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# Glad Tidings for Trinity

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## A note from Pastor Combs

### “FEARLESSLY FALL FORWARD”

It may be the end of August, but I have already noticed that leaves have begun to fall on my deck from the towering oak tree in our backyard. Soon the fall will be upon us. The fall is my favorite season of the year for many reasons– the cooler weather, the changing leaves, the holidays, football season and so much more. But as a pastor, I love fall because it is the time of year when we get back into swing of things so to speak at church – the choirs begin again to practice, activities that have taken a hiatus over the summer resume and new endeavors are begun.

Here at Trinity some exciting stuff is beginning to unfold as we look to the changing season that lies before us – we have introduced a new intergenerational Sunday School model, a Caregiver Support Group will commence, exciting youth activities begin to unfold, our God’s Work, Our Hands, Clean Hearts event will be held, and a new once a month healing service will begin the third Sunday afternoon of each month. These are just a few of the exhilarating and renewing activities we have to look forward to as autumn approaches.

I hope you will take advantage of the new season to fall forward with us and get back into the swing of things yourself. I invite you to renew your commitment to join us each Sunday for worship at one of our three services. Also, if over the summer you have fallen behind in your financial pledge to the ministries of the church, then please take these coming weeks to catch up. These next four months are crucial in helping us to finish the year in the black and on a solid foundation while providing us the confidence to move forward with ambitious ministry plans for 2016.

With that in mind, I want to personally ask you to mark your calendars now and plan to join us for our annual Stewardship Luncheon to be held on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00 am service. Once again this year our time together will include a meal and feature a video highlighting of the way your support for the ministries of Trinity has made a difference in the lives of others. Many folks last year commented on how meaningful it was to see such stories brought to life as we shared in what proved to be a powerful collective experience.

This year our stewardship theme and video is entitled, “Be Fearless.” It is based on Joshua 1:9: *Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*” It is a fitting theme as we look for ways to step out in faith as individuals and a congregation to share the good news and challenge ourselves to give of ourselves in ways that will make a difference in the lives of others.

As we enter this new season I look forward to seeing you in worship as well as the exciting programs that are about to unfold among us, including our Stewardship Luncheon October 4<sup>th</sup>. In this season of change let us together fearlessly fall forward in service to the Lord and one another.

In Christ service and yours,  
Pastor Stan Combs

**Adult Sunday School Opportunities**

**Herb Burhenn’s class** is studying the **Hebrew prophets**. Herb’s class meets at 9:45 in the church library. You are welcome to join the class after the 9:30 service.

**Mike Brandt’s class is studying Basic Theology**. They meet in the fellowship hall (Paul George Room) after the 9:30 service, around 10:10 and the class continues throughout the summer.

**Family Faith Formation** is a multi-generational interactive bible discussion for people of all ages that meets during the Sunday School hour in the Paul George room. It is led by Jeremy Giesel and Sondra Hart. The curriculum is designed specifically for multi-generational groups, so families and friends, both young and old, can learn together and discuss throughout the following week. The class has "adopted" a special family to help throughout the year, makes Easter baskets for shut-ins, and puts together goodie boxes for college students. This dynamic class is full of laughter and fellowship. All are welcome, so bring your donut and coffee and join us any week you can.



***Pastor, how should we show our love of God?***

The Bible tells us, “By their fruits you shall know them,” says Christ. Our life will show whether we love God or not. Our love to Him should be manifested by obedience to His commands and a willingness to suffer all things for his sake. It should be shown by love for the things of God. We should love His Church and the preaching of the Gospel. If we do not love His Word, we do not love Him. It is also manifested by our manner of dealing with our fellow-men. If we love God, we will love them also. We are to love one another, even as Christ also loved us. Our love to our fellow-man is to be a proof of our love to God. “If any man say I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom He has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that he that loves God loves his brother also.” (Matt. 7:20; 1 John 5:3; Matt. 10:38; John 8:47; John 13:34)

Keep on keeping on.

