

A photograph of a man and a young child walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. The man is on the right, wearing a dark polo shirt with light-colored horizontal stripes and dark jeans. He is holding the hand of a small child on the left. The child is wearing a dark, short-sleeved shirt and shorts. They are walking towards the ocean where waves are breaking. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# Faithnews

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | COLLIERVILLE, TN | JUNE 2019 | VOLUME 5

## The Holy Spirit and Your Vacation

By Pastor Clayton Sellers

A loud rushing wind and a great gathering of people. At the start of summer you might think you are at the beach with a throng of tourists and crashing waves. How we long for the beach in the gray and dreary days of February! Not to mention long slog from Spring Break until the end of the school year! Though, the loud rushing wind and the gathering of people might be the gathering of people in the path of a fan trying to bring just a little relief from the ever increasing temperatures and humidity of a Memphis summer. Or, as you might expect of a pastor's article in the church newsletter, the loud rushing wind and a gathering of people is a key phrase in the story of Pentecost as told in the Book of Acts.

The story of the sending of the Holy Spirit is a vitally important story for the life of Christians – even through our own day. It is also important for helping you and me to understand the nature of the Church. The Church is where the Holy Spirit gathers you in your baptismal faith. The church is not first and foremost a building – though we do gather in a building. The church is not primarily the things we do – though we have a God given role in the world. The church IS at its core the very body of Christ. Which means you are a member of the eternal body of Christ. This is not something to take lightly, or ignore. It is fundamental to your life now! During this season of traveling and vacation and disruption of patterns it is worth your while to keep in mind the church. You can, and I would even venture to say *should*, be diligent in your worship during your summer travels. Your giving of offerings should continue to figure into your budget. Your regular – weekly - attendance to worship is vital not only to your own spiritual maturation, but the spiritual well being of other believers. Consider the encouragement your visit to a Sunday service is to the saints at your vacation destination. Consider the strengthening of the bonds of faith that can and will occur when you diligently come to your home congregation and greet and share a time of worship with a guest here. The work of the Holy Spirit to gather diverse people did not stop on that Pentecost in Acts 2. The work of the Holy Spirit does not go on vacation or take a break.

*continue on page 2...*

*"Holy Spirit" continued...*

Peace and rest and restoration you seek while on vacation will be incomplete without the restoration, rest and peace given in the Holy Spirit. If you willingly and deliberately deny yourself the word and sacraments offered to the Church in regular worship you are robbing yourself of what is freely given in Christ. Though we do not hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind or see tongues of fire – the sound of saints singing is a mighty sound of faith and the candles burning on the altar remind us the Holy Spirit is still active among us today.

*Pastor Clayton Selk*

# Day of Pentecost, June 9th

## Birthdays

Molly Lowitzer	3-Jun
Mary Schlapkohl	3-Jun
Everett Charlton	5-Jun
Jared Mai	5-Jun
Tracie Abel	6-Jun
Emilia Madea	6-Jun
Bob Estes	7-Jun
Jack Goble	7-Jun
Gina Johnson	8-Jun
Phyllis Patterson	9-Jun
Nancy Piretti	9-Jun
Mike Drake	10-Jun
Candice Baxter	12-Jun
Ruth Ann Bickelmeyer	13-Jun
Jennifer Broaddus	13-Jun
Allison Drake	15-Jun
Tamyra Franks	15-Jun
Dianne Hinchcliff	15-Jun
Mike Redley	15-Jun

***Though you may  
blow out your  
candles, the light  
of the Lord will  
always shine on  
you and his  
warmth shall be a  
comfort***

Melissa Vickers	16-Jun
Rebecca Vietzke	16-Jun
Celeste Hayes	20-Jun
Landon Johnson	20-Jun
Phil Regalado	20-Jun
Brandon Smith	20-Jun
Rick Bruback	21-Jun
Joshua Fernandez	22-Jun
Tessa Hall	23-Jun
Julia Abel	24-Jun
Jenni Seddelmeyer	25-Jun
Gwen Robinson	26-Jun
Mike Brugge	27-Jun
Neena John	27-Jun
Pat Pierce	27-Jun
Rita Smith	27-Jun
Russell Wynia	28-Jun
Judith Schoeberlein	30-Jun

# In Him Was Life

By Matthew C. Harrison

A statement from the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in response to recent gubernatorial actions expanding abortion in New York and Illinois.

