
17 August	Wanda Long Mackenzi Bowles
24 August	Sherrie Hoel Lexi Russo
31 August	Sherrie Hoel Cassie Russo

## Elder On Duty—Communion

6 July	Josh Whitson
13 July	Josh Whitson
20 July	Josh Whitson
27 July	Josh Whitson
3 August	Ronald W. Legg
10 August	Ronald W. Legg
17 August	Ronald W. Legg
24 August	Mark Whitson
31 August	Mark Whitson

## Altar Flowers

6 July	OPEN
13 July	Donna Campbell
20 July	Richard & Jill Zartler
27 July	Pastor & Lauren Braaten
3 August	Ron & Judy Legg
10 August	Tom & Ruth Bretz
17 August	OPEN
24 August	Joan Rahn
31 August	OPEN

ATTENDANCE				OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Special	General	Missions	Building
6/1/14	18	73	0	\$4,095.00	\$112.00	\$10.00
6/8/14	16	95	0	\$2,414.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6/15/14	30	70	0	\$2,282.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
6/22/14	17	79	0	\$1,641.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
6/29/14	18	69	0	\$2,431.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Subtotal	99	386	0	\$12,863.00	\$117.00	\$235.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$2,572.60</b>	<b>\$23.40</b>	<b>\$47.00</b>

# JULY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service (Communion) 10:30 AM Bible Class Kevin Oye Les Sluder Pastor on Vacation	<b>7</b> 5:00 PM Board of Mission & Evangelism 6:00 PM Board of Education 7:00 PM Board of Elders 7:30 PM Men's Club	<b>8</b> 7:30 AM Mains 9:00 AM Matron Circuit Meeting Boyd & Barb Stenger	<b>9</b> 7:30 AM Mains 6:30 PM Summer Confessions Study Marilyn Mann	<b>10</b> 7:30 AM Mains Eric Slaughtier Tom & Lisa Ward Valerie Osborne	<b>11</b> Lori Russo Lisa Ward Pastor's Day Off	<b>12</b> 5:30 PM Divine Service (Communion) Chad & Haley Ely Rita Wozniak
<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service (Communion) 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:15 AM Church Council Gunnar Campbell Jack & Mary Appleby Children's Sermon Day	<b>14</b> Pastor presiding at Conference in St. Louis	<b>15</b> Theresa Fields	<b>16</b> Theresa Fields	<b>17</b> Tajiona Copeland Tonia Timlin	<b>18</b> Brendan Vilenie Richard & Jill Zartler Pastor's Day Off	<b>19</b> 5:30 PM Divine Service (Communion)
<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service (Communion) 10:30 AM Bible Class Jason & DeDe Eversole	<b>21</b> 7:30 AM Mains 7:30 PM Voters Meeting Doug Anderson	<b>22</b> 7:30 AM Mains Linda Stinnett Tracy Danielson	<b>23</b> 7:30 AM Mains 11:30 AM TAMM Meeting 6:30 PM Summer Confessions Study Corly & Theresa Fields Wayne Arthur	<b>24</b> 7:30 AM Mains James Harbaugh	<b>25</b> Lusanne Hoye Nicholas Appleby Pastor's Day Off	<b>26</b> 5:30 PM Divine Service (Communion) Bernita Ashwell Michelle Stumeier
<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Divine Service (Communion) 10:30 AM Bible Class Cindy Ekstrom John Stokes	<b>28</b> Megan Hopkins	<b>29</b> Janson Rothe Youth Group Trip to Creation Museum	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Summer Confessions Study Roland Spomer	<b>31</b> 7:30 AM Mains 1:30 PM Ladies Aid Evan Reifack Olen Stumeier Jason Ewinsole Steve Leonard		

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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.