Pastor Clay Seneker

**HEALING SERVICE** – We will begin to offering a healing service once a month here at Trinity. The healing service will normally be held the third Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. The first service will be Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. The service will last approximately a half-hour and all are invited to come for prayer and anointing. If you have any questions about this service please see Pastor Stan.



Blessing of the Animals will be on October 11 at 5:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now!



## OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutheran Seniors) September 1

After Bible study and lunch, we will have a tour of the National Medal of Honor Museum of Military History at Northgate. Pastor Sims has planned this program for us and will lead the tour.

10:00—Blood Pressure Check  
10:30—Bible Study  
11:30—Lunch

Thank you, Pastor Sims! (We will carpool from the church.) You will not want to miss this special program.

In October we will go to Pikeville to enjoy Wooden's Apple House and a special lunch at the Orchard Café (thanks to Shil Lewis). Details will be in next month's newsletter.

## September Birthdays

Doris Harsman—9/13  
Jan Buck—9/30

## September Anniversaries

John & Phyllis Sims—9/5/70  
Steve & Mary Kay Mason—9/16/50

It's not a matter of counting the years—but making the years count.

- Peggy Anderson

## Happy September Birthday!!

Cindy Pawcio—9/1

Dean Muncy—9/2

Marc Anthony—9/3

Diane Gray—9/3

Annika Utt—9/3

Jazalyn Boyd—9/4

Priscilla Schimmer—9/5

Jack Rolfson—9/6

Penny Ross—9/6

Rae Snyder—9/7

Susan Muncy—9/8

Elaine Rolfson—9/8

Fred Hencke—9/10

Ginny Minninger—9/10

Dean Muncy—9/12

Michael Utt—9/12

Doris Harsman—9/13

Jane Overbeck—9/13

Grant Yelliott—9/15

Chloe Howard—9/17

Dan Page—9/17

Judith Stringfield—9/17

Mary Jenkins—9/20

John Rathjen—9/20

Cole Nelson—9/21

Chris Kurz—9/24

Jim Cole—9/25

Elaine Burke—9/27

Abby Sosebee—9/28

Holly Cole—9/29

Jan Buck—9/30

## Caregivers Support Group

Please join us on Tuesday, September 8 from 2-4pm for the first gathering of the Trinity Caregivers Support Group. We will meet in the Trinity library. Light refreshments will be served. The group is tentatively planned to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. At the first gathering, we will talk about how this group can best serve you. Your input is important.

A caregivers support group is an opportunity for individuals who are providing care to loved ones to come together to learn and share about the unique and often, stressful situation of caregiving. As a faith-based group, we will begin each gathering with prayer and a short discussion of relevant scripture. Each gathering will have a learning focus. Initially we will focus on *spiritual care for the caregiver* with Pastor Combs leading the discussion. Future topics may include personal stress reduction, coping with insurance systems, legal concerns and finding good sources of outside help. We will close each gathering with a time for sharing and support among the group's members.

Questions about Trinity's Caregivers Support Group? Just ask one of us.  
Janet Hope, Ph.D. and Carol Burhenn, RN, Parish Nurse

**Attention Knitters, Crocheters, and Quilters  
and ALL Women of the ELCA**



**Bind Us Together Knitters** meets on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. on 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Bring in your knitting or crocheting and join us! Or, if you'd like to learn, we have some pretty good teachers available.

**Women of the ELCA** meet every 2nd Tuesday at 12:30 for Bible study. Bring your lunch! On the 4th Tuesday, our Bible study time is in the evenings at 5:30.

**Ladies Night Out** will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 15th at Acropolis. Meet at the church to carpool at 5:00 or meet us at the restaurant at 5:30.