*“In him was life, and the life was the light of men”* (John 1:4).

On Jan. 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand, the governors of both New York and Illinois signed laws to extend and promote abortion.

As he signed the Reproductive Health Act into law, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo described it as the “evolution” of humankind in America. In Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an executive order to ensure taxpayer funding of abortions, saying that it would make his state “the most progressive ... in terms of women’s reproductive rights.”

Life, not death, is the goal of humanity. History testifies that death is never the means



through which justice and human rights prevail. We do not advance on the graves of our children. Germany, which once sought eugenics as the solution to problems, now has strict abortion laws. To defend and support life is the goal of every just government, and the right to life is the hallmark of a good society.

Yet abortion laws have allowed the abortion of more than 61 million children in America since Roe v. Wade. That’s nearly 50 times the number of American soldiers killed in all wars. The abortion industry and its proponents go to great lengths to avoid facing the fact that abortion dismembers a living child in a horrid pool of its own blood. This is barbaric.

Abortion is a lie. Science is on the side of life. We shall stand against the barbarism of abortion until our dying breath. Abortion is illogical, as

we slaughter babies in the womb while developing ever-better care for other unborn children. Abortion contradicts the natural law written on human hearts that teaches us it is wrong to kill.

Lawmakers and bureaucrats in our country have become emboldened to force citizens to go against their conscience. People publicly celebrate laws that lead to the deaths of children.

How long, O Lord, how long?

Our Christian faith teaches us to value life and to love each and every person as our neighbor. Love is life, and life is the great gift of love. Death is our natural enemy. This can be seen in our lives and in our world each day. Even the birds that seek food in winter testify that life is the goal of their movements and their work. The flowers that grow toward the sun seek the light that enlivens them. We all live under God, who grants life to His whole creation.

And in giving His Son to be the Savior, God shows that He is the Lord of life. Jesus came to love. He

*continue on page 4...*

# HE GAVE

*"In Him Was Life" continued...*

taught us to love all people, including those whom we consider our enemies. He taught us to unconditionally love every person, even those whom this world considers unworthy of love.

Jesus did not only teach us to love. He brought healing and wholeness to the broken. He proclaimed peace to those who were troubled. He sat with those who were excluded. He lifted up those who were beaten down. But most of all, He loved through the sacrifice of His own life on the cross. He died to forgive the sins of all humanity. His forgiveness is a free gift for all who trust in Him, including those who suffer from guilt for aborting their child. He rose on the third day.

The resurrection of Jesus is God's grand statement that life is the goal of this creation. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims that all creatures find the goal of their existence in life. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so we learn that God treasures life over death.

We live as citizens in this world, and we seek to be obedient to our nation's laws. We thank God for our leaders and for this great land He has given to us, with its precious freedoms and opportunities. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod advocates strong citizenship and active participation in government. We obey the laws of our land and encourage those around us to do so as well.

We are, however, bound by our

conscience to speak against those laws that are unjust and, especially, those laws that violate God's law and the natural law that binds all mankind. Abortion and other means through which humans kill humans violate these natural and moral laws that form the foundation of society.

Therefore, we stand against these actions and against all laws that sanction abortion or the taking of innocent life. We cannot stand silent when people elected to positions in which they are to protect citizens continue to pass laws and advocate for legislation that undermines the sanctity of human life. Our conscience is bound by both the Word of God and reason to speak for life as a precious gift of God and to speak against any and all who promote the killing of unborn children. We cannot hide the evil of these laws under the banner of "rights" or "privilege." Children's lives are at stake. They cannot speak for themselves. We will speak for them, and we will work to protect their lives.

And we will continue to work to love and support the women who face difficult choices or suffer from the consequences of abortion. We support young mothers who have chosen life for their children. We work to provide adoption and other opportunities to care for children in need. And we continue to show God's mercy to all, just as He, in Jesus, has mercy on all.

