

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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Beloved in Christ,

Allow me to share with you some words on *celebration* as they appear on Adele C. Calhoun's, *Spiritual Disciplines*.

"God celebrates. He invented delight, joy, and celebration. And one way to enter into the divine life of the Trinity is through celebration. Whether solemn or exhilarating, formal or spontaneous, celebration can enlarge our capacity to enjoy and serve God. Celebrating God does not depend on perfect circumstances or happy feelings. Even in prison Paul and Silas found something to sing about (Acts 16). And Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, wrote:

My soul is downcast within me.  
Yet this I call to mind  
And therefore I have hope:  
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
For his compassion never fail.  
They are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:20-24).

The world is filled with reasons to be downcast. But deeper than sorrow thrums the unbroken pulse of God's joy, a joy that will yet have its eternal day. To set our hearts on this joy reminds us that we can choose how we respond to any particular moment. We can search for God in all circumstances, or not. We can seek the pulse of hope and celebration because it is God's reality. Heaven is celebrating. Right now the cherubim, seraphim, angels, archangels, prophets, apostles, martyrs and all the company of saints overflow with joy in the presence of their Creator. Every small experience of Jesus with us is a taste of the joy to come. We are not alone – and that in itself is reason to celebrate."

Amid joys and sorrows, the experience of Jesus *with us* remains the definitive experience of Trinity church. For this reason, on Sunday June 4, 2017, the Trinity family will gather to celebrate precisely the story of God with the people of Trinity. A long and beautiful story it is; one of a community of the Word and Sacrament. A story of hope in the face of despair; of confession in the face of doubt; of faith against the ravages of sin; in short, the story of a people saved by grace!

As pastor of Trinity I encourage you to set your mind on these things and recollect Trinity's formative role in your Christian formation. Come; be with us in our anniversary celebration. A pot luck luncheon will follow the Sunday service. Please join us. This year special emphasis is placed upon your weekly and special offerings. These play a critical role for maintaining and furthering Trinity's ministry of Word and Sacrament. Enclosed please find an envelope specially designated for your Anniversary offering. In July the Church's Qtly. Bills are due. This amount totals approximately \$1,815.00. It is our goal to raise as much money as possible for this occasion.. Give from the abundance given you. Give in faith and recognition of God's providence. Give in *God's church at Trinity cradle of faith*.

In Christ, , *your honor of*  
*Pastor Omar*