**Mission Quilts**—Coming Soon!



**Youth News:**

**September 8, 5:00 p.m. (Youth Group)**—Project Canterbury Burrito Tuesday

**September 13, 12:00—2:00 p.m.**—JAMS Session Kick Off, Pre-K—High school—*Why do we give? Parents are welcome to join for lunch and activities.*

**September 19**—Jump Park Bowling Event at Southside Social, all ages (12:00—3:00). Free, but please sign up!

**October 11, 12:00—4:00 p.m.**—Cost is \$5 per person, under 5-years old is free. Please sign up in the Welcome Center

**Family Faith Formation** is a NEW intergenerational Christian Education format that we will be using to activate faith and family in our day to day lives. We here at Church have the opportunity to nurture spiritual growth in the home, by placing several generations around the table to do Bible study and ponder how scripture directs their path. Because this is an intergenerational setting, Bible study can be interactive and creative, allowing each generation to pass its faith onto another. It goes both ways; the children can be as enlightening as the adults. Cornerstones lessons are a vehicle for making that mutual journey of faith happen. Each week large group will discuss curriculum then break into small groups, based on age, and share how we can let our light shine in our everyday journey with Christ. Any adults are invited to join as well as children and youth of all ages.

**WHIRL Nursery Education** - Every Whirl lesson follows a four-part sequence: Welcome, Hear, Respond, and Launch (WHRL!). Each week, kids and leaders start their time together by identifying where they are in the church year and watching an animated video to set up the lesson. Next, they dive into the Whirl Story Bible or Whirl NRSV Bible together, respond to the scripture lesson with creative leaflet activities, and circle up to review the lesson and pray before being sent out. Ages 2-5 are welcome to sign up for this exciting new class.

Remember—If you have an announcement you would like in the bulletin, newsletter, or internet, please fill out a form (they are in the welcome area on the counter) and put them in Pam's mailbox.

**Note that mailboxes are located beneath the name of the person you're looking for!**

You may also email them to the church office (no pdf. files please). Thanks.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is: **September 23**

<b>September 6</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Ushers-September</b>	Joe & Louise Prevo	David Giesel, Bob Lewis, Terry Pearce
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Nancy Fisher, Rae Logan, Nancy Gubish, Lori Weisner	Vanda Ingham, Gigi Penticuff
<b>Lector</b>	Herb Burhenn	Janet Hope
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Kathy Behling	David Giesel
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Kathy Behling	David Giesel
<b>Greeters</b>	Nancy & Jim Fisher	Ed & Mary Ann Shuey, Fran Balsis, Kim White
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Kathy Behling, Dean Lanternier	Bobbie Iles, Dean Lanternier
<b>September 13</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	Mary Jenkins	Julie Sosebee
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Susan Gilbert, Beverlee Bergevin, Cindy Anthony	Julie & Abby Sosebee, Freida Jennings
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Mary Jenkins	Gary Hart
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Mary Jenkins	Gary Hart
<b>Greeters</b>		Sosebee Family
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Donna Kuberg, Dean Lanternier	Ed Shuey, Dean Lanternier
<b>September 20</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	Barbara Bakkom	David Giesel
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Vicki McGuire, Barbara Bakkom, Jean Reimer	Karen Smith, Lola Jensen, Carol Hayde
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Shula Yelliott	David Giesel
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Shula Yelliott	David Giesel
<b>Greeters</b>		Eleonore Williams
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Vera Sachleben, Dean Lanternier	Eleonore Williams, Bill Haigler
<b>September 27</b>	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Carol Burhenn	Eleonore Williams
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mary Gullickson, Sheila Hilley, Debbie Greiner	Doris Harsman, Phyllis Sims, Jan Buck
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	Mary Jenkins	Gary Hart
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Mary Jenkins	Gary Hart
<b>Greeters</b>		Bob & Betty Stuckert, Fran Balsis, Kim White
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Sue Combs, Dean Lanternier	Vanda Ingham, Dean Lanternier



**Chime Choir**—If you would like to be a part of the chime choir, the group will begin again, hopefully, in September. Previous experience not required and ages 7 and up are invited to participate. Adults, you are invited, too. (Must be able to count and follow instructions.) We will be learning techniques and rehearsing for Christmas, sooner if we're ready!