We will work, love and pray

that all might know the love of Jesus and trust in Him for salvation. "In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

*The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*

*At its meeting on Feb. 7, the LCMS Council of Presidents and the LCMS Praesidium unanimously voted to sign their names to President Harrison's statement*

<https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=ReLe83HObjBe2g52eUSQZ5uhlLwEtzzM>

***Do you know someone who believes in evolution; and did you ever try to convince him or her that such a belief is incorrect? If so, how'd that turn out for you? Not so good, huh?***

***Did you try to present scientific evidence in support of creationism? And did your friend, in turn, try to convince you with facts in opposition to your beliefs -- that is, scientific facts that support the idea of evolution?***

***Or, did you point out what the Bible says in Genesis, only to have the other person say that the "myths" found in Genesis can't be taken literally because they aren't scientific?***

***If any of this sounds familiar, I have something that will begin to turn the conversation in your favor. Consider the following:***

***I want you to pretend for a  
continue on page 7...***

# FAITHFUL

by Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer

The righteous *man* walks in his integrity;  
His children *are* blessed after him.

Proverbs 20:7

On the third Sunday of June, we are given the opportunity to reflect with thanksgiving on the blessings of our fathers. We buy cards, neckties, and golf balls to show our appreciation to those who worked so hard to raise us, train us, and provide for us.

We are especially thankful for faithful Christian fathers who took seriously the Lord's call to ". . . bring [their children] up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). In addition to making sure their children had food, clothing, and shelter, these faithful fathers made sure they heard the Word of God. They brought their children to Sunday school and church services. They led family devotions and prayers. They taught their children about Jesus.

Father's Day is also an opportunity for fathers to give thanks to God for their children. While children are the joy of most fathers, there can be no greater joy for a Christian father than to see his children following the Lord Jesus. "*Whoever loves wisdom* [in particular Christian wisdom, the wisdom of Scripture] *makes his father rejoice*" (Proverbs 29:3).

If we are being honest with ourselves and our God, we will find another emotion that affects us on Father's Day. Namely, guilt. Guilt for times we did not give our fathers the love and respect that God commanded. Guilt for the hard time we gave Dad when he tried to get us to work on our memory work or how he almost had to drag us to church on Sunday.

Honest fathers will also wrestle with guilt. Guilt for the times when we disciplined our children out of frustration and anger, rather than in love and patience. Guilt for the times we failed to be the spiritual shepherd of our own homes, when we put worldly things ahead of the spiritual needs of our children.

Therefore, let us not take our eyes off of Jesus—even on Father's Day! And what do we find in Jesus? Faithfulness! Though Jesus was actually

His step-father's God and Lord, we stand in awe as we read in Luke 2, "[Jesus] *went down with them* [Mary and Joseph] *and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them*" (Luke 2:51). Though Jesus was far greater than Joseph, Jesus subjected Himself to (placed Himself under) Joseph and gave him perfect love and respect. Jesus stood in our place and was a faithful son to His step-father.

As we read on in Jesus' life, we continue to be amazed at what a faithful son He was. When the horrifying shadow of Calvary's cross loomed on the horizon, He prayed to His heavenly Father, "*Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will*" (Mark 14:36). What the Father was asking His faithful Son to do was beyond comprehension. The Son was to suffer for the sins of unfaithful children and fathers. Yet there was no whining or complaining to His Father that "It's not fair!" Instead, this Son continued to be faithful to His Father, desiring most of all that His Father's will would be done. Jesus was ". . . obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8).

As we wrestle with a mix of emotions on Father's Day (it is on the Lord's Day—Sunday, June 21), let us gather together in the Lord's house and beneath the cross of Christ to view with repentance and rejoicing the faithful Son of God Who died to cleanse father and child alike from all their unfaithfulness. Having forgiveness for our unfaithfulness, let us continue to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all His faithful blessings, especially the blessing of Christian fathers!

*Nathan Pfeiffer* is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washington.

