



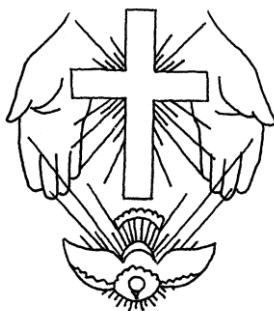
Trinity Light

Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2017

A look at Jude

By Pastor Michael Coons



Jude 1-2

¹Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ, and a brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

²May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you.

We don't know much about Jude. He was a son of Joseph and Mary, the brother of James, both being a half-brother of Jesus. He seems to have been married (1 Cor. 9:5) and had two other full brothers, Joseph and Simon (Mt. 13:55; Mk. 6:3).¹

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He uses the term *doulos*, which means "slave" to describe his relationship with Jesus. Paul also identified himself as such in Romans 1:1, Galatians 1:10, and Philippians 1:1. The highest honor is to be a slave of Christ and to serve the Lord. Someone who is a slave of Christ is an equal brother or sister with other Christians, even if they claim a higher social status. Jude, and we, are bound to Christ by faith. We are not oppressed by the Lord but freely and joyfully serve Him as children of God.¹

To whom does Jude write this letter by the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit? "To those who are called." He further defines what that means by saying that those who are called are those who are "beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ." We can flesh this out a little by looking at Paul's opening greeting to the Roman Christians. Romans 1:7, "To all those who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints." Jude, then, is writing also to those who are beloved and called to be saints, those called to be holy in Jesus Christ. It's interesting to note that while Paul uses the more common phrase "beloved of God," Jude chooses "beloved in God." I did some checked on discovered that this phrase is unique in the Bible. Typically, the New Testament refers to Christians being "in Christ." The Rev. Dr. Giese comments, "Here in Jude 1, being 'in God' means that Christians have been brought into a saving relationship with the Father by being baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ (Col 2:11-13). Although Scripture more often characterizes Christians as 'in Christ' . . . it certainly articulates that Christians are also in God the Father."¹

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Service Participants

Pastor Rice has been receiving daily radiation treatments, Mondays through Fridays at Mass General Hospital. Beth has been driving him to Boston, with the help of Bob O'Donnell, on Mondays and returning to bring him home on Fridays. His treatments will continue through the end of February and into early March. We thank Rev. Dr. James Kerner and others who will be helping out with services while Pastor Rice is in treatment. Pastor & Beth wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and support during this time. ❖

On Shrove Tuesday, February 28, the board of Fellowship will offer (do not know if they will) a pancake supper to all from about 4:30 until 7:00 pm. There is a signup sheet in the narthex to get a head count. Make plans to attend. Bring a friend. ❖

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten Season on **March 1**. Services of the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered at (verify the time) that day. ❖

WinterFest 2015 will be held on **February 11** and this year we plan to serve breakfast to the public from **8:00 to 11:00 am** in our Fellowship Hall. ***Come, help out, join in, be a part of the fun.*** There are activities all around town that day. Why not start the day with us and serve your neighbor? This is an excellent opportunity to share Trinity Lutheran Church with our community. Please talk with Judy O'Donnell if you can help out in any way. ❖

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find an opportunity to **order Easter flowers**. Note that the cutoff date is on March 26, 2017. ❖

Judy Wing has the responsibility of scheduling the service participants. Any comments or concerns need to be directed to her. Judy can be reached at 527-9916, or see her at church. We appreciate all who serve.

Sunday, February 5, 9:00 am

Greeters: Bobbie Egan & Gisela Bonde
Ushers: Sharon Ziemek & Tom Buczala
Lector: Sharon Ziemek
Counters: Betty Ann Kwolek

Sunday, February 12, 9:00 am

Greeters/Ushers: Jim & Suanne Fischer
Lector: Gail Sullivan
Counter: Judy Wing

Sunday, February 19, 9:00 am

Greeters: Abby & David Vanasse
Ushers: Ken Staples & Jerry Houle
Lector: David Vanasse
Counter: Ken Staples

Sunday, February 26, 9:00 am

Greeters/Ushers: Rick & Jeanne Babyak
Lector: Linda Riley
Counter: Judy Wing

Attendance at Worship

*Jan. 8: 20, Jan. 15: 36,
Jan. 22: 30, Jan. 29:*

Attendance has been declining. What is it that keeps you from attending worship?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 7:00 PM

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP WILL BE HOSTING A PANCAKE DINNER ON FEBRUARY 28

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

SERVICE TBD

WINTERFEST 2017, FEBRUARY 11

JOIN US AS WE PROVIDE BREAKFAST TO THE PUBLIC IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FROM 8 TO 11 AM

FIRST VBS PLANNING MEETING

IS PLANNED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 7:00 PM IN THE GUILD ROOM. COME ALONG TO MIGHTY FORTRESS

NEXT VOTERS' MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sunday Service at 9:00 AM

Pastor James Rice (413) 586-0575
Trinity Church phone is (413) 527-3311

Our email is tlc.lcms@gmail.com
"Like us" on Face book

Bulletins: Sharon Ziemek (413) 210-5979
sazie48@gmail.com

Newsletter articles and shut in updates:
Deadline for March newsletter is Feb. 20
Beth Rice (413) 586-0575
Bjrose1@juno.com

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A Look at Jude, Continued from Page 1

So Jude writes to Christians, called to faith in Jesus Christ, beloved in God the Father who sent Jesus to save them from sin and death. But Jude also mentions that they are those who are "kept for Jesus Christ." This makes me think of Luther's Explanation of the Third Article of the Creed where he confesses that the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christians Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ is the one true faith." "Christians are kept safe through their Baptism into Christ. . . . God continues to keep them safe in their Baptism as He kills the old self, which was buried with Christ, and daily raises the new self to new life in Christ. He also keeps them safe as he nourishes them in the Sacrament with the broken body of Christ and the blood of Christ shed for the forgiveness of their sins."¹

To those called, beloved and kept Jude then offers this prayer—May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you. Indeed, I also pray that God multiplies the same for you as you are kept in Christ!

Amen.

Pastor Michael Coons

Our Thanks go out to Pastor Coons for his writing and for his help in arranging pastoral care during Pastor Rice's medical leave. We also want to thank those who are filling in during this time and have offered their services in need.

Rev. James Kerner,
Rev. Kevin Mongeau
Rev. David Riley
Rev. Randy Bessette

Announcing the 2017 VBS Program:



Dates: August 7 – 11, 2017

Check the Narthex soon for listings of ways ***you*** can help out.

The first VBS meeting will be Monday, February 27, at 7:00 pm.
Come Join Us!

Trinity Lutheran Church
2 Clark Street
Easthampton MA 01027

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on
February 28
Ash Wednesday is on March 1 with
service at 7:00 pm

*Trinity Lutheran Church,
Established in 1893, is a member of
the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.*

We welcome you to worship with us.