Please let Pastor Combs or Pam Smith know if you are interested. The rehearsal time will be Sundays after church, 12:15—12:45, except for JAM Sundays.

# Prayer Request

*Pastor Schimmer, Sue Wyse, Evelyn Carroll, Sandy Buelow, Herb & Caryl Warnemuende, June Keller, Dot Brown, Linda Peucker, Carolyn Fuller*

*Ruby Giesel—David Giesel's mother*

*Jon McKenzie - by Loli Allen*

*Kadye Sokborikit, Trisha Morris, Tracie Evitt, Leila Pratt, Amanda Layne, Emily Davis, James Davis, Joe King, Elizabeth Helton, Priscilla Scott, Terry Griffith, Angela Foster, Gwen, Gail Appel, Ursula Carter, Bobbie Hudgins, Lota Alsop, Tom,*

*Teresa, Franklin McCallie, Katy Attala, Bill Humphreys, Laura Lester, Profitable S.A.G.E., Montgomery Schuh, Pat Caelda, Colin Malefakis—by John Wilson*

*Don Travis, the Garrison Family, Jeremy Ross, Olivia Haislip—Julie Sosebee*

*John Rawlston—Mark Rawlston's father*

*Warren Smith, Diane Stacey—friends of Cree Giesel*

**We will be updating the long term prayer list. Please let us know if you have someone you'd like to add or if you'd like to keep on a name already listed.**

Our office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

If you need to come in at another time, you may make an appointment by calling the church office (870-1236).

Pastor Combs will be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00—1:00, and by appointment

Jeremy will be in the office on Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

If you missed church on Sunday, sermons are now available on our website and Facebook!

## Military Prayers

John Matthew Gray, Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Navy - son of John & Diane Gray

Ryan Morgan, Marines - Great nephew of Carol & Herb Burhenn

Sr. Airman Dillon O. Cole

Ryan Lynch, USAF Reserve - grandson of Carol Bell

Lt. Col. Richard C. Amburn, - brother-in-law of the Sosebees

Matthew K. Lynch USMC Reserve - grandson of Carol Bell

PV2 Barrett Brown—Tacy Gorton's grandson

Major Raymond Myers - former member of Trinity

Sam Thompson, USMC - nephew of Diana Kreider

Harris Looney, US Navy, friend of Diana Kreider

Chase Moss and Maxwell Baldrige—nephews of Beth Painter

Lance Corporal James Cole, Jr., Marines

Lt. Adam Carter, U.S. Navy, Beverlee Bergevin's nephew



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<u>EVERY Sunday</u> 8:30 & 11:00 Traditional Worship 9:30 Non- Traditional Worship	<u>EVERY Monday</u> 9:30 TLC	<u>EVERY Tuesday</u>	<u>EVERY Wed.</u> 9:30 TLC 10:00 Food Vouchers 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:15 Volleyball	<u>EVERY Thursday</u> 7:30 Praise Band	<u>EVERY Friday</u> 8:30 a.m. Friday Work Crew	
9:45 Sunday school		1 10:00 OWLS 6:30 HR	2 9:00 Bridge 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	3	4	5
6 12:15 Media/ PR	7 Labor Day Church office closed	8 12:30 Women of the ELCA 2:00 Caregivers Class	9 8:30 P.E.O. Mtg 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	10 4:00 BMRG 6:30—Exec. Committee	11	12 8:30 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Knitters
13 <i>God's Work Our Hands</i> 12:15 Evange- lism 12:15 JAMS	14	15 5:00 (carpool) Ladies Night out @ Acropolis	16 9:00 Bridge 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	17 5:30 Finance	18	19 12:00 Soutside Social Jump & Bowling
20 12:15 Confirma- tion Orientation 4:00 Healing Service 5:00 Council	21 10:00 Long Range Planning 11:00 Forget Me Nots	22 2:00 Caregivers Class 5:30 Women of the ELCA Bible Study	23 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir	24	25	26 9:00 Knitters
27 2:00 German Club	28	29	30 5:15 Handbells 6:30 Choir			

Our Annual Stewardship Luncheon will be on October 4th. Mark your calendar now!