<https://lutheranspokesman.org/2015/06/01/faithful/>

# The Trinity, What does it mean?

1. The eternal, infinite Spirit (*Jn 4:24*), subsisting in 3 Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is one (*Dt 6:4; Is 44:6; 48:12; 1 Ti 2:5*). God is also three. Plurality is indicated in Elohim (*Heb.* “God”), *pl.* form expressing not a plurality of gods, but a plurality in one God (and hence construed with the singular verb form, *e.g.*, *Gn. 1:1*)

Athanasian Creed (see [Ecumenical Creeds, C](#)): “... We worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Spirit uncreate. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible. The

Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal. As there are not three Uncreated nor three Incomprehensibles, but one Uncreated and one Incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty. And yet they are not three Almighty, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord. And yet not three Lords, but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be God and Lord, so are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, There be three Gods or three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone, not made nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or



less than another; but the whole three Persons are coeternal together and coequal, so that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshiped.”

*AC I 2–3*: “There is one divine essence, which is called and which is truly God, and ... there are three persons in this one divine essence, equal in power and alike eternal: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. All three are one divine essence, eternal, without division, without end, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, one creator and preserver of all things visible and invisible.”

2. All similes, comparisons, images, or illustrations by which men have tried to represent the doctrine of three Persons in one Godhead fail to illustrate; much less do they explain. The *Trin.* has been compared to fire, which is said to possess the 3 “attributes” of flame, light, and heat; but this division is highly artificial, and the

*continue on page 7...*

"The Trinity" continued...

comparison is altogether faulty, because Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not so many attributes of God, but are, each of them, God Himself. The Trin. has been compared to the division of a human being into body, soul, and mind; but each of these constituents is not separately a human being, whereas each of the divine Persons, separately considered, is truly God (cf. Cl 2:9).

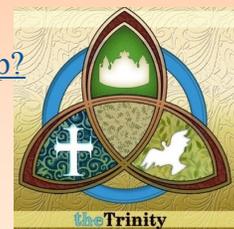
3. The doctrine of the Trin. is beyond our powers of comprehension. The difficulty does not lie in the numeral terms but in the relation of the 3 Persons to each other and the way they are united in one Godhead without being only parts of it. AC I 4: "The word is to be understood as the Fathers employed the term in this connection, not as a part or a property of another but as

that which exists of itself."

4. That the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are 3 distinct Persons is evident from Mt 3:13-17. The Father speaks; the Son is baptized; the Holy Spirit descends like a dove. Cf. Gn 1:1-3 and Ps 33:6 with Jn 1:1; Gn 48:16 with Is 63:9-10; cf. also Is 48:16.

5. These 3 Persons are equal in works, rank, and attributes. Cf. Jb 33:4; Is 9:6; Jn 5:2 3; 8:58; 1 Co 2:10-14; Eph 1:10; 3:14-16.

<http://cyclopedia.lcms.org/display.asp?t1=t&word=TRINITY>



## The Holy Trinity, Sunday, June 16th

"Evolution" continued...

moment that the Bible does not exist. That's right, pretend it was never written; for, oddly enough, you can in this discussion support the Bible without ever referring to it. At the same time, the one with whom you are conversing will not be allowed to fall back on any aspect of science. For, in this conversation, science does not exist either.

So, what are the two of you allowed to use to support your differing positions? Only one thing ... common sense. Nothing more, and nothing less.

Here's how the conversation goes:

"Pretend for a moment that neither the Bible nor science exist. Now, using reasoning along, answer this question: Where did the universe come from? That is, how did it come into being? (Remember, the other person cannot discuss the Big

Bang, fourth dimensions, string theory or anything else related to science; for in this conversation science does not exist.)"

After a reasonable time in which you await an answer, point out that there are -- logically speaking -- only two possible answers: Either the universe created itself, or something else created it.

Now, ask your friend: "Can you name one thing in the entire universe that has created itself?"

The truth is that the very fact that a universe exists testifies simultaneously to the existence of its Creator -- the one we call God, our heavenly Father.

Creation can only tell us so much about our heavenly Father. Following closely on the heels of the acknowledgement of God's plan of creation is his plan of salvation. Creation cannot reveal the story of salvation. Creation benefits from

salvation. In the incarnation of Jesus the created order is involved, so to speak, in salvation. Only through faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of the Father in heaven can you see the salvation. This is the story you want to tell your conversation partner - not just that God created the universe; He also saved the universe. For Christians the story of salvation is made clear through the Scriptures. It is our privilege to share this story of creation, fall and salvation with those who do not know it. It is a story you have experienced by the working of the Holy Spirit in your hearts through baptism, worship and holy communion. It is your story to study and know. And the place we study and learn this story is in the Bible.