A sign up sheet will be in the Welcome Center.

**2015 Council Members and Responsibilities**

WELCOME: Hospitality - Kathy Behling; Evangelism/Publicity - Freida Jennings  
 SEND: (Social Missions, etc.) - Gigi Penticuff  
 SUPPORT: BMRG - Lynda Watson (temporary); Finance - Shelia Hilley  
 EQUIP: Worship & Music - Michael Frixen; Youth - Gary Hart

A new school year has begun! We are off to a great start as we see some old friends again and meet some new ones, too. Any donations of bleach wipes, baby wipes, Lysol, or Kleenex would be very much appreciated. Thank you so much for your wonderful support. We are excited to begin another year!

TLC Learning Center



All men of the church are invited to share in the fellowship of the men's breakfast, Saturday, September 12 at 8:30 a.m. There's always plenty to eat and much conversation about what's right and wrong in the world, along with any other topic you'd like to bring up. Join us!

The **TLC BREAKFAST CLUB** will meet on Saturday, September 19th at 9:30 a.m. at The Meeting House located on Dayton Boulevard in the heart of Red Bank. This great little coffee shop (with breakfast items) is located in the former Red Bank Drug Store, site of Trinity's first church services! Please consider joining us for breakfast and fellowship. Bring your friends too! If you have any questions, please see Susan Gilbert or send an email to [susanmgilbert@comcast.net](mailto:susanmgilbert@comcast.net).

**Change of address!**

Terry & Bettie Pearce  
3400 Jenkins Road  
Standifer Place Apt. 703  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

John Wilson  
The Bridge at S. Pittsburg  
210 E. 10th Street  
S. Pittsburg, TN 37380  
423-837-7981

Eleonore Williams  
1071 Constitution Drive  
Chattanooga, TN 37405

**Please change email addresses for**

Carol Burhenn—[caburhenn@gmail.com](mailto:caburhenn@gmail.com)  
Carol Wilburn—[carolwilburn1727@gmail.com](mailto:carolwilburn1727@gmail.com)



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Thrivent Financial announces their **Eighth Annual Oktoberfest** and chapter Board elections on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. The event will be located at First Lutheran Campground, at 1621 Lee Pike, Soddy Daisy, TN, right on the beautiful waters of Possum Creek before it empties into Chickamauga Lake. Lots of games and prizes from 1-3 pm. Dinner starts at 3:30 pm and includes bratwurst & sauerkraut, German potato salad, baked beans, desserts and drinks. For the children there will also be roasted hotdogs and potato chips.

Tickets are available from your Congregational Advocate. For more information, contact Elaine Burns, phone (423) 236-4660 or email at [eburnsrph@gmail.com](mailto:eburnsrph@gmail.com)

**Comments from Your Council**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice President, Alan Crews, and opened with a devotion given by Gigi Penticuff.

Roll call was taken. All council members were present except for Lynda Watson, absence excused.

Highlights and motions from the August meeting are itemized below:

- Motion was made by Kathy Behling and seconded by Pastor Combs to approve all items on the consent agenda. Motion approved.
- Pastor's Report--Pastor referenced trying a different approach to incorporating healing services into the life of Trinity. The healing service has been moved to the third Sunday of the month at 4:00 beginning on September 20, 2015.
- Pastor also stated that Rally Day, August 16th was a great success and that on Sunday, August 23rd the new Intergenerational Sunday School concept will be introduced. All those who are not a part of a Sunday school class were encouraged to consider joining.
- A question was raised regarding the need for a paid nursery staff. Although this item has been put in the budget for 2016, the Evangelism Committee felt the need was current. Approximate cost for one paid position @ \$10.00/hour for 3 1/2 hours per Sunday and for special services would amount to about \$750.00 for the rest of 2015. Motion was made by Pastor Combs and seconded by Frieda Jennings to approve hiring one paid nursery attendant @ \$10:00/ hour for approximately 3 1/2 hours per Sunday with the understanding that we would consult with the Evangelism Committee to see if money could come from their budget. Motion approved.
- Building Use Fee Structure Review - Motion from Executive Board to adjust fee schedule for facility use effective January 1, 2016, to cover increase in costs and to delete non-member use of facilities. Motion seconded by Kathy Behling. Motion approved. The new fee schedule and usage will be published in the newsletter at a later date.
- After discussion of the By-Law changes, Beth Painter made a motion to approve the By-law changes as amended. Motion was seconded by Gary Hart and approved. Copies will be made available for the congregation at a later date.
- Motion from Beth Painter to table renovation budget and spending order until September Council meeting. Seconded by Kathy Behling. Motion approved.
- Budget Meeting Schedule – August 15th 9 am-noon. Staff, council members/liaisons & the chairs of committees were in attendance. Each Committee submitted their 2016 budget at the end of this meeting. The Finance Committee thanked all for their diligence in submitting budget items on time.

Copies of the full minutes are available to the congregation upon request and are kept in the church office.

In Christ, Mary Jenkins, Council Secretary

**July 2015 Financial Report**

TLC monthly budget is \$30,016.88, \$25,171.50 was received. There was an additional \$778.00 given to dedicated accounts (ie Neighbors in Need, Waddell Scholarship, Youth Fundraisers, etc).

Monthly loss (General Fund Income less Ordinary Expenses) for June is \$52.46.

Year to date gifts are \$210,118.40. There was an additional \$17,704.25 given to dedicated accounts (ie Neighbors in Need, Waddell Scholarship, Youth Fundraisers, etc).

Yearly gain (General Fund Income less Ordinary Expenses) year to date is \$27,702.37.

A full set of Financial Statements are available upon request.

***People of God - The History of Catholic Christianity—Anthony E. Gilles***  
(Franciscan Media, 2000)

*Without understanding how we the Church have grown, evolved, and changed as a people throughout our two-millennium existence, we can't understand our place in the today of the Church. (Anthony E. Gilles)*

Decades ago I sat in a large lecture hall with hundreds of students when I took a course on western civilization during my freshman year in college. There was much to read and analyze when I was 18 years old and over the years I forgot many important trends and details. However, one thing I remembered were the political and religious conflicts which plagued the church as it evolved over the centuries.

Memories of that course came back to life for me when I recently read Anthony E. Gilles' work entitled, *People of God - The History of Catholic Christianity*. It was a monumental task to write a survey of Catholic Christianity in a two hundred page book. Nonetheless, Gilles clearly and concisely provided important trends, details, maps and charts to help the reader understand the development of Catholic Christianity and identity throughout the ages. Gilles was also honest about the Church's failure at times to uphold the gospel as it fell prey to greed, power, and corruption.

Church heresies, the decrees of Church councils, the rise of the papacy, the struggle over who controlled the Church, and early reforms were all included in the first part of Gilles' work. He also explored the crusades, the Byzantine Church, the Muslim invasion, and the division of the Church into East and West in 1054. There was also a section on the *Age of Feminine* outlining the veneration of the Virgin Mary and outspoken female reformers such as Catherine of Siena, Clare of Assisi and Bridget of Sweden who were not afraid to speak against papal decisions.

Gilles set the stage for the age of the Reformation when he covered the Church's intellectual life with the rise of scholasticism, the development of universities, and the daily life of the believers where religion was dominant. His Catholic Church report card on the Eve of the Reformation included A's for intellectual achievement, development of big name saints, and the Church's effort to preach the gospel despite hardships. On the other hand, Gilles failed the Church on the crusaders' response to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the unforgiving spirit which split the Church into East and West.