Now, you can open your Bible.

Submitted by: Bruce Kueck

# JUNE 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 7pm Sr High Youth	27	28 6pm Trivia Night @ BooyaS	29 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal	30	31	1 8am Men of Faith 10am Quilters
2 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 7pm Sr High Youth	3 FLP Super Hero Camp	4 FLP Super Hero Camp 6:30pm Council Meeting	5 FLP Super Hero Camp 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal	6 FLP Super Hero Camp	7 FLP Super Hero Camp	8 9am VBS Work Day
9 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 12pm Voter's Meeting 12:30pm VBS Work Day	10 9am VBS Roar	11 9am VBS Roar 6pm Trivia Night @ BooyaS 6:30pm Elder Meeting	12 9am VBS Roar 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal	13 9am VBS Roar	14 9am VBS Roar	15 8am Men of Faith 10am Quilters
16 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 7pm Sr High Youth	17 FLP Wild West Camp	18 FLP Wild West Camp 5:30pm Ladies Dinner and a Movie	19 FLP Wild West Camp 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal	20 FLP Wild West Camp	21 FLP Wild West Camp	22
23 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 7pm Sr High Youth	24 FLP STEM Camp	25 FLP STEM Camp 6pm Trivia Night @ BooyaS	26 FLP STEM Camp 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal	27 FLP STEM Camp	28 FLP STEM Camp	29 10am Quilters
30 8:15am Traditional Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11am Hope Worship 7pm Sr High Youth	1 FLP USA Camp	2 FLP USA Camp 6:30pm Council Meeting	3 FLP USA Camp 7pm Praise Team Rehearsal	4 Office Closed	5	6 8am Men of Faith 10am Quilters

The Mission of Faith Lutheran Church is:

## *Embracing Our Community – Connecting as Christ's Family*

Just as Jesus spent time embracing His community with His care, the people of Faith believe we are strategically placed to reach out and share His Good News with our community. Our goal is to advance the Gospel and make Christ's love known to all. Living the Gospel. Proclaiming the Gospel. Advancing the Gospel. Through Christ's love at Faith Lutheran, friends become family.

Connect as Christ's Family

**Rev. Rob Harbin**, *Senior Pastor*, Pastor.flc@comcast.net

**Rev. Clayton Sellers**, *Associate Pastor*, pastorclayton@faithcollierville.com

**Jenny Whitely**, *Worship Leader & Missional Minister*, flcmusic.jenny@faithcollierville.com

**Dina Foshee**, *Preschool Director*, flpfaithcollierville@gmail.com

**Ann Lipe**, *Preschool Associate Director*, flpfaithcollierville@gmail.com

**Christine Acomb**, *Church Office Manager*, office@faithcollierville.com

**Lisa Blair**, *Accounts Payable & Receivable* (Mon & Thurs), finance.flc@comcast.net

**Mark Scott**, *Church Council President*

**Bruce Acomb**, *Head Elder*

**Alan Lang**, *Treasurer*

**Ardith Morgan**, *Property Trustee*

*Announcements and/or Articles for Happenings or Newsletter, please email office@faithcollierville.com*

507 New Byhalia Road, Collierville TN 38017

Church Office: 901-853-4673

Preschool: 901-853-0050

Church Office Hours:

**Monday–Thursday** 9:00AM – 3:00PM

**Friday** 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Website: [Faithcollierville.com](http://Faithcollierville.com)

Tom & Nancy Vickers	5-Jun	Chris & Candice Baxter	23-Jun
Greg & Meghan Madea	7-Jun	Jim & Theresa Nelson	24-Jun
Bob & Barbara Mueller	16-Jun	Kerry & Anna Alexander	25-Jun
Jay & Lori Chedville	18-Jun	Tony & Kelly Holiday	25-Jun
Jon & Dina Foshee	18-Jun	Ed & Elizabeth Fryman	26-Jun
Rob & Julie Harbin	18-Jun	Leory & Kit Joseph	27-Jun
Mike & Tammy McPherson	19-Jun	J.P. & Erin Gleaves	28-Jun
Bob & Jeanette Estes	22-Jun		

ANNIVERSARY