Gilles cited factors of cultural change into which Martin Luther was born such as the yearning for nationalism in Germany, the autonomy of the individual and the expansion of one's worldview with exploration of the new world. Such trends resulted in the dying of the Church of the Middle Ages and aided the launch of the Church of the Reformation. Gilles assessed Luther as one of the reformers of the Church in the midst of other Church reformers who developed monasteries and religious orders to enrich spiritual life.

To his credit Gilles accurately described how Protestants received their name when Lutheran princes protested against Emperor Charles decree to allow Catholic masses in their duchies. One cannot deny the political implications of this protest. However, Gilles missed the point that on a deeply religious level the reformers protested for the gospel of Jesus Christ and he also neglected to comment on the Augsburg Confession which was a reconciling document between Catholics and followers of Luther. (To be fair, Gilles wrote five a volume set of the *People of God* and one volume in that series is entitled, *People of Anguish - The Story Behind the Reformation*, which provides many details and insights about this period of Church history.)

The basics of Calvin's theology and the story of Henry VIII and Anglicanism were briefly discussed along the Catholic Church's reaction to the Reformation with the Council of Trent and the devastation of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) which left Germany in shambles. Protestant religion in the new colonies was also given basic attention as was anti-Catholicism in the beginnings of our country.

(Continued from page 10)

Turning points in Catholic identity included both Vatican I and II. Called by Pope Pius IX, Vatican I (1869) emphasized the pope speaking *ex cathedra* to define faith and morals without consulting with bishops. Vatican II (1962-1965) convened by Pope John XXIII encouraged the laity to be involved in church ministry, renewed the liturgy, and acknowledged that Catholics were to spread the gospel into the world. Thus, the Catholic Church opened itself up to a new ecumenical spirit which included dialogues with Lutherans in this country for the past 50 years.

In the last chapter of his book entitled *Visions and Boundaries*, Gilles described the Catholic Church's history as holding the tension between dreams and visions which moves the Church forward and boundary setters who discern what is authentic about those dreams for the future church. Since Vatican II the Catholic Church has moved toward more *equality* in the sense that all the faithful have gifts for ministry to share and rich and poor equally build up each other in the body of Christ. Gilles believes that this equality moves us to be more fully human as Jesus taught and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America also lives in this tension between visionaries and boundary setters. Visionaries have encouraged the ELCA to dialogue with Christian denominations which have resulted in full communion partners and adoption of teaching documents on social issues. Some boundary setters in opposition to the results of ecumenical dialogues and certain issues in social statements have left the ELCA and developed other Lutheran branches in this country. These boundary setters have their own vision of what it means to be a Lutheran in the post-modern world.

Reading Gilles book has encouraged me to look at the identity of the Christian Church in the past and where it might be going in the future. It has enabled me to say more clearly that I am part of the *one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church* and have chosen to remain in the Lutheran Church where I consider myself part of this evangelical reform within Roman Catholicism.

In both the Roman Catholic Church and Lutheran Church branches, visions continue to be born, boundaries are set, reformation is always at hand, and the hope and joy of Christ's saving presence is a promise which will never fail. I look forward to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 to commemorate this event where brothers and sisters in Christ in worldwide Roman Catholicism and Lutheranism continue to repent of past condemnations and violence, renew ecumenical dialogue, draw closer in mission, and pray that the Church may be one with Christ leading the way.

Reading Gilles book will provide you with new insights about the development of Catholic Christianity, broaden your knowledge of Church history, help you to clarify your identity as a Christian and encourage you to reflect more deeply on where the Church has been and where it might be going in this post-modern world where Christianity is growing in some countries, declining in others, and is threatened by political, religious, and other cultural factors.

(For more information on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, see [www.elca500.org](http://www.elca500.org); [www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org); and the document, *From Conflict to Communion*, on the Lutheran World Federation website. I recently took a Thursday afternoon church history class at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Soddy Daisy taught by Monsignor Al Humbrech where *People of God* was the textbook. This class was informative and insightful.) ++

Pastor Gary Schimmer is on leave from call from the Southeastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and lives in Hixson, Tennessee.